

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, City Attorney

Meeting Date: January 27, 2022

Subject: Third Public Hearing Considering City Council Redistricting Maps and Boundaries

BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2021, the City Council entered into contract with National Demographics Corporation (NDC) to assist with creating election districts for the City of Buellton. Pursuant to state law, four public hearings are required throughout the districting process in order to obtain public input. 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 and all district-based election data was posted to the City's website and made available for review at City Hall. The first two hearings were held prior to release of the 2022 Census data, which was delayed due to COVID-19.

The Census data is now available and the City's demographer Daniel Phillips, Ph.D., with NDC, has worked with staff to prepare four separate draft district maps for consideration and discussion. Staff scheduled the third public hearing on January 27, 2022, the fourth public hearing on February 24, 2022, which will include the first reading of the ordinance adopting the district map and election sequencing. The second reading of the ordinance will be presented to the City Council on March 10, 2022.

There are a number of restrictions the City is required to follow in forming election districts. Each of the four districts will need to contain about 1,294 persons (by law, total population and not registered voter population must be used to set districts) but there is some tolerance for deviation. The process will include defining neighborhoods and communities of interest to attempt to ensure they are not divided between districts. The City will also want to consider future growth and potentially set districts so that future changes can be made with as little disruption as possible. Dr. Phillips will provide a presentation (Attachment 1) detailing the transition process and the rules and goals associated with ultimately choosing a district map and election sequence.

An analysis of proposed map compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) and California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) is available for review as Attachment 2.

The four NDC draft maps are available for review on the City’s website, via the following link: <https://cityofbuellton.com/government/district-based-elections/>. There are also three public maps available for review via the same link. There are a total of seven draft maps.

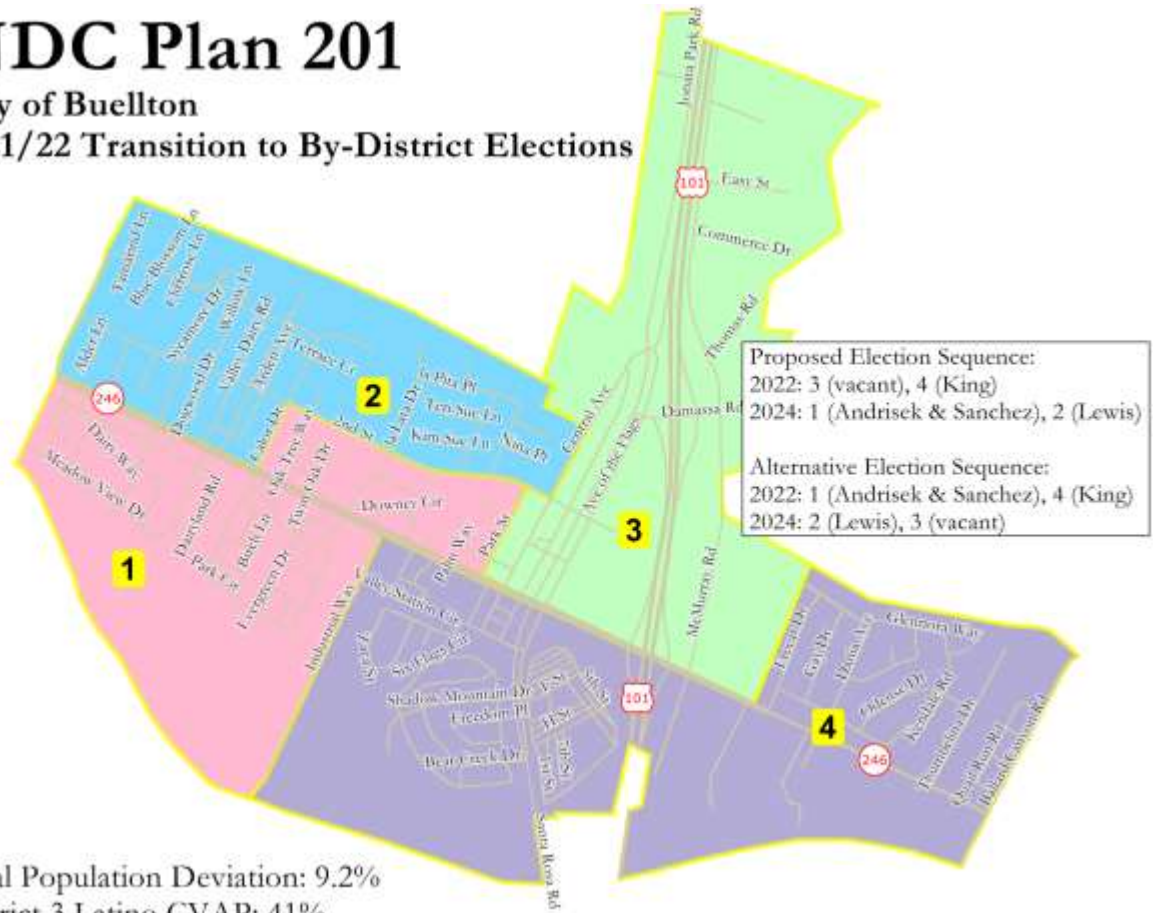
Below are the four draft maps prepared by NDC for consideration:

