



CITY OF HEALDSBURG'S TRANSITION TO DISTRICT ELECTIONS

TRANSITION

Help determine how voters will elect future City of Healdsburg City Councilmembers by participating in Healdsburg's transition to District Elections. Currently, voters elect all five City Council members through an at-large elections system. A district based election is one in which the City is divided into separate districts, each with one City council member who resides in the district and is chosen by the voters in that particular district. Once the transition away from at-large elections is completed, the district-election system will be phased in beginning with the 2026 election.

BACKGROUND

In October of 2024, the City of Healdsburg received a challenge alleging a violation of the California Voting Rights Act (the "CVRA") and threatening litigation if the City declines to voluntarily change to a district-based election system for electing Councilmembers. On November 18, 2024 the City Council adopted a resolution of intent in order to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the Elections Code and declaring Healdsburg's intent to transition from at-large election to district-based elections.

PROCESS

The City will hold two initial public hearings on December 16, 2024 and January 6, 2025, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts. While the public can begin drawing maps, official maps can not be drawn by the City before completion of these two public meetings. Then, the hired demographer can begin to officially draw maps that will be considered in the districting process along with any maps submitted by the public. The City would then hold two additional hearings, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft maps and the proposed sequence of elections. Once a map is selected, it would need to be published at least seven days before consideration at a hearing for introduction of an ordinance to adopt the district map. In addition to the public hearings, we will hold a community workshop on January 16, 2025, to answer questions, receive feedback, and give the public a chance to draw maps.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

City Council meetings begin at 6:00 pm. All meetings will be available to livestream on Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. Meeting agendas will be published at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.



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attend a public hearing or community workshop

December 16, 2024: First Public Hearing
January 6, 2025: Second Public Hearing
January 16, 2025: Community Workshop
January 24, 2025: Brunch at the Senior Center
February 18, 2025: Third Public Hearing
March 17, 2025: Fourth Public Hearing
April 7, 2025: Fifth Public Hearing