

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HALF MOON BAY

AGENDA REPORT

For the meeting of: **September 4, 2018**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

VIA: David Boesch, Interim City Manager

FROM: Jessica Blair, City Clerk

TITLE: INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE CITY'S ELECTORAL SYSTEM FROM AT-LARGE TO BY-DISTRICT ELECTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ELECTING MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, ESTABLISHING BOUNDARIES, AND SEQUENCING OF ELECTIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICTS

RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct a public hearing and introduce on first reading, an ordinance amending Chapter 1.24 of the Half Moon Bay Municipal Code to change the City's electoral system from at-large to by-district elections with respect to electing members of the City Council, establishing boundaries, and sequencing of elections within the districts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Should the City Council adopt this ordinance to transition to a district-based electoral system, the plaintiff may seek reimbursement for its actual and documented attorney's fees spent drafting the threat letter, which are capped at \$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.

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, as well as www.hmbcity.com/districts have been active and available for the public.

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).

On August 21, 2018, the City Council held a public hearing and selected Map 106b as the final map and set the sequencing as Districts #2 and #3 in 2020, and the at-large elected mayor as well as Districts #1 and #4 in 2022.

DISCUSSION:

Based on public input, the City Council's direction, and other legally required criteria, the City's demographer evaluated and submitted the final draft maps of voting district boundaries for public review and comment. 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 were evaluated by the City's demographer and confirmed to meet the standards established under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA).

No term of any member of the City Council that commenced prior to the effective date of this ordinance will be impacted and will continue to serve from an at-large seat.

The proposed ordinance contains recitals which indicate that it is the City Council's desire that:
1) City resources will continue to be prioritized based on the greatest citywide need and benefit;
and 2) if the CVRA is amended in a manner which qualifies the City to return to at-large elections,
this City Council would request appropriate actions be taken to do so.

ATTACHMENT:

Ordinance amending Chapter 1.24 of the Half Moon Bay Municipal Code to change the City's electoral system from at-large to by-district elections with respect to electing members of the City Council, establishing boundaries, and sequencing of elections within the districts