



City of California City

Community Outreach
March 11, 2025



Agenda

Things we will cover:

- What is Districting
- What is the CVRA
- Public Hearing Schedule
- Traditional Districting/Redistricting Principles
- Communities of Interest
- How to Get Involved
- California City's population data

What is Districting

Definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries.

These boundaries determine:

- Eligibility to run for office – must live within boundaries to qualify for election.
- Who votes in the election – only residents within the election-district may vote for their council member.

What is the CVRA?

Definition

The California Voting Rights Act is a state law that prohibits the use of *at-large* elections systems in local government if there is *racially polarized voting*.

“At Large” is defined as anything other than a system in which an elected official lives in a district, and is only elected by members of that district.

“Racially Polarized Voting” is defined as differences in voting patterns which can be shown to be correlated to race, religion, national origin, or membership in any other protected class.

What is the CVRA?

Definition

The California Voting Rights Act takes the principles of the Federal Voting Rights Act and expands it regarding districted elections in two key ways:

- While Federal law uses “majority minority” districts as a standard for vulnerability, the CVRA only requires “ability to influence.”
- The CVRA requires that plaintiffs get full reimbursement for legal fees associated with any successful challenge. *These can be lessened or eliminated if the district follows a strict and prompt process for districting, call “safe harbor provisions.”*

What is the CVRA?

Safe Harbor Provisions

The *safe harbor provisions* of the CVRA requires jurisdictions to follow a minimum of:

- Five public meetings
 - First two meetings are devoted to educating the public and gathering public testimony
- Must be completed within 90 days

City of California City

First two meetings devoted to community of interest
information gathering and education on districting process

Proposed Schedule:

February 25, 2025

Public Hearing #1 (Pre-map)

March 11, 2025

Public Hearing #2 (Pre-map)

March 25, 2025

Public Hearing #3 (Post-map)

April 8, 2025

Public Hearing #4 (Post-map)

Potential Final Hearing:

April 16, 2025 – or –
April 22, 2025

Public Hearing #5: final vote

Required Districting Criteria

Traditional redistricting principles used throughout the country and written into state law

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

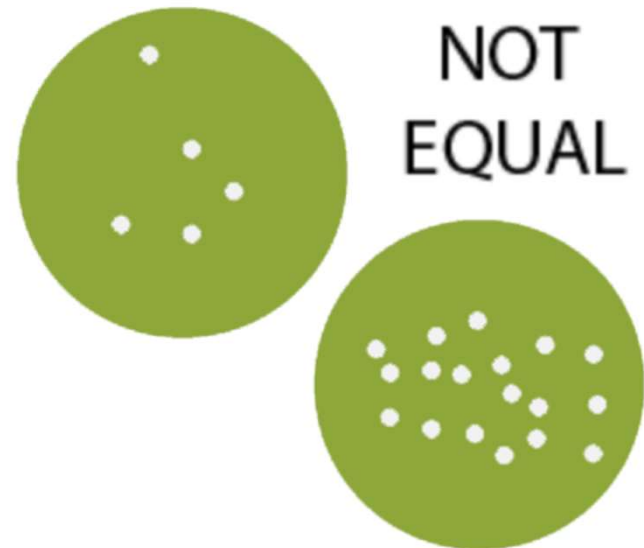
- **Relatively equal size - people, not citizens**
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following natural and man-made boundaries
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Equal Population

Utilizing the US Census Decennial File

What is “equal” population has been a key subject in districting litigation.

- Population Equality is based on “People” not citizens or voters or other metrics.
- 10% deviation presumed equal. Other agencies / states have different plan deviation requirements.



