Rancho Cordova
Introduction to Districting

August 7, 2023

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.

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Topics <u>Not</u> Covered in Districting

- Term Limits

- Council pay

- Full- vs Part-time Council

- "Strong Mayor" form of government

Any of these topics would be a separate agenda item and adoption process.

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California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

□ 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:

    ◘ ~~Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~

    ◘ Does the protected class vote as a bloc?

    ◘ Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?

    ◘ ~~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 275 school districts
  - 36 Community College Districts
  - 191 cities
  - 1 County Board of Supervisors
  - 53 water and other special districts.

- Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica fought "on the merits." All lost.
  - Santa Monica and Santa Clara are appealing.
  - Palmdale spent about $1.8 million, Santa Clara about $800,000, and Santa Monica between $5 and $8 million, just on their defense.
  - Santa Monica plaintiffs requested $22 million
  - No jurisdiction has won a case.

- Key settlements:
  - Palmdale: $4.7 million
  - Santa Clara: $3.16 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

Districting Process

Step	Description
Hearing 1 August 7	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
Community Forum August 10	Informal discussion of process, mapping tools, neighborhoods and communities of interest.
Hearing 2 August 14	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
Initial Map Deadline August 18	Initial deadline for residents to submit draft maps for Council consideration at the August 29 hearing.
Draft Maps Posted August 22	All draft maps must be posted on the project website 7 days in advance of the August 29 hearing.
Hearing 3 August 29	First Council consideration of draft maps.
Community Forum August 30	Informal discussion of draft maps.
Final Map Submission Deadline September 7	Deadline for residents to submit draft maps for Council consideration at the September 18 hearing.
All Draft Maps Posted September 11	All draft maps must be posted on the project website 7 days in advance of the September 18 hearing.
Hearing 4 and Map Selection September 18	Council consideration of draft maps, selection of preferred map and election sequence, and introduction of ordinance adopting the map.
Hearing 5 and Map adoption October 2	Public hearing followed by second reading of the ordinance adopting the map.

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Districting Rules and Goals

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)

Prohibited: "Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party."

3. Other Traditional Districting Principles

Respect voters' choices / continuity in office

Future population growth

Demographic Summary

The ideal population is the total population divided by the number of districts:

# Districts	Ideal Pop.
4	19,911
5	15,929
6	13,274
7	11,378
8	9,955
9	8,849

Category	Field	Total		Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	79,643			age0-19	28%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	22%		Age	age20-60	55%
	NH White	45%			age60plus	17%
	NH Black	11%		Immigration	immigrants	24%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	19%			naturalized	61%
	NH Native Amer.	2%			english	65%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	51,505		Language spoken at home	spanish	12%
	Hisp	16%			asian-lang	9%
	NH White	54%			other lang	14%
	NH Black	13%		Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	16%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	15%		Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	61%
	Native Amer.	1%			bachelor	19%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	42,812			graduatedegree	8%
	Latino est.	15%		Child in Household	child-under18	37%
	Spanish-Surnamed	14%		Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	67%
	Asian-Surnamed	6%		Household Income	income 0-25k	14%
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%			income 25-50k	17%
	NH White est.	65%			income 50-75k	18%
	NH Black	11%			income 75-200k	44%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total	33,951			income 200k-plus	7%
	Latino est.	13%		Housing Stats	single family	74%
	Spanish-Surnamed	13%			multi-family	26%
	Asian-Surnamed	6%			rented	44%
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%			owned	56%
	NH White est.	66%				
	NH Black	11%				
Voter Turnout (Nov 2018)	Total	22,072				
	Latino est.	12%				
	Spanish-Surnamed	11%				
	Asian-Surnamed	5%				
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%				
	NH White est.	69%				
	NH Black est.	11%				

Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2017-2021 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.

Protected Class Concentrations

Asian-Americans are concentrated around Stone Creek and Tuscany Parks and around Anatolia.

