

CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA

ORDINANCE NO. 12-2023

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING A BY DISTRICT ELECTION SYSTEM IN FIVE COUNCIL DISTRICTS PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 10010, AND AMENDING AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS TO CHAPTER 2.42 ELECTIONS OF THE RANCHO CORDOVA MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE FOR CITY COUNCIL ELECTION DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, the members of the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova are currently elected at-large, whereby all five (5) members are elected by all of the voters of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City also has a Council appointed Mayor, who is appointed every year to a one year term; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code Sections 34886 and 34871(a), the City has the authority to adopt an ordinance requiring members of the City Council to be elected by district in five districts with a Council appointed Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in a by district election system, a candidate for City Council must reside in the district which they wish to represent, and only the voters of that district are entitled to vote to decide who their representative will be; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2023, the City received a letter from attorney Scott J. Rafferty asserting that the City's at-large election system violated the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and threatening litigation if the City declines to voluntarily convert to by district elections; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code Section 34886, the Rancho Cordova City Council declares that this change in the method of electing members of the Rancho Cordova City Council is being made in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (California Elections Code Sections 14025 et. seq.) to avoid litigation; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on July 17, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 108-2023, a Resolution of Intent to transition to a by district election system pursuant to Section 10010 of the California Elections Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10010 of the California Elections Code, a city that changes from an at-large method of election to a by district method of election shall hold at least two public hearings over a period of no more than thirty days, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts before drawing a draft map or maps of the proposed boundaries of the districts; and

WHEREAS, before any maps of the proposed boundaries of the districts were considered, the City held public hearings on August 7, 2023, and August 14, 2023, and a community forum on August 10, 2023, at which time input from the public on the proposed composition of the districts was invited and heard; and

WHEREAS, on and prior to holding the third public hearing on August 29, 2023, pursuant to Section 10010 of the California Elections Code, the City published and made available for public review draft maps for consideration by the City Council seven (7) days before the meeting; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10010 of the California Elections Code, the City held a third public hearing on August 29, 2023, and also held a community forum on August 30, 2023, at which the public was invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft maps and the potential sequence of elections; and

WHEREAS, after the close of the public hearing on August 29, 2023, the City Council provided input on the draft maps. Three “focus” draft maps were selected by the City Council, published, and made available for public review along with two revised maps submitted by National Demographics Corporation. Additional maps were submitted by members of the public for further consideration before the September 7, 2023 deadline. These draft maps were made available to the public seven (7) days prior to the fourth public hearing pursuant to Section 10010 of the California Elections Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10010 of the California Elections Code, the City held a fourth public hearing on September 18, 2023, where the public provided input prior to the City Council adopting a final district map, determined the election sequence, and considered an ordinance that would establish a by district election system; and

WHEREAS, at the regular meeting of the City Council held on October 2, 2023, the City Council held a final public hearing on the proposal to establish district boundaries, reviewed additional public input, formally selected the voting district map and the election sequence attached to, incorporated in, and set forth in this Ordinance, which returned for a second reading and adoption at the same regular meeting of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of the City Council that map “Preferred Map 516c”, attached hereto as Exhibit A, will serve the best interests of the City of Rancho Cordova and be consistent with the California Voting Rights Act and applicable laws; and

WHEREAS, the map identified as “Preferred Map 516c”, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is selected and adopted by the City Council as the final district map in the creating of a “by district” election system in the City of Rancho Cordova, as that term is defined in California Government Code 34871.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to enact, pursuant to California Government Code Section 34886, an ordinance providing for the by district election system to elect members of the Rancho Cordova City Council in five (5) single-member districts pursuant to California Elections Code Section 10010.

SECTION 2 DECLARATION

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 34886, the City Council declares that this change in the method of electing members of the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova is being made in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (Elections Code Sections 14025 et. seq.)

SECTION 3 CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

The City of Rancho Cordova is hereby divided into five (5) City Council Districts with the boundaries of the districts as shown in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 4 AMENDMENT TO CODE

Section 2.42.010 subsections A. and B. are amended to read as follows:

“2.42.010 Election consolidation.

