

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: John Koos
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Harris-Neal, Lillian
Subject: Re: Redistricting item

Thank you! They "can" look at "continuity of office", but unless that is defined in statute, that is pretty loose. Of course it makes sense to stagger terms of new district seats for continuity purposes (i.e. Marty Simonoff and Christine Marick were re-elected in 2020, and therefore it is logical to set their future "district" elections in 2024). Beyond that, "continuity of office" should NOT be a rationale to gerrymander district boundaries to "protect" existing council members from being placed in the same district.

All that being said, my question still stands. Will you forward this thread to them prior to tonight? I am away on business and cannot attend.

Thank you

John

On Wed, Oct 27, 2021 at 9:21 AM Harris-Neal, Lillian <lillianhn@ci.brea.ca.us> wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Koos,

Council can look at continuity in office however, when creating the district boundaries, the City must ensure compliance with the following State and federally-mandated criteria:

Federal Criteria for Cities:

- Each council district shall contain a nearly equal population as required by law.
- Each council district shall be drawn in a manner that complies with the FVRA. No council district shall be drawn with race as the predominant factor in violation of the principles established by the United States Supreme Court in *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630 (1993), and its progeny.

California Criteria for Cities:

- Geographically contiguous
- Undivided neighborhoods and "communities of interest" (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
- Easily identifiable boundaries
- Compact (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

Other Traditional Districting Principles:

- Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
- Future population growth.

From: John Koos ·

Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 8:33 PM

To: Harris-Neal, Lillian <lillianhn@ci.brea.ca.us>

Subject: Redistricting item

Lillian. One question for council...

Will they factoring in where an existing council member lives in drawing district boundaries?

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Parker, Glenn
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:33 PM
To: Harris-Neal, Lillian; Gallardo, Bill
Subject: Fwd: District Voting

Glenn Parker
City of Brea
Councilmember
Glennp@cityofbrea.net
(714) 990-7703

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nancy Galentine
Date: October 26, 2021 at 8:21:24 PM PDT
To: "Vargas, Steven" <StevenV@ci.brea.ca.us>, "Hupp, Cecilia" <CeciliaH@ci.brea.ca.us>, "Marick, Christine" <christinem@ci.brea.ca.us>, "Parker, Glenn" <GlennP@ci.brea.ca.us>, "Simonoff, Marty" <MartyS@ci.brea.ca.us>
Subject: District Voting

Dear City Council Member,

I am writing regarding the idea of dividing Brea up into different voting districts with a council member to represent each district.

My husband and I oppose this idea for the following reasons:

1. This may put other districts at an advantage or disadvantage with a council member that may be sub-par or show excessive favor to their district.
2. Brea is a proud city; we should be able to continue to vote as a WHOLE community!
3. There would be no way to divide the city up perfectly evenly, therefore some candidates may have an advantage over others.
4. Brea provides services to its citizens as a whole; would this change?
5. It is just not a good idea.

Please keep our voting system the same. Let Breans continue to vote together as a whole; we are one community and should have the opportunity to have a voice in our city without complicating matters with voting districts.

Sincerely,

John and Nancy Galentine

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Angela Sycott
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: No districting, please

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Yellow Category

Hi,

Thanks for inviting residents' input about breaking the city into districts for city council representation.

I'm against districting for the following reasons:

- Districts will create a situation where council members will feel accountable to or representative of the wants, needs, and experience of only one segment of our city. I want every member of the council to have to consider what's best for *every* Brea resident in their work.
- Districts will create factions. District W will be the well-off folks, District X will be the poor folks, District Y will be conservatives. District Z will be liberals, etc. This isn't good for the city. We're one city, not five. We're made up of tens of thousands of residents who fit into dozens of descriptions, regardless of their street address. Don't segregate us based on those descriptions.
- Districting could water down the pool of candidates and thus the strength of the council. What if a district doesn't have any candidates, or the winning candidate is what that district's citizens chose as the "lesser of two evils"?
- Districting opens the gates for council-member residence shenanigans. How long does someone have to have been a resident of a district to be considered eligible to run for council to represent it? What's to stop someone from renting a temporary unit in the district they want to represent, or borrowing a friend of relative's address?

