



500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

March 17, 2023

SUBJECT: Transition to By-District Elections

Dear Mayor and City of Pleasant Hill Council Members,

The Pleasant Hill City Council voted to move from at-large to by-district elections at the March 6, 2023 City Council meeting. On March 15, 2023, City Clerk Navarro published a *Notice of Public Hearings Before the City Council (Transition to By-District Elections for City Council Members)* to be conducted at regular city Council meetings on March 20th, April 3rd, May 1st, and May 15th, before adopting an ordinance to transition to by-district elections on June 5, 2023.

Holding hearings at various times, and with district maps as the only topic, will lead to greater public participation than scheduling hearings only at city council meetings when the council has other important business to conduct. The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley urges you to follow best practices to create fair maps. Best practices include active outreach to all residents of Pleasant Hill; facilitation of meaningful participation by residents with a broad range of viewpoints; consideration of communities with shared interests, such as renters, students, faith groups, and those with economic concerns.

The League believes that independent, nonpartisan commissions are the best way to draw fair maps and encourage active community participation in the districting process. It is not too late to negotiate an extension of time since there has been considerable public interest in the use of an independent commission to draw district maps. A transparent and robust districting process will increase trust and confidence in our elections.

Sincerely,

Anne Granlund
President, League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley

We are a 501(c) (3) organization. Your dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please call the office at (925) 283-2235 for information.