



CITY OF ORLAND STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 17, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Scott Drexel, City Attorney

SUBJECT: 2nd Public Hearing requesting public input regarding the composition of potential Council election districts

ANALYSIS:

The City Council is currently elected under an at-large election system, whereby Council Members are elected by voters of the entire City.

On December 2nd, 2026, the Council adopted a Resolution of Intent to Change Election Systems. Moving to by-district elections would require a Council Member (and all candidates for that position) to reside within a designated district boundary, and each Council Member would be elected only by voters of the appropriate district.

The districting process

As required by Elections Code Section 10010, the City will hold at least two (2) public hearings prior to the release of draft maps of Council election districts. Council will then hold an additional two (2) or more public hearings to solicit public input regarding the content of the draft maps and the proposed sequence of elections. Then an additional public hearing will be held prior to the approval of an ordinance implementing a Council election district map.

Today's hearing partially fulfills the requirement of California Elections Code Section 10010 that states:

“(1) Before drawing a draft map or maps of the proposed boundaries of the districts, the political subdivision shall hold at least two public hearings over a period of no more than thirty days, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts.

The intention of this hearing is to identify the neighborhoods, other “communities of interest,” and other local factors that should be considered or used as ‘building blocks’ when the drawing of draft maps begins. The public is welcome to propose complete districting maps, but it is not required.

This hearing will also remind residents of the City's public mapping tool and interactive map review website, provided by our districting consultant (National Demographics Corporation, or NDC). These

tools are located on our project website, at DrawOrland.org. The tools have been updated to allow residents to draw both 4- and 5-district maps.

While not required, it is recommended that the Council provide direction tonight on its preference for 4 districts with a citywide-elected Mayor, or for 5 districts with a rotating Mayor. Giving such direction now allows residents to focus on the advantages and disadvantages of specific draft maps at the later hearings. Our consultant (NDC) reports that in its experience when both 4- and 5-district draft maps are up for discussion, resident feedback tends to focus on the choice of 4 or 5 districts and little feedback is provided regarding the specific maps. We can, however, proceed with both 4 and 5 district draft maps if the Council is not yet ready to give direction on this issue.

Additional hearings are already scheduled:

- April 7 3rd public hearing, and first discussion of draft maps (draft maps to be considered at this hearing will be posted to the project website no later than March 31)
- April 21 4th public hearing, and second discussion of draft maps (any additional draft maps to be considered at this hearing will be posted by April 14)
- May 5 5th public hearing and selection of map and election sequence (which districts will be up for election in which years)

By the end of June, the County Registrar must finish the implementation work with whatever map the Council adopts. To allow sufficient time to avoid mistakes in that implementation process, it is recommended to have final adoption of a map by the end of May.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Conduct the public hearing and receive public input regarding provide input regarding the composition of the potential Council election districts.
2. Provide direction on the Council's preference for 5 Council districts with a rotating Mayor, or for 4 Council districts with a citywide-elected Mayor. If 4 districts with a Citywide-elected Mayor is preferred, provide guidance on whether the Mayoral term should be 2 years or 4 years.

FISCAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION: None

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

No environmental review is required because the proposed action is not a project governed by the California Environmental Quality Act.