If you want to better, more accurately ensure that the voices and interests of different areas of the city are represented, create a residents council and have 1 or 2 residents from each area represent the area meet periodically and be able to present to the (undistricted) city council about whatever the relevant topic of the week, month, etc., is. Proposing building something in a part of the city? Give that area's resident reps a couple of weeks to hold "hearings" or spread the word to get feedback from their area's residents, and then meet with the reps to get their compiled feedback and recommendations. Maybe these area reps serve staggered two-year terms to keep things fresh and equitable?

Brea's current council format isn't broken—and if it were, districting isn't what would fix it. Let's continue to think, plan, and work as one city but get more intentional, granular, and organized input from each of the city's areas in the form of an area residents council.

Thanks,

Angela Sycott

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Barbara McDaniel
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Proposed districting of Brea

Pros of the current proposition:

- 1) Each area within the new districting boundaries would have its own city council member. Each council member would represent approximately the same number of voters.
- 2) Each new district area would share borders with another such district. This would enable the various districts to share similar concerns which might bring about greater voter representation.
- 3) Having elected representatives reside within the area they represent should result in elected officials who can really relate to the people they represent. This requirement might also result in changes within the city council so that new people feel they can prevail in an election and be willing to run for office.

Cons of the current proposition:

- 1) I see nothing on the city's website that indicates how frequently, if ever, these districts might be "realigned" with new borders that envelop different people. With current US gerrymandering being done across the country for the sole purpose of disenfranchising voters due to race, economic levels, etc., I'm not sure I should trust our city government with this responsibility.
- 2) I'm not sure I favor district boundaries that create districts that "respect the geographic integrity of a city", as such bases have been used in the past (and currently in many places) to stigmatize the residents of such areas due to race, educational status, economics, etc. I would prefer that the new boundaries allow for greater inclusion of these various factors than divisions among them.

Barbara McDaniel

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Don McFarland
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 2:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Districting questions/comments

Thanks for the information on the plan to convert to a districting approach for electing our city council representatives in the future. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend either of the public input sessions due to prescheduled conflicts. The information already provided helped me to understand why this approach is being considered at this time, but did not address a few questions I've thought of:

- 1) Under the current arrangement, we get a vote per open seat in each election. Under the district system, we would only vote for one of the candidates running within our individual district, correct?
- 2) what would happen if no qualified or interested candidates decide to run in a particular district?
- 3) What would be done to prevent potential candidates from establishing a "bogus" residence within a district in order to run for office in that district, as has been done in Fullerton?
- 4) what would be the results if our current slate of councilpersons were mapped out according to their present residence addresses and how does that compare to the proposed districts?

I imagine these same questions will be asked by others, so I will look for the answers in the FAQs that will likely be published. If that isn't the case, please provide a response to this email.

Regards,
Don McFarland

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Steve Shatynski ·
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 9:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: DISTRICT ELECTIONS

I am opposed to district elections within the city. I don't feel it's necessary. Everyone already has the freedom and opportunity to run for election wherever they live, if they can gather support.

As well, it makes no sense to not allow more than one individual from a potential district to serve at one time. Segmenting the city into districts attempts to address a purported problem that doesn't exist.

Thanks,

Steve Shatynski

Sent from my iPhone

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Stan-2
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 10:14 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Response to "Voting Districts"
Attachments: To Brea City Council Members.doc

The text below is also provided as a WORD attachment for easier printing if useful.

To Brea City Council Members and Council Clerk:

10/24/2021

Response to DRAW BREA'S FUTURE advisory note included with September utility bill requesting citizen input on Council discussion of creating city Voting Districts:

An Issue described briefly in a Brea notice received on October 1, 2021 with the billing statement for city services (water, etc.) indicates that City Council will discuss and consider dividing the city into "Districts" for use in future elections. It also states this will "shape Brea's future" and asks for citizen input.

The plan to be discussed would divide the City into "voting districts", each with (1) City Council member who resides in the district and is chosen by the electors residing in the corresponding district.

