

# Upland District Election Mapping

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. Why is there a proposal to change the voting process?**

Earlier this year, the City of Upland entered into a settlement agreement with the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project after it was alleged that the City's at-large elections violated the California Voting Rights Act. As part of the settlement, the City will put 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.

### **2. Is Upland alone in considering changes to its voting system?**

No. Over the past several months, a number of communities throughout California were sent letters alleging violation of the Voting Rights Act, among them: Rancho Cucamonga, Eastvale, Wildomar, Hesperia and Chino. Rather than engaging in an expensive and extended legal battle, and to preserve the ability to appropriately draw district lines, many of these communities have either adopted in-district voting or are placing the measure on the ballot.

### **3. What is the Voting Rights Act and why is it important?**

The federal Voting Rights Act was adopted in 1965 to protect the rights of all citizens to participate in the voting process. This legislation has provisions ensuring underrepresented groups have equal opportunities for voting and representation. The California Voting Rights Act of 2001 has additional provisions with the purpose of ensuring equal access to voting and representation.

### **4. What are district-based elections?**

If approved by voters, each of the newly developed Council districts will be represented by a single Council member living within that district and chosen by the voters of that district. The mayor's position would still be elected at-large.

### **5. Why by-district voting rather than at-large voting?**

District elections provide City Council representation across defined geographic sections of the City, some of which might be historically underrepresented on the Council and might have issues unique to them.

### **6. What will be the process for creating voting districts?**

The process will have both a technical and community-input component to define and create proposed district boundaries as part of the November 2016 ballot measure. The technical process requires the formation of nearly equal districts based on population (ideally within 5 percent from smallest to largest). Other factors include topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, compactness, integrity of territory, communities of interest and significant and sensitive land uses.

Community participation is vital to ensure proper formation of the districts. In May 2016, the City (is hosting/hosted) "Meet the Expert" meetings with demographic mapping consultant

David Ely of Compass Demographics to discuss the setting of district boundaries. In June, community meetings (will be/were) held to review proposed district boundary maps.

### **7. Who will approve the final districts?**

The consultant team hired to complete the technical study, Compass Demographics, will provide a written report that City staff will use to provide the City Council with a recommendation, following community meetings, public input and public hearings. Ultimately, City Council will place the best recommendation on the November 2016 ballot for Upland voters to consider.

### **8. When would the changes take effect?**

If the ballot measure is approved by voters, the three City Council seats up for re-election in November 2018 would be voted on by district. The fourth Council seat would be subject to the new district set-up when it comes up for election in November 2020. The mayoral seat would remain at-large.

### **9. How will creating voting districts affect me?**

Beginning in 2018, residents in the City of Upland will have the opportunity to vote for candidates who run in the district in which they live. Once elected, these City Council members will provide direct representation of the unique population, issues and challenges found within each of the districts.

### **10. Why is my participation important?**

This process, and the resulting decisions, are critical to the leadership and future of Upland. It is important that these voting district boundaries clearly and accurately represent the varying geographic areas and unique demographic groups found within our community. Your participation will help bring clarity to the process and help better understand the issues important to you as we look at volumes of data to help create balanced and representative districts.

### **11. How will my input be used?**

Your input will help inform the technical process, which will be based on a collection of data and analytics. We will ask you to share with us what is important to you, where you think the boundaries should go to protect communities of interest and other clarifying questions that will help us in the development of voting district recommendations.

### **12. Where can I learn more about the process and get additional information including scheduled public meetings?**

The City has established a project webpage at [www.ci.upland.ca.us/districtvoting](http://www.ci.upland.ca.us/districtvoting). All meeting information and project materials will be posted on the website for your review.

You can also e-mail us with a comment or question at : [districtvoting@ci.upland.ca.us](mailto:districtvoting@ci.upland.ca.us)