Election Systems

Traditional At-Large

Candidates run for election at-large and are elected at-large. A voter may cast as many votes as there are seats up for election.

At-Large By Seat

Candidates run for election at-large and are elected at-large but must compete for a particular seat. A voter may vote for one candidate for each seat up for election.

At-Large From Districts

Candidates run for election in the district they reside in but are elected at-large. A voter may vote for one candidate in each district election.

By District

Candidates run for election by district and are elected only by the voters of that district. A voter may only vote for one candidate running in the district he or she resides in.
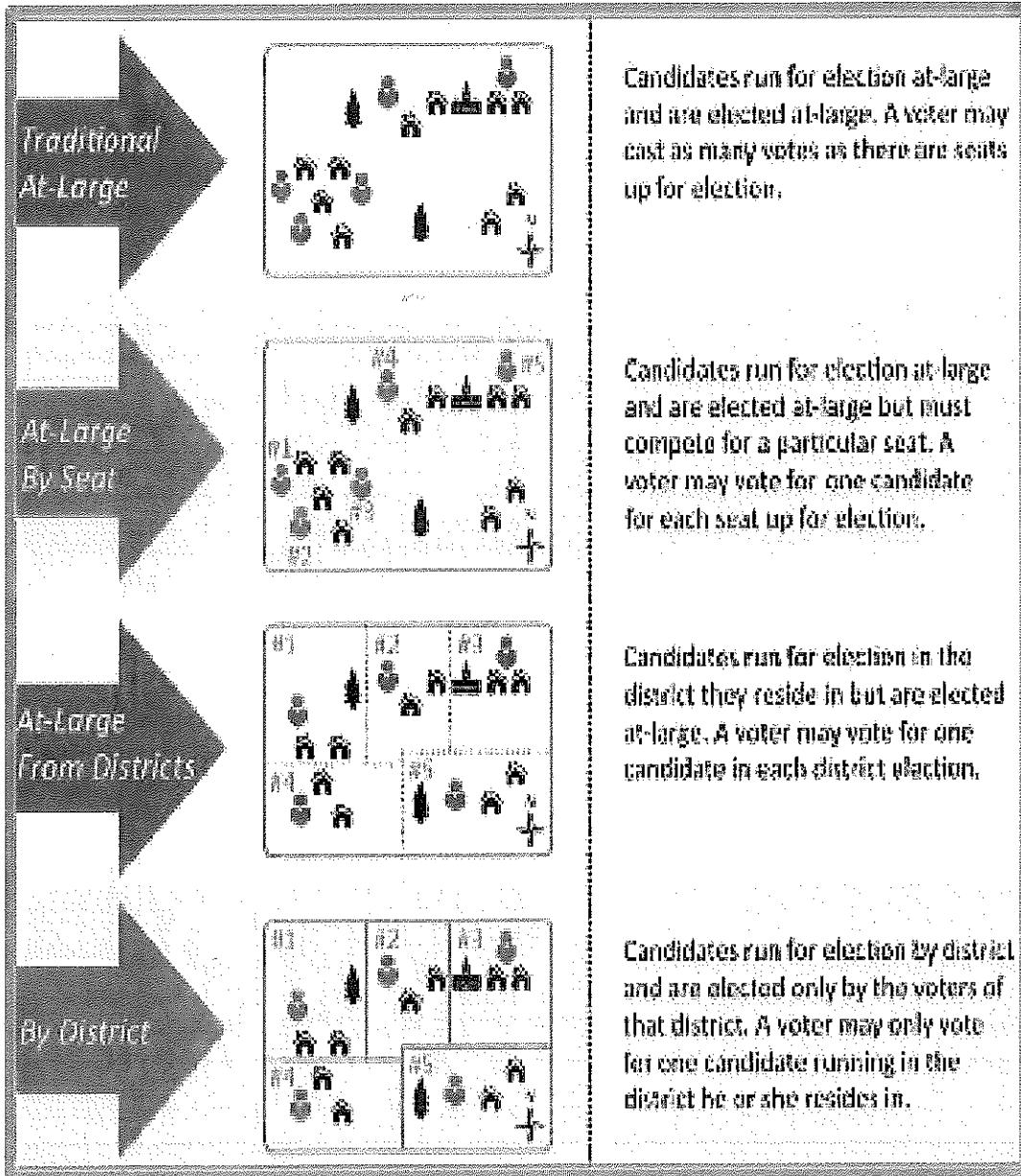
POST MEETING MATERIAL

Election System & Voting Methods Discussion Questions

1. Is there any election system or voting method the Committee would consider eliminating as an option?

2. Are there any election systems/voting methods that the Committee would like to delay considering until after a presentation from the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters?