My comments, as discussed with neighbors and friends, follow:

- The "Voting Districts" concept would do to the city what has been done at the Federal level on several divisive issues (Blacks, CRT, BLM, Asians, etc.). - It would create a "them" and "us" situation. Most folks in Brea consider them selves part of a "city" and not part of a "district" in competition with each other. Eventually one district will feel disenfranchised and distrust another. Brea doesn't need this. For City events, at say the Brea Park, we all sit with each other, not in divided groups.
- Why would "voting districts" matter? We're all Brea people are we not? There can be no real advantage or savings gained other than making it easier for an existing council member get re-elected.
- Will one "district's" vote eventually count for more than another due to differences in population count?
- Brea provides services in a common manner for street maintenance, street sweeping, police protection, etc. Will all this become a situation where one district has better service attention than another?
- Sooner or later one district's councilman will be called upon by his constituents to garner precious funds to make needed repairs over another district, leaving insufficient funds to service that district's similar issue. Allocating money under the table to do so will enhance his/her opportunity to get needed votes - and thus we will have our district wars begin.
- Will individual districts eventually be taxed differently?
- Will individual districts eventually have ordinances (e.g., overnight parking) enforced differently?

- When there is no candidate in a "district" to run, does the "district" boundary then need to be rearranged to fit a new councilman's address? And what if no person or no one suitable in a district wants to run for the office?
- The "Voting District" concept would likely make any voting somewhat more costly and what real purpose would it serve? It will likely eventually create more tasks in city offices to keep individual district records.
- Having "districts" means that it would be very much more difficult for a city council member to be voted out since the field of candidates would be limited to his "district".
- A "district" concept makes it much easier for a current council member to get re-elected even though a larger number of voters outside that district do not approve of him and consider him to be unsatisfactory for the best interest of all the residents of Brea.
- The "Voting District" idea within a city can only be an opportunity to enable ballot box stuffing and other illegalities now going on at the Federal and California State level.
- The "district" idea will only lead to cronyism and gerrymandering as with the chicanery that goes on with the Federal elections.

Collectively we are one City and proud of it. I encourage the Council to abandon this divisionary City Voting District concept.

Sincerely,

Stan Stoltz

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Bob Flynn
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Elections districting

Importance: High

I own and operate two businesses in Brea. I also own a commercial building in Brea.

I read your "announcement" with regard to re-districting the city for purposes of elections.

I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY THOUGHTS OF THE CITY BEING DIVIDED. THERE IS FAR TOO MUCH DIVISION IN GOVERNMENT IN TODAY'S SOCIETY.

BREA IS ONE CITY; NOT 5 PIECES EACH WITH THEIR OWN AGENDA.

KEEP THE AT LARGE ELECTION SYSTEM!!!!and note my use of caps in this email.

This is a waste of time, resources, money and government resources.

Bob Flynn
Kopy Kat & JBD Properties.

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: CSL -
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 8:25 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Districting

Please do not consider districting the City of Brea. It hasn't worked elsewhere, and it won't work here. We are one city and we should not allow division within it. Any form of division is destructive.

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: George Eyles
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting Money Grab

Sounds like a money grab for a Malibu law firm.

Who is the protected community?

Are we going to have nine districts now for the nine groups of protected classes?

Are we going to have a bigger council now or smaller?

G Eyles

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Pamela Inman
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 5:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: City Council Reps by Districting

This is an unnecessary process, costing extra money and time to accomplish.

Districting does not need to be done--we are not that big!

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Sincerely,
Pam Inman
Office Manager

Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

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Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Didi Engler
Sent: Sunday, October 24, 2021 7:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: District election system

Sunday October 24, 2021

I support a by-district election system.

Diana Engler

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: david beal
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Our thoughts about districts

Dear Brea City Fathers,

I had intended to send my thoughts some time ago about breaking up Brea into districts, so I hope my input is not too late to be heard.

Both my husband and I LOVE living in Brea—we moved here in 2005 and bought a "mid-century" house (1951). We are just a block from the Senior Center, and when I retired in 2016 from teaching, I started to attend the exercise classes there, work on the jig saw puzzles with other seniors, and benefit from "shopping" at the Park-It Market. Really, the services for Seniors are quite remarkable and everyone is so friendly. I am pleased with our firefighters and police services as well. Our streets are well maintained—a marked difference from our neighboring cities.

When we first moved here, I so enjoyed the small town feel of everything. I could walk to church, downtown eateries, Brea's Best Burgers or stroll over to the park for a summer concert. I would hear the church bells ring from the Catholic Church near by, and sometimes hear the train whistles from Fullerton's Station. I would walk Molly, our Golden Retriever at Craig Park. I could see the beautiful hills from our back yard and all the big trees on our street. They streets were safe for walking in the cool of the evening. I would spy occasional wildlife like squirrels, raccoons, and sometimes a little mother skunk hurrying off with a kit in her mouth. It felt like I was living in the country, but with the amenities of a fine town close at hand.

