Election Systems

1. “At Large”

2. “From District” or “Residence” Districts

3. “By District”

The California Voting Rights Act was written to specifically encourage by-district elections.
Under the Federal Voting Rights Act (passed in 1965), a jurisdiction must fail 4 factual tests before it is in violation of the law.

The California VRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems by eliminating two of the US Supreme Court *Gingles* tests:

1. Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?
2. Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
3. Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
4. Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?

Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting.
CVRA Impact

Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:
- At least 215 school districts
- 34 Community College Districts
- 126 cities
- 1 County Board of Supervisors
- 35 water and other special districts.

Cases So Far:
- Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica went to trial on the merits. Palmdale and Santa Clara lost. Santa Monica is awaiting a decision.
- Modesto and Palmdale each spent about $1.8 million on their defense (in addition to the attorney fee awards in those cases). Santa Monica has spent an estimated $5 million so far.

Key settlements:
- Palmdale: $4.7 million
- Modesto: $3 million
- Highland: $1.3 million
- Anaheim: $1.1 million
- Whittier: $1 million
- Santa Barbara: $600,000
- Tulare Hospital: $500,000
- Compton Unified: $200,000
- Madera Unified: about $170,000
- Hanford Joint Union Schools: $118,000
- Merced City: $42,000

An estimated $16 million in total settlements and court awards so far.
# Districting Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Initial Hearings Nov. 5 &amp; 19</td>
<td>Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the communities in the District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Public Map Submission Deadline Nov. 21</td>
<td>Deadline to submit maps that will be posted Nov. 26 and considered by Council at Dec. 3 hearing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release draft maps No later than Nov. 26</td>
<td>Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; hearing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two hearings on draft maps Dec. 3 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence. Likely introduction of ordinance at Dec. 17 meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map adoption</td>
<td>Map adopted via ordinance. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2020</td>
<td>Initial election in 3 Council districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Update District lines using 2020 Census data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2022</td>
<td>Initial election in the other 3 Council districts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Districting Rules

#### Federal Laws
- **Equal Population**
- **Federal Voting Rights Act**
- **No Racial Gerrymandering**

#### Traditional Redistricting Principles
- **Communities of interest**
- **Compact**
- **Contiguous**
- **Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries**
- **Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office**
- **Planned future growth**
### Demographic Summary

Each of the six districts must contain about 17,284 residents (103,701 divided by six).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Pct</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Pct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Pop</td>
<td>Total Pop</td>
<td>103,701</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>ACS Pop. Est.</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>107,882</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hisp</td>
<td>40,921</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td></td>
<td>age0-19</td>
<td>26,746</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NH White</td>
<td>17,769</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
<td>age20-60</td>
<td>62,204</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NH Black</td>
<td>27,543</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td></td>
<td>age60plus</td>
<td>18,932</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian-American</td>
<td>14,526</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
<td>immigrants</td>
<td>37,850</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>62,532</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
<td>naturalized</td>
<td>15,172</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Voting Age Pop</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50,882</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Language Fluency</td>
<td>Speaks Eng. &quot;Less than Very Well&quot;</td>
<td>25,525</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latino est.</td>
<td>13,190</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>hs-grad</td>
<td>36,924</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish-Surnamed</td>
<td>11,849</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>(among those age 25+)</td>
<td>bachelor</td>
<td>12,572</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian-Surnamed</td>
<td>3,425</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>graduatedegree</td>
<td>6,392</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Filipino-Surnamed</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Child in Household</td>
<td>child-under18</td>
<td>10,697</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NH White est.</td>
<td>16,381</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>Pct of Pop. Age 16+</td>
<td>employed</td>
<td>51,881</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NH Black</td>
<td>17,492</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>Household Income</td>
<td>income 0-25k</td>
<td>7,124</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>35,344</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td></td>
<td>income 25-50k</td>
<td>8,485</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latino est.</td>
<td>8,418</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
<td>income 50-75k</td>
<td>6,236</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish-Surnamed</td>
<td>7,562</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
<td>income 75-200k</td>
<td>12,488</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian-Surnamed</td>
<td>2,233</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td>income 200k-plus</td>
<td>1,922</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Filipino-Surnamed</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Housing Stats</td>
<td>single family</td>
<td>26,149</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NH White est.</td>
<td>12,283</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
<td>multi-family</td>
<td>13,057</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NH Black</td>
<td>11,423</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td></td>
<td>owned</td>
<td>17,834</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total population data from the 2010 Decennial Census.
Surname-based Voter Registration and Turnout data from the California Statewide Database.
Latino voter registration and turnout data are Spanish-surname counts adjusted using Census Population Department undercount estimates.
NH White and NH Black registration and turnout counts estimated by NDC.
Citizen Voting Age Pop., Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data.
Latinos are particularly concentrated between San Pablo and I-580.
African-Americans are particularly concentrated in Hilltop, in the ‘Iron Triangle’, and between Ohio Ave and I-580.

