

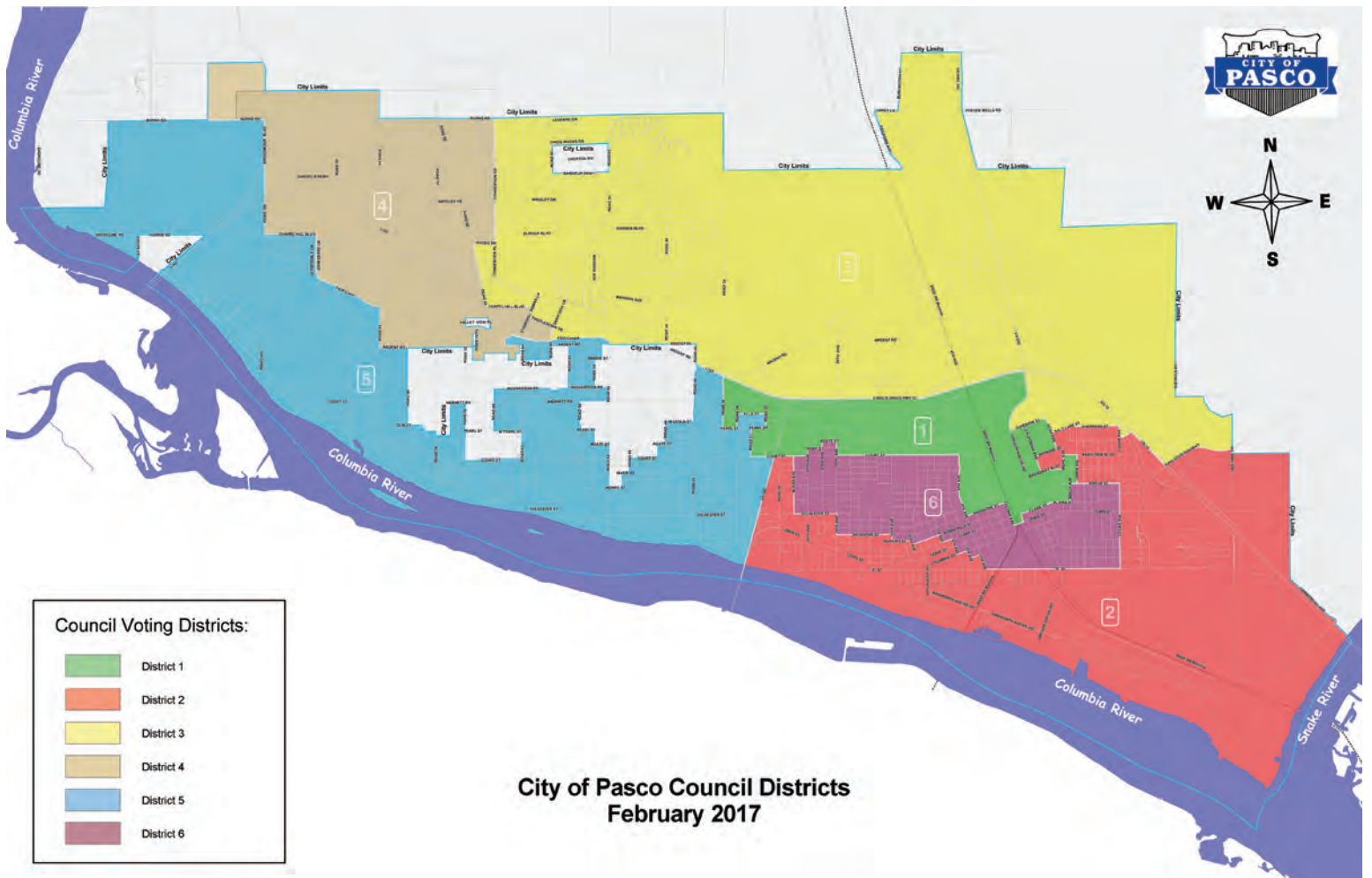


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# 2017 CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The decision phase in the US District Court case brought by the ACLU (Bertha Aranda Glatt vs. City of Pasco) regarding City Council election districts was completed in late January with Judge Larry R. Suko approving the proposed remedy of the City to address voting rights issues.

The decision of the judge, which was not appealed within the 30-day time limit which ended in late February, now stands as approving a six-district, one-at-large configuration for electing members of the City Council. Implementation of the new system will take place this year with all seats being open for election. In order to provide for approximately one-half of council seats to be open to election every-other year, the Court ordered that seats for Council Districts 1, 3, 4 and 6 be contested for four-year terms with the seats for Districts 2 and 5, plus the

At-Large seat (Position 7), to be contested for two-year terms. After the election of 2017, all seats will be for four year terms, allowing for the traditional overlap.

Voters may choose to run for election in the district in which they reside (see individual district maps on the City's website at [www.pasco-wa.gov/councildistricts](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/councildistricts)), or for the at-large seat for which there is no residency requirement (except to reside in the City). For voters interested in running for City office in 2017, please note that the week of candidate filings is May 15-19 (contact the Franklin County Auditor at (509) 545-3502 for information).

