

RESOLUTION NO. 7664

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDLANDS
ADOPTING LINE DRAWING CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING COUNCIL
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Redlands (“The City”) was elected under an “at large” election system whereby Councilmembers were elected by voters of the entire City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is considering a change to the “by district” elections whereby each Councilmember must reside within the designated district boundary and is elected only by voters of that district; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 34886, effective January 1, 2016, permits the City Council of a city with a population of fewer than 100,000 people to change the city’s method of election by ordinance with certain formalities to a “by-district” system in which each City Council member is elected only by the voters in the district in which the candidate resides; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Voting Rights Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1973) prohibits the use of any voting qualification, or prerequisite to voting, or standard practice or procedure in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color; and

WHEREAS, the California Voting Rights Act (California Elections Code Section 14025-14032) was enacted to implement the California constitutional guarantees of equal protection and the right to vote and identifies nonexclusive factors that can be considered in analyzing whether a violation of the CVRA exists, including with respect to the reliance on an at large voting system; and

WHEREAS, federal law and the equal protection clause require that each district be equal in population to ensure compliance with the “one person, one vote” rule; however, deviations less than five percent [5%] greater than or less than the ideal, for a total of ten percent [10%] deviation are presumptively constitutional under the equal protection clause where required to meet an official criteria; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has instructed its demographer and city staff to develop draft maps that fully comply with legal requirements and intends to provide official criteria for any needed deviations.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDLANDS to hereby adopt the following criteria to guide the establishment of districts for council elections AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Each Council District shall contain a nearly equal number of inhabitants; and

Section 2. Council District borders shall be drawn in a manner that complies with the Federal Voting Rights Act; and

Section 3. Each council district shall not be drawn with race as the predominate factor in violation of the principles established by the United States Supreme Court in Shaw v. Reno, 509 U.S. 630 (1993), and its progeny;

Section 4. Council districts shall consist of contiguous territory in as compact form as possible; and

Section 5. Council districts shall respect communities of interest as much as possible; and

Section 6. Council district borders shall follow visible natural and man-made geographical and topographical features as much as possible; and

Section 7. District borders shall respect the previous choices of city voters by avoiding the creation of head-to-head contests between Councilmembers previously elected by the voters of the City, insofar as this does not conflict with Federal or State Law.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this 16th day of August, 2016.

Paul W. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sam Irwin, City Clerk

I, Sam Irwin, City Clerk of the City of Redlands, hereby certifies that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 16th day of August, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

CITY CLERK, CITY OF REDLANDS