A. Pursuant to Elections Code § 1301, the general municipal election for the city shall be held on the same date as the date of the statewide general election.

B. The board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento, State of California, is hereby requested to order consolidation of the City of Rancho Cordova’s general municipal election with the statewide general election held on the same date as the statewide general election.”

SECTION 5 ADDITIONS TO CODE

Sections 2.42.020, 2.42.030, and 2.42.040 are hereby added to the Rancho Cordova Municipal Code to read as follows:

“2.42.020 City council by-district electoral system.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 34886 and the schedule established in Section 2.42.010 of this Chapter, commencing with the November 2024, General Municipal Election, each member of the Rancho Cordova City Council shall be elected by district in five (5) single-member districts. The term “by districts” as used in this article shall mean election of members of the legislative body by voters of the district alone. The City’s by district election system shall be conducted in accordance with California Government Code Section 34871(a).

2.42.030 Establishment of city council election districts.

A. Pursuant to Section 2.42.030 of this Chapter, members of the Rancho Cordova City Council from Council Districts 1, 3, and 4 shall be elected on a by district basis as that term is defined in California Government Code Section 34871(a), beginning with the General Municipal Election in November 2024 and every four years thereafter, as such Council Districts may be amended from time to time pursuant to applicable law.

B. Pursuant to Section 2.42.030 of this Chapter, members of the Rancho Cordova City Council from Council Districts 2 and 5 shall be elected on a by district basis as that term is defined in California Government Code Section 34871(a), beginning with the General

Municipal Election in November 2026 and every four years thereafter, as such Council Districts may be amended from time to time pursuant to applicable law.

C. Except as provided in subsection (E) below, all candidates for the City Council and all appointed and elected Councilmembers shall fully comply with applicable law including but not limited to California Government Code Section 34882 and California Elections Code Section 201. Termination of residency in a Council District by a Councilmember shall create an immediate vacancy for that Council District unless a substitute residence within that District is established within thirty (30) calendar days after the termination of residency.

D. Only the registered voters residing in the Council District may vote for candidates running for City Council in that District.

E. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, each of the Councilmembers in office at the time this Chapter takes effect shall continue in office until the expiration of the full term to which they were elected and until their successor is qualified. Vacancies in Councilmember offices elected at-large at the time this Chapter takes effect may be filled by the City Council from the City at-large pursuant to applicable law until the expiration of that at-large term. At the end of the term of each Councilmember, that member's successor shall be elected on a by district basis in the Council Districts established herein and as subsequently reapportioned as provided by law. A vacancy in a Councilmember office elected by district shall be filled by a person qualified to hold the office in that vacant Council District pursuant to applicable law.

2.42.040 Map of council districts.

The City Clerk shall maintain a map of the City showing the current boundaries and numbers of each Council District as they are established and may be amended from time to time by ordinance of the City Council. The map of the initial Council Districts is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.”

SECTION 5 SCOPE

Except as set forth in this Ordinance, all other provisions of the Rancho Cordova Municipal Code shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6 SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not impact the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council declares that it would have passed each section irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective.

SECTION 7 EFFECTIVE DATE

Within fifteen (15) days after adoption, this Ordinance shall be published once in the Grapevine Independent, or the Sacramento Bee, a newspaper of general circulation printed and published in Sacramento County and circulated in the City of Rancho Cordova, in accordance with

California Government Code Section 36933. This Ordinance shall take effect and be enforced thirty (30) days after its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova on the 2nd day of October 2023 by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

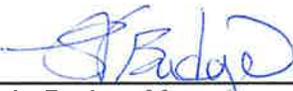
ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



