

# STAY SAFE AND KEEP PEDALING!

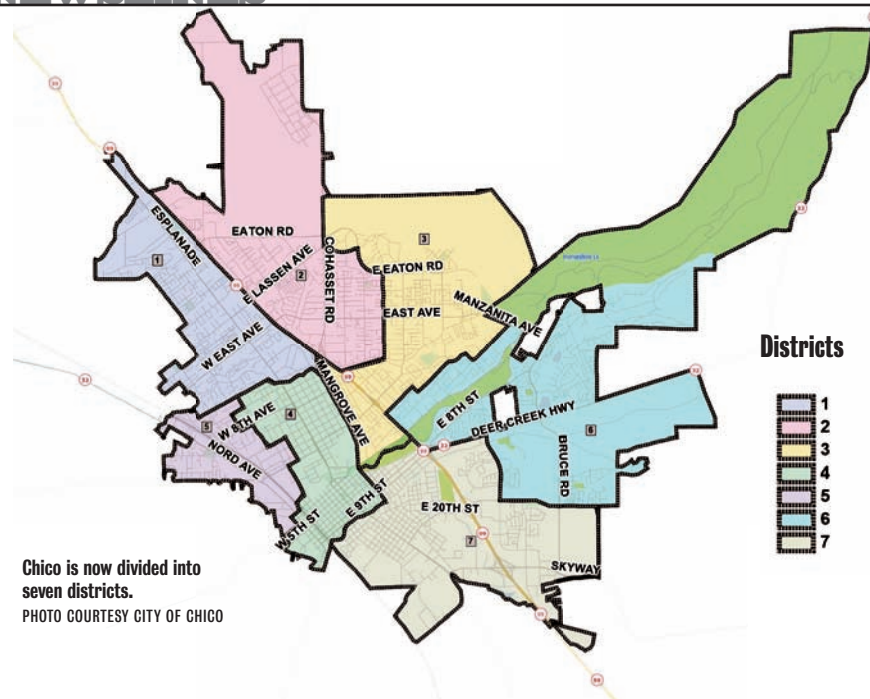


We are working to provide bicycling education to the public, advocating for bicycle safety and infrastructure, Chico Velo aims to foster and promote bicycling for transportation, recreation, health, and wellness.

CHICO  
**VELO**

To become a member of Chico Velo and help us to continue to grow our bicycle friendly communities,

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Chico is now divided into seven districts.  
PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF CHICO

to run for a seat starting in 2022 (the current age requirement is 21).

## In the running

It has been a quiet election season in some ways, Schwab told the CN&R. She's seeking her fifth term on the City Council and is surprised more candidates haven't announced campaigns for the four districts on the upcoming ballot (the filing deadline is Aug. 7). She lives in District 3.

Only a handful of candidates are actively campaigning. This includes Councilman Randall Stone (District 5), and Planning Commissioner Rich Ober (District 7), who ran for a seat in 2018—with no competition as of yet in their respective districts. Chicoan Curtis Pahlka has filed paperwork for District 1, which comprises a portion of northwest Chico. However, two-term Councilman Sean Morgan resides there and has signaled that he

Ballot drop-off boxes will be placed at city halls, county offices, libraries and vote centers ahead of November's election.  
CN&R FILE PHOTO



may throw his hat in the ring.

Schwab recently participated in a virtual event hosted by the Butte County Democrats, chatting with viewers during candidate spots. In the months to come, she envisions phone calls and virtual get-togethers through platforms like Zoom, rather than in-person visits.

On a practical level, both the pandemic and the switch to districts have made it challenging to meet fundraising goals, Schwab said. But it's the personal side of campaigning she laments losing the most.

"Missing the connection will be the hardest part—the real, face-to-face connection," she said.

Other incumbents are considering how to approach this election season as well. Morgan was not planning on running for re-election, he told the CN&R, but this year has changed his perspective.

"I had decided not to run but given the financial situation the city is about to find itself in (this time, through no fault of its own), I worry about our financial sustainability and our ability to adequately provide for public safety, roads, and our parks," he wrote via email.

Stone also is focused on economics. In fact, it's at the forefront of his mind these days, he told the CN&R. He's especially concerned about how the looming recession on top of current events will effect the electorate.

Voter engagement, he said, is "hindered by the amount of trauma that is going on locally and nationwide and worldwide.

"I think that problem is only going to get worse as the economy doesn't respond and we continue into a recession," Stone continued. "When [people] don't have any money and they're trying to put food on the table, the ballot is going to be something that is less of a concern for them."