



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** December 19, 2017

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Joseph W. Pannone, City Attorney  
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**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing Regarding Adoption of Ordinance No. 1643(17) Establishing a District-Based System of Elections for Members of the City Council

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council:

- 1) Open a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public testimony regarding the adoption of Ordinance No. 1643(17), as required by Elections Code section 10010; and
- 2) Adopt, through second reading by title only with further reading waived, Ordinance No. 1643(17) Adding a New Chapter 2.06 to the Lompoc Municipal Code, Establishing a District-Based System of Elections for Members of the City Council (Attachment).

### **Background/Discussion:**

On September 5, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6134(17), outlining its intention to transition from at-large to district-based elections, specific steps it will undertake to facilitate the transition and an estimated timeframe for doing so. Pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, the City Council held public hearings on October 3 and October 17, 2017, to receive public input regarding the composition of the district maps.

Also, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, the City Council held public hearings on November 7, November 21, and December 5, 2017, regarding the draft district maps and sequences of elections. At the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council (i) selected Map 105 designating the districts, (ii) indicated which two districts would have elections in 2018 and in 2020 and (iii) introduced Ordinance No. 1643(17). This public hearing is the final required public hearing before the City Council is authorized to establish district-based voting for City Council Members by adopting Ordinance No. 1643(17).

As a reminder, the districts selected by the City Council may only be in effect for the November 2018 and November 2020 election cycles. State law requires the City Council reconsider and potentially redraw the district maps, as necessary, based on the results of the 2020 Federal Census.

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**Fiscal Impact:**

**Costs of Running District Elections**

As stated previously, the City Clerk's Office has contacted the County of Santa Barbara (County) to obtain an estimate of the costs of running district elections in the City of Lompoc (City) for members of the City Council. In an analysis of City costs related to elections, including charges reimbursed to the County, the election costs between the 2006 and 2016 elections incurred by the City averaged \$15,000 per election. Since the election of 2012, the County has segregated the cost for the election of the Mayor from the election of members of the City Council. Based on the three election cycles where election costs for members of the City Council are segregated, the average cost is approximately \$4,500 to \$4,750 per election. The average cost in the same three election cycles for Mayor is approximately \$11,000 per election but the median cost is \$12,500 per election. The County estimates a cost of approximately \$1.40 per registered voter in the City to conduct district-based elections. Changing to district-based elections will likely not change the City's cost related to Mayoral elections but would increase the future cost of City Council member elections as compared with the prior costs incurred for those elections based on the County's estimate of costs. In reviewing the recent elections, the City has reimbursed the County approximately \$1.15 to \$1.20 per voter as compared with the County's estimate of \$1.40 per voter for district-based elections.

With approximately 16,000 registered voters in the City, and equally divided districts of approximately 4,000 registered voters each, the costs would be \$16,000 for the Mayoral race and \$1,600 for each district race, if all registered voters cast ballots in a particular election. The total cost for any single election cycle would be \$19,200 assuming there are no changes in voter registration and voter turnout. Those costs may be subject to change while the actual costs will be dependent upon the total of registered voters casting ballots for Mayor and for City Council candidates.

**Conclusion:**

Staff recommends the City Council, after the public hearing, adopt Ordinance No. 1643(17).

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph W. Pannone, City Attorney

Attachment: [Ordinance No. 1643\(17\)](#)