

Introduction to Districting Central Fire District

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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.

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

- q Under the Federal Voting Rights Act (passed in 1965), a jurisdiction must fail 4 factual tests before it is in violation of the law.
- q 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:
 - ~~q Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~
 - q Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
 - q Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
 - ~~q Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?~~
- q Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting

CVRA Impact

q Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:

- q At least 240 school districts
- q 34 Community College Districts
- q 154 cities
- q 1 County Board of Supervisors
- q 35 water and other special districts.

q Cases So Far:

- q Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica went to trial on the merits. Palmdale and Santa Clara lost. Santa Monica is awaiting a decision.
- q Modesto and Palmdale each spent about \$1.8 million on their defense (in addition to the attorney fee awards in those cases).
- q Santa Monica has spent an estimated \$7 million so far. Plaintiffs in Santa Monica requested \$22 million in legal fees after the original trial.

q Key settlements:

- q Palmdale: \$4.7 million
 - q Modesto: \$3 million
 - q Highland: \$1.3 million
 - q Anaheim: \$1.1 million
 - q Whittier: \$1 million
 - q Santa Barbara: \$600,000
 - q Tulare Hospital: \$500,000
 - q Camarillo: \$233,000
 - q Compton Unified: \$200,000
 - q Madera Unified: about \$170,000
 - q Hanford Joint Union Schools: \$118,000
 - q Merced City: \$42,000