African-American CVAP

African-Amer. % of CVAP
- 0% to 25%
- 25% to 35%
- 35% to 50%
- 50% to 65%
- 65% to 75%
- 75% to 100%
- No Population
Asian-Americans are concentrated around the country club and Hilltop Village in the north, in the hills of El Sobrante in the east, and along the border with El Cerrito in the south.
Non-Hispanic Whites are particularly concentrated along the water, south of I-580, along the border of El Cerrito, and in the hills of El Sobrante.
1st Question: what is your neighborhood or community of interest?

A Community of Interest is generally defined as a neighborhood or community of shared interests, views, problems, or characteristics. Possible community feature/boundary definitions include:

- School attendance areas
- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals, and/or hills
- Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks
- Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns
- Shared demographic characteristics
  - Such as similar levels of income, education, or linguistic isolation

2nd Question: Does a Community of Interest want to be united in one district, or to be divided to have a voice in multiple elections?
Examples of highly compact maps, with nooks and jogs driven only by equal population requirements.
Examples of maps where a desire to have all members touch downtown (Pasadena) or rural areas (Central), or as many neighborhoods as possible (South Pas), led to policy-driven but non-compact maps.

November 5, 2019
Possible Richmond Communities of Interest

Fire Response Areas

Zoning Districts

Neighborhood Councils

School Attendance Zones?

Others Geographic Areas?
Whether you use the powerful (but complicated) online mapping tool, Excel, the paper kit, or just draw on a napkin, we welcome your maps!

These tools are designed as ways to empower residents. There is no requirement to use them.
One-Page Mapping Kit

City of Richmond 2019 Districting

Public Participation Kit

Draw your lines, add up the numbers, and submit your map.

An online version of this map that allows you to zoom in and out for more detail is available as a link from the City website.

Each number indicates the total population of that "population unit" area. Each district must have essentially equal population. The population of each of the six districts must be close to 17,284, with no more than a 1,728 difference between the largest and smallest.

Please use a thick dark-colored pen to draw your map, then submit it at City Hall or by email to Richmond@NDCresearch.com. You can hand-deliver, mail, fax, scan and email, or photograph and email your map.
Using the Excel tool

Enter the district assignment in the highlighted column, and Excel will calculate the resulting demographic changes.
Tutorials and help resources are available from the login page.

Circled items:
1: controls to move around the map;
2: choose into which district selected territory will be placed;
3: options for how to select territory;
4: demographic summary of districts;
5: demographic change of currently selected area;
6: review map when finished;
7: submit map.

Online Tool link

November 5, 2019
Discussion

1. What is your neighborhood or “community of interest”?
2. Do you prefer your neighborhood be kept together in one district, or have multiple representatives?
3. What are other communities of interest in the City that should be considered when drafting maps?
4. Any questions about the public mapping tools?