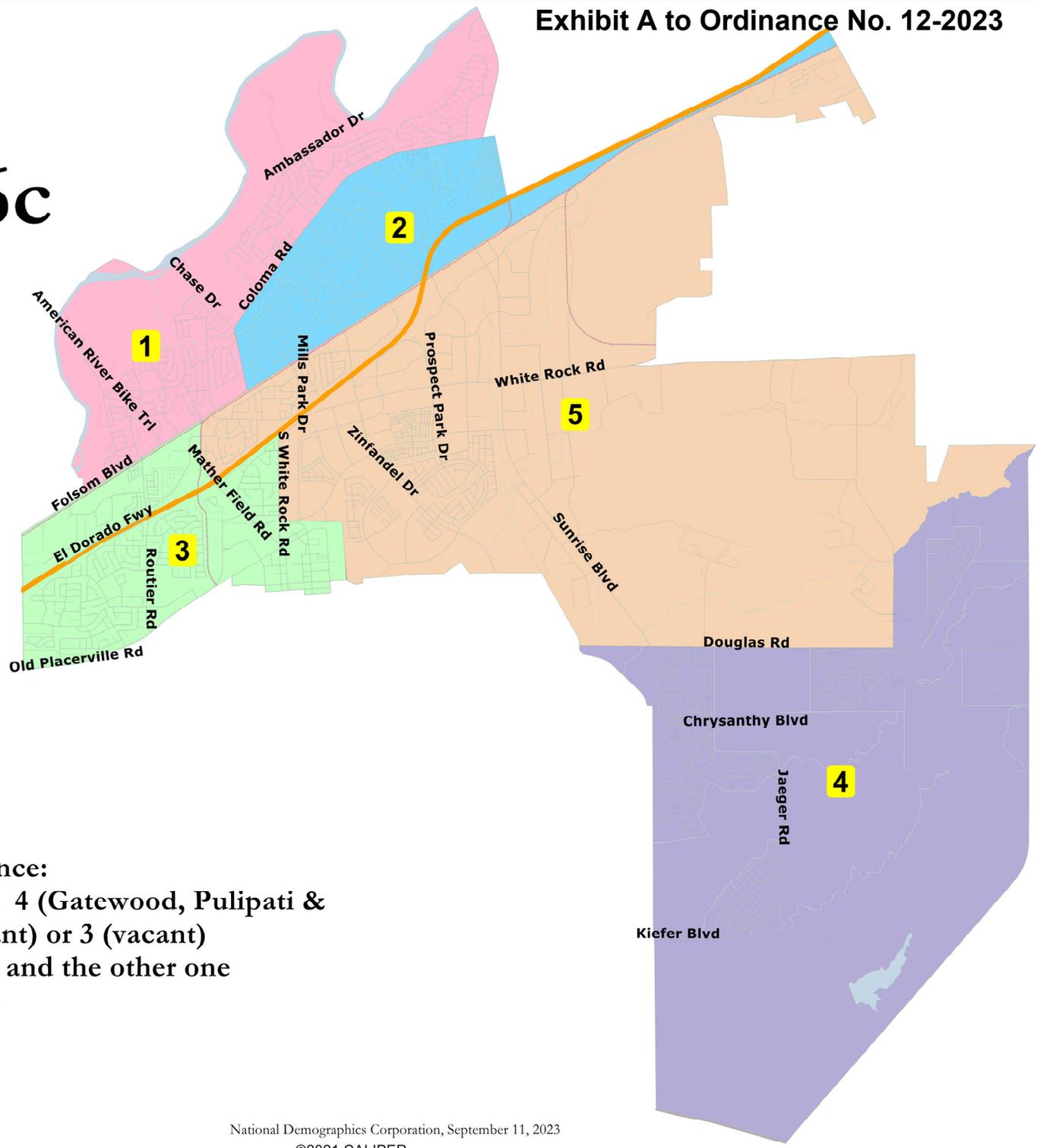
Stacy Leitner, CMC
City Clerk



Linda Budge, Mayor

Rancho Cordova
2023 Districting

Map 516c



Map layers

- Map 516c
- Census Block
- Landmark Point
- Water Area
- Railroad
- Streets

Proposed Election Sequence:
2024: Districts 1 (Sander), 4 (Gatewood, Pulipati & Terry), and one of 2 (vacant) or 3 (vacant)
2026: Districts 5 (Budge), and the other one of 2 (vacant) or 3 (vacant)