- 1. [NDC Plan 201 Demographics](#) - [NDC Plan 201 Map](#)

NDC Plan 201

City of Buellton

2021/22 Transition to By-District Elections



Total Population Deviation: 9.2%
District 3 Latino CVAP: 41%

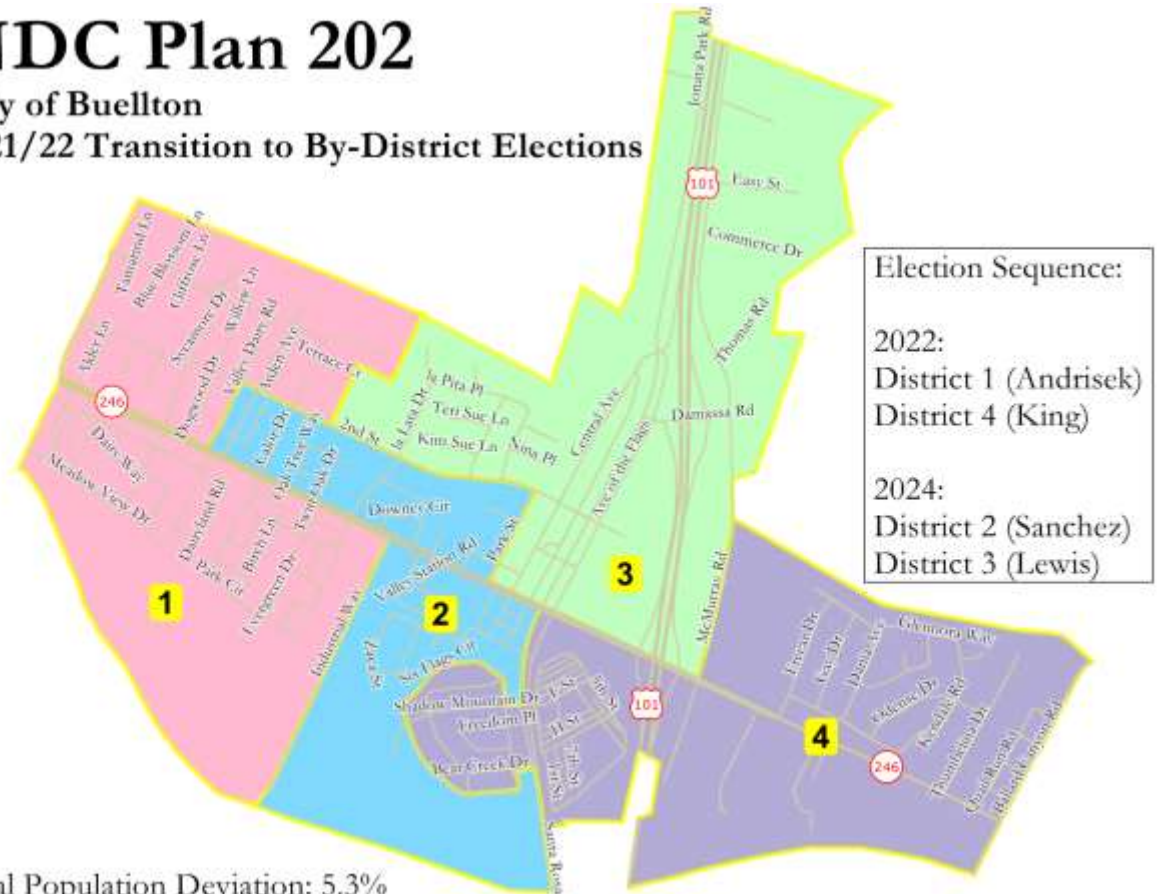
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National Demographics Corporation, January 12, 2022

