

RESOLUTION NO. 18-14

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, SPECIFYING THE CRITERIA TO
GUIDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS, the Town received a letter asserting that it's at-large electoral system violates the California Voting Rights Act and threatening litigation if the Town declined to adopt by-district elections; and

WHEREAS, at a Town Council meeting held February 26, 2018, the Town Council adopted a resolution formally initiating the process of establishing by-district elections for the Town Council, beginning in November 2018, and approving a timeline for conducting a public process and adopting an appropriate ordinance pursuant to Government Code section 34886; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that timeline, on March 6, 2018, the Town Council and the public received a presentation regarding the procedures and legal and policy criteria governing districting, and received public comment regarding appropriate criteria; and


WHEREAS, the Town Council has fully considered the presentations of its consultants and all of the public comments received; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council now wishes to adopt criteria to guide the establishment of electoral districts consistent with legal requirements, including reasonably equal population and Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act, and which address other concerns and considerations important to the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:


- A. The above recitals are true and correct.
- B. The Town Council hereby adopts the criteria identified in Exhibit A to this Resolution as criteria to guide the establishment of electoral districts.
- C. The Town's demographic consulting firm, acting under the supervision of the Town Manager, is hereby authorized and directed to formulate one or more electoral district plan scenarios based upon the criteria specified in Exhibit A for review by the public and by the Town Council in accordance with the adopted timeline.
- D. The Town Manager shall consult with legal counsel to resolve all legal issues necessary to give effect to this Resolution.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Yucca Valley held on this 6th day of March, 2018.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



TOWN CLERK

EXHIBIT A

Specification of Criteria to Guide the Establishment of Electoral Districts

1. The boundaries of the electoral districts shall be established so that the electoral districts are equal in population as defined by law.
2. The boundaries of the electoral districts shall not be gerrymandered in violation of the principles established by the United States Supreme Court in *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630 (1993), and its progeny.
3. The boundaries of the electoral districts shall be established so that the electoral districts do not result in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of race or color as provided in Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act.
4. The boundaries of the electoral districts shall observe communities of interest as identified in public comment or identified by the Town council, including, but not limited to rural or urban populations; social interests; agricultural, industrial or service industry interests; residential and commercial areas, the location of Town facilities and historical sites, and the like, insofar as practicable.
5. The boundaries of the electoral districts shall be compact, insofar as practicable.
6. The boundaries of the electoral districts shall be created to contain cohesive, contiguous territory, insofar as practicable.
7. The boundaries of the electoral districts may observe topography and geography, such as the existence of mountains, flat land, forest lands, man-made geographical features such as highways, major roadways and canals, etc., as natural divisions between districts, insofar as practicable.
8. Unless otherwise required by law, the electoral districts shall be created using whole census blocks, insofar as practicable.
9. The boundaries of the electoral districts may avoid the "pairing" of incumbents in the same electoral district, insofar as this does not conflict with the constitution and laws of the State of California and the United States.
10. The boundaries of the electoral districts shall comply with such other factors which become known during the districting process and are formally adopted by the Town Council.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY

I, Lesley R. Copeland, Town Clerk of the Town of Yucca Valley, California hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 18-14 as duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Yucca Valley, California at a meeting thereof held on the 6th day of March, 2018, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Council Members Abel, Drozd, Leone, Lombardo and Mayor Denison
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None



Lesley R. Copeland, CMC
TOWN CLERK