Required Districting Criteria

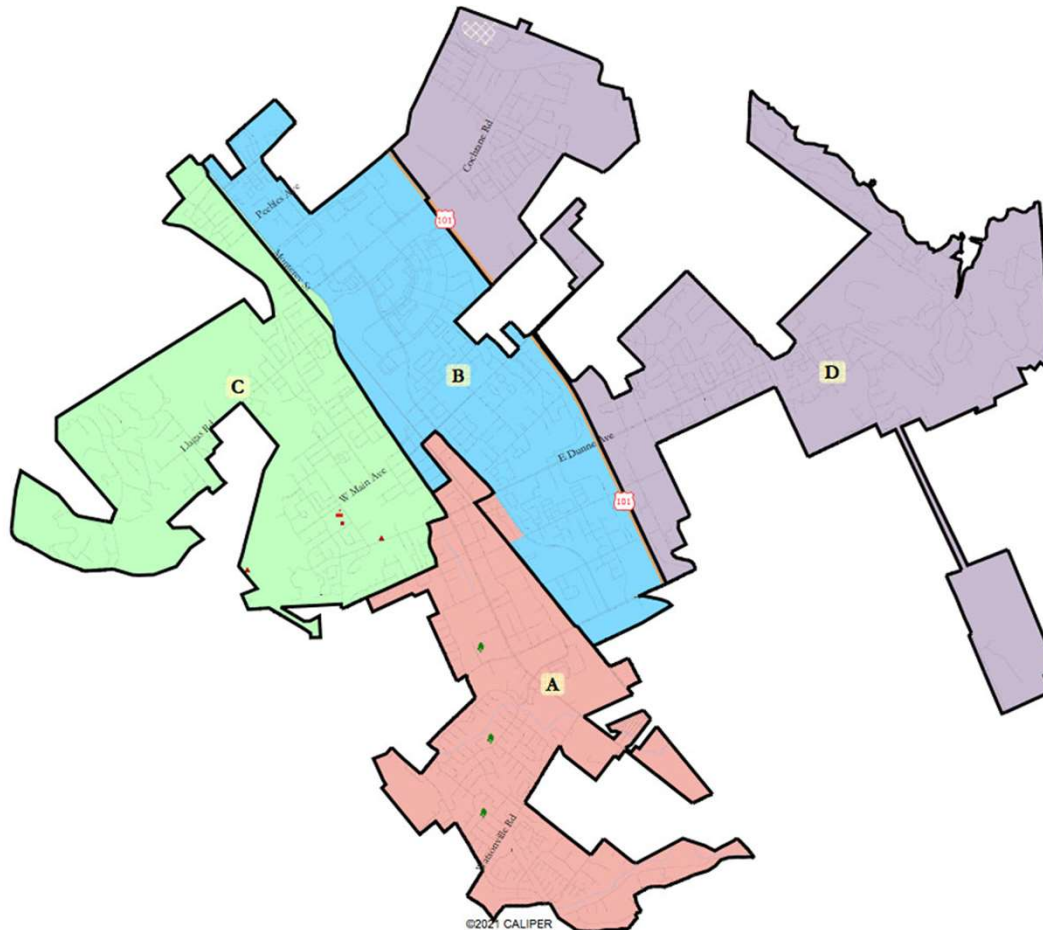
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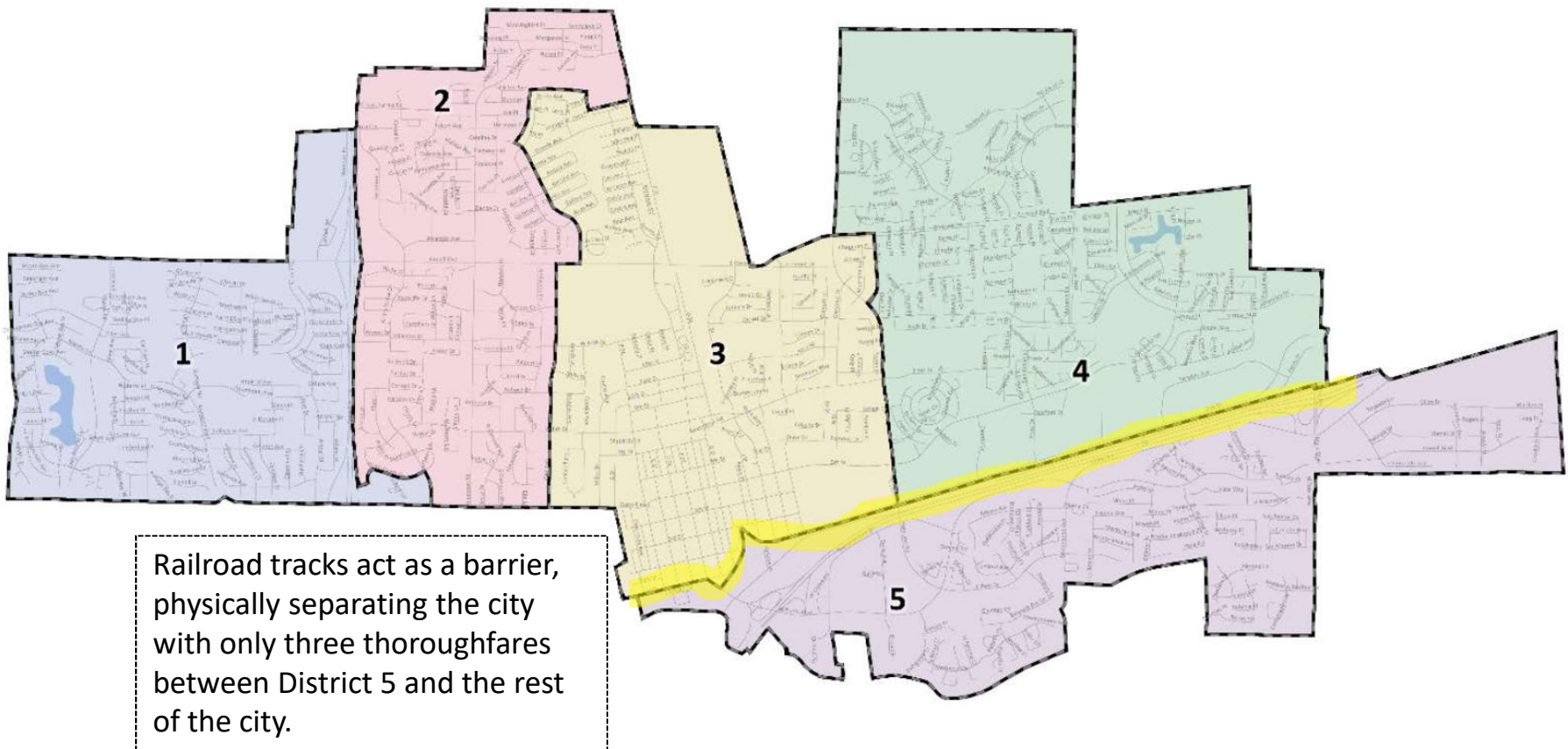
Contiguity

