

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE ESCONDIDO
MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE FOR CITY COUNCIL
ELECTIONS BY DISTRICTS

The City Council of the City of Escondido, California does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Council makes the following findings:

a) The City of Escondido established a seven-member Independent Redistricting Commission vested with the authority to develop a redistricting plan for future City Council elections; and

b) The Independent Redistricting Commission has considered the matter of drawing four council districts in the City of Escondido, and has considered the population of the City of Escondido as reflected in the United States 2020 Census; and

c) The Independent Redistricting Commission has held six public hearings in geographically diverse locations throughout Escondido where all Escondido citizens had an equal opportunity to comment on the drawing of district lines; and

d) After the six public hearings, the Independent Redistricting Commission published a Preliminary Redistricting Plan and report for public consideration and comment; and

e) The Independent Redistricting Commission has held three public hearings in various geographic areas of the City where Escondido citizens had an equal opportunity to comment on the drawing of district lines and the Preliminary Redistricting Plan; and

f) After having heard comments from the public on the Preliminary Redistricting Plan, the Independent Redistricting Commission held a public meeting and approved a Recommended Redistricting Plan (Exhibit A) by majority vote; and

g) The City Council District boundaries within the Recommended Redistricting Plan are as follows:

- District 1 and District 2 are separated by N. Citrus Avenue to El Norte Parkway to North Ash Street to Sheridan Avenue to El Norte Parkway
- District 1 and District 3 are separated by the Escondido Creek
- District 1 and District 4 are separated by N. Centre City Parkway
- District 2 and District 3 are separated by S. City Avenue
- District 2 and District 4 are separated by El Norte Parkway
- District 3 and District 4 are separated by 15th Avenue to Juniper Steeet to Felicita Avenue to Redwood Street to 15th Avenue to S. Tulip Street to 3rd Avenue to N. Centre City Parkway
- The outer boundary of District 2 is the jurisdictional limits of the City of Escondido
- The outer boundary of District 4 is the jurisdictional limits of the City of Escondido
- Part of the Southern boundary for District 3 is the jurisdictional limits of the City of Escondido until it is separated by District 4

h) The Independent Redistricting Commission submitted the Recommended Redistricting Plan to the City for approval or disapproval; and

i) Proper notice of a public hearing has been given and the City Council has held one public hearing on the Recommended Redistricting Plan; and

j) The City Council has listened to public comment on this issue and has reviewed and considered the Recommended Redistricting Plan; and

k) That upon consideration of the staff report and all public testimony presented, the City Council finds that the proposed Council districts reflected in the Recommended Redistricting Plan, as set forth in Exhibit A, comply with the criteria set forth in the Consent Decree, are as equal as practicable in population as shown by the United States 2020 Census, were drawn to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act, are geographically contiguous and drawn to encourage compactness, were drawn with respect for the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and communities of interest and were not drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.

SECTION 2: Proper notices of a public hearing have been given and public hearings have been held before the Independent Redistricting Commission and City Council on this issue.

SECTION 3. Future elections for the City of Escondido's four City Council members will be conducted under a district-based method of election in which the four City Council members will be elected from four districts and the Mayor will remain elected at-large.

SECTION 4. The Consent Decree entered in San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2011-00060480-CU-CR-NC establishes the guidelines and criteria for redistricting of the City of Escondido.

SECTION 5. The City of Escondido is hereby divided into four Council districts, and the boundaries of the districts are more particularly depicted in Exhibit A, which is attached and incorporated by this reference.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions.

SECTION 7. As of the effective date of this ordinance, all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8. The City Clerk is hereby directed to certify to the passage of this ordinance and to cause the same or a summary to be published one time within 15 days of its passage in a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Escondido.