



THE CITY OF MONTEREY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHONE: (831) 646-3760

CONTACT: Hans Uslar, City Manager

E-MAIL: uslar@monterey.org

CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CONVERTING FROM AN AT-LARGE METHOD OF ELECTION TO A BY-DISTRICT SYSTEM FOR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Monterey, CA. – At its [meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021](#), the City Council will consider adopting a Resolution of Intention to convert from the current at-large method of electing City Councilmembers to a by-district system. A proposed resolution would not change the structure of the City Council; instead it would start the process to implement a district based election system where the City is divided into separate geographical areas of equal population, composed of voters residing within the district which elect a representative who also resides within the district. With Council approval, City staff is required to complete the process by early February 2022.

The City Council is considering this conversion in response to a letter from the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), District 12 (Monterey, San Benito, and Merced counties), to switch to district-based elections.

The [California Voting Rights Act of 2001](#) (“CVRA”) was enacted to implement the California constitutional guarantees of equal protection and the right to vote. (Elections Code section 14031.) Although the CVRA is based on the federal Voting Rights Act, it expands the protections provided under federal law. Should the City Council vote to adopt the Resolution of Intention to Transition from At-Large to District Based Elections, the City will hold a minimum of five (5) public hearings and conduct an extensive public engagement process over a 90-day period to gather input on communities of interest, and how councilmember districts should be

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defined, drawn, and adopted. Public hearings and information about the districting process would also be available in Spanish.

The City launched an informative web page on the City's public engagement portal, *Have Your Say Monterey*, at haveyoursaymonterey.org/districting. This page will be updated on a regular basis. The [full agenda](#) (see Items 15 and 16) for the November 16, 2021 Council Meeting is posted at isearchmonterey.org.

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