

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-7

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, ADDING SECTIONS 2-04.090 AND 2-04.100 TO CHAPTER 2-04 (CITY COUNCIL) OF TITLE 2 (ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL) OF THE LAGUNA HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE IMPLEMENTING BY-DISTRICT ELECTIONS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM FIVE COUNCIL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, members of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills are currently elected in at-large elections, in which each of the five Councilmembers is elected by voters of the entire City, and the City Council elects one council member to serve as Mayor each year; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the City to shift from its current at-large election system to a by-district election system where the five Councilmembers reside within a designated district boundary and is elected only by the voters in that district; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the determination to transition to a district-based election system, the City Council finds that the City is best served by Councilmembers who govern in the best interests of the entire community and not just the specific district from which the Councilmember is elected; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2025-09-23-2 declaring the City's intention to transition from at-large to district-based elections pursuant to California Elections Code Section 10010(e)(3)(A); and

WHEREAS, the City retained an expert demographer to assist the City with the process of analyzing the City's population, developing draft district maps consistent with the California Voting Rights Act and the Federal Voting Rights Act, implement a community participation plan to gather public input from residents, and to facilitate the development of preliminary district map proposals; and

WHEREAS, the City will complete the districting process on or before December 9, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with California Government Code Section 34886, the City Council hereby declares that the change in the method of electing members of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills made by this Ordinance is in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 14025) of Division 14 of the Elections Code) and to implement the guarantees of Section 7 of Article I and Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution; and

Ordinance No. 2025-7
Page 2

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Ordinance is to enact, pursuant to Government Code Section 34886, an ordinance providing for the election of Members of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills by-districts in five single-member districts as set forth in Exhibit "A", which is attached to this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 2-04.090 is hereby added to Chapter 2-04 (City Council) of Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) of the Laguna Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

2-04.090 Qualifications of the Members of the City Council.

Beginning with the November 2026 general municipal election, a person elected as a member of the City Council shall be a resident of his or her respective Council District created by Section 2-04.100 (as may be subsequently reapportioned as provided by applicable law) and shall be nominated and elected only by the voters of his or her respective Council District. A person is not eligible to hold office as Council Member unless he or she is at the time of seeking nomination or appointment to office an elector of the City, residing in the District from which he or she is elected or appointed. If, during his or her term of office he or she moves his or her place of residence outside of the District boundaries or ceases to be an elector of the City, his or her office shall immediately become vacant. However, no Council Member shall be deemed to have moved outside of his or her District as a result of District boundary changes which may occur during his or her term of office, and such Council Member shall continue to serve until his or her term is complete or the office otherwise becomes vacant.

SECTION 2. Section 2-04.100 is hereby added to Chapter 2-04 (City Council) of Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) of the Laguna Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

2-04.100 Council Districts.

- A. Council District Boundaries. Beginning with the November 2026 general municipal election, the City Council shall consist of five members elected by-districts for terms of four years each. Descriptions of the boundaries for each of the five Council Districts and their numbering are as shown on Exhibit "A" attached to the ordinance codifying this section along with a map entitled "City of Laguna Hills Council Districts Map," a copy of which shall be on file in the City Clerk's office.
- B. Transition to Council Districts.
 1. Nothing herein shall affect the terms of office of the five members of the City Council in office at the time the ordinance codifying this section establishing district elections takes effect, who shall continue in office until their respective terms expire and until their successors

Ordinance No. 2025-7
Page 3

are elected and qualified. Vacancy and recall proceedings, if any, of such City Council members serving the remainder of an at-large elected term, and an appointment or election of a successor to such City Council Member to complete that term, shall be considered or conducted at-large in accordance with applicable law.

2. Council Members shall be elected in Council Districts 1, 2 and 4 at the general municipal election in November 2026 and at the general municipal election every four years thereafter. Council Members shall be elected in Council Districts 3 and 5 at the general municipal election in November 2028 and at the general municipal election every four years thereafter.