But the neighborhood changed. Most of the big trees have been cut down; the squirrels were trapped; the wildlife is rarely sighted now. The church bells disappeared-- I don't know what happened to them. Bigger properties were sold and divided into high rise homes, crowded together with no yards. Cars race down the streets, ignoring the few stop signs. Sometimes I'm anxious about even putting out our trash barrels as cars speed down our street so fast. With the overnight parking restrictions lifted, there are so many permanently parked cars that it is challenging to back out of our driveway or to drive past another car on the street. I recognize the economic downturn has made it difficult for young families to find affordable housing and many have had to move in with their parents, and so these modest homes have been remodeled to accommodate several generations. Because of the drought in California, more lawns are disappearing and being replaced by rock and gravel gardens with artificial turf, and although these are tastefully done, it feels like a dessert community now. I'm saddened by the changes, and yet I recognize that there are no easy solutions.

I fear that breaking up Brea into "districts" will encourage the rise of special interests to pit neighborhoods against each other. My biggest fear is in over development--the loss of green spaces, the destroying the wild life habitat, building high rise everywhere, more traffic and parking challenges and zoning the hills for development. The quality of life goes down for everyone when this kind of urbanization takes place and resources are stretched to the limits. Seniors on fixed incomes may be forced out of their homes. I know this will be a challenge for us when my husband retires, and we will have to make some tough decisions about staying in the home we love if the property taxes continue to rise faster than our income resources.

But we LOVE Brea and want to stay here for our golden years....

Sincerely,

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From:
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 11:24 AM
To: City ClerksGroup
Subject: District elections

Categories: Public Comment

I regret that I am unable to attend the meeting tonight regarding the topic of District city Council elections, but would appreciate your getting a copy of this note to each of the Council members for their consideration when this topic is discussed.

I realize that the city has been advised by an outside law firm that they need to go to

City Council elections by districts. Since moving to Brea in 1954 with my parents I have never had the feeling that any part of the City has been unrepresented as a result of city wide elections. Even further when a persons runs for office on a city wide basis they need to have the best interests of the city as a whole as their major concern and not just the interests of their district. I am concerned therefor that the best interests of the entire city are not served by district elections. Clearly this issue needs to be fully and publically discussed with the community. Even nomination by district and running city wide would be better that what has been suggested. We enjoy a city wide feeling here in Brea and going to district elections could do a lot to destroy that feeling.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Christie Russell
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: RE: Meeting tonight

I thought a zoom meeting was going to be held and I had planned to attend by zoom. When I started this afternoon I could not tell where to get the zoom invitation. I went to the City Website and put in a number of keywords, but didn't think of districting. I went to ShapeBrea. I thought there were be a link there. No such luck. It was very hard to find where this was going to be shown. I finally went back to the Council video page.

I would have come, if I didn't think I could have zoomed.

1st. I am against Redistricting.

2nd. I went back with some information that Councilman Parker had in regard to the number of people running for council in the City of Brea. There has been only 2 times since 1994 where we had 7 people running for 3 seats. Usually there are never 2 people running for seats. There were even times when there was no one running against the person such as 2008. Brea has never had a plethora of people running for office.

3rd. Because of the history of Brea and the people trusting those who have run, the people of Brea have reelected the people and the people of Brea have not reelected people to represent them after one or 2 terms.

4th. I think we have to have a large representation from the Business Community.

I do think you need to do a better job on the website on how to navigate to have Zoom participation. It was only because Heldi Gallego send a letter from Liz Pharis that I even knew it was happening.

I also think most Brea People are hard working people, they trust those we elect and don't pay much attention to city politics unless they need something.

Christie Russell

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Gloria Waller ·
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 7:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Request for community "input"

Is the city of Brea really serious about getting input from its citizens about the creation of voting districts to elect its city council members? It doesn't seem so to me, given that the announcement of this desire for "input" from its citizens arrived with our water bills on October 2nd, several days after one of the two scheduled meetings—on September 27th—had already been held.

Additionally, the "invitation" (included with the water bill) to attend the meetings concerning this issue was in such fine print, it could only (for most people) be read with a magnifying glass.

City of Brea . . . get serious!

