

# Considering a City Council District Based Electoral System

*Many communities have at-large elections, others have district based elections. Rancho Cucamonga is looking at changing to a district-based system.*



## What Happened



- The City of Rancho Cucamonga has been served with a lawsuit alleging it is in violation of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)



- Fight the lawsuit
- Put the decision to voters

## Why this is Important

The City Council voted to adopt line drawing criteria for creating Council district boundaries on March 16, 2016.

**If residents support this process:** The City of Rancho Cucamonga would be divided into four geographically focused districts that are approximately equal in population.

Councilmembers would be elected with the 2018 and 2020 elections. The mayor would continue to be elected citywide.

**If residents do not support this process:** The City of Rancho Cucamonga would defend against the CVRA lawsuit. As of February 2016, no local agency has prevailed in a lawsuit brought under the CVRA. For example, in 2015, the City of Palmdale settled a CVRA lawsuit and agreed to implement Council districts, paying \$4.5

million plus interest to the plaintiff's attorneys. In addition to the attorney fees, the judge still has the authority to impose Council districts even if the residents do not agree.



**RANCHO  
CUCAMONGA**

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## What is the CVRA?

*The California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA) seeks to ensure that every community has an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice in local elections.*

## Key Terms

### **Protected class:**

A class of voters who are members of a race, color, or language minority group, as referenced and defined in the federal Voting Rights Act.

### **At-large election: (currently used)**

Voters elect city council members that provide city-wide representation.

### **District election: (proposed)**

Voters elect city council members to represent a specific district within the city.

# Help Shape Rancho Cucamonga's Future

## The most important voice in this process is yours!

A major focus of districting is drawing boundaries that respect neighborhood borders. And the best definition of a neighborhood is "whatever the people who live there say are their neighborhood borders." So the City Council is asking you to share your thoughts on the borders of your neighborhood, and on every other element of this districting project.

## Draw your own map:

You can draw a full citywide map of proposed districts; you can propose only one district around your neighborhood; or you can just share your thoughts on which proposed plan you think the Council should approve. Rancho Cucamonga has contracted with demographic consultants Douglas Johnson and Justin Levitt of National Demographics Corporation (NDC) to assist with this task. They are available to answer any questions you have about the process, the schedule, the draft maps, or how to draw your own map. Contact them at:

**National Demographics Corporation (NDC)**  
**PO Box 5271, Glendale, CA 91221**  
**Info@NDCresearch.com • 818-254-1221**

## Tell us what you think:

Visit [www.MyRC.life](http://www.MyRC.life), click on Contact/Meeting Info. and write a comment.

## Project Schedule and Public Hearings:

March 25	Consultant's draft maps (and any public maps received before this date) published on project website.
April 4	Deadline for public to submit initial map ideas.
April 6	<b>First Public Hearing: 7 p.m. City Council Meeting</b>
April 20	<b>Second Public Hearing: 7 p.m. City Council Meeting</b>
May 4	<b>Third Public Hearing: 7 p.m. City Council Meeting</b>
May (date TBD)	City Council adopts final plan and calls for November election.
Nov. 8, 2016	Election Day



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