Determining what is “contiguous”



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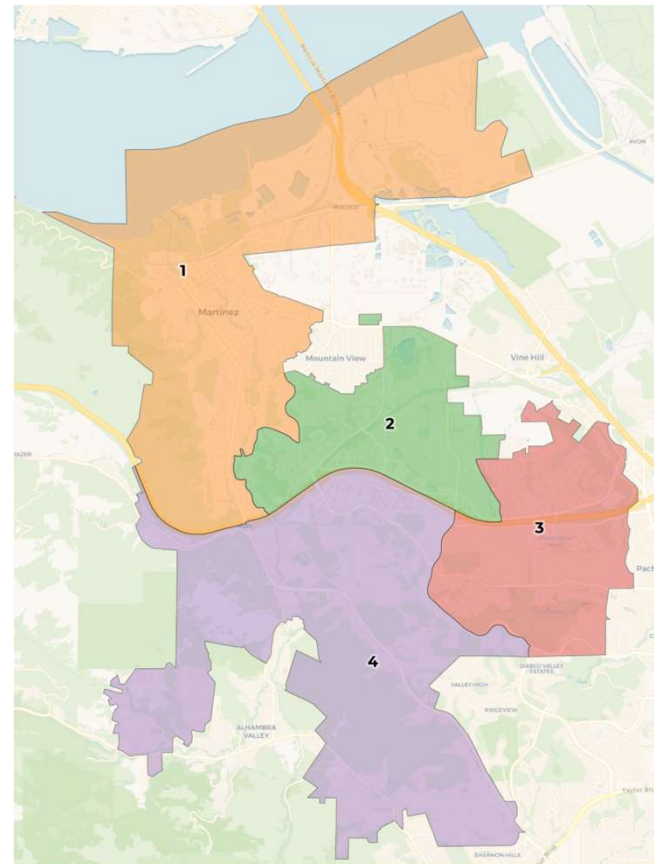
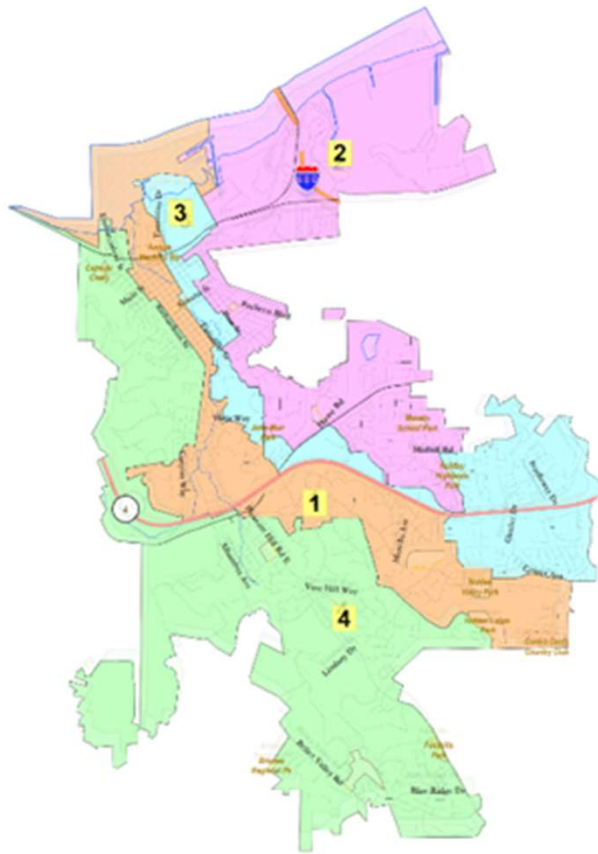
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Compactness