While in the past, voters have had the opportunity to vote for each position on the ballot for City Council in the November, or general election, the resolution of the lawsuit

provides that all voting for district positions will be limited to district resident voters.

Both the approved City plan and the proposed plan offered by the ACLU (7 districts) provided for three districts in which Latino citizens constitute a majority of the registered and eligible voting population.

"This matter is extremely complicated and of great importance to our community as it changes how City Council members are elected," said Pasco Mayor Matt Watkins. "Council's adoption of a 6 district and 1 at-large plan accomplishes several goals the City Council has been working on to avoid racially polarized voting in Pasco and promote participation. These significant changes represent a positive steady effort and considerable time by the City Council with public input," he added.

## Somos Pasco – We Are Pasco

Pasco has become one of Washington's fastest growing cities. Its residents – now majority Hispanic – are much younger than in peer cities, and most are employed. Leading sectors of today's economy are agriculture, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing. But what's next for Pasco's economy? To answer that question, Somos Pasco (We Are Pasco) will create a long-range vision and action plan for Pasco and its economy, in alignment with the most promising economic opportunities and community-wide priorities:

- The industries to rely on for job growth in the next decades
- Investments to support those sectors
- Strategies to improve educational attainment, wages and household incomes in the Pasco area
- The top amenities to enhance quality of life and make sure employers and their employees want to stay here

Somos Pasco is a collaboration of the Port of Pasco, City of Pasco and Franklin County along with Pasco School District, Columbia Basin College and other Tri-Cities community organizations and businesses. Together, these partners are seeking a shared vision that moves Pasco ahead. You can be a part of the shared vision by visiting [www.somospasco.org](http://www.somospasco.org)!



## Pasco Police open new Police Community Services Building

The Pasco Police Department officially opened the new Police Community Services Building on March 1. The new facility is the culmination of several years of discussion and planning, and is the third and final project supported by the voter-approved 2011 Franklin County sales tax increase; the expanded Franklin County Jail/Pasco Municipal Court facility and creation of the Pasco Street Crimes Unit were the first two projects.

The \$9 million facility replaces the former police offices in City Hall, which were completed in 1995 for a force ½ the size of today's force for a city population of then 23,500 (compared to today's 71,000).

The facility, in addition to the space for the police, has public meeting rooms and areas for community groups and better outreach. Please come and check out the new facility at 215 W. Sylvester Street, just east of City Hall.



## Pasco Wastewater Treatment Award

The City of Pasco's Wastewater Treatment Plant won another "Outstanding Performance Award" from the Washington State Department of Ecology for meeting full compliance in wastewater permitting for 2015.

Wastewater plants are the first line of defense to protect public health and clean water, especially critical as Pasco (as does the region) depends on a clean Columbia River.

"We appreciate the extraordinary level of effort plant operators demonstrated throughout 2015. Talented and proficient operators are critical to successful plant operations and protecting the health of Washington's waters," said Heather Bartlett, who manages Ecology's Water Quality Program.

In picking the winners, Ecology evaluated all of the plants in Washington for compliance with meeting pollution limits, monitoring and reporting requirements, spill prevention planning, pretreatment, and overall operational demands of their water quality permit.

### CITY COUNCIL:

**Mayor Matt Watkins (At Large)**  
416-6696, [watkinscouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:watkinscouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Mayor Pro Tem Rebecca Francik (Dist. 5)**  
545-6134, [francikcouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:francikcouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember Tom Larsen (Dist. 1)**  
545-9916, [larsencouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:larsencouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember Al Yenney (Dist. 2)**  
547-8021, [yenneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:yenneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember Saul Martinez (Dist. 3)**  
545-3404, [martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember Chi Flores (Dist. 4)**  
380-0256, [florescouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:florescouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember Bob Hoffmann (Dist. 6)**  
547-7373, [hoffmanncouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:hoffmanncouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

### MANAGER & OFFICIALS:

**City Manager Dave Zabell**  
545-3404, [zabell@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:zabell@pasco-wa.gov)

**Deputy City Manager Stan Strebels**  
543-5760, [strebels@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:strebels@pasco-wa.gov)

**Admin. & Community Services Director ;  
Interim Public Works Director Rick Terway**  
543-5757, [terway@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:terway@pasco-wa.gov)

**Community Dev. Director Rick White**  
545-3441, [whiter@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:whiter@pasco-wa.gov)

**Finance Director Richa Sigdel**  
544-3065, [sigdelr@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:sigdelr@pasco-wa.gov)

**Fire Chief Bob Gear**  
545-3426, [gearb@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:gearb@pasco-wa.gov)

**Police Chief Bob Metzger**  
545-3481, [metzgerb@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:metzgerb@pasco-wa.gov)

### HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES



City offices will be closed Monday,  
**May 29 in observance of  
MEMORIAL DAY.**

*For more information about the City,  
visit our website at [www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov)*

The Pasco City Council meets every Monday at 7pm (except for 5th Mondays) at City Hall, 525 N. 3rd Ave.  
Watch the Council meetings LIVE on PSC-TV Channel 191 on Charter Cable, or on the web at [www.pasco-wa.gov/video](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/video).

Comments about the Pasco Pulse? Email to [communications@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:communications@pasco-wa.gov)