

## Council Agenda Item 7A - Districting

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From Leslie Nielsen <lpbeach21@gmail.com>

Date Wed 5/27/2026 10:42 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@cityofcapitola.gov>

Mayor Morgan and City Council,

While it is disappointing that we have been somewhat forced to deal with the districting matter now, I do see the silver lining of supporting city wide representation. ALL of Capitola's residents matter. Let's do this in a way that gives us some runway to understand how it works and still provide the needed leadership for our City as we navigate turbulent times ahead.

It has been very difficult over the years to entice candidates to run for council. It is a very demanding job that requires members to stay connected with those who elected them and stay true to the role of representing the community, and not 'special interests'.

Districting will only further reduce eligible, qualified and interested candidates. We could find that we get candidates running unopposed with little to no experience.

This supports the idea of electing a city wide mayor with experience who can compliment the district representation with a solid understanding of working with other jurisdictions and legislative bodies in collaborative ways to meet the needs of the community that elected them. This will also go a long way in providing clear direction to the city staff to help them manage our city in the most efficient way.

I am strongly in favor of keeping the districts as large as possible, thus 4 vs. 5, AND of electing a City wide mayor. A term of 2 years can be amended to 4 later, but gives us a good way to get used to the new format.

I am strongly in favor of 4 districts with an elected Mayor for 2 years.

Best regards,

Leslie Nielsen