City of Lakewood
Introduction to Districting

April 13, 2021
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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 four factual tests before it is in violation of the law.

The California VRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs whose ability to elect has been impaired to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems by downplaying 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?

When a plaintiff’s ability to elect has been impaired, liability is heavily dependent on racially polarized voting.
Cases So Far:
- Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica went to trial on the merits.
- All three lost at trial. Santa Clara and Santa Monica are appealing.
- 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 $8 million so far, and plaintiffs requested $22 million for their trial win.

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
- Camarillo: $233,000
- 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.
CVRA Impact

- Switched (or switching) as a result of CVRA:
  - 144 cities
    - Prior to CVRA, only 29 of the 492 California cities used by-district elections
  - At least 240 school districts
  - 34 Community College Districts
  - 1 County Board of Supervisors
    - The other 57 California counties already elected by-district
  - 35 special districts
    - Health care, airport, water, community service, parks and recreation, etc.
## Districting Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| Two Initial Hearings  
April 13 & 27 | Held prior to release of draft maps.  
Education and to solicit input on the communities in the District. |
| May – November | Residents suggest “communities of interest.” |
| Mid/Late August | Census Bureau releases official redistricting population data. |
| Census Data  
Early October, 2021 | California Statewide Database releases California’s official  
‘prisoner-adjusted’ 2020 Census data. |
| Release draft maps | Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3rd hearing. |
| Two hearings on draft maps  
Nov / Dec, 2021 | Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence. |
| Map adoption  
By Dec 15, 2021 | Map adopted via ordinance.  
Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption. |
1. Federal Laws
- Equal Population
- Federal Voting Rights Act
- No Racial Gerrymandering

2. California Criteria for Cities
1. Geographically contiguous
2. Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest”
   (Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
3. Easily identifiable boundaries
4. Compact
   (Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles
- Respect voters’ choices / avoid head to head contests
- Future population growth
### Demographic Summary

Each of the five districts would contain about 16,010 residents (using 2010 Census numbers)

<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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Pop</td>
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<td>80,048</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57,704</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hisp</td>
<td>16,592</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NH White</td>
<td>23,543</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NH Black</td>
<td>5,476</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Asian-American</td>
<td>10,964</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Immigrants</td>
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<td>17,300</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Naturalized</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,744</td>
<td>68%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
<td>48,882</td>
<td>65%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td></td>
<td>14,873</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Asian-lang</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,560</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other-lang</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,864</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>English &quot;Less than Very Well&quot;</td>
<td>7,894</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latino est.</td>
<td>15,425</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spanish-Surname</td>
<td>13,857</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Asian-Surname</td>
<td>2,394</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Filipino-Surname</td>
<td>1,535</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td>NH White est.</td>
<td>26,763</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NH Black</td>
<td>5,163</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Household Income</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Income 0-25k</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,888</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Income 25-50k</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,589</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Income 50-75k</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,618</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Income 75-200k</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,366</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<td>Income 200k-plus</td>
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<td>2,403</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Single family</td>
<td></td>
<td>22,454</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Multi-family</td>
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<td>4,372</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rented</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,415</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Owned</td>
<td></td>
<td>18,450</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<td>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 Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data.</td>
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</table>
Latinos are particularly concentrated east of I-605 and around Lakewood Blvd and South St.
Asian-Americans are particularly concentrated south of Gridley Park along Pioneer, and by Davenport Park.
Black / African-American CVAP

Black/African Americans are not particularly concentrated in any part of the City.
More About Neighborhoods

1st Question: what is your neighborhood?

2nd Question: what are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- Areas around parks
- Other neighborhood landmarks

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.
Beyond Neighborhoods: Communities

Under the California Elections Code, “community of interest” has a very specific definition in the context of districting and redistricting cities and counties:

A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(emphasis added)
Defining Communities

1st Question: what is your community?

2nd Question: what are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- School attendance areas
- Specific housing types: historic, senior, mobile home, single family, multi-family
- Common issues, neighborhood activities
- Shared demographic characteristics such as similar levels of income or education
- Similar business activities

3rd Question: should this area be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation, or would it benefit from a division giving it influence in multiple districts?
Possible Neighborhoods / Communities
Public Hearing & Discussion

1. What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?
2. What geographic communities are in the city, and what are their boundaries?
   - Which would benefit from being kept together in one district?
   - Which would benefit from multiple representatives?