District		1	2	3	4	5	Total
	Total Pop	15,454	15,641	16,316	15,373	16,859	79,643
	Deviation from ideal	-475	-288	387	-556	930	1,486
	% Deviation	-2.98%	-1.81%	2.43%	-3.49%	5.84%	9.33%
Total Pop	% Hisp	21.1%	27%	24%	14%	21%	22%
	% NH White	52%	49%	43%	39%	41%	45%
	% NH Black	11%	9%	14%	8%	11%	11%
	% Asian-American	10%	9%	12%	34%	22%	17%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	10,054	11,093	9,754	9,149	11,455	51,505
	% Hisp	16%	18%	19%	15%	13%	16%
	% NH White	65%	64%	45%	44%	49%	54%
	% NH Black	7%	9%	21%	10%	15%	13%
	% Asian/Pac.Isl.	10%	7%	13%	30%	19%	15%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	8,804	8,221	8,049	9,145	8,593	42,812
	% Latino est.	12%	15%	17%	14%	15%	15%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	12%	14%	16%	13%	14%	14%
	% Asian-Surnamed	3%	2%	5%	12%	9%	6%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	1%	2%	1%	4%	3%	2%
	% NH White est.	79%	73%	55%	61%	59%	65%
	% NH Black	5%	8%	22%	9%	14%	11%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total	7,067	6,343	5,969	7,798	6,774	33,951
	% Latino est.	11%	14%	15%	14%	14%	13%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	11%	13%	14%	13%	13%	13%
	% Asian-Surnamed	3%	2%	5%	11%	9%	6%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	1%	2%	1%	3%	3%	2%
	% NH White est.	80%	73%	56%	62%	60%	66%
	% NH Black	5%	8%	22%	9%	13%	11%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2018)	Total	5,082	4,481	3,687	4,572	4,250	22,072
	% Latino est.	10%	11%	14%	13%	12%	12%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	9%	11%	13%	12%	12%	11%
	% Asian-Surnamed	2%	2%	5%	9%	7%	5%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	1%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%
	% NH White est.	81%	76%	56%	63%	63%	69%
	% NH Black est.	4%	7%	21%	9%	13%	11%
ACS Pop. Est.	Total	15,834	16,461	14,814	13,821	17,572	78,502
Age	age0-19	28%	26%	27%	31%	27%	28%
	age20-60	53%	55%	56%	54%	57%	55%
	age60plus	19%	20%	17%	15%	16%	17%
Immigration	immigrants	24%	21%	24%	26%	25%	24%
	naturalized	46%	53%	62%	85%	58%	61%
Language spoken at home	english	64%	69%	63%	68%	62%	65%
	spanish	12%	15%	17%	3%	13%	12%
	asian-lang	6%	3%	7%	17%	12%	9%
	other lang	18%	12%	14%	12%	13%	14%
Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	18%	13%	18%	13%	18%	16%
Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	66%	66%	65%	48%	59%	61%
	bachelor	17%	16%	13%	32%	20%	19%
	graduatedegree	7%	6%	4%	15%	9%	8%
Child in Household	child-under18	34%	35%	35%	47%	36%	37%
Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	65%	62%	65%	73%	69%	67%
Household Income	income 0-25k	14%	16%	21%	4%	10%	14%
	income 25-50k	18%	19%	25%	3%	15%	17%
	income 50-75k	20%	20%	17%	13%	19%	18%
	income 75-200k	42%	43%	34%	55%	49%	44%
	income 200k-plus	5%	2%	3%	25%	7%	7%
Housing Stats	single family	70%	72%	68%	99%	66%	74%
	multi-family	30%	28%	32%	1%	34%	26%
	rented	46%	49%	52%	13%	50%	44%
	owned	54%	51%	48%	87%	50%	56%

Total population data from the 2020 Decennial Census.
 Surname-based Voter Registration and Turnout data from the California Statewide Database.
 Latino voter registration and turnout data are Spanish-surname counts adjusted using Census Population Department undercount estimates. NH White and NH Black registration and turnout counts estimated by NDC. Citizen Voting Age Pop., Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2015-2019 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data.