



ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT

Master Minute Order

Report ID:	23-391g	Status:	Adopted
Type:	Regular - Board Administrative Matters		
Meeting Body:	Board of Directors - Regular Meeting 12/13/2023	Final Action:	12/13/2023

Sponsors:

Attachments: STAFF REPORT, Att.1. Ordinance 20 (EVERGREEN), EXHIBIT A&B (EVERGREEN) - Map & Metes & Bounds, Att.2. Ordinance 20 (JADE), EXHIBIT A&B (JADE) - Map & Metes & Bounds, Att.3.AC Transit Proposed Final Plans Demographics, Att.4. ACT Final Proposed Plans Deferral, Public Comment from Elected Officials and Organizations1

Related Files:

Agenda Title:

Consider the adoption of either Ordinance 20 (Evergreen) or Ordinance 20 (Jade) establishing a seven-ward election system, including one option for the sequencing of elections beginning with the November 2024 Statewide General Election pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010; and waive the second reading of the selected ordinance.

Staff Contact:

Linda A. Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary
Jill A. Sprague, General Counsel/Chief Legal Officer

Legislative Action & Summary

Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Result:
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting	12/13/2023	Ordinance adopted	Pass

Action Text:

MOTION: SHAW/SYED to adopt Ordinance 20 (Jade) establishing a seven-ward election system, including the option that sequences wards 1,2 and 6 in the November 2024 Statewide General Election pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010; and waive the second reading of the ordinance. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 Vice President SHAW, Director BECKLES, Director WALSH, Director SYED, Director McCALLEY

Nayes: 2 President YOUNG, Director PEEPLES

Notes:

[Written comment received prior to the meeting is incorporated into the file by reference.]

General Counsel Jill Sprague presented the staff report.

Public Comment:

George Spies commented that the redistricting process will better comply with the California Voting Rights Act and enable all communities to be fairly represented on the AC Transit Board. Spies added that the Board should adopt the redistricting proposal with a sequencing that includes Ward 2's continued representation because Ward 2 contains the highest ridership bus lines and should have continuous representation on the Board to address these concerns. Spies also noted the support of many public officials and agencies for a redistricting proposal which includes Wards 1, 2, and 6 in 2024.

John Minot expressed strong support for the sequencing option for Wards 1, 2, and 6 in 2024, agreeing with previously stated concerns that the riders of these wards would suffer the most without continuous representation on the Board. Minot agreed with staff's reporting that a proposal which includes Wards 1, 2, and 6 is best option that considers promotion of the new District 6 while minimizing the deferral of ward representation by over 200,000 people while the alternative option would force a greater number of riders to be without representation for a longer period of time.

Alfred Twu called on the Board to approve the option which puts Ward 2 in the 2024 election sequence because of the high number of bus riders represented in Ward 2 and its need for continuous Board representation. Twu commented on the Asian American electorate and their impact and turnout in a presidential election year which, in turn, provides for greater Asian American representation at the election polls.

Jonathan Sing, who noted supporting comments provided by previous public speakers, asked the Board to support the option that would prioritize Ward 2 for the 2024 election. Sing added that the Ward 2 city of Emeryville has been adding more jobs and housing within the District, emphasizing the need for greater Board representation.

Paul Bickmore expressed support for the option that would prioritize Ward 2 voters for the 2024 election. Bickmore noted the ridership density of Ward 2 is the District's largest.

Brian Culbertson expressed support for the option that would give Ward 2 voters continuous Board representation, saying that the option defers the fewest number of voters during the upcoming election years.

Anthony expressed a preference for the option that would prioritize Ward 2 for the 2024 election, saying that this option minimizes the greatest voter deferrals to be impacted by this redistricting process and reduces the legal exposure for the District due to non-compliance with the goals of the California Voting Rights Act.

Nick Pilch expressed a preference for a Ward 2 Board representative election in 2024, including reasons why the Board should approve which was detailed in a written comment submission.

Sheela Gunn asked the Board to approve the option for Wards 1, 2, and 6 to vote in 2024.

Pat Piras noted that Asian candidates in the South County region (future Ward 7) of the District have been more interested in BART than AC Transit. Piras commented that the Ward 2 representative should not have to wait an extra 2 years to 2026 before regaining Board representation. Piras urged the Board to adopt option 2 because it would be the less disruptive redistricting option and applauded the Board for having the vision to update its Board representation practice.

Sam expressed support for Wards 1, 2, and 6 in 2024 because it would be the option that would disenfranchise the fewest voters and Ward 2 has the densest bus ridership.

Cherryland Community Assn noted personal redistricting work on the county level and expressed support for option B because it satisfies a lot of the issues.

Warren Cushman noted that the redistricting process is difficult due to challenges such as balancing various rider equities. Cushman expressed support for the approval of the sequence featuring Wards 1, 2, and 6 in 2024.
