

Rhonda Garietz

Subject: FW: Proposing Maps for District-Wide Elections

Rhonda

Rhonda M. Garietz, CMC / Chief Deputy City Clerk
City of Santa Maria / (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2307

Our Mission: "To provide the highest quality service in the most efficient, cost-effective and courteous manner possible."

From: Diana Reed
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 4:28 PM
To: City Manager - City Clerk <CityManager-CityClerk@cityofsantamaria.org>
Cc: Toni Lane <tlane@cityofsantamaria.org>
Subject: FW: Proposing Maps for District-Wide Elections

FYI.

Thank you,

Diana Reed

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City of Santa Maria/110 E. Cook St, Room 1/Santa Maria, CA 93454/805-925-0951 x2202/dreed@cityofsantamaria.org
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From: Kathryn Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 3:38 PM
To: Web-City Council <councilweb@cityofsantamaria.org>
Subject: Proposing Maps for District-Wide Elections

To the Mayor & Council:

I have been following the discussion of district elections with real interest. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend City Council meetings as my job requires evening work, so I am writing this message to let you know my thoughts about district elections and drawing district maps:

1. I am IN FAVOR of moving to district elections for city council, with an at-large election of mayor.
2. I am IN FAVOR of using these criteria for drawing district maps:
 - population** size (each district should be equal in population)
 - race** (some districts should be majority-Latino because the majority of voters in SM are Latino).
 - natural boundaries** (roads, crossroads, etc (Main & Broadway is a good place to start!))
 - community boundaries & interests** (organized around school districts, parks, other existing services, etc)
 - demographic and financial realities** (homeowners, renters, young people, income levels, etc).

3. I OPPOSE:

—gerrymandering of ANY KIND meant to protect incumbents or other entrenched interests. Gerrymandering is an anti-democratic blight on the body politic, and its history of use throughout the United States is shameful.

—violations of the California Voting Rights Act: follow the letter AND the spirit of the law!

Finally, I just want to say that I believe that moving to district elections is a means toward this very important end: improving local democracy and city responsiveness to its residents.

Kate Adams, Ph.D.
Professor of English
Allan Hancock College