2. [NDC Plan 202 Demographics](#) - [NDC Plan 202 Map](#)

NDC Plan 202

City of Buellton
2021/22 Transition to By-District Elections



Total Population Deviation: 5.3%
District 3 Latino CVAP: 41%

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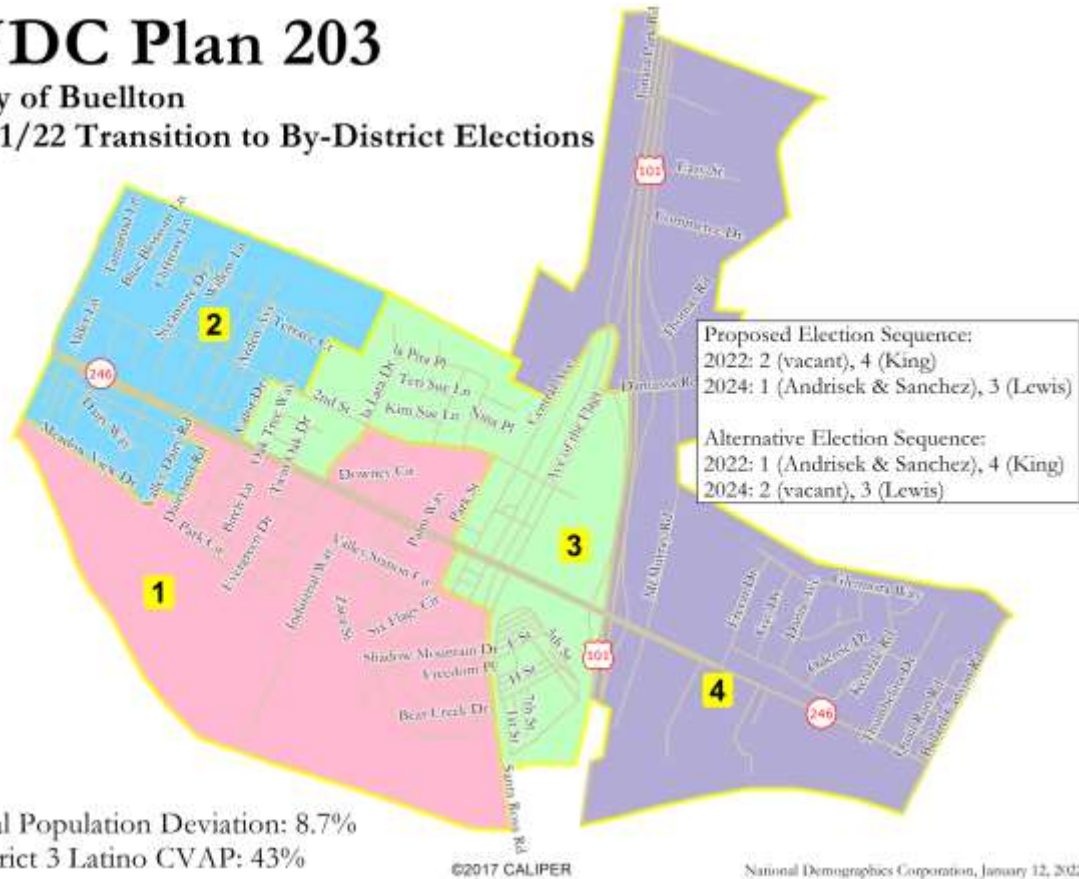
National Demographics Corporation, January 12, 2022

3. [NDC Plan 203 Demographics](#) - [NDC Plan 203 Map](#)

