



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

# Public Hearing #1 regarding the transition to District Elections and composition of voting Districts

September 17, 2018

# Background



- ▶ **August 6, 2018** – City receives letter alleging a California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) violation and threatening litigation
- ▶ **August 13, 2018** – City Council directs staff to bring the matter to open session for consideration
- ▶ **August 27, 2018** – City Council votes to voluntarily transition to District-based elections and adopts a schedule to do so

# Challenges to Other Jurisdictions



- ▶ More than 105 cities have been challenged
- ▶ Net result: more than \$16 million awarded in settlements and attorney's fees
- ▶ No local agency has successfully defended against a CVRA challenge

# The Transition Process



- ▶ Requirements:
  - Adoption of Resolution of Intention
    - Following adoption of Resolution of Intent, there is a “safe harbor” from litigation of 90 days to complete the process under the Elections Code
  - Two Public Hearings (within 30 days) for input on voting district composition
  - Two Public Hearings (within 45 days) for development of district maps and election sequencing
  - Map and Ordinance adopted at a Public Hearing
  - Legislation (AB 2123) has been signed and provides for an additional 90 days based on an agreement with prospective plaintiff; AB 2123 becomes effective 1/1/2019.

# Transition Schedule



Date	Event
September 17	Adopt Resolution of Intention to transition Public Hearing #1 – Gather public input on composition of voting districts
September 25	Community Meeting, City Council Chamber Additional opportunity for community input and further education
October 15	Public Hearing #2 – Gather additional public input on composition of voting districts
November 14	Public Hearing #3 – Gather public input on draft maps and election sequencing
November 26	Public Hearing #4 – Gather additional public input on draft maps and election sequencing <i>Possible map selection and ordinance introduction</i>
December 10	Second reading and adoption of ordinance

# Demographer's Presentation



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## National Demographics Corporation Douglas Johnson, President

# Stay Informed & Get Involved



- ▶ Dedicated District Elections Transition webpage:  
[www.simivalley.org/districtelections](http://www.simivalley.org/districtelections)
- ▶ Email questions to:  
[districtelections@simivalley.org](mailto:districtelections@simivalley.org)
- ▶ Contact the City Clerk's Office:  
(805) 583-6748



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# Actions Tonight

- ▶ Adopt a Resolution of Intention to transition to District-based election system
- ▶ Receive a presentation from the City's demographer, National Demographics Corporation
- ▶ Open public hearing to receive community input
- ▶ Set next public hearing for October 15, 2018



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Questions?