



Notice from Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) Summary of Ordinance Approving Conversion from At-Large to Division-Based Elections

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The Tuolumne Utilities District Board of Directors approved converting the TUD Board elections from an at-large election process to elections by district/division at the Board meeting held on October 12, 2021. Don Perkins, General Manager, executed an agreement with Redistricting Insights on December 19, 2021, under which the consultant would prepare several draft maps of the five new divisions for Board consideration.

The purpose of changing the election process is to be compliant with the California and Federal Voting Rights Acts, the Fair Maps Act, and to ensure an open, accessible, transparent process that will engage constituents within the District.

After conducting the two initial public hearings on February 8, 2022 and March 8, 2022, the District prepared and published on March 9, 2022, for further consideration, five electoral division maps (each with five divisions within each map of the District) consistent with federal and State law outlining the proposed boundaries of the electoral divisions. These five maps of the proposed “division-based” election boundaries for the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) Board of Directors are still available for the public to view at the TUD website, www.tudwater.com.

The third public hearing was held on March 22, 2022. The purpose of the third public hearing was for the Board of Directors to review and discuss the proposed maps for the “division-based” election boundaries and to receive public input. One public comment was received on the five maps at the third public hearing.

The fourth public hearing was held on April 26, 2022. The purpose of the fourth public hearing was to review and discuss the five proposed maps for the “division-based” election boundaries and to receive additional public input, discuss the benefits and drawbacks of each map, and discuss the election sequence of future Board member elections to preserve the staggered nature of the Board member terms. After the conclusion of the fourth hearing, by a 4-1 vote (Balén, Kerns, Ringen, Boatright in favor, Murphy opposed) the Board moved that the District’s general counsel prepare the necessary summary and adopting ordinance that will formally adopt Map 4 as the District’s new division-based electoral map, that divisions 1 and 4 will be up for election in 2022 and divisions 2, 3, and 5 will be up for election in 2024, and that the District’s counsel shall have this ordinance ready for adoption during the Board’s May 9, 2022, Special Board meeting.

The ordinance formally approving the switch from at-large to division-based elections, was approved during the May 9, 2022, meeting by the following vote:

Ayes: Director Balén, President, Director Kern, Vice President, Director Boatright and Director Ringen
Noes: Director Murphy

The Ordinance is posted at the TUD office and on the TUD website. If you have questions, please contact the Clerk of the Board, Melissa McMullen, at 209-532-5536 ext. 510.