

District Voting

From Cheryl Ban <cherylban@sbcglobal.net>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 10:28 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@cityofcapitola.gov>

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

In regards to the transition to district voting.

The letter that was sent March 13, 2026 by the law firm Shenkman & Hughes of Malibu to the City of Capitola is dishonorable.

This demand letter is an insult to our community.

The letter states, our city council is 'outwardly disturbing and fundamentally hostile towards participation from members of this protected class'.

They use the word HOSTILE!

Our city disputes the allegations of dilution of Latino voting.

Allegations have been made that will not be proven, simply because the law firm will not need to, they win by our compliance,

Capitola, forced because of the prohibitive costs they so eagerly espouse.

Shenkman & Hughes verdict of guilt without a opportunity to defend our city.

Yet, this letter stands and is tainting our cities reputation.

We are being Forced into districts, dividing Capitola unnaturally.

There are many challenges to district based voting.

I would recommend that the City Manager and City Attorney continue to monitor and research any possibility that Capitola would be able to retain or return to election at-large-voting.

If the city must proceed with districting, which I am **not** in agreement with.

Then create four districts with a Mayor at large.

Mayor at large have only two years.

In the event that a district loses a council member, I would like to see a special city election.

I support the right to be able to cast a vote.

I am not in favor of the city council making an appointment.

The cost to hold a special election would be part of the city budget.

I would like to believe,

Council Member of a district would uphold the greater needs of Capitola.

Thank-you,

Cheryl Ban