- q An estimated \$16 million in total settlements and court awards so far.

Districting Process

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings Nov. 18 & Dec. 2	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
Release draft maps <i>By Jan. 6</i>	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3 rd hearing.
Two hearings on draft maps Jan. 13 & Feb. 10	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Map adoption By April 17, 2022	Map adopted via ordinance. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.

Districting Rules and Goals

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
Minimize voters shifted to different election years
Preserving the core of existing election areas

Demographic Summary

Central Fire District

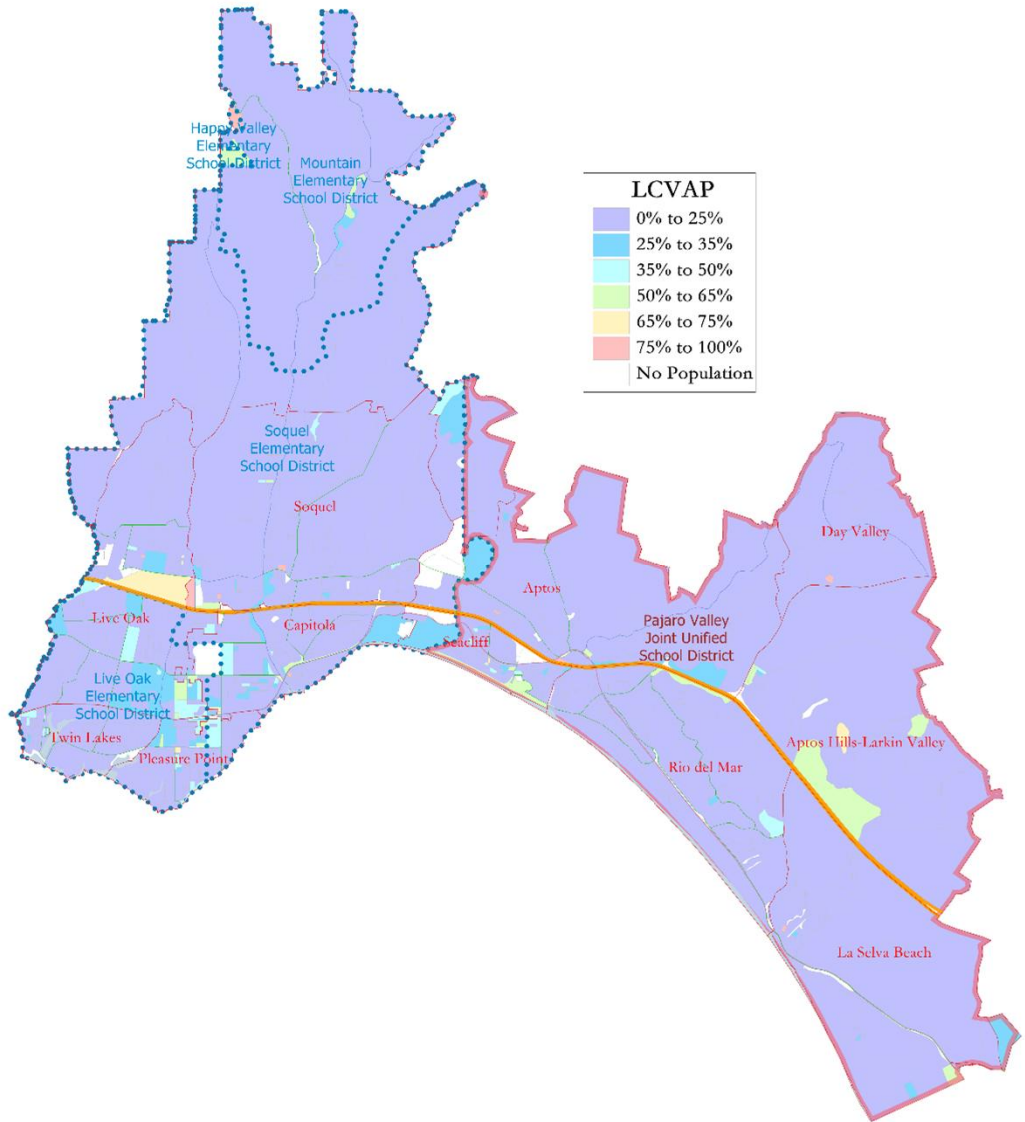
Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	76,649
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	22%
	NH White	67%
	NH Black	1%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	7%
	NH Native Amer.	2%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	59,107
	Hisp	14%
	NH White	79%
	NH Black	1%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	5%
	Native Amer.	1%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	56,020
	Latino est.	12%
	Spanish-Surnamed	11%
	Asian-Surnamed	2%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%
	NH White est.	85%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total	49,328
	Latino est.	11%
	Spanish-Surnamed	11%
	Asian-Surnamed	2%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%
	NH White est.	85%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2018)	Total	38,360
	Latino est.	10%
	Spanish-Surnamed	9%
	Asian-Surnamed	2%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%
	NH White est.	87%
	NH Black est.	1%