Latinos and African-Americans are not geographically concentrated.
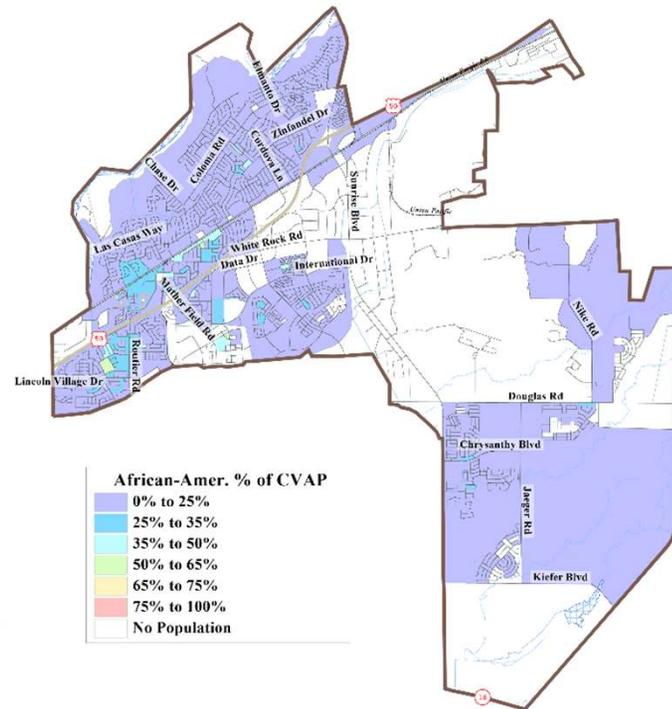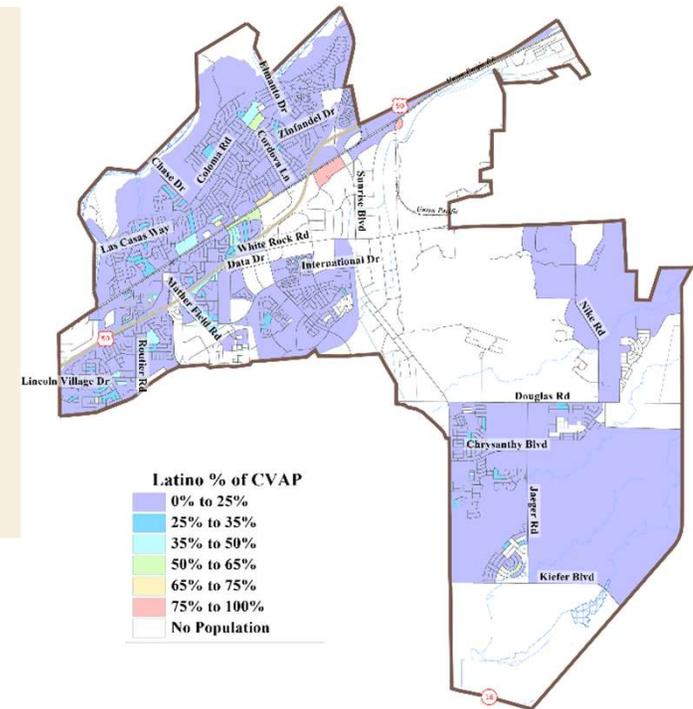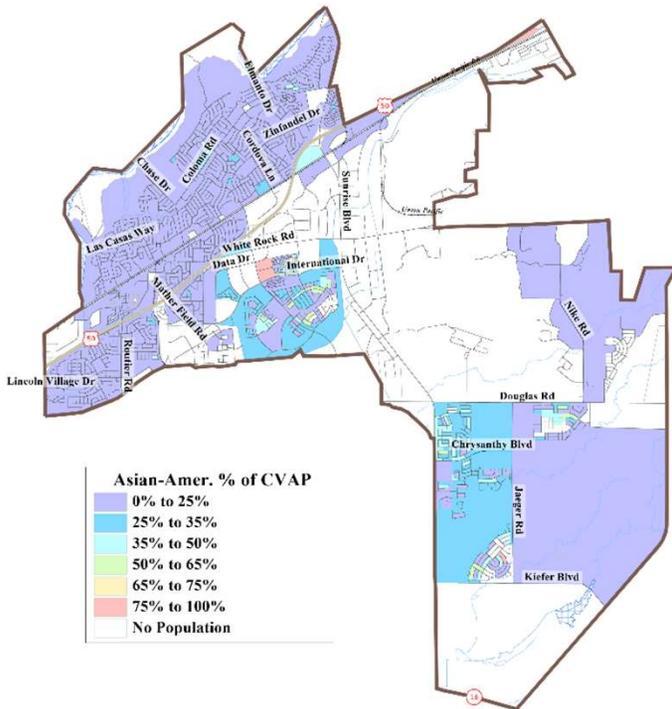
Defining Neighborhoods

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 or schools

- Other neighborhood landmarks

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

Beyond Neighborhoods:
Defining Communities of Interest

1st Question: What defines your community?

