

CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA

RESOLUTION NO. 108-2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA DECLARING ITS INTENTION, PURSUANT TO ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 10010(e)(3)(A), TO TRANSITION FROM AT-LARGE TO DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS AND TO INITIATE PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

WHEREAS, the City of Rancho Cordova, California (“City”) is a general law city, duly organized under the constitution and laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, members of the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova are currently elected in “at-large” elections, in which voters of the entire City elect the members of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 34886 permits the legislative body of a city to change its method of election by ordinance from an “at-large” system to a “district-based” system in which each member of the legislative body is elected only by the voters in the district in which the candidate resides; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2023, a notice of potential violation of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) was filed against the City of Rancho Cordova by attorney Scott J. Rafferty pursuant to Elections Code section 10010(e)(1), representing minority voters in Rancho Cordova and Neighborhood Elections Now, asking the City to begin the process to create single-member districts for the election to be held in November 2024; and

WHEREAS, the CVRA allows Prospective Plaintiffs to file a lawsuit against the City if the City does not adopt a resolution of intent to transition from at-large to district-based elections within 45 days of the notice (“45-day period”); and

WHEREAS, CVRA lawsuits can cost local jurisdictions millions of dollars to defend, and to date no jurisdiction has won a CVRA lawsuit; and

WHEREAS, the City will work with an experienced demographer to assist the City with the process to transition from at-large to district-based elections and to establish maps; and

WHEREAS, before drawing a draft map of the proposed boundaries of the districts, the City will hold at least two (2) public hearings over no more than thirty (30) days, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts; and

WHEREAS, the City will then publish and make available for release at least one (1) draft map of the new electoral districts, including the potential sequence of elections shown; and

WHEREAS, once the draft map has been publicized for at least seven (7) days, the City will hold at least two (2) additional public hearings, over no more than forty-five (45) days, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft map or maps and the proposed sequence of elections prior to the public hearing at which the Council adopts

a map; and

WHEREAS, if a draft map is revised at or following a public hearing, the revised map will be published and made available to the public at least seven (7) days before the City chooses to adopt it; and

WHEREAS, in determining the final sequence of staggered district elections, the City Council will give special consideration to the purposes of the CVRA, and will take in to account the preferences expressed by the members of the districts; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is intended solely to document the Council's intent to proceed with district-based elections; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now wishes to adopt criteria to guide the establishment of electoral districts consistent with legal requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby resolves, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, to adopt a district-based election system by ordinance as authorized by California Government Code section 34886 for use in the City's General Municipal Election for City Council Members.

SECTION 3. The City Council further resolves to retain an experienced demographer, hold at least five (5) public hearings and publish at least one (1) draft map and related sequence of elections.

SECTION 4. Staff is directed to publicize relevant maps, information, notices, agendas and other materials regarding district-based elections and to establish means of communication to answer questions from the public.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova this 17th day of July 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Gatewood, Pulipati, Sander, Terry, and Budge

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



Stacy Leitner, CMC
City Clerk



Linda Budge, Mayor