

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HALF MOON BAY

AGENDA REPORT

For the meeting of: **August 21, 2018**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

VIA: David Boesch, Interim City Manager

FROM: Jessica Blair, City Clerk

**TITLE: PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING
DRAFT MAPS OF VOTING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES FOR A CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT-BASED ELECTION SYSTEM**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Council: 1) conduct a public hearing to receive public input on draft maps of voting district boundaries and the sequence of election; and 2) provide direction to staff and the City's demographer regarding the draft maps and the sequence of elections.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this public hearing. However, transitioning to district elections required the City to retain the services of a demographer. The cost of such services is \$45,000. Should the City Council ultimately adopt an ordinance to transition to a district-based electoral system, the plaintiff may seek reimbursement for its attorney's fees and costs up to \$30,000; however, the City will not be exposed to additional legal fees in defense of a lawsuit brought under the California Voting Rights Act.

STRATEGIC ELEMENT:

This recommendation supports the Inclusive Governance Element of the Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND:

On April 17, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2018-34 declaring its intention to transition from at-large to district-based elections for the City Council commencing with the General Municipal Election in November 2020. Elections Code Section 10010 provides that before any map or maps of the boundaries for the proposed districts are drawn, the City must conduct

two (2) Public Hearings over a period of no more than thirty (30) days, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of said districts.

Since adoption of the Resolution of Intention, the City has been engaged in outreach efforts to inform the public about district elections and the process associated with formation. The City's districting webpage, www.drawhmb.com, is live, as well as www.hmbcity.com/districts.

Additionally, public participation kits have been available at City Hall, the City Hall Annex, Adcock Community Center, the Library, and various other locations throughout the City. The online mapping tool has been available to the public as well. The paper map was published as a full-page ad in the Half Moon Bay Review on May 23 and May 30. City staff attended the Senior Coastsiders Luncheon on May 29 to go over the district process and staff hosted a table at the Coastside Farmers Market on June 2 to provide paper maps and answer questions. The Public Hearing Notice for this hearing was published in English and Spanish in the Half Moon Bay Review. As with all Council meetings, an interpreter will be available for these public hearings. The final draft maps were published as a full-page ad in the Half Moon Bay Review on July 25 and August 8.

On May 15, 2018, the City Council conducted the first public hearing. The City Council directed staff to move forward with a four-district, elected at-large mayor model. The City Council requested public input on whether the term of the elected mayor should be two years or four years.

On June 5, 2018, the public hearing was continued to the June 19, 2018 City Council meeting due to the number of items to be heard on June 5.

On June 19, 2018, the City Council directed staff to move forward with a four-year term for the City's elected mayor.

The City's deadline for draft map submittals was July 6, 2018. The City published those draft maps on July 10, 2018, in accordance with state law.

On July 17, 2018, the City Council held a public hearing and selected Maps 101 and 106, with modifications, to be the focus maps. Staff published these maps and sought public input (included as Attachment 3). The Council also provided direction to sequence mayoral elections in conjunction with Presidential elections (first to be in 2020).

DISCUSSION:

Based on public input, the City Council's direction, and other legally required criteria, the City's demographer has evaluated and submits the final draft maps of voting district boundaries for public review and comment (Attachment 1). These maps were publicly released and posted on

the City's website on July 19, 2018. They were also published in the Half Moon Bay Review on July 25 and August 8.

These maps have been evaluated by the City's demographer and they confirm the maps meet the standards established under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA).

There have been numerous questions regarding sequencing and what it means for current and future councilmembers. As such, the demographer has prepared a memo outlining the various scenarios (Attachment 2).

Next Steps

Introduction of an Ordinance Adopting District Boundaries and Election Sequencing is scheduled for September 4. Staff will prepare a draft ordinance for first reading based on the Council's direction at this meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Maps
2. Election Sequencing Memo
3. Public Correspondence