



****MEDIA ALERT****
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EASTVALE MOVES TOWARDS DISTRICT ELECTIONS

EASTVALE, CA (May 6, 2016) - Eastvale has opted to move to a by-district voting system for the November 2016 City Council election for the following reasons: 1) the City continues to expand and diversify with economic, industrial and residential growth; and 2) the threat of costly legal challenges outweighs the risk of not implementing a by-district system by November 2016.

The City of Eastvale is a general law city which means that the City is obligated to follow California state law respect to its municipal affairs. At the time of its incorporation on October 2010, the voters specifically chose selection of the City Council at large, where all voters in the City vote for all Council members. However, recently there has been concern regarding whether at-large elections in some cases may violate the 2002 California Voting Rights Act. Therefore, with the support of the League of California Cities working with community groups, Senate Bill 493 became law on January 1, 2016, allowing a city with a population of fewer than 100,000 to convert to “by-district” voting by ordinance adopted by the City Council.

Recently, certain law firms have contacted a number of Inland Empire cities; (among them Rancho Cucamonga, Wildomar, Hesperia, Chino, and Upland, and now Eastvale) threatening to sue the cities under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) due to belief that racially polarized voting is occurring in elections for City Council. Rather than engage in an expensive and extended legal battle (which to date no California city has won), and to preserve the ability to draw its own district lines, the City Council has decided to move forward with by-district voting in time for the City Council election in November 2016.

As used in the new law, “by-district voting” means either five districts relatively equal in population where each Council member resides and is elected by the voters only of that district, or four districts equal in population with a Mayor elected at-large (by all voters in the City) for a two or four year term.

Unfortunately, the time frames required to meet the deadlines for the November, 2016 election do not provide an extended period for public input and review. The City has a hired a demographer to assist us with maps of possible districts which meet legal requirements. Therefore, we ask that the voters of Eastvale carefully review the materials regarding voting by district which are available on the City’s website, attend one or more of the scheduled public hearings (to be held May 11, May 25 and June 8) and provide us with your comments and suggestions on district boundaries.



Residents are encouraged to visit the District Election webpage at <http://www.eastvaleca.gov/city-hall/office-of-the-city-clerk/elections/voting-districts>. On our website, you will find printable maps of Eastvale which you can use to draw your own boundaries, along with the requirements for balanced districts. We welcome your input and questions.

A link to an interactive website is also available from the City webpage.

If you have questions or you wish to share your version of a proposed district boundary map, please contact Marc Donohue, City Clerk mdonohue@eastvaleca.gov or (951) 360-0900.

About the City of Eastvale

Eastvale, one of California's newest cities, incorporated on October 1, 2010. Roughly ten years prior, Eastvale was a part of the world-famous Chino dairy area, home to thousands of dairy cattle and only a handful of residents. Today, Eastvale has an ever-growing population of 63,162 residents according to recent CA Department of Finance data. Roughly 90 percent of the city is developed and served by a variety of local and regional shopping centers. Eastvale residents are proud of their community and of incorporation as well as the chance to chart their own future as an independent city. Eastvale is a young and dynamic community in Western Riverside County filled with economic opportunity and strong values. The City Council values and encourages public participation in the governing process. For more information on the City of Eastvale, please visit: www.eastvaleca.gov.

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