

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE GOLETA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TO ESTABLISH DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS FOR DIRECTORS OF THE  
GOLETA WATER DISTRICT AND ADOPT MAP OF VOTING DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS, the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (Elec. Code, § 14025 et seq.) (“CVRA”) disfavors at-large elections, where all voters in a jurisdiction elect officials, and provides that “an at-large method of election may not be imposed or applied in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or the abridgement of the rights of voters who are members of a protected class”;

WHEREAS, Elections Code section 10650 allows the Board of Directors of the Goleta Water District to require that the members of the Board of Directors be elected using district-based elections as defined in the CVRA without being required to submit the question to voters for approval;

WHEREAS, Elections Code section 10010 identifies procedures for public agencies to follow before approving an ordinance establishing district-based elections;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors adopted Board Resolution 2018-21 on August 14, 2018, declaring an intent to move to district-based elections for the November 2022 election “in a manner consistent with the intent and purpose of the California Voting Rights Act and the Federal Voting Rights Act” and to follow the procedures identified in Elections Code section 10010 in transitioning to district-based elections;

WHEREAS, after conducting outreach to the public, including to non-English-speaking communities, to explain the districting process and encourage public participation, the District held public hearings on September 28, 2021 and October 16, 2021 to allow public input regarding the composition of voting districts;

WHEREAS, after draft maps were drawn and the District published draft maps and the potential sequence of elections at least seven days before each hearing, the District held public hearings on December 9, 2021 and January 22, 2022 to allow public input regarding the content of the draft maps and proposed sequence of elections;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors further considered draft maps and the transition to district-based elections at meetings of the Board of Directors held on February 8, 2022 and February 22, 2022;

WHEREAS, the District published the proposed voting district map on its website at least seven days before adopting this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has satisfied all requirements of the CVRA, Elections Code section 10010, and all applicable provisions of the Elections Code and Water Code in establishing district-based elections and adopting a map of voting districts.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GOLETA WATER DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Ordinance by this reference.

SECTION 2. The District establishes district-based elections for directors of the Goleta Water District commencing with the November 2022 general election. Commencing with the election of directors at the November 2022 general election, directors will be elected by districts from each of the five districts described on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by this reference.

SECTION 3. The Goleta Water District will hold elections for directors in the voting districts identified as District 1 and District 2 on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A at the November 2022 general election. The Goleta Water District will hold elections for directors in the voting districts identified as District 3, District 4, and District 5 at the November 2024 general election.

SECTION 4. Commencing with the election of directors at the November 2022 general election, any candidate for the Board of Directors must reside in, and be a registered voter of, the voting district in which he or she seeks office. The office of a director elected by-district who ceases to maintain his or her legal residence in the voting district he or she represents shall become vacant unless he or she establishes another residence within that voting district within 180 days after the termination of his or her previous residency. The Board of Directors shall fill any vacancy pursuant to Water Code section 30504 and the appointed director shall hold office for the unexpired term.

SECTION 5. The Board of Directors declares that the establishment of district-based elections for directors of the Goleta Water District is in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001.

SECTION 6. The District shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Elections Code and Water Code in establishing and amending the boundaries of the voting districts for district-based elections. Any amendment or adjustment of voting district boundaries must comply with the applicable provisions of the Elections Code and Water Code, including but not limited to Elections Code section 22000. Any amendment or adjustment of voting district boundaries may be accomplished by resolution of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall be effective as of the date of adoption by the Board of Directors pursuant to Elections Code sections 22000.1 and 22002.

SECTION 8. The General Manager is directed to provide a signed original of this ordinance to the Elections Division of the Santa Barbara County Clerk, Recorder, and Assessor and Registrar of Voters and accomplish all other tasks necessary for district-based elections for directors of the Goleta Water District beginning with the November 2022 general election.

SECTION 9. If any subdivision, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforcement of the remaining portion of this Ordinance. It is the District's express intent that each portion of this Ordinance would have been adopted irrespective of the fact that one or more subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid or unenforceable.

SECTION 10. This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is an administrative activity of a government that will not result in a potentially significant physical change to the environment and is therefore not a project under CEQA (CEQA Guideline § 15378(b)(5)).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Goleta Water District this 8th day of March 2022, by the following roll call vote:

**AYE: Borah, Hanson, Rosen, Werner**

**NAY: Evans**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ATTEST:**

  
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JOHN D. MCINNES  
GENERAL MANAGER

  
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KATHLEEN WERNER, PRESIDENT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS