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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Deborah R. Presson, City Clerk

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## **City of Chico District Election Update** **November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election**

**Chico, CA** – The November 8, 2022 election is getting closer, and citizens are beginning to receive their mail-in ballots from the County Elections Department. Due to the recent redistricting process, some voters have questions about their ballots, especially for those residing in District 3.

When the City of Chico districts were originally formed in 2020, only District 1, 3, 5, and 7 Councilmembers were selected during the 2020 election. The remaining three districts, 2, 4, and 6 were to be determined during the upcoming November 2022 election.

Following the 2020 census, as required under the California Election Code and City Charter, boundary line modifications were made to all districts which may have resulted in having some voters being moved into districts that are not being considered at this election.

In addition to the redistricting efforts that occurred earlier this year, citizens may recall that in June of 2021, after serving only 6 months, Kami Denlay, the original District 3 Representative resigned. The Council appointed Dale Bennett to fill out Ms. Denlay's term until a special election could be held, which has been consolidated with the general election to be held on November 8, 2022. Due to the requirements of the California Election Code, the replacement to fill the remaining two years of this position needs to be determined by the "original" 2020 District 3 voters. So, on top of the redistricting modifications for voters to grapple with, some voters who know they are now in District 3 are not seeing the District 3 candidates listed on their ballots. This is because pursuant to the Elections Code, the vacancy in District 3 must be determined by the original voters who voted in the 2020 election.

This does create an unusual situation in which a handful of residents will not be able to vote for City Council until 2024. And there could also be a handful of residents that may end up voting for two representatives due to still residing in the "2020" District 3 to fill the vacancy, and yet are now included in District 2, which will be deciding who its representative will be for the next four years.

Citizens wishing to access the new districts can do so by clicking on the following link: <https://chico.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=65c4f6c832e644da866c81c299a12a38>. The original 2020 District 3 map is available with this press release.

*"It should be noted this is an anomaly due to a combination of by-district voting, the recent census-based boundary changes, and a Council resignation. It is clear that these changes were unavoidable but, most importantly, the ballots are in compliance with the City Charter and State law. The City of Chico elections will be back on track with the 2024 election, with the newly drawn Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 up for election at that time."* – Deborah R. Presson, City Clerk & Elections Official

**Attachment: Original 2020 District 3 Map**

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