

CITY OF BUELLTON
City Council Agenda Staff Report

City Manager Review: SW
Council Agenda Item No.: 5

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Gregory M. Murphy

Meeting Date: February 24, 2022

Subject: Ordinance No. 22-02 – “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Buellton, California, Adding a New Chapter 1.17 to the Buellton Municipal Code to Change the System of Elections for Members of the City Council from an At-Large System to a By-District System and Adopting a Map Describing the Boundaries and Identifying Election Sequencing for Each Electoral District” (Introduction and First Reading)

BACKGROUND

On November 8, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 18-22 declaring its intention to transition from at-large to district-based elections for the City Council commencing with the General Municipal Election in November 2022. 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 created a dedicated webpage detailing all information related to the District-Based Elections process, located at: <https://cityofbuellton.com/government/district-based-elections/>, which is active and available for the public. The first public hearing was held on June 10, 2021, where the City Council received public input on district boundaries and approved the transition timeline. The second public hearing was held on July 8, 2021, where the City Council again received public input regarding district maps and election sequencing. The first two hearings were held prior to release of the 2022 Census data, which was delayed due to COVID-19.

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 January 14, 2022. On January 27, 2022, the City Council held a public hearing and selected NDC draft Plans 203 and 204, to be the focus maps. Staff published these maps and sought public input (included as Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 22-02). At the February 24, 2022, City Council meeting, the Council should select a final Map

and set the election sequencing for the 2022 Election and the 2024 Election. The two-year Mayor's seat remains at-large.

The two maps before the City Council tonight 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). In addition, no matter the sequencing of elections and district seats, no term of any member of the City Council that commenced prior to the effective date of this ordinance will be impacted and Council Members will continue to serve from at-large seats until they are next up for election.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact directly associated with this item.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council conduct a public hearing and introduce the first reading of Ordinance No. 22-02 – “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Buellton, California, Adding a New Chapter 1.17 to the Buellton Municipal Code to Change the System of Elections for Members of the City Council from an At-Large System to a By-District System and Adopting a Map Describing the Boundaries and Identifying Election Sequencing for Each Electoral District” by title only and waive further reading.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance No. 22-02 (Exhibit A)
Attachment 1 – January 27, 2022 Staff Report and Attachments