



**Agenda Item A.1
PRESENTATION**

Meeting Date: October 10, 2018

TO: Public Engagement Commissioners
FROM: Carmen Nichols, Deputy City Manager
SUBJECT: Presentation by the District Elections Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation by Jacqueline Inda, representative of the Goleta District Elections Committee.

BACKGROUND:

On February 6, 2017, the City received a Notice of Violations from Goleta residents and representatives of the Goleta District Elections Committee (DEC), Lindsey Rojas and Hector Mendez, asserting that the City's at-large electoral system violates the California Voting Rights Act, codified in California Elections Code sections 14025-14032. Upon receiving the letter, the City undertook significant efforts to ascertain the merits of the allegations made in the letter. The City secured various consultant to provide expert opinion on the matter and ultimately concluded that the evidence of the Notice of Violation was not strong.

On March 7, 2017, the City Council held a meeting to obtain public input on whether it should change from an at-large voting method to district elections. The City Council also received information regarding the potential legal challenge that could ensue if it did not move toward district elections.

On March 15, 2017, staff prepared a report and resolution to institute district elections for the March 21, 2017 City Council meeting.

On March 17, 2017, Ms. Rojas and Mr. Mendez contacted the City to propose a resolution to their Notice that did not require the City to institute district elections until 2022 and requested the creation of a commission to increase public participation in City government.

On March 21, 2017, staff presented the settlement proposal, which included the City's consideration of a resolution of intent to implement district elections in November 2022 and the formation of a special commission by September 2017 to increase public engagement.

On May 16, 2017, the City Council adopted the resolution of intent to implement district elections and establish the Public Engagement Commission with the goals of the Commission to explore the following questions:

- Explore whether the City should become a Charter City-**PENDING**, Upcoming Meeting;
- Explore whether councilmembers should be paid greater compensation, and, if so, how much-**COMPLETED**;
- Explore whether City Council meetings should be held after 5 p.m.-**RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL**;
- Explore whether the directly elected mayor's term should be 4 years-**PENDING**;
- Explore outreach reach efforts between now and 2022 to increase participation in government-**COMPLETED AND ONGOING**;
- Provide input to the City Council on the process of determining district lines for future elections-**BEGUN and ONGOING**.

DISCUSSION:

Jacqueline Inda, also a member of the Goleta District Elections Committee, will make a presentation on how the DEC developed the topics they requested the City Council consider as part of the settlement agreement.

Approved By:



Carmen Nichols
Deputy City Manager

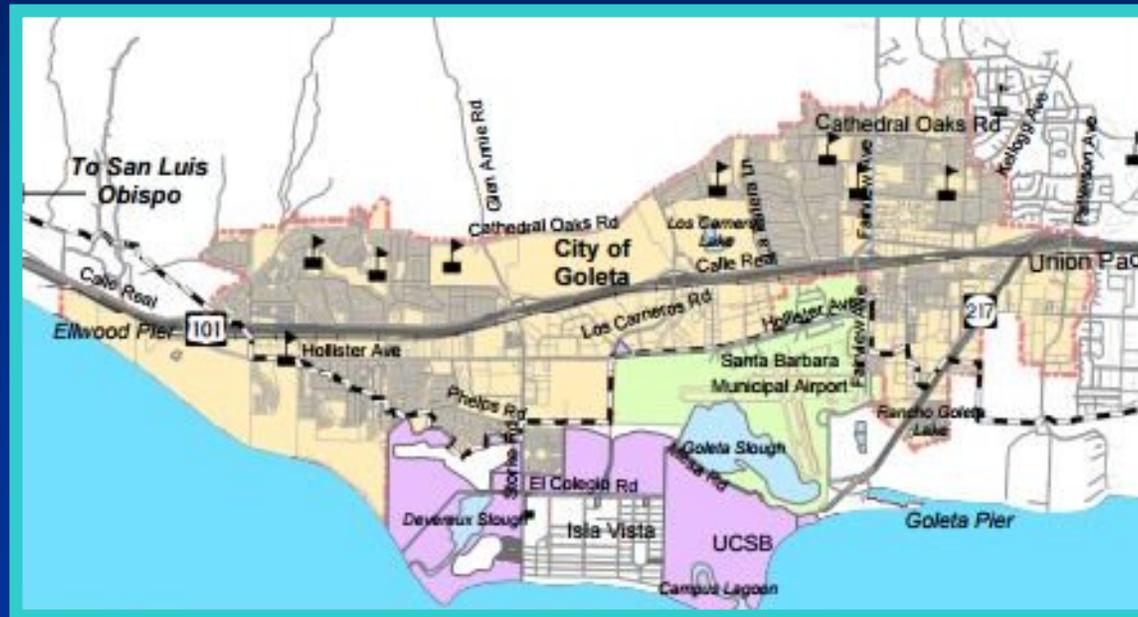
ATTACHMENT:

1. District Elections PowerPoint Presentation

ATTACHMENT 1

District Elections PowerPoint Presentation

District Elections - Goleta



Civic Engagement Commission

What is the CVRA

California Voting Right Project

- It informs that people of protected class live in pockets within cities. By forming a By-District election system, those populations will elect representatives of their choice on electoral bodies; thus creating civic engagement within under represented communities.

In Goleta

- There was a Stipulated Settlement Agreement in response to a notice of violation of the CVRA.
 - Goleta established a resolution of intent to go from At-Large to By-District elections in November of 2022 using the 2020 census.
 - A Public Engagement Commission was formed.

