



NEWS RELEASE

City of La Palma
7822 Walker Street
La Palma, CA 90623
(714) 690-3300
www.cityoflapalma.org

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Contact: Joseph Cisneros, Assistant to the City Manager
(714) 690-3300; jcisneros@cityoflapalma.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

La Palma Moves to By-District City Council Elections in 2024

LA PALMA, Calif. – The City of La Palma currently utilizes an at-large election system where voters citywide select each of the five City Council Members. By contrast, a district-based election system is one in which a City is physically divided into separate districts, each with one council member who resides in the district and is chosen solely by the voters residing in that district.

On March 9, 2022, the City of La Palma received a certified letter from the law firm of Shenkman & Hughes, on behalf of Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, alleging that the City's current at-large election system violates the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) (Elections Code §§ 14025-14032) by disenfranchising Latinos and demanded that the City transition to by-district elections. A copy of the letter is available on the City's website at www.cityoflapalma.org/transparency.

The City of La Palma was required to respond to the certified letter from the law firm within 45 days of receipt. At the Special Meeting of the City Council on April 19, 2022, the City Council adopted a Resolution to declare the City Council's intention to transition from at-large to by-district elections pursuant to California Elections Code Section 10010 and executed an agreement to retain National Demographics Corporation as a demographer to begin the process.

At the Special Meeting of the City Council on May 17, 2022, the City Council approved and directed City staff to move forward with a five (5) district election system for the 2024 election. In this election system, the City Council would continue to appoint a Mayor and a Mayor Pro Tem from its own membership to serve a one-year term and each district would include approximately 3,120 residents.

The Council also approved a revised timeline of events (see table below) as required by State law. The City of La Palma is encouraging all La Palma residents to participate in the districting process by providing input on how the five (5) City Council district maps should be drawn. La Palma residents may design their own map and submit it to the City for consideration. Mapping tools (digital and paper-based) are available online at www.drawlapalma.org. A Community

Workshop has been scheduled for June 21, 2022, at the La Palma Community Center to assist residents with the mapping tools and submittal process. In addition to the Community Workshop, the following public meetings and map submission deadlines have been scheduled.

Timeline of Events

Date/Time	Location	Description
June 21 5:30 PM	La Palma Community Center (7821 Walker Street)	<u>Community Meeting and Workshop</u> The City will host a community meeting to discuss the districting process, provide a tutorial on the mapping tools, and gather community input.
June 23	City of La Palma (Online or in- person)	<u>1st Round of Maps Due</u> Submit maps to districting@cityoflapalma.org or in-person to City Hall (7822 Walker Street).
June 28	Online	<u>1st Round of Maps Posted Online</u> Maps submitted by June 23 will be posted to www.drawlapalma.org .
July 5 6:30 PM	City Hall Council Chambers (7822 Walker Street)	<u>Public Hearing #3</u> Third public hearing to receive public input regarding the composition of Council election districts draft maps and sequence of elections.
July 21	City of La Palma (Online or in- person)	<u>2nd Round of Maps Due</u> Submit maps to districting@cityoflapalma.org or in-person to City Hall (7822 Walker Street).
July 26	Online	<u>2nd Round of Maps Posted Online</u> Maps submitted by July 21 will be posted to www.drawlapalma.org .
August 2 6:30 PM	City Hall Council Chambers (7822 Walker Street)	<u>Public Hearing #4</u> Fourth public hearing to receive public input regarding the composition of Council election districts draft maps and proposed sequence of elections.
September 6 6:30 PM	City Hall Council Chambers (7822 Walker Street)	<u>Public Hearing #5 - 1st Reading of By-District Elections Ordinance</u> Introduction and first reading of an ordinance to establish by-district elections, district boundaries, and sequence of elections.
October 4 6:30 PM	City Hall Council Chambers (7822 Walker Street)	<u>Public Meeting – 2nd Reading and Adoption of By-District Elections Ordinance</u> Second reading and adoption of an ordinance to establish by-district elections, district boundaries, and sequence of elections.

Following the Second Reading and Adoption of By-District Elections Ordinance on October 4, 2022, the first by-district elections, in La Palma, CA, will take effect beginning with the November 2024 election.

For more information, please contact the City of La Palma at districting@cityoflapalma.org or (714) 690-3350.

About the City of La Palma

Ranked by Money Magazine in 2007, 2011, 2013, and 2015 as one of America's Best Places to Live, the City of La Palma is a 1.9 square mile general law city in northwest Orange County, consisting of 15,581 residents and approximately 300 commercial and industrial businesses. The City was incorporated in 1955 under the name of Dairyland and has 53 full-time and 35 part-time employees.

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