



City of El Cajon 2016 Ballot Initiative "Measure S"

MOVING TO DISTRICT ELECTIONS

What is the CVRA?

The California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA) seeks to ensure that every community has an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice in local elections.

Key Terms

At-large election (currently used):
Voters elect city council members that provide citywide representation.

District election:
Voters elect city council members to represent a specific district within the city.

Where we are:



Several cities in Southern California have been notified that they are in violation of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). At-large elections are being challenged as a violation of the CVRA. While El Cajon has not yet been sued, the City is at high risk for a potential lawsuit.



- Fight a potential lawsuit
- Put the decision to voters



Why this is important:

If the residents vote to proceed: The City has put a measure on the November 8, 2016 ballot for voter consideration. If voters decide to move to district elections, there will be extensive outreach and opportunities for public input on how the districts should be drawn. The first City Council district elections would not be held until 2018. The Mayor will continue to be elected citywide.

If the residents vote not to proceed: The City is vulnerable to a CVRA lawsuit. No local agency has ever prevailed in a lawsuit brought under the CVRA. In 2007, the California State Supreme Court upheld the CVRA in *Jauregui vs. City of Palmdale*. The City settled and was responsible for paying approximately \$7 million, using taxpayers dollars. There are many similar examples of this occurring, including with the City of Escondido.

For more information:
www.cityofelcajon.us/District-Elections