C. Future Redistricting.

1. Future adjustments to the boundaries of the Districts established herein shall be made in accordance with federal and state law applicable to general law cities, including, but not limited to, the provision of California Elections Code §§ 21600 et seq., as it may be amended from time to time, requiring the adjustments of the boundaries of any or all of the Districts following each decennial federal census.
2. Pursuant to Elections Code § 21606, the term of office of any Council Member who has been elected and whose term of office has not expired shall not be affected by any change in the boundaries of the District from which he or she was elected, whether or not that Council Member is a resident within the boundaries of the District as adjusted. At the first election for Council following adjustment of the boundaries of the District, a person meeting the requirements of Government Code § 34882 shall be elected to the City Council for each District under the readjusted District plan that has the same District number as a District whose incumbent's term on the Council is due to expire.

- D. Annexations. At the time of any annexation of territory to the City, the City Council shall designate, by resolution adopted by a vote of at least a majority of the City Council, the contiguous District or Districts to which the annexed territory shall be a part and shall amend the District boundaries if necessary in accordance with Elections Code § 21603, as it may be amended.

SECTION 3. Publication; Effective Date. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and cause the same to be posted at the duly designated posting places within the City and published once within fifteen days after passage and adoption as may be required by law; or, in the alternative, the City Clerk may cause to be published a summary of this Ordinance and a certified copy of the text of this Ordinance shall be posted in the Office of the City Clerk five days prior to the date of adoption of this Ordinance; and, within fifteen days after adoption, the City Clerk shall cause to be

Ordinance No. 2025-7
Page 4

published, the aforementioned summary and shall post a certified copy of this Ordinance, together with the vote for and against the same, in the Office of the City Clerk. This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its adoption.

SECTION 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, word, or portion of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, word, or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, sentences, clauses, phrases, words or portions thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

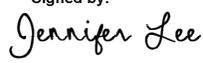
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 9th day of December 2025.

Signed by:

3D91DA46C8E0462

DON CASKEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Signed by:

2468BDE0C10E4B0

JENNIFER LEE, CITY CLERK

Ordinance No. 2025-7
Page 5

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS)

I, Jennifer Lee, City Clerk of the City of Laguna Hills, California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Ordinance No. 2025-7 was duly introduced and placed upon its first reading at a Regular Meeting of the City Council on the 18th day of November 2025, and that thereafter, said Ordinance was duly adopted and passed at a Regular Meeting of the City Council held on the 9th day of December 2025, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Council Member Sweeney, Mayor Pro Tempore Mathis, and Mayor Caskey

NOES: Council Member Wheeler

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Council Member Pezold [Recused]



Signed by:
Jennifer Lee

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JENNIFER LEE, CITY CLERK

Ordinance No. 2025-7
Page 6

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS)

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING
AND PUBLICATION

JENNIFER LEE, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she is the duly appointed and qualified City Clerk of the City of Laguna Hills;

That in compliance with State Laws of the State of California, ORDINANCE NO. 2025-7, being:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, ADDING SECTIONS 2-04.090 AND 2-04.100 TO CHAPTER 2-04 (CITY COUNCIL) OF TITLE 2 (ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL) OF THE LAGUNA HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE IMPLEMENTING BY-DISTRICT ELECTIONS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM FIVE COUNCIL DISTRICTS

on the 27th day of November 2025, and on the 18th day of December 2025, was published in summary in the Saddleback Valley News; and was, in compliance with City Resolution No. 2025-09-23-1, by the 21st day of November 2025, and the 12th day of December 2025, caused to be posted in three places in the City of Laguna Hills, to wit:

Laguna Hills City Hall
Laguna Hills Community Center
Knotty Pine Park

Signed by:
Jennifer Lee

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JENNIFER LEE, CITY CLERK
Laguna Hills, California

**Ordinance No. 2025-7
Page 7**

EXHIBIT "A"

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP

Implementation of By-District Elections of Council Members from Five Single-Member Districts, Establishing Boundary Lines Therefor

The City of Laguna Hills Council District Map No. 108 is Attached, and a copy shall be kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk

City of Laguna Hills Districting 2025 Map 108

