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Dear Upland Residents:

Over the past several months, a number of cities – including Upland – have received letters from a law firm alleging that the City's at-large elections violate the California Voting Rights Act by creating racially polarized voting that impairs the ability of minority citizens to elect candidates of their choice.

The Upland City Council has since entered into a settlement agreement that includes placing a measure on the November 2016 ballot, which, if approved, would define and establish a district-based election system to ensure minority votes are not diluted.

Under the proposal, the City would be divided into four geographic districts – each represented by an elected Council member. The mayor's position would remain at-large.

For now, the settlement allows us to forego a costly and lengthy legal battle. If the ballot measure is approved by voters, the City would transition in-district elections as the current terms of sitting Council members expire. For Upland, three Council seats are up for election in November 2018, while the fourth will come up in 2020.

If the measure is not approved by voters, the City can still be sued, which leaves the Council with two options: either enter into an extensive legal fight or adopt district-based elections by ordinance.

Between now and then, it's important that everyone has the facts. The City has established a web page at www.ci.upland.ca.us/district_voting and is conducting a series of outreach meetings in the community. Details of these meetings are available on our web site, as are frequently-asked questions and other background materials and updates.

The City of Upland is committed to good governance and fair representation. The November ballot is part of that commitment.

We appreciate your taking the time to understand the issues. If you have any questions, please visit our web site or send an email to: districtvoting@ci.upland.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ray Musser

City of Upland

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