



NEWS RELEASE

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Voters will Decide if Meridian City Council Expands

Meridian, ID - (February 20, 2013) – Meridian residents will vote in May if they'd like to increase the number of City Council seats from four to six. The Meridian City Council unanimously decided to put the issue before voters during the February 19th City Council meeting.

Mayor Tammy de Weerd first announced the Council would consider the adding two additional seats during her State of the City address at the beginning of February. Six members from the public testified before the Council encouraging them to put the issue before voters.

"I applaud the decision made by City Council," said Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd. "City Council's position of asking the community to decide how they'd like to be governed is a testament to the great job they do in serving Meridian. Now we will just have to wait and see what voters decide come May."

The ballot measure would need a simple majority to pass. The election will be held May 21st.

If voters decide to increase the number of Council seats, they will vote on the two new Council members this November. One candidate would be elected to a two-year term and the other a four-year term. These term lengths would ensure that every two years half of the Council is up for election. After the initial election with the new Council seats, all Councilmembers would be elected to the standard four-year term.

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The City of Meridian is located at the center of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho, minutes from the State Capitol. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is now one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. As the home to many young families, Meridian is a vibrant community whose mission is to be a premier city to live, work and raise a family and was selected in 2010 by Family Circle Magazine as one of their Top 10 Best Cities for Families, by Money Magazine as one of its 100 Best Places to Live, and by America's Promise Alliance and ING as one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People. For more information about Meridian, visit www.meridiandcity.org.