



## Town of Yucca Valley

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**PRESS  
RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For more information please contact: Town Clerk Lesley Copeland, (760) 369-7207**

### **Yucca Valley Begins Process for District Elections**

The Town of Yucca Valley will begin the process for establishing five, single-member districts for future elections, commencing with the November 2018 election. Yucca Valley's Town Attorney, Thomas Jex reported after a closed session with the Town Council.

The Town of Yucca Valley recently received a letter from Kevin Shenkman, a Malibu, CA Attorney containing unsubstantiated allegations that the Town's current at-large election system violates the California Voting Rights Act. During Closed Session, the Town Council directed the Town Attorney and Town Staff to immediately take all steps necessary to begin the process for establishing voting districts to be effective for Town Council elections beginning in November 2018. The Town Council issued such direction in order to avoid spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in defense of a potential lawsuit, even if the Town were to prevail.

The process of establishing voting districts will follow State law, which permits small cities to change to district elections by ordinance action. With the assistance of a professional demographer, the Town Council will hold several public hearings, to receive community input. A special meeting has been scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Yucca Valley Community Center Cholla Room to begin the process. A dedicated page on the Town's website will be established to guide the public through the meeting schedules. Visit [www.yucca-valley.org](http://www.yucca-valley.org) for more information.

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