



CITY OF MENIFEE

SUBJECT: Consideration of Change to the Governance Structure

MEETING DATE: February 1, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Rebekah Kramer, Assistant to the City Manager

REVIEWED BY: Rochelle Clayton, Assistant City Manager

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Review, discuss and provide staff direction regarding consideration of a change in the City's governance structure; transitioning from four City Council districts with an at-large, elected Mayor, to five City Council districts and a rotating Mayor.

DISCUSSION

Governance Structure

The City of Meniffee is a General Law City governed by the California Government Code. As stipulated under the City of Meniffee's Municipal Code Sections 2.04.070 and 2.32.010, the City is currently divided into four City Council districts and with a mayor elected on a citywide (at-large) basis. On September 21, 2022, Councilmember Karwin, with a second from Councilmember Sobek, requested that staff prepare a future agenda item to allow the Mayor and City Council to discuss the possibility of transitioning to a governance structure that includes five City Council districts and a rotating mayor.

Background

The City's existing governance structure was established by voters on November 2, 2010, (Ordinance 2010-87). On November 6, 2018, voters in the City of Meniffee considered a ballot measure to create five Council districts, eliminate the office of the mayor at-large, and provide for the selection of the mayor from among the five Councilmembers (Measure I). With less than half of voters in support, the Measure did not pass. The cost associated with placing Measure I on the ballot in 2018 was close to \$12,000; based upon the population growth and election cost increases that have occurred in the last five years, it is anticipated that a ballot measure included as part of the next general election would exceed \$30,000.

In adherence with the California Elections Code, the City Council district boundaries must be reviewed every 10-years following the completion of the United States Census to ensure that each district has substantially the same number of residents. The Council District boundaries were reviewed and updated on March 2, 2022, following completion of the 2020 Census. The City engaged Bear Demographics and Research to facilitate the last redistricting process including community outreach and engagement at a cost of \$64,000. A transition to five Council districts and a rotating mayor, would require the City to initiate a redistricting process to ensure that the population of each district remains substantially balanced.

Next Steps

Should the Mayor and City Council decide to place a measure on the next general election ballot for voters to consider a change in the City's governance structure, funding will need to be allocated for the ballot initiative as well as the redistricting process. Staff is seeking Mayor and City Council direction prior to conducting further analysis and preparing the draft documents needed for voters to consider a ballot measure that would change the City's existing governance structure.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

Responsive and Transparent Community Government

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance No. 2010-87 – Mayor Elected at Large
2. Resolution No. 18-671 –Ballot Measure Creating Five Council Districts Commencing 2022
3. Ordinance No. 2022-334 – Amending the Boundaries of Four Council Districts