



THE CITY OF MONTEREY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“MUTUALLY MONTEREY: A UNIFIED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK MODEL” - A LOOK AT GOVERNING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES City Council Study Session Presentation, July 27, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Monterey, CA. – A City Council Study Session on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., will include the City Council discussing new opportunities, risks, and uncertainties potentially facing Monterey through the transition into a local government with district-based elections.

Scheduled as a direct result of the most recent switch from at-large elections to district-based elections, the purposes of this study session are three-fold:

1. Briefly review the purpose for the City’s decision to move to district-based elections
2. Identify best governance practices among cities transitioning to district-based elections
3. Introduce a staff proposed concept of “Mutually Monterey: A Unified Governance Framework”

“Mutually Monterey: A Unified Governance Framework” reflects the foundation that as a community, we are mutually respectful of one another, mutually collaborative, and look for mutually beneficial solutions to community challenges. “Mutually Monterey” means that we support diversity, equity, and inclusiveness and that the City Council and staff work together, not in silos. The City Council and executive team will work together through the impacts of at-large to district-based elections.

City Manager Hans Uslar said, “The core principles of the ‘Mutually Monterey’ framework for the City Council are defined to amplify the idea that district-based elections ensure that the ability of minority groups to elect representatives of their choice is not impaired as a result of vote dilution.

(more)



While district-based elections lend itself to the notion of ‘thinking and acting on behalf of districts’, City Council policies, procedures and processes need to address Monterey’s overall quality of life.”

Background

For 172 years, the Monterey City Council has operated as one, with each elected official representing the interests of the entire City. One intent of the City’s shift to district-based elections was to promote a more geographically diverse representation on City Council. Earlier this year, and as part of a larger districting discussion, residents and Council Members raised questions about future governance issues and this study session represents the first attempt to address these questions or concerns.

In February 2022, the City of Monterey converted from an at-large election process for City Councilmembers, to a district-based system. The November 2022 election is the first election period to use the new system. The November 8 election will fill three seats: Councilmembers for Districts 1 and 2, and an at-large Mayor (representing the entire City). A [map of the Councilmember Districts](#) is posted at <https://monterey.org/districtelections>, and on <https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/districting>.

To help the public stay informed about the November 2022 elections, the City has a web page at <https://monterey.org/elections>, which includes the [candidates’ filings](#) as well as the finances of their respective campaigns.

The [City Council Study Session Agenda Report](#) is available at <https://isearchmonterey.org>, and includes a list of ways to participate and watch the meeting.

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