NDC Plan 203

City of Buellton

2021/22 Transition to By-District Elections



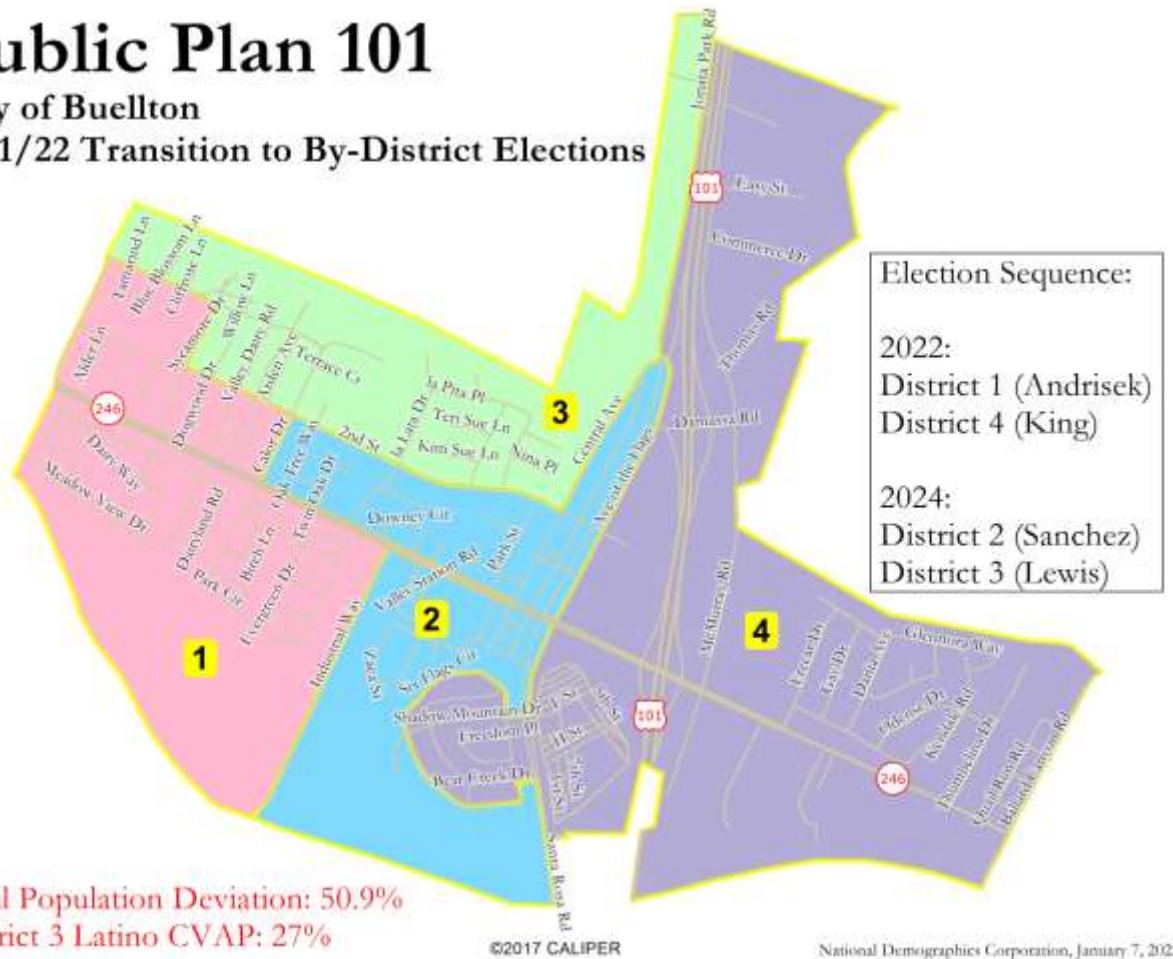
Below are the three draft maps prepared by the Public for consideration:

5. [Public Plan 101 Demographics](#) - [Public Plan 101 Map](#)