THE SETTLEMENT

1. Obligations of Settling Parties.

A. **Resolution of Intent to Hold District Elections.** At its regular meeting on May 16, 2017, the City Council will consider approval of a resolution of its intent to hold district based elections by November 2022.

B. **Resolution to Establish Public Engagement Commission.** At its regular meeting on May 16, 2017, the City Council will consider approval of a resolution to establish the Public Engagement Commission, a governing body with the purpose of increasing public engagement in City government, and appoint a member of the Goleta District Elections Committee to the commission. The goals of the commission will include but not be limited to the following:

- i. Explore whether the City should become a charter city;
- ii. Explore whether councilmembers should be paid greater compensation, and, if so, how much;
- iii. Explore whether City Council meetings should be held after 5 p.m.;
- iv. Explore whether the directly elected mayor's term should be 4 years;
- v. Explore outreach efforts between now and 2022 to increase participation in government; and
- vi. Provide input to the City Council on the process of determining district lines for future district elections.

The Resolution of Intent

WHEREAS, taking into consideration of all the factors, the City has directed staff to prepare a resolution of intent to institute district elections by November 2022 and a resolution to create a commission to increase public engagement in City government, which will be proposed for adoption in a separate resolution.

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

SECTION 1.

The above recitals are true and correct.

SECTION 2.

Before November 2022, the City Council will consider adoption of an ordinance to institute a district-based election system as authorized by Government Code section 34886 for use in the City's General Municipal Election for City Council Members beginning in November 2022.

SECTION 3.

Before the City Council adopts an ordinance to establish district boundaries for a district-based electoral system and after the census data is released in 2021, the City will follow the requirements pursuant to Elections Code section 10010 to solicit public input in the district map drawing process.

What did that trigger?

- A five step process:
- STEP 1: public engagement that was started with a notice of intent and was followed by council creating a 45 day process where the community of Goleta was involved in establishing the resolution of intent to form districts.
- STEP 2: will be to collect the data from the census
- STEP 3: would be to form the maps
- STEP 4: would be to engage the community in the drafting of the final resolution
- STEP 5: Adopt the final resolution

STEP ONE was taken up by council. Steps 2 through 5 will take form with the help and the engagement commission.

INNOVATION

- Goleta council innovated and created an Public Engagement Commission and allow city residents to vet the new city governess structure.
- **THE POWER OF THE COMMISSION**
- Was given to create civic engagement to fulfill the five steps with full community-wide participation needed to create a comprehensive final resolution.

Let's explore the resolution further

- What did the city actually pass:
 - The intent to form a By-District Voting Based Structure in 2022
 - Utilizing 2020 census data
 - To Create a mapping process after the census
- Create a Public Engagement Commission

■ Next steps to discover and dialog about:

- Should the Mayor continue At-Large and how will that look like in the new voting By-District voting structure?
 - You may explore what other cities have done in a new district election process.
- How many Majority-Minority districts there should be based on the census data; thus identifying how many council seats there will be (to be filled by district). **This step will take place after the census data.**
- Who to get more Protected Classes on council and appointed within city governance structure that would lead them into elected positions.

LET'S EXPLORE THE COMMISSION

Does it have a life span? **YES-** for the districting process (upon completion of expatiations of the resolution and any other additional issues raised by council.

But, past 2022 the commission may take on further explorations.

Why was it created? **To help the city residents vet and develop their own district election structure and increase civic engagement.**

What is a good district election structure:

- 1) A Map
- 2) A body of government elected to represent protected and other classes.
- 3) Increase engagement of Majority-Minority and Protected Classes to have them have viable candidacy and accessibility to governance.

Imagine NEW VOTING STRUCTURE

That has been vetted by a civic engagement commission (or process) that actually increases the amount of protected classes elected to represent!

Commission targets

- i. Explore whether the City should become a charter city;
- ii. Explore whether councilmembers should be paid greater compensation, and, if so, how much;
- iii. Explore whether City Council meetings should be held after 5 p.m.;
- iv. Explore whether the directly elected mayor's term should be 4 years;
- v. Explore outreach efforts between now and 2022 to increase participation in government; and
- vi. Provide input to the City Council on the process of determining district lines for future district elections.

Can you develop other targets YESSSSSS!

- You can not deviate from the initial targets, but you can also vet other alternatives and present fully vetted options to your council to consider within the final resolution in the implementation of district elections.
- Exploring what will be in the final resolution to transform into districts; when the maps are adopted.
 - You may explore how will Goleta fill vacancies on council?
 - Under the law you have the right to appoint to fill a vacancy but there are several issues to take into consideration
 - Voter participation and allowing the voters to choose and granting them that power, instead of taking the power of the vote and appoint in-house.
 - EXPLORE SANTA BARBARA and other cities
 - Do you appoint commissioners by-district?
 - This would allow for viable candidacy in by-district future races.
 - What is a full term on council?
 - Should there be term limits?
 - After the census is obtained: What will future mapping processes be after each census?
 - How many Majority-Minority districts should there be?
 - This is based on protected class populations and how many seats there are on council
 - Taking into consideration that you can not pack a full protected class population into one seat when there are close to 50% divisions in population.

Making a Difference

- You hold a great opportunity and responsibility.
- You can choose to build the civic engagement and change the city.
- Your vetting process help council know that the voters of the city have been through the process, away from council, to choose how to best **pave roadways in order to grant more access to protected classes into governess.**