- Geographic Area, plus

- Shared issue or characteristic

  - Shared social or economic interest

  - Impacted by city policies

- Tell us "your community's story"

2nd Question: Would this community benefit from being "included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation"?

- Or would it benefit more from having multiple representatives?

Definitions of Communities of Interest may <u>not</u> include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Project Website

Public Mapping and Map Review Tools

- **Different tools for different purposes**

- **Different tools for different levels of technical skill and interest**
  - Simple "review draft maps" tool
  - Easy-to-use one-page paper mapping tool
  - Powerful, data-rich "Draw a draft map" online tool

Whether you use the powerful online mapping tool, the paper tool, or just draw on a napkin, we welcome your maps!

Simple Map Review Tool

Online Interactive Review Map

- ESRI's "ArcGIS Online" – similar to Google Maps in ease of use

- Used to review, analyze and compare maps (not to create them)

- Includes overlays of "community of interest" and other data
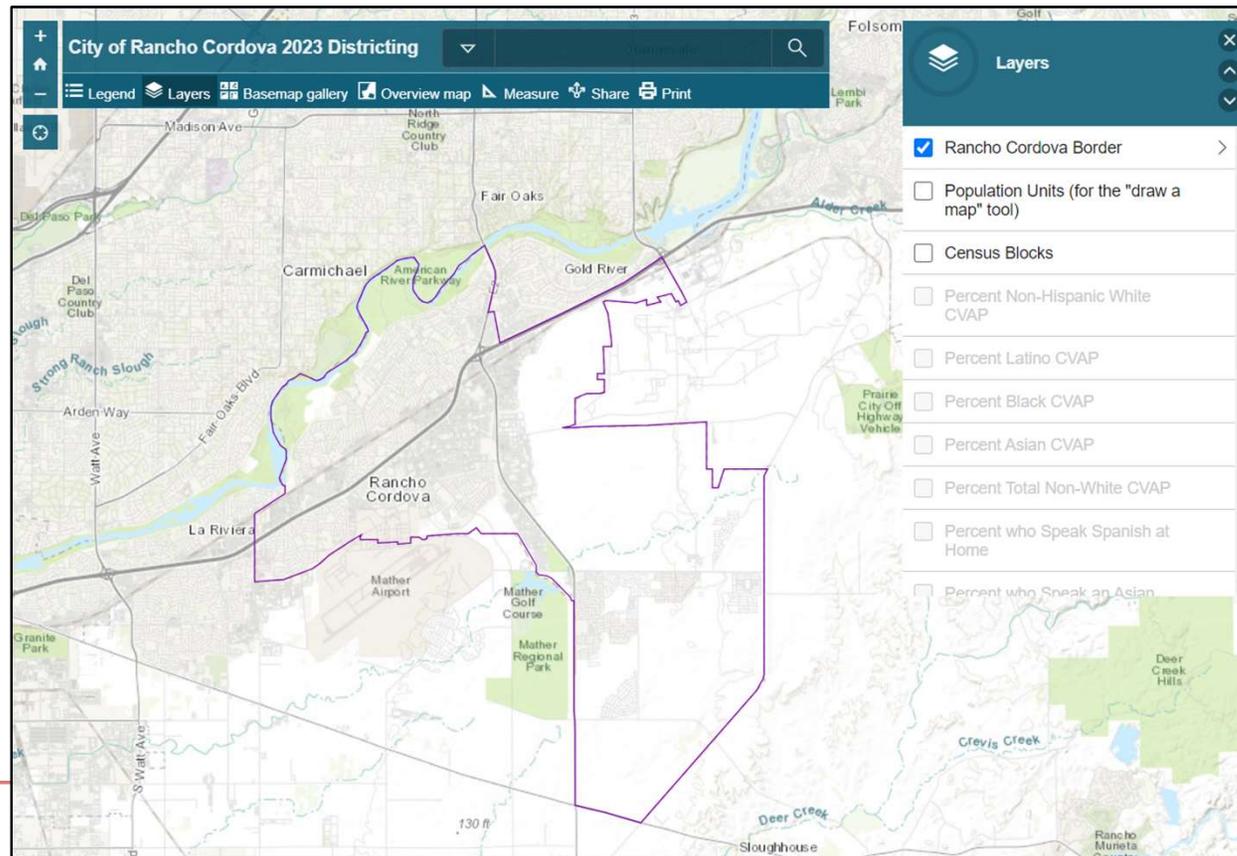
Simple Map Drawing Tool

Paper "Public Participation Kit"

- For those without internet access or who prefer paper

- Total Population Counts only – no demographic numbers

Online Map Drawing Tool

Simple "paintbrush & eraser" tool. A 4-minute "how-to" video is on the website.