Category	Field	Total
Age	age0-19	21%
	age20-60	51%
	age60plus	28%
Immigration	immigrants	12%
	naturalized	48%
Language spoken at home	english	80%
	spanish	15%
	asian-lang	2%
	other lang	3%
Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	6%
Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	36%
	bachelor	27%
	graduatedegree	19%
Child in Household	child-under18	25%
Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	62%
Household Income	income 0-25k	13%
	income 25-50k	16%
	income 50-75k	14%
	income 75-200k	41%
	income 200k-plus	15%
Housing Stats	single family	78%
	multi-family	22%
	rented	36%
	owned	64%

Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2015-2019 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data. Turnout and Registration data from California Statewide Database ("Latino" figures calculated by NDC using Census Bureau's Latino undercount by surname estimate).

Latino CVAP

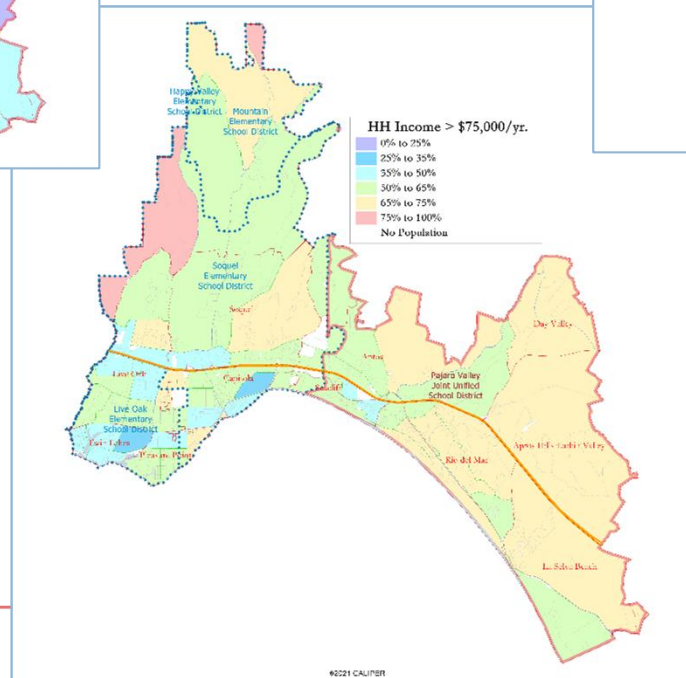
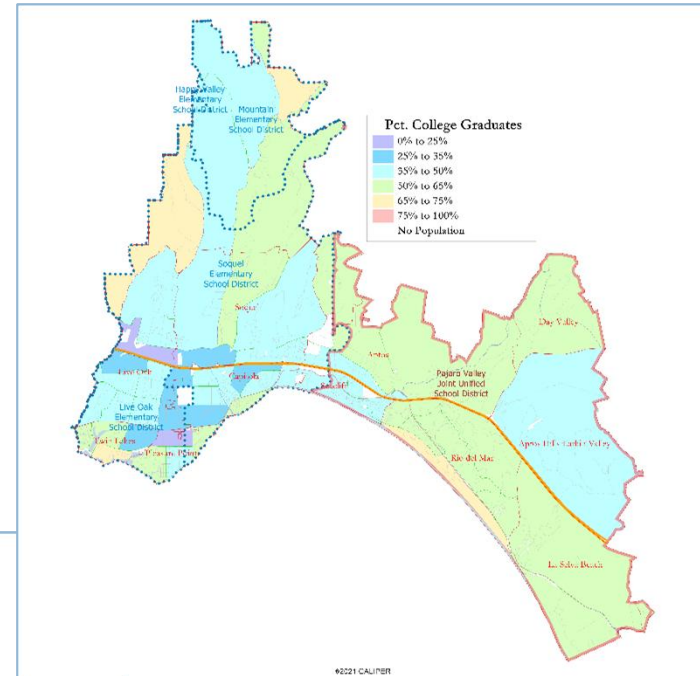
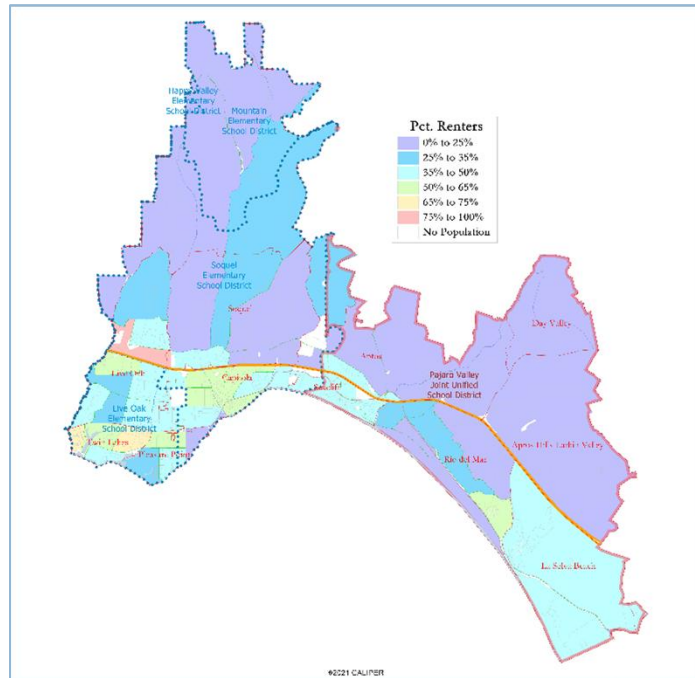
Latinos are slightly concentrated in the west, but there are no large concentrations of majority-Latino blocks.



There are no geographic concentrations of Asian-Americans, African-Americans, or Native Americans.

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Other Socio-Economic Demographics



Communities of Interest

1st Question: What is your neighborhood or community of interest?