Determining what is “compact”



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Communities of Interest

As defined by the FAIR MAPS Act

A “**community of interest**” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single election district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

Characteristics include:

- shared public policy concerns
- public safety
- public health
- environment
- housing
- transportation
- cultural districts
- shared socioeconomic characteristics
- shared histories

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

Communities of interest are the building blocks of districts.

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Subjective
- Open-ended to be as inclusive as possible

Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act

- Latinos
- Asians
- African Americans

While communities of interest may include race, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing district boundaries.

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

- Historical communities
- Economic interests
- Racial composition
- Ethnic Areas
- Cultural amenities
- Religious facilities
- Immigrant communities
- Languages spoken
- Geographic features
- Neighborhoods
- Environmental Justice/ Health Equity
- Economic opportunity zones
- Tourism Areas
- School attendance areas
- Outdoor recreation areas
- Communities defined by natural resource features
- Downtown / Urban
- Rural or Agricultural
- Homeowner or Renters
- Creative arts communities
- Media markets
- *Many, many more*

What is NOT a Community of Interest

Preventing a Districting from Becoming a Gerrymander

The FAIR MAPS Act explicitly prohibits these groups from being considered as communities of interest

- Political party affiliation
- Incumbents
- Political candidates

It also is hard, in districting to truly consider:

- *Groups of similarly minded people who do not share a similar geographic location.*
- *Communities of Interest that are citywide.*

Communities of Interest

Three Critical Questions in Defining YOUR Community

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped?
- How would you describe the community's relationship with the jurisdiction, and how is your community affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials?

How to Get Involved

Submitting Your COI Form

Input can be provided in public hearings or using our “Community of Interest Survey Form” on the City’s website.



Tell Us About Your Community

Help shape the future of California City's City Council Districts

City Council has begun the process of transitioning to district elections. The U.S. Census data will be used to balance the population of each City Council District.

One of the primary goals of this process is to keep communities together within each district. That's why it is so important to hear from you! Complete this form to tell the City Council about your **community of interest** – so it can be preserved in the new district lines.

What is a Community of Interest?

A Community of Interest is a group of people in the same geographically definable area who share common social and economic interests. Some examples of Communities of Interest are:

- Senior citizens
- People who live downtown or in a neighborhood
- Rural areas
- Dog park community
- Residents who share a common language
- People that use the same transportation systems

How to Get Involved

The City is looking for two different types of maps from the public.

Maps from the public	
Community of Interest	Districted Plans Based on 2020 Data
Draw and document your community.	Draw your preferred districted map.
Let us know where your community is using specific street boundaries so we can avoid splitting it.	You can draw 1-4 election districts in accordance with how you think best represents the City.
Communities are better able to advocate and vote for their best interests when they remain together.	Maps drawn by the public often reflect logical boundaries based on the community, and many cities and districts prefer selecting a public map.

Communities of Interest

Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

The City of California City is using Districtr as a public mapping tool to allow residents to draw their own Communities of Interest and districted maps.



You draw the lines.