Public Plan 101

City of Buellton

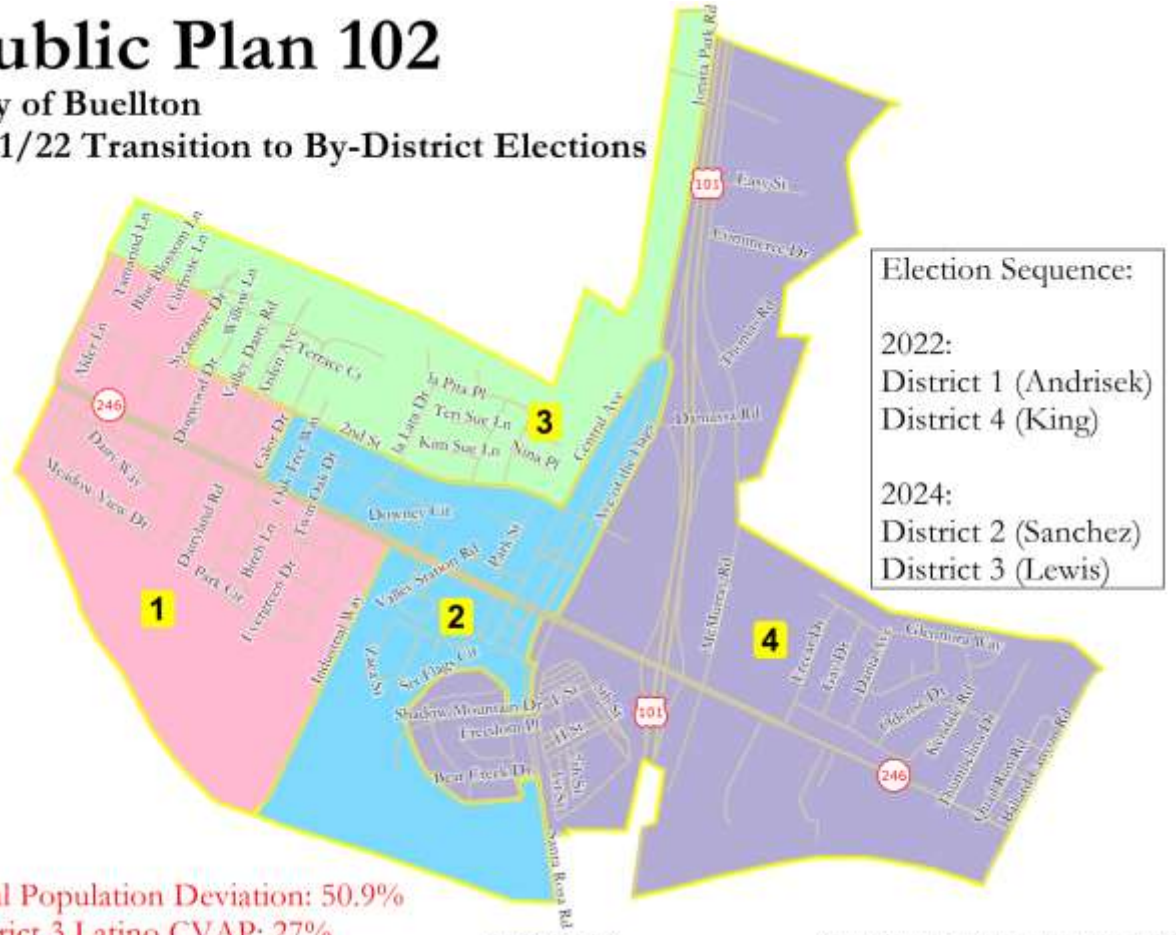
2021/22 Transition to By-District Elections



6. [Public Plan 102 Demographics](#) - [Public Plan 102 Map](#)

