

Resolution Calling Upon the City of Pleasant Hill to Create an Independent Districting Commission to Transition to District Elections

WHEREAS the California State Legislature passed the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) in 2002, and it specifically targets at-large election systems; and

WHEREAS the Pleasant Hill City Council adopted a resolution during its March 6, 2023, meeting declaring its intention to transition from an at-large to a district-based election system for its City Council elections; and

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of all Californians that the districted and redistricting of elected officials' districts is completed in a transparent and unbiased manner that best accounts for the diversity and best interests of the community's population;

WHEREAS gerrymandering, the deliberate manipulation of legislative districts to advantage a particular party or group, distorts the electoral process and undermines democracy; and

WHEREAS historically, observations of the redistricting process in California indicate independent redistricting commissions lead to better outcomes for communities in terms of fairness, transparency, public engagement, and representation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County encourages the City of Pleasant Hill to ensure the drawing of fair district maps, accounting for the size of a district's population and its racial and ethnic diversity, by creating a nonpartisan independent citizen districting commission with substantial engagement from Pleasant Hill community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County will communicate this position to the members of the Pleasant Hill City Council and its community members immediately upon the adoption of this resolution.

Approved by Democratic Party of Contra Costa County, March 16, 2023