3. Of the remaining options, does the Committee have preliminary thoughts or recommendations?

POST MEETING MATERIAL

From Mary Hanna-Weir
- Divide the city into 3 districts
  - I would recommend drawing districts based on actual population as city council represents all people in the city, not just registered or eligible voters - for example kids, recent arrivals, etc. My assumption would be that we'd get a north district (Rivermark and surrounding area) and two districts in the southern portion of the city (east-west divide maybe)
  - I would recommend that we design an independent redistricting commission like many other cities have to do the district drawing. We'd need one right now and then one again after the census in 2020. Not sure how to make it as independent, and expert, as possible - would be interested in hearing from city staff on what local and similar sized cities in California do for district drawing.

- Each district would have 2 city council members elected by district, one in gubernatorial years (2018, 2022) and one in presidential years (2020, 2024)
  - In my view, such a system would quality as district elections for purposes of the California Voting Rights Act (rather than at large). So we get the benefit of that safe harbor, but the districts are not tiny and we lessen the impact of things like mini mayor, etc. And the districts being smaller in size and population makes it easier for a lesser known candidate to use grassroots organizing to win.
  - Any voting method that works for single member elections should work in this system.
  - My personal preference is to switch to a majority system where in the primary election (June right now), if someone gets 50% + 1, they win outright. Otherwise top 2 go to general election in November. I think it is simple, cost effective, could help minority candidates win against a frontrunner because have time between the election cycles to distinguish yourself and win over those for whom the frontrunner was not preferred.

Proportional Representation

Basic Principle: Majority Rule, with fair representation for the electoral minority, in direct proportion to how people vote.

60% of vote -> 60% of seats (not all)
40% of vote -> 40% of seats (not none)

Key Ingredients:
1. Voters choose from among lists of candidates (candidate-created in some systems, voter-created in others).
2. The more votes a list gets, the more candidates from that list get elected.

Other Electoral Families

Semi-Proportional: Allows for, but does not guarantee, proportional results.
- Cumulative Voting
- Limited Voting

Majority/Plurality: If proportional, only by accident.
- First Past The Post
- Block Voting
- Two Round Runoff
- Instant Runoff

Hybrid systems: (more later)

Hybrid Systems
(Mix and match!)

Example 1:
Three list proportional seats.
Three at-large numbered seats.

Example 2:
Three choice voting proportional seats.
Three by-district seats.

Example 3:
CRC choice (be creative!)

(4)

OFFICIAL BALLOT *BOLETA OFICIAL*
May General Election
Elección General de Mayo
Randall County, Texas
Condado de Randall, Texas
May 09, 2009 - *09 de Mayo del 2009*

AISD Only

Precinct *Precinto* 111R AISD

Instruction Text:
Please use a black or blue ink pen only. Completely fill in the box provided to the left of your choice. Make no stray marks on the ballot. Do not use inks that soak through the paper.

Nota de Instucción:
Por favor use solamente una pluma de tinta negra o azul. Llene completamente el espacio cuadrado a la izquierda de su selección. No haga marcas extraviadas. No use tintas que se puedan penetrar el papel.

Amarillo ISD Board of Trustees One At-Large Position, 2 Year Unexpired Term
VOTE FOR NONE OR ONE
Amarillo ISD Junta de Regentes Un Posicione de los Abiertos, Término de Dos años No Expirado
VOTE POR NINGUNO O UNO

☐ Anette J. Carlisle

Amarillo ISD Board of Trustees Four At-Large Positions are Open, Four Year Term
Vote for none, one, two, three or four candidate or candidates of your choice. You have a total of four votes which may be cast in any combination for the candidate or candidates of your choice. It is permitted to vote up to four times for one candidate. You are not required to cast all four votes, but cannot cast more than four.

Amarillo ISD Junta de Regentes Cuatro Posiciones de los Abiertas, Términos de Cuatro Años
Vote por ninguno, uno, dos, tres o cuatro candidato o candidatos de su elección. Usted tiene un total de cuatro votos que puede emitir, usando cualquier combinación, a favor del candidato o candidatos de su elección. Se permite votar hasta cuatro veces por un mismo candidato. No es necesario que emita los cuatro votos, pero no puede emitir más de cuatro.

☐ James Allen
☐ James Allen
☐ James Allen
☐ James Allen
☐ Linda Pitner
☐ Linda Pitner
☐ Linda Pitner
☐ Linda Pitner
☐ Jeff Poindexter
☐ Jeff Poindexter
☐ Jeff Poindexter
☐ Jeff Poindexter
☐ Mary Faulkner
☐ Mary Faulkner
☐ Mary Faulkner
☐ Mary Faulkner
☐ Jane Jones
☐ Jane Jones
☐ Jane Jones
☐ Jane Jones
☐ John Ben Blanchard
☐ John Ben Blanchard
☐ John Ben Blanchard
☐ John Ben Blanchard

Sample Ballot

Sample Ballot

1200002011100023

30000030153

1153020474

Amarillo ISD School Board Election
Cumulative Voting

VOTER: In this election for Amarillo ISD school trustees, you may cast up to four votes in any combination for the candidate or candidates of your choice. You are not required to cast all four votes, but you cannot cast more than four.

Below are examples of how votes may be cast.