



City of Santa Clara
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Official Measure A Impartial Analysis

This ballot measure would amend Santa Clara City Charter Sections 600 and 700.1, and add a new Section 700.2 to establish a by-district election system and implement a new method of voting: single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting. The City of Santa Clara currently elects its Council Members from the entire City at large and each candidate must designate which numbered seat they are running for. If the ballot measure is approved by the voters, there would be two districts, with three Council members representing each district, and all elected officers would be elected using the single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting. Candidates could only represent the district in which they reside, and could only be elected by voters residing in that district. If approved, each district will elect three Council members to four year terms every other election using the single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting. The Mayor, City Clerk, and Police Chief would continue to be elected at large, but using the single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting.

In order to transition to the new election system (three Council members per district elected every other election), the measure provides:

- ▶ Two members be elected to four year terms in District 1 in 2018;
- ▶ One member be elected to a two year term in District 1 in 2020; and,
- ▶ Three members be elected to four year terms in District 2 in 2020

The single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting allows voters to rank up to three candidates in order of preference, and votes are tallied in rounds using the voters' indicated preferences. If approved, the City Council would be required to adopt an ordinance to implement the new voting method in time for the November 2020 election. If the Registrar of Voters is unable to support the new voting method by 2020, then implementation would be delayed until the next election at which it could be implemented and plurality elections would continue to be used in the interim.

A "Yes" vote would serve to establish two districts in the City, comprised of three Council members, each of whom shall be elected by means of a form of ranked choice voting. A "No" vote would leave the by seat and at large election system as is.

This measure was placed on the ballot by action of the Santa Clara City Council on March 6, 2018.

Brian Doyle
Santa Clara City Attorney

INFORMATION ON June 5, 2018 SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP ADOPTED



Important Information on the June 5, 2018 Special Municipal Election

Election information is being provided as a public service by the City of Santa Clara.
Information provided for educational purposes only.

Important Community Update on Measure A Districts

Frequently Asked Questions About Measure A

The Santa Clara City Council adopted the proposed district map on May 8. Below are additional questions the City has received about Measure A since the last informational update.

Q: Who developed the map of the Council Districts?

A: The proposed map was developed following extensive grassroots engagement and community input from residents at public hearings. Throughout the process, Santa Clara residents supported two districts with a ranked choice voting system. The recommended map was proposed by a Santa Clara resident and formally recommended by the City's Ad-Hoc Advisory Districting Committee on April 12. The City Council reviewed the recommended map, presented in the form of an ordinance, during its May 8 meeting.

Q: Does the proposed district map meet legal requirements?

A: Yes. The proposed district map, including the recommended map, were drawn in compliance with legal requirements, including the Equal Protection Clause and the Federal Voting Rights Act.

Q: How do these districts increase geographical diversity on the City Council?

A: The Santa Clara City Council directed the Charter Review Committee to review the City's election system, which resulted in the recommendation of establishing two districts and changing the voting method to the single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting. The Ad-Hoc Advisory Districting Committee was tasked with recommending the boundaries of the two districts, and the recommended map would allow for Council members to be elected from the northern and southern sections of the City, ensuring geographical diversity on the City Council.

Q: Does the number of City Council members change? How many are elected in each district?

A: Measure A does not change the number of City Council members. Each district will elect three Council members, with six Council members in total. The Council members will remain at 7 elected officials, including the Council members and Mayor.

