



## CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

### **AGENDA ITEM**

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Report: Third Public Hearing Regarding the Composition of Council Districts Related to the City's Proposed Transition to District-Based Councilmember Elections

1. Motion Directing Staff Regarding Preparation of Draft District Maps

### **COUNCIL ACTION**

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**Item Type:** Public Hearing

**Approved for** August 15, 2023 **calendar**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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The Council has initiated the process to transition from its at-large council election system to council districts. This matter is the third public hearing to solicit public input on the composition of council districts. 19 draft maps have been submitted by members of the public; of those, four are not population balanced. The City's demographer has prepared an additional two draft maps taking into consideration public input on communities of interest. The Council should take public input and may select three to five focus maps to highlight during the next phase of community outreach.

## **COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

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N/A.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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That the Council conduct the third public hearing pertaining to the composition of council districts related to the City's proposed transition to district-based elections and consider selecting three to five maps to focus on for the next phase of community outreach.

## **BACKGROUND**

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On May 2, 2023, the Council adopted Resolution No. 23-55 declaring its intent to initiate the process to transition from at-large to district-based councilmember elections pursuant to Elections Code section 10010. The Council directed staff to commence the process to transition to council districts by way of amendment to the City Charter, to include a proposal to transition to six council districts and a directly elected mayor who would be a voting member of the Council. This hearing is the third public hearing the Council will hold regarding the composition of council districts.

## **ANALYSIS**

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### Public Hearing

Pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, the Council is required to hold at least four public hearings - two hearings before the preparation of draft maps, and at least two public hearings after the publication of draft maps. The City held its first public hearings on June 13, 2023 and July 11, 2023.

After this public hearing, the additional public hearings are scheduled for October 10, 2023, and October 24, 2023. The principal purpose of this third public hearing is for the City's demographer, National Demographics Corporation (NDC), to provide an overview of the maps presented to date as well as review the public input received on communities of interest.

### District Criteria

In accordance with Elections Code section 21601, the Council must draw districts that satisfy the following criteria:

- Council districts must be substantially equal in population based on the total population of residents of the city as determined by the most recent census with adjustments mandated by the State of California.
- Council district boundaries must comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the federal Voting Rights Act.
- The Council shall adopt district boundaries using the following criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:
  - (i) To the extent practicable, council districts shall be geographically contiguous.
  - (ii) To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. A "community of interest" is a population that shares common social or

economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(iii) Council district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the city.

(iv) To the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria, council districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

- The Council must not draw district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

### Draft District Maps

There are currently 21 draft maps that have been submitted to or prepared by the City. Members of the public have submitted 19 maps and NDC has prepared two maps. Of the 19 maps submitted by the public, four are not population-balanced. The draft maps are attached as Exhibit 1 and can also be viewed using an Interactive Review Map available at <https://mapglendale.org/draft-maps/>. NDC will provide a review during the public hearing.

NDC recommends that after taking public input, the Council should consider selecting three to five maps to focus on for the next phase of community outreach. Such a narrowing would not preclude the Council from making further adjustments or even selecting another map, but would allow the outreach team to focus public comments on maps that have generated some consensus by Council at this stage. Indeed, the City will continue to solicit draft maps through September 28, 2023.

### **STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH**

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The City continues an extensive public outreach process. In addition to the first two public hearings and this public hearing, the City has held 7 public workshops and 4 popups. The City will hold an additional 7 public workshops and will hold additional pop-up events in addition to the two public hearings scheduled in October. (See Exhibit 2 for calendar of remaining outreach events). The outreach is being conducted in multiple languages – English, Armenian, Spanish, Korean, and Tagalog. A website dedicated to the districting effort, which includes draft maps, calendar of hearings and workshops dates and pertinent updates, has been established at <https://mapglendale.org>. Stakeholders are welcome to submit public comments and share their input throughout the process by attending district formation meetings, sending a direct email to [mapglendale@glendaleca.gov](mailto:mapglendale@glendaleca.gov), and/or submitting feedback through the contact form on MapGlendale.org.

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## **FISCAL IMPACT**

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There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)**

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This activity involves organizational and administrative activities of the government related to election procedures and eligibility requirements, and such internal procedural and eligibility changes have no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. As such, this action is not a “project” subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 14 Cal. Code Regs § 15378.

## **CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE**

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This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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1. The Council can conduct the public hearing and provide direction for the demographer.
2. The Council can conduct the public hearing and provide no direction.
3. The Council can select an alternative not identified by staff.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

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### **Prepared by:**

Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

### **Approved by:**

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

## **EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Draft Maps
2. Schedule of Remaining Public Hearings, Workshops, and Pop-Ups
3. Powerpoint Presentation from Community Workshops