

Dixon By-District Elections Information Sheet

What are by-district elections?

By-district elections create voting districts within the City. Each district will have a representative on the City Council selected by voters residing within that district. Dixon recently transitioned to by-district elections, in an effort address concerns about the City's compliance with the California Voting Rights Act. The previous system was an at-large system, whereby each Councilmember was elected by the entire City and each Councilmember represented the City at large. The new system establishes districts for each Councilmember to represent. Only registered voters residing in a District have the ability to vote for their district representative. In Dixon, there are four districts each corresponding to a specific council seat, with the Mayor elected by the City at-large.

Which Districts are up for election in 2016?

In 2016, the Mayoral seat and two Councilmember seats are up for election. Districts 3 and 4 are up for election. If you would like to be a candidate considered for either Councilmember seat, you must reside within the geographic boundaries of the district. To run for Mayor, you must reside within Dixon City Limits.

What are the requirements for running for office under the new by-district system?

Each Candidate must be 18 years of age and must reside and be a registered voter in the Councilmember district in which they are running. An individual who does not reside within the geographic boundaries of a district is not eligible to run for or hold office in that district.

Where can I find the new district boundaries and find which district I live in?

An interactive map can be found at the following webpage:

<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=f4b733e1d1514977bde0779b0351e14a>

Who may circulate and sign nomination papers?

Nomination paperwork can be circulated by anyone who is at least 18 years of age. Nomination paperwork for City Council requires twenty (20) signatures from registered voters residing within the district from which the candidate is to be elected. Candidates running for Mayor need twenty (20) signatures from registered voters within the City. The candidate may provide one of the twenty (20) signatures. Signers of nomination paperwork must provide their address, and must live at the stated address when the paperwork is filed with the City Clerk. Addresses provided must match the address on the signer's voter registration, or the signature will be rejected.

What if my district is not up for election in 2016?

If you reside in Districts 1 or 2 you are not eligible to run for City Council until 2018. District seats 1 and 2 are not up for election until 2018, because the transition to by-district elections does not shorten the terms of the Councilmembers who were elected in 2014. However, anyone living within Dixon city limits and is 18 years of age is eligible to run for Mayor.

Can I move to a District that is up for election, solely to run for City Council?

Nothing precludes an individual from moving to District 3 or 4 so that they can run for City Council in those districts, however, when pulling nomination papers the individual must be a registered voter of the district. There is no duration requirement for living in a district before becoming eligible to run for office. However, please take note that under California law and the Dixon Municipal Code, each elected official must reside in the district they are elected for the entirety of their term. If an elected official is found to not reside within the district they represent, it will be presumed they voluntarily abandoned the office.