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**City of
Santa Clara**
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June 5 election could change how City Council is elected

Santa Clara voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, June 5 to decide if the City Charter should be amended so that City Council members would be elected to represent one of two districts rather than the City at large. If approved, the new electoral system would go into effect in time for the Nov. 6 election.

Measure A proposes that each of the two City districts would have three Council members and only residents of the district would vote for those Council positions. Candidates must reside in the district they would like to represent. Currently, candidates run for a specific Council seat, which does not represent a geographical district, and are elected by all voters in the City. The Mayor would continue to be elected by all voters throughout the City, as would the City Clerk and Chief of Police.

The transition to the new system, if approved by voters, will begin this November with the election of two Council members for a four-year term for District 1 by voters of that district. The second phase would occur in 2020. Voters in District 1 would select one Council member for a two-year term and voters in District 2 would select three Council members for a four-year term.

Council Districts maps

At its May 8 meeting, the City Council approved a recommended map of two districts that will be used to elect Council members if Measure A is passed by voters in June. This configuration was one of eight draft district maps that were considered – three that were developed by a professional demographer and five based on community feedback.

An Ad Hoc Advisory Districting Committee took public input on all of the maps and made a recommendation to Council on the one that

See proposed map for Districts 1 & 2 on page 3

best met legal requirements including that both districts must be roughly equal in population (about 58,000

Ranked Choice Voting

in each district) and that the map takes into account the distribution of various communities of interest.

Currently, Santa Clara uses plurality voting, where the candidate who receives the most votes is elected. A new type of voting method – a form of Ranked Choice Voting – could be put in place as early as the 2020 election if Measure A is approved. In this method, voters rank candidates in the order of preference and candidates must receive a certain threshold of voter support to be elected. More detailed information will be provided to voters before the system is put into place.

The changes proposed in Measure A were recommended by a 13-member Charter Review Committee tasked with updating how the City elects local officeholders. Hundreds of residents provided input at public hearings and online before Measure A was placed on the ballot. For more information, visit the City website SantaClaraCA.gov.

Five elected City positions on November ballot

Santa Clara voters will fill five elected positions in City government in November. Any resident of Santa Clara who is 18 years of age and a registered voter in the City of Santa Clara may run for these offices. The candidate nomination period opens early in July and papers to file to run for office are due in early August.

The ballot will include candidates for Mayor, City Clerk and three Council seats. The Mayor, City Clerk and one Council seat will be elected by voters from throughout the City. If Measure A is approved in June, two of the Council seats will be elected only by voters in District 1. If Measure A does not pass, then all three Council seats will be elected at large. All of the positions are for a four-year term.

More information on election requirements can be found on the City website SantaClaraCA.gov and on the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters website SCCGov.org.

2018-19 Budget hearings set for June 12 and June 26

Two public hearings on the proposed 2018-19 City budgets are scheduled in June. The first is on Tuesday, June 12 in the Council Chambers. The second and final public hearing and adoption of the proposed Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Project Budgets will be held on Tuesday, June 26, also in the Council Chambers. This will be the final opportunity for residents to comment on the City budgets.

The proposed budgets can be read online at SantaClaraCA.gov and printed copies are available for review at the City libraries and at City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave.

Remodeled Mission Branch Library to open in August