Gloria Waller

To Brea City Council Members and the City Council Clerk:

October 22, 2021

Response to DRAW BREA'S FUTURE advisory note included with September utility bill requesting citizen input on Council discussion of creating and consider dividing the city into "voting districts" each with one (1) City Council member who resides in the district and is chosen by the electors residing in the corresponding district for use in future election.

I believe districts are a bad idea for the following reasons:

1. Accountability

As a council member citizen engagement is a key focal point. You believe in expanding the means by which "Larry" citizen could connect with the council member.

As an elected council member, you are accountable by the city of Brea as a whole because they hold the power to elect/reelect you or not. If you move to districts your reality as a constituent is that you will go from 100% of the commission being accountable to you to 20% or less if districts inevitably lead to the expansion of the seated members.

2. Issue focus

Under the status quo, council members represent the entirety of Brea. As such, they are tasked with making decisions for the entirety of Brea upon the feedback of the entirety of Brea. Under a system of "districts" council member will be tasked with making decisions for the entirety of Brea, accountability to their district. You will seat council members based upon them winning and maintaining the approval of their tiny little piece, and yet you will not act surprised when their focus isn't on the other 80% of the town of Brea.

3. Council Member turnout

What happens when individual districts end up with one or two candidates total on the ballot? *This is not a hyperbolic scenario. Now, imagine when two candidates are unfit to hold public office. You have to seat one.*

Lack of candidates because the council job is awful. Among the many reasons is you are separated from your family for long periods of time. Now break the city into more pieces. Do you really believe that you will garner enough interest in viable candidates that you would like to have lead your city.

I encourage the Brea Council to abandon this City Voting District concept.

Mr. & Mrs Lawrence R. Lopez

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: bennet/susan perlson
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 5:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: City Redistricting

Hi,

I was disappointed to see that the 9/27 redistricting meeting will not be available via zoom as there are some of us who are still avoiding crowds due to the highly contagious variant. Are there any other options than in-person?

Thank you!

Susan Perlson

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Roseanne Castillo
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Why have you decided to go this route?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I'm a resident on Laguna Canyon Way in Brea. What prompted the city to consider new districting guidelines?

Roseanne Castillo

Sent from my iPad

Harris-Neal, Lillian

From: Mark
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:51 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Sponsored Post

Hi,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am sending this email to ask if you are interested in sponsored posts.

We are searching for relevant sites and blogs for our clients.

You will get 100% top notch content with 1 do follow link relevant to your site niche.

Please let me know how much do you charge per post?

We will pay you through Paypal or Payoneer gateway as soon our article is published.

Looking forward to building long-term business opportunities with you.

Best Regards,
Mark

From: [Bev Perry](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: My Opinion
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:18:31 PM

City Council -

I am not in favor of Brea going to Districts for voting purposes. I have never experienced an outcry from the residents of our community to break the city up and believe changing anything should come because that's what the voters want, not some out-of-town attorney who doesn't care a whit about Brea, but is only looking to make a buck off us.

I hope that you will wait to make any final decision until after the Santa Monica case is adjudicated at the CA Supreme Court. The ruling there might give you additional information to help in making a decision to go forward or not.

Having said that, and being realistic about the situation before you, I would offer the following thoughts on how to draw the districts:

1) Use the elementary school areas to help put communities of interest (COI) together. I know that there are more of these than the 5 groupings we need, but it does help you see one example of COI.

2) It's hard to say exactly where boundaries should be without having the number of people available, but grouping:

- NW Brea together,
- downtown and South Brea west of Brea Blvd together (might need some of the area east of Brea Blvd), - homes east of Brea Blvd including S of Imperial and around State College up to and including Canyon Country (all W of the 57),
- east of the 57 N of Birch, and
- E of the 57 S of Birch.

Again, the number might not equal out so you have to do some moving areas about, but don't break up neighborhoods.

Thank you for asking my opinion on this issue.

Bev Perry

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Armida Clements](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: Districting Brea
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:46:28 PM

October 27, 2021

Dear Council, Members

I am writing to you to let you know that the Districting for our City of Brea is not necessary. We are already well represented, we are not big enough, It will create more headaches for something we don't need.

We will need more City staff, \$\$ we don't have as is.

I work and live and Brea.

Brea is a great City and there is no need for this Districting.

Districts works for large Cities, not our City size.

Have a great day

Thank You!!!
Armida Clements,