



**CITY OF HEMET
Hemet, California
RESOLUTION NO. 4661**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF HEMET, CALIFORNIA, INITIATING
PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING AND
IMPLEMENTING BY-DISTRICT ELECTIONS FOR
THE CITY OF HEMET CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, members of the City Council of the City of Hemet (“City”) are currently elected in “at-large” elections, in which each City Council member is elected by the registered voters of the entire city; 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, in December 2015, the City received a letter dated December 16, 2015 asserting the its at-large electoral system violates the California Voting Rights Act, and threatening litigation if the City declined to adopt by-district elections in time for the 2016 City Council elections; and

WHEREAS, though the letter was not accompanied by any evidence to support the claim of a violation, on January 9, 2016, the City Council, after meeting in closed session with its attorneys concluded that the public interest would be better served by avoiding the tremendous expense of litigation to defend against the baseless assertions in the December 16, 2015 letter; and

WHEREAS, the City Council unanimously issued direction to commence the process to establish by-district elections to avoid spending tax dollars defending a meritless but potentially extremely expensive suit, even if the City is victorious; and

WHEREAS, the City has retained an experienced demographer and special legal counsel to assist the City in establishing a by-district electoral system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

A. The above recitals are true and correct.

1 B. The City Council hereby resolves to adopt a by-district election system as
2 authorized by Government Code section 34886 for use in the City's General Municipal
3 Election for City Council Members in November 2016.

4 C. The City Council hereby approves the tentative timeline contained in
5 Exhibit A hereto, and incorporated herein by this reference, for conducting a public
6 process to solicit public input and testimony on proposed by-district electoral plans
7 before adopting any such plan.

8 D. The timeline contained in Exhibit A shall be subject to adjustment by the
9 City Council as it deems necessary, provided that such adjustments shall not prevent
10 the City from meeting its goal of finalizing the change to by-district elections in time for
11 the November 2016 elections.

12 E. The City Manager shall consult with legal counsel to resolve all legal
13 issues necessary to give effect to this Resolution.

14 **PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 8th day of March, 201

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Bonnie Wright, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sarah McComas, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Eric S. Vail, City Attorney

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State of California)
County of Riverside)
City of Hemet)

I, Sarah McComas, City Clerk of the City of Hemet, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is the actual Resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Hemet and was passed at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 8th day of March, 2016 by the following vote:

- AYES:** Council Members Krupa and Milne, Mayor Pro Tem Raver and Mayor Wright
- NOES:**
- ABSTAIN:**
- ABSENT:** Council Member Youssef

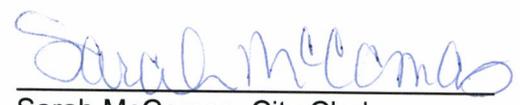

Sarah McComas, City Clerk

EXHIBIT A
TENTATIVE TIMELINE: ADOPTION OF “BY-DISTRICT” ELECTION METHOD

DATE	ACTION
January 12, 2016 City Council Meeting	City Council determines to begin process of adopting a “by-district” method of election; approves the retention of a qualified demographic consultant.
February 9, 2016	Presentations by special redistricting counsel regarding legal considerations and appropriate policy criteria governing districting, and by demographic consultant regarding City demographics. Council solicits public input regarding appropriate criteria, and adopts same to guide districting process. Council notices three public hearings regarding draft plans. (Elec. Code § 10010.)
March 1, 2016	Initial draft of district plans to be made publicly available (e.g., posted on City’s website for public consideration and/or hard copies made available at appropriate public location such as City Hall).
March 8, 2016 City Council Meeting	Demographic consultant to present initial draft of district plans; Council holds <u>first</u> public hearing on draft plans; Council may request modifications to any of the plans.
March 22, 2016 City Council Meeting	Council holds <u>second</u> public hearing on district plans; Council may request modifications to any of the plans.
April 12, 2016 City Council Meeting	Council holds <u>third</u> public hearing on district plans; if Council requests modifications to any of the plans, another public hearing will be required. City Council introduces ordinance establishing a “by-district” method of elections and setting election schedule in districts. (Gov. Code §§ 34886(a) & 34878.)
April 26, 2016 City Council Meeting	City Council adopts ordinance establishing a “by-district” method of elections. (Gov. Code § 34886(a).)
May 1, 2016	Goal date prior to November 2016 election that districts may be approved or use at that election.
May 31, 2016	End of Referendum Period after adoption of ordinance establishing a “by-district” method of election.
November 8, 2016	First election using new by-district election system.