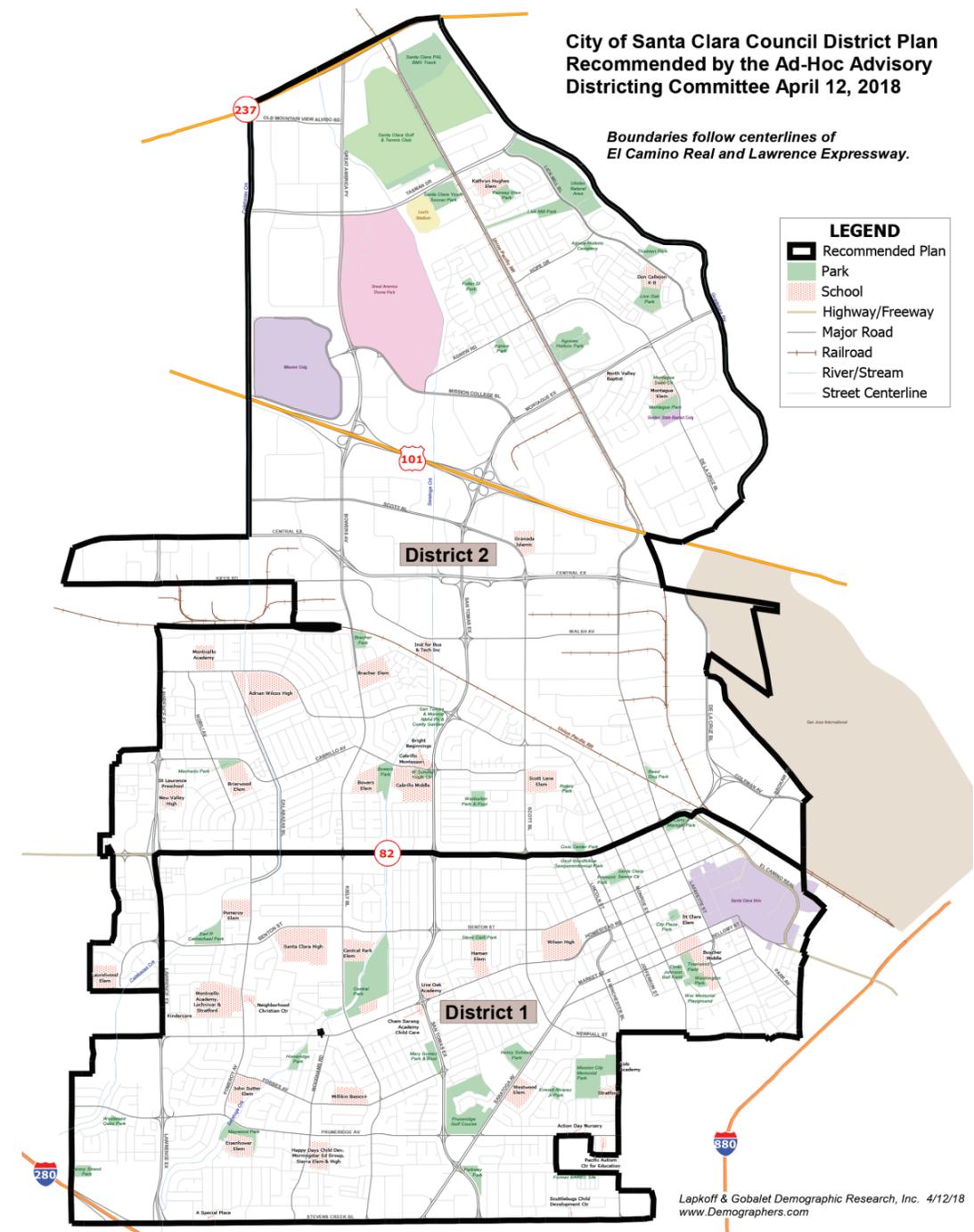
Q: Did the community have input into this process?

A: Yes. Hundreds of Santa Clara residents provided input in 16 public hearings at two separate committees composed of volunteer City residents. Over the course of the engagement process, Santa Clara residents submitted and reviewed 8 separate maps. The Council ultimately selected one of these resident-drawn maps.

Q: What other cities have this system of voting?

A: In the Bay Area, Ranked Choice Voting is used by Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Leandro. Ranked Choice Voting is also used in Memphis, Minneapolis, Portland, and St. Paul.

City Council District Map Approved on First Reading May 8th



For more information about Measure A, please visit the City's website at: santaclaraca.gov/MeasureA

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