INFORMATION ABOUT DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS AND WHAT IT MEANS TO CARSON

DISTRICT ELECTIONS IN CARSON
Q: What are District-Based Elections?

A: In district elections, the City is divided into areas of roughly equal population. Voters residing within that specified district elect a councilmember who also resides within that district to represent them. As an elected member of the council, they would vote making decisions for the entire city but focus on the needs of their district. The Mayor is still elected by the entire city.

Q: If districts are adopted, what is the time table?

A: If adopted by the City Council, the first by-district elections for the City Council are anticipated to occur in November 2020, with two of the new districts up for election; the other two districts would be up in 2022.

Q: What is the purpose of the workshops and why is it important for residents to attend?

A: Public input on the district boundaries, especially on “communities of interest”, is a crucial part of the mapping process. The City Council wanted to make sure the public had a real opportunity to have input on the process, and the maps.

Q: Why change to Districts?

A: The Federal Voting Rights Act was enacted in the 1960’s. California enacted the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) in 2002 to further ensure fair elections in the state. Many cities in California have been challenged or sued over the fairness of their at large elections, including Carson.

Q: Why is Carson considering this change?

A: In 2018, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project asked Carson to consider switching to district elections. They have now sued the City to try to force the change.
Q: What if the City chooses to keep the current at large election system?

A: The City is currently in litigation. If the City were to win the lawsuit, it may be able to keep the current system. If the City lost the lawsuit it could be forced to pay millions of dollars in legal fees and have a judge, not the City Council, select a map for future district elections.
California Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application

Enter the date of the election and the type of election (e.g., Primary, General, or Special). This application must be received by your county elections official not later than seven (7) days prior to the date of the election. The date of the election can be found at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/. A ballot will not be sent to you if this application is incomplete or inaccurate.

1. THIS IS AN APPLICATION FOR A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT FOR THE ___________________________ ELECTION.
   Month/Day/Year
   Type of Election (Primary, General, or Special)

2. PRINT NAME: _____________________________
   First
   Middle or Initial
   Last

3. DATE OF BIRTH: _____________________________
   Month/Day/Year

4. RESIDENCE ADDRESS:
   City ___________________ Zip Code ____________ California County ___________________
   Number and Street (P.O. Box, Rural Route, etc. will not be accepted) ___________________________
   (Designate N, S, E, W if used)

5. MAILING ADDRESS FOR BALLOT (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE):
   If your mailing address is outside of the U.S., and you are a military or overseas voter, re-register at RegisterToVote.ca.gov or use the Federal Post Card Application at www.fvap.gov.
   City ___________________ State or Foreign Country _____________ Zip Code or Postal Code ________
   Number and Street/P.O. Box (Designate N, S, E, W if used) ____________________________

6. TELEPHONE NUMBER (OPTIONAL):
   ___________________ ___________________ Day
   ___________________ ___________________ Evening

7. □ YES, I WANT TO REQUEST A POLITICAL PARTY BALLOT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION.
   I have declined to disclose a preference for a qualified political party. However, for this primary election only, I request a vote-by-mail ballot for the ___________________________ Party.
   *The following political parties are allowing No Party Preference voters (voters who have declined to disclose a preference for a political party) to vote their party’s presidential ballot for the upcoming March 3, 2020, Presidential Primary Election:
   *American Independent *Democratic *Libertarian

8. □ YES, I WANT TO BECOME A PERMANENT VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTER.
   By checking this box and by initialing here _________, I am requesting to become a permanent vote-by-mail voter. A vote-by-mail ballot will automatically be sent to me in all future elections. I understand that if I fail to vote by mail in four consecutive statewide general elections, I will need to reapply for permanent vote-by-mail voter status.

9. THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED.
   I have not applied for a vote-by-mail ballot from any other jurisdiction for this election. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information I have provided on this application is true and correct.

   SIGNATURE _____________________________ DATE _____________________________

   Warning: Perjury is a felony, punishable by imprisonment in state prison for up to four years. (Penal Code § 126)

NOTICE

You have the right to mail or deliver this application directly to your county elections official. Returning this application to anyone other than your county elections official may cause a delay that could interfere with your ability to vote. If this application is returned by mail, it must be returned directly to your county elections official. Only the registered voter himself or herself may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot. An application for a vote-by-mail ballot made by a person other than the registered voter is a criminal offense.

INDIVIDUALS/ORGANIZATIONS/GROUPS DISTRIBUTING THIS APPLICATION
The format used on this application must be followed by anyone distributing vote-by-mail ballot applications. Failure to conform to this format is a crime. Anyone distributing this application may not preprint a mailing address in Item 5. Anyone providing this application to a voter must enter their name, address, and telephone number here:

____________________________________________________
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