- Full demographic data available

- Create, collaborate and share your map

- Remember: you must send in the link to your map when you finish or the City has no way to know you drew a map!
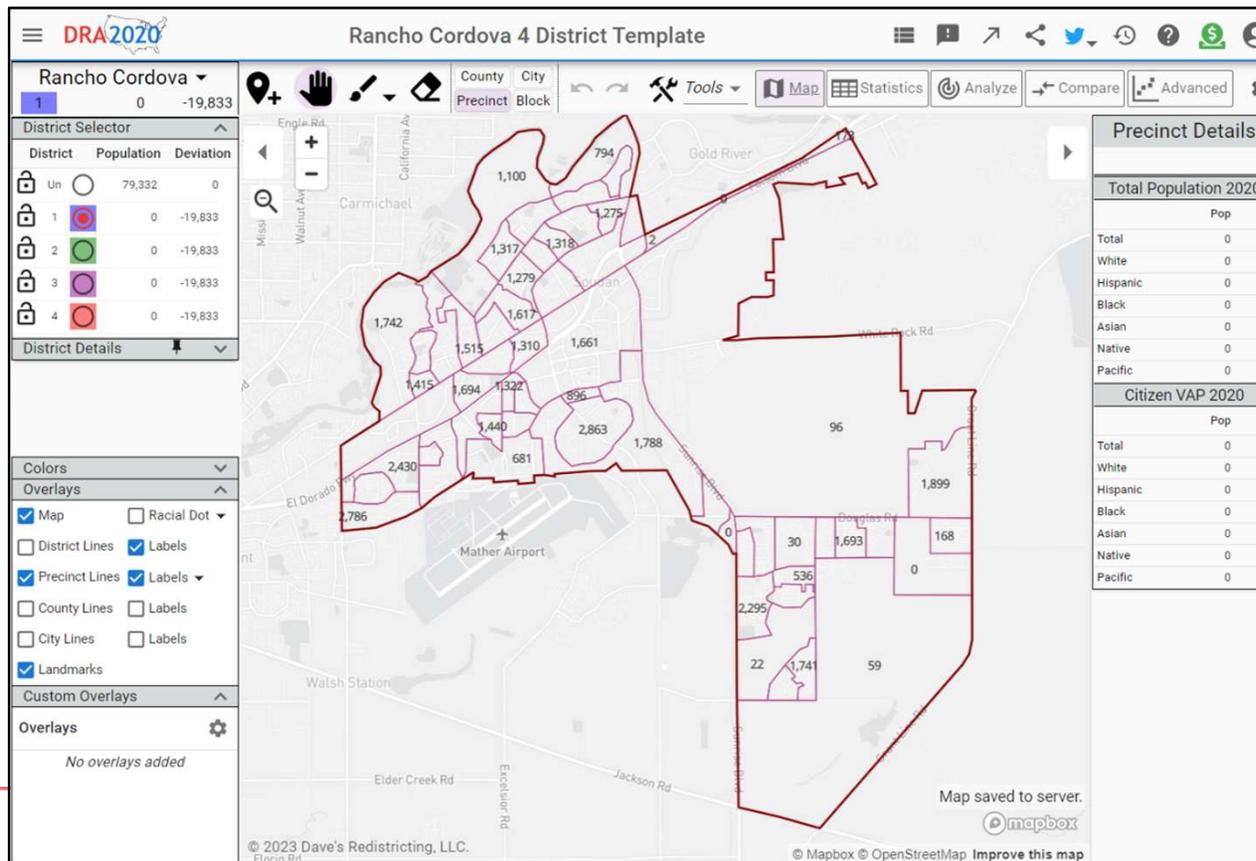
Public Hearing & Discussion

Public Hearing Questions:

☐ What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?

☐ Any preferences on the number of districts and a rotating or citywide-elected Mayor?

☐ Any questions about the mapping tools?

Requested Council Direction:

☐ Direction on the number of districts and a rotating or citywide-elected Mayor.

  ◻ General law cities can have 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 districts

  ◻ Even numbers of districts have a citywide-elected Mayor; Odd numbers of districts have a rotating Mayor

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