

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

What will Measure T change?

Measure T changes the way Council members are elected. Currently, every voter in the City can vote for all Council candidates. With District Elections, a voter would only vote for candidates who reside in the District where the voter lives. All voters in the City would continue to vote for Mayor.

Why is the City Council putting Measure T on the ballot?

A group of voters approached the Mexican American Legal Defense Educational Fund (MALDEF). The voters said that the City's at-large elections violated the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). The City's legal counsel agreed the current "at-large" system does not comply with CVRA and proposed to settle with MALDEF.

How would the City Council Districts be created?

A mapping specialist will work with a citizen's committee selected by Council and led by the League of Women Voters. The committee will recommend to the City Council six Districts with a population of about 13,500 residents each. The agreement with MALDEF requires three Council Districts south of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad (see map) and three Council Districts north of the BNSF railroad.

When would this go into effect?

The next City Council election in November, 2016. At least one of the seats up for election would need to be from a district south of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, which is close to Bear Creek (see map).

What happens if Measure T fails to get a majority vote?

A lawsuit could be filed challenging the City's at-large election system. When the City of Modesto was sued for not having district-based elections for Council, it cost the City approximately \$3 million.

City's Measure T is on the Nov. 4 ballot

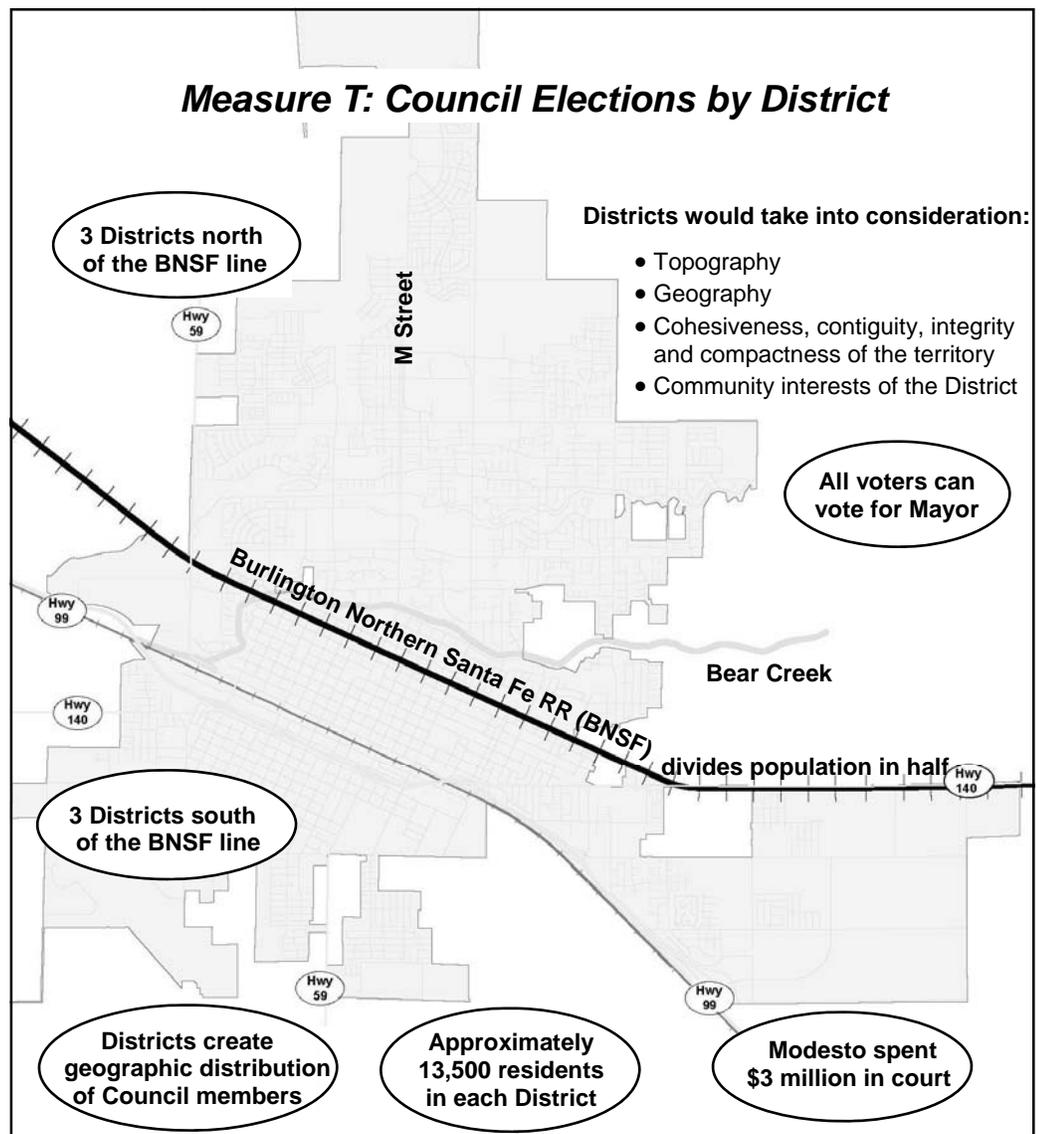
The City Council has placed Measure T on the November 4th ballot to amend the City's Charter.

It will change the method of voting for City Council members from an at-large voting system to a district-based voting system.

Measure T would also require the City to prepare a map of the six City Council Districts. A panel of residents, with the help of a mapping specialist, would prepare a plan to divide the City into six Dis-

tricts for the City Council to consider approving. Every other City election the registered voters living in a district would vote for a council candidate who must reside within that particular district.

Measure T would not change the method for electing the Mayor every City election. The office of the Mayor would continue to be filled through an at-large election so that all registered voters of the City would be entitled to vote for a candidate of their choice.



For more information on Measure T go to www.cityofmerced.org