- q Shared issue or characteristic
- q Shared social or economic interest
- q Impacted by county policies
- q Tell us “your community’s story”

2nd Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

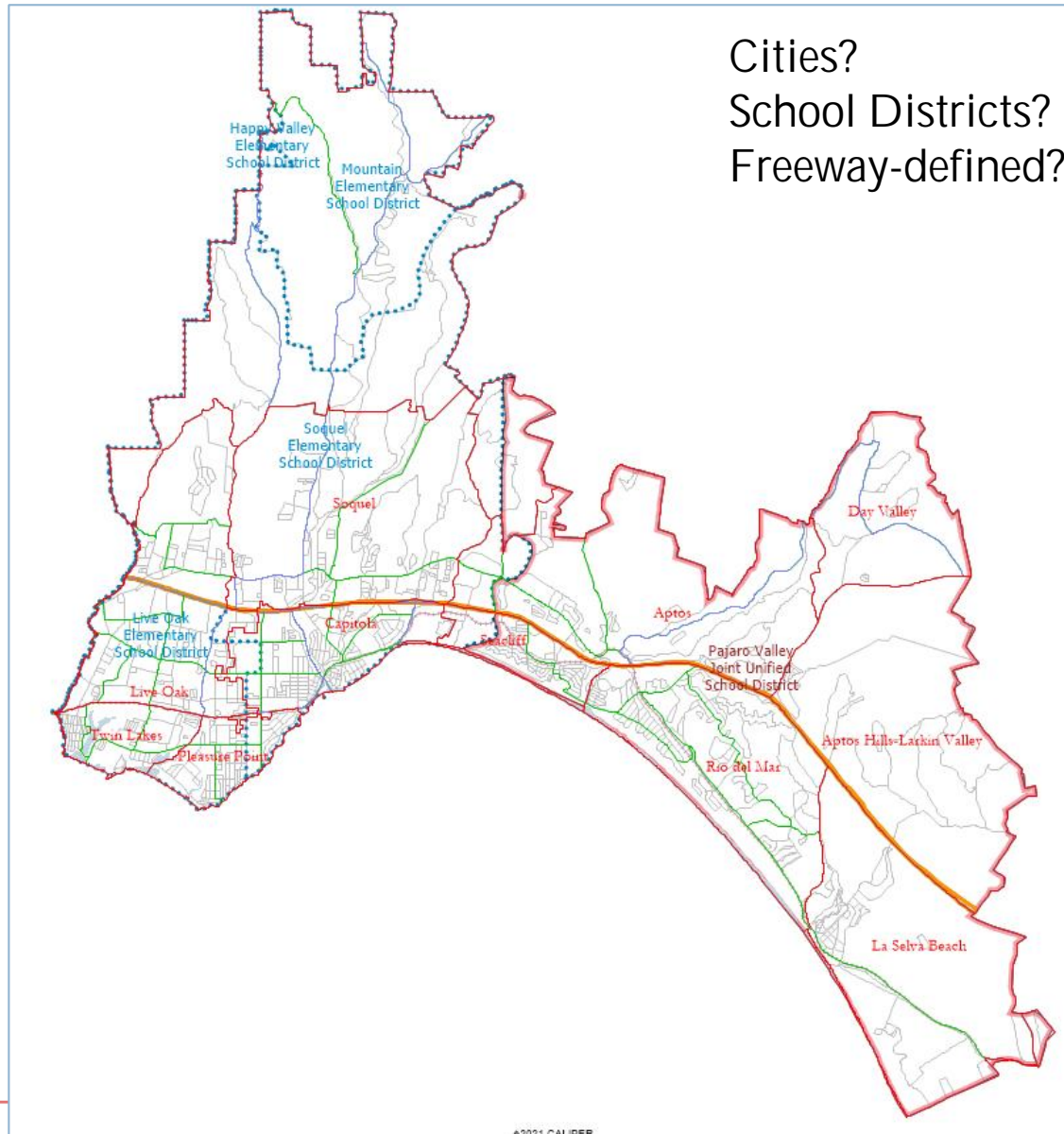
Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

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

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



Possible Communities of Interest



Public Hearing & Discussion

What is your community of interest and what are its boundaries?

Would you prefer your community of interest be in one election division, or that it have multiple representatives on the Board?