District Elections

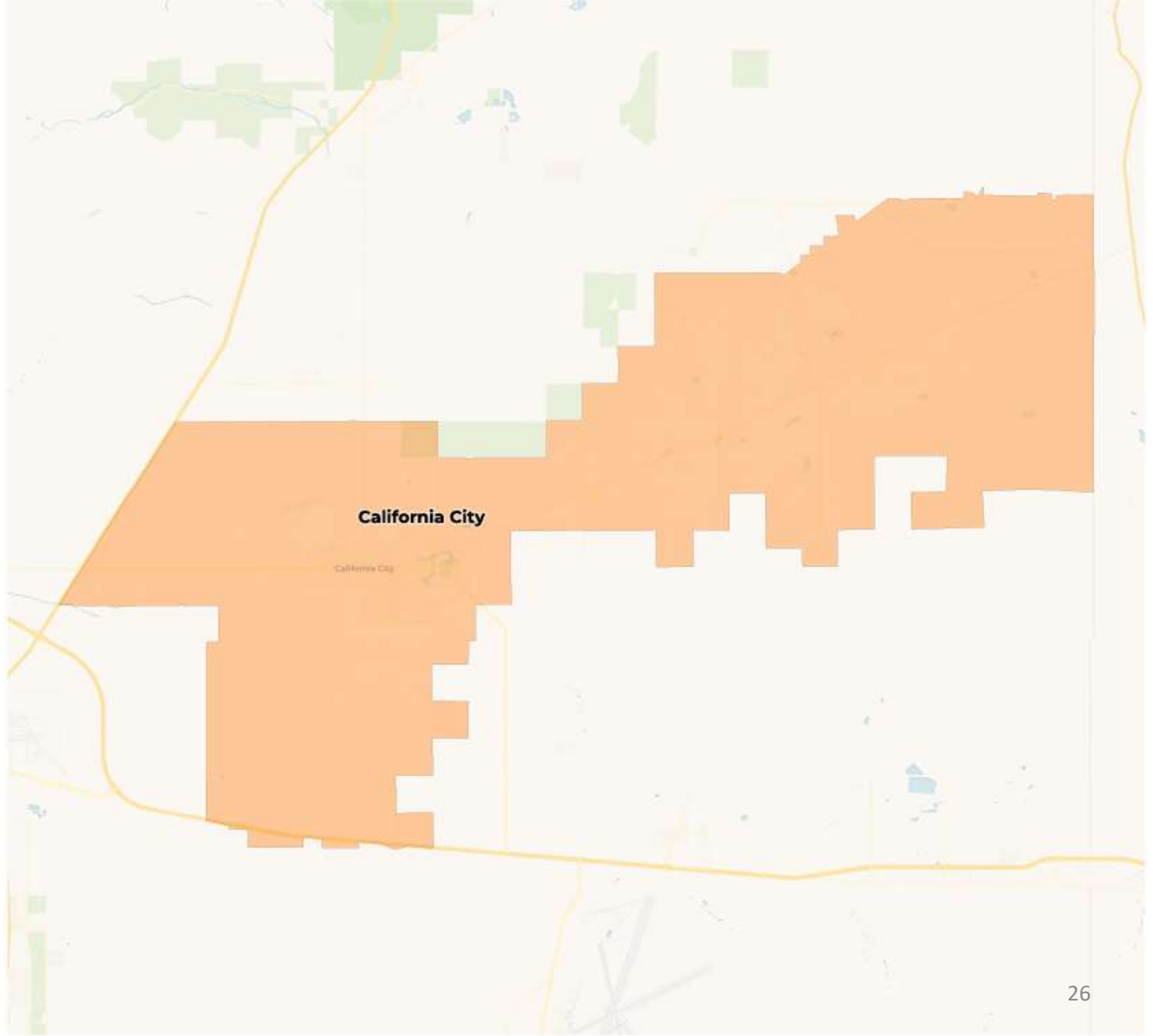
Background

The City of California City currently employs an at-large election system, in which voters of the entire City elect four City Council members and one Mayor. A district-base election is one in which the City is divided into separate districts, each with one City Council member who resides in the district and is chosen by the voters in that particular district. Once the transition away from at-large elections is completed, the district-election system will be phased in.

The City received a letter from a potential plaintiffs' (Southwest Voter Registration Education Project) attorney, Shenkman & Hughes PC ("Shenkman"), alleging a violation of the California Voting Rights Act (the "CVRA") and threatening litigation if the City declines to voluntarily change to a district-based election system for electing Councilmembers. The Council considered this threat of litigation at its January 28, 2025 meeting and Council gave direction to proceed with agendaizing the resolution of intent in order to have the option of taking advantage of the safe harbor provisions of Elections Code Section 10010, cap the City's potential attorneys' fees to Shenkman, and avoid costly litigation.

To stay up-to-date on the process, visit the City's website.

Website: <https://www.californiacity-ca.gov/CC/index.php/district-elections>



2020 Census

	California City
Population	