Public Plan 102

City of Buellton
2021/22 Transition to By-District Elections



Total Population Deviation: 50.9%
District 3 Latino CVAP: 27%

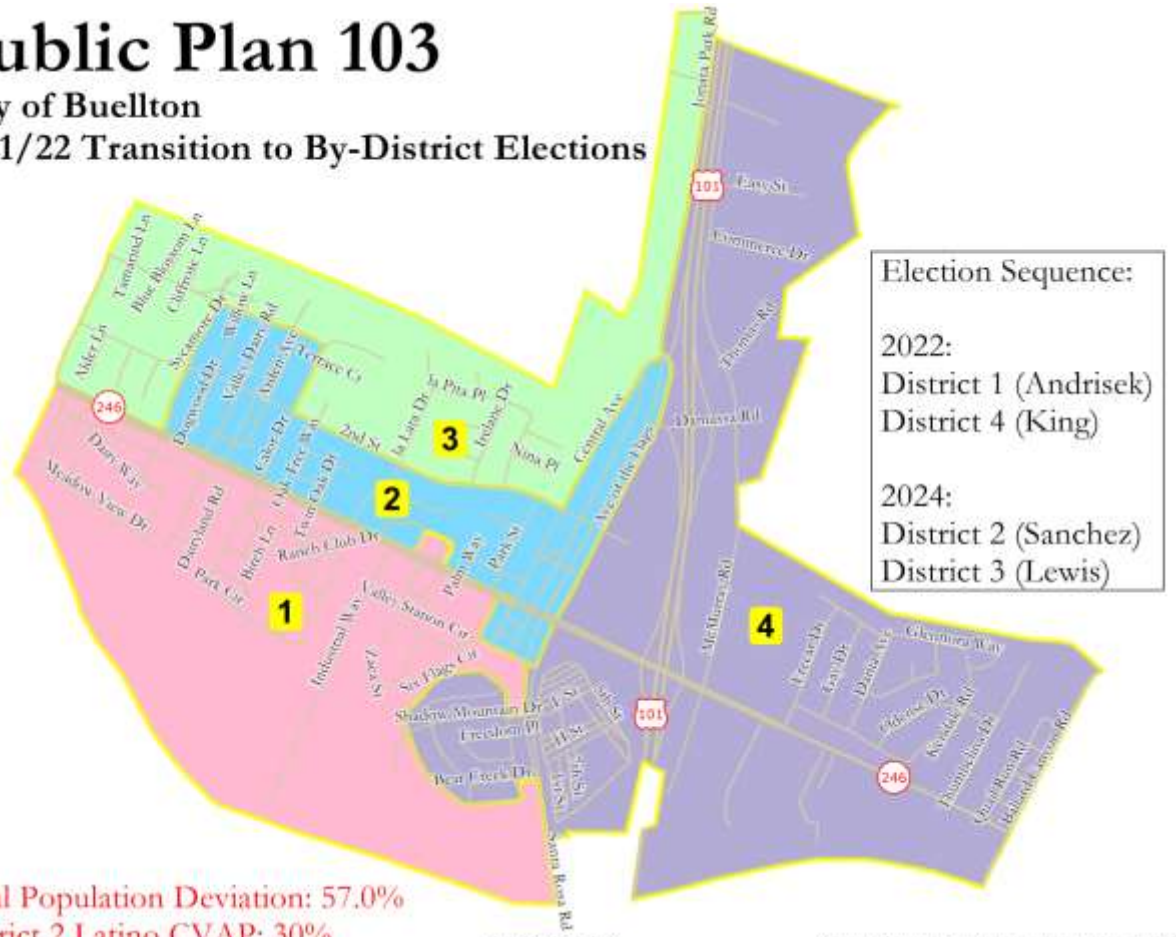
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National Demographics Corporation, January 7, 2022

7. [Public Plan 103 Demographics](#) - [Public Plan 103 Map](#)

Public Plan 103

City of Buellton
2021/22 Transition to By-District Elections



The community has been informed and encouraged to attend public hearings through a variety of outreach efforts, including the following:

- City’s Website
- City’s Facebook page
- Flyer included in all utility billing statements to every household (English/Spanish)
- Article in the City’s newsletter distributed to every household
- Public Hearing notices advertised in the local newspaper

The City has also established a dedicated District-Based Elections page on the City’s website, with information about the process designed to comply with State requirements, which include the following:

1. A general explanation of the District-Based Election process
2. The procedures for a member of the public to testify during a public hearing or to submit written testimony directly to the Council
3. A calendar of all public hearings, which includes the time and location of the public hearing, satisfying legal notice requirements
4. The notice and staff report for each public hearing
5. Each draft map considered by the Council at a public hearing
6. The adopted final map of City Council Electoral Districts (following Council selection)

State law requires the City to maintain the information on the web page for a period of 10 years.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive a presentation from the City’s demographic consultant on the district-based map boundary alternatives and election sequence options, open the public hearing to allow for public testimony, and determine two draft maps to consider during the fourth public hearing and first reading of the ordinance adopting by-district elections.

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment 1 - Power Point Presentation – Transition to District Elections](#)

Attachment 2 – Analysis of Proposed Map Compliance with VRA and CVRA