

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Pasco, Washington amending Chapter 1.10 of the Pasco Municipal Code regarding "Voting Districts."

WHEREAS, The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington, in March 2016, notified the City that it believed the City's then election system violated the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA); and

WHEREAS, following a lawsuit filed by the ACLU, the City and ACLU jointly entered a proposed a "Partial Consent Decree" which identified the likely violation of the VRA and sought to establish jurisdiction of the Federal Court to order an appropriate remedy to address the violation; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2016 Judge Lonny Suko of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington granted the Partial Consent Decree thereby ordering that the City must, in order to remedy a violation of Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, implement a new election system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held, after due notice, a public hearing on September 6 to take comments and evaluate the options for district-based voting and the Council determined that the six-district/one at-large alternative was preferred due to its providing three Latino citizen voter-age majority districts, the same number as possible under the ACLU's preferred seven district plan; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2016, the City Council held, after due notice, a public hearing on the six-district plan boundary alternatives, to receive and consider public comment on the alternative boundary plans; and

WHEREAS, the Council, after due and deliberate consideration, adopted Ordinance No. 4315, establishing a six-district/one at-large plan for City Council elections; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2017 Judge Suko issued an order approving the City Council election plan as submitted; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Auditor, in order to efficiently conduct elections for several jurisdictions where each jurisdiction contains a number of district boundaries, has requested that minor adjustments be made to Pasco's City Council District boundaries, in order to simplify and minimize disruption in the boundaries for districts in other jurisdictions in the creation of the voting precincts essential to the conduct of elections; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the adjustments affect only a limited number of potential voters and maintain the intent and purpose of the six-district/one at-large plan as approved by the Federal Court; and



WHEREAS, in the January 27, 2017 order, Judge Suko retained the Court's jurisdiction over the City's voting districts until 45 days after certification of the November 2017 election results; and

WHEREAS, the City and the ACLU have jointly petitioned the Court for approval of the district boundary adjustments requested by the County Auditor; and

WHEREAS, _____

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASCO, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Section 1.10.020 entitled "District One" of the Pasco Municipal Code, shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

1.10.020 DISTRICT ONE. Voting district one shall encompass the area within the City of Pasco comprised of precinct numbers five, nine, ten, fourteen and fifteen (5, 9, 10, 14 and 15); as those precincts are described on the maps and property descriptions on file with the Auditor of Franklin County.

Section 2. That Section 1.10.030 entitled "District Two" of the Pasco Municipal Code, shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

1.10.030 DISTRICT TWO. Voting district two shall encompass the area within the City of Pasco comprised of precinct numbers two, three, thirteen, seventeen and eighteen (2, 3, 13, 17 and 18); as those precincts are described on the maps and property descriptions on file with the Auditor of Franklin County.

Section 3. That Section 1.10.040 entitled "District Three" of the Pasco Municipal Code, shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

1.10.040 DISTRICT THREE. Voting district three shall encompass the area within the City of Pasco comprised of precinct numbers one, eight, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four, thirty-five, thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four and one-hundred and two (1, 8, 22, 23, 24, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44 and 102); as those precincts are described on the maps and property descriptions on file with the Auditor of Franklin County.

Section 4. That Section 1.10.050 entitled "District Four" of the Pasco Municipal Code, shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

1.10.050 DISTRICT FOUR. Voting district four shall encompass the area within the City of Pasco comprised of precinct numbers forty, forty-five, forty-six, forty-seven, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three, fifty-four and fifty-five (40, 45, 46, 47, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55); as those

precincts are described on the maps and property descriptions on file with the Auditor of Franklin County.

Section 6. That Section 1.10.060 entitled “District Five” of the Pasco Municipal Code, shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

1.10.060 DISTRICT FIVE. Voting district five shall encompass the area within the City of Pasco comprised of precinct numbers nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-six, forty-one, forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, fifty-nine, sixty, sixty-two, sixty-three, sixty-five, sixty-six, and sixty-seven (19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 41, 48, 49, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 65, 66 and 67); as those precincts are described on the maps and property descriptions on file with the Auditor of Franklin County.

Section 7. That Section 1.10.070 entitled “District Six” of the Pasco Municipal Code, shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

1.10.070 DISTRICT SIX. Voting district six shall encompass the area within the City of Pasco comprised of precinct numbers four, six, seven, eleven, twelve and sixteen (4, 6, 7, 11, 12 and 16); as those precincts are described on the maps and property descriptions on file with the Auditor of Franklin County.

Section 8. This ordinance shall take full force and effect five days after its approval, passage and publication as required by law.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Pasco, Washington, and approved as provided by law this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Matt Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sandy Kenworthy, Interim City Clerk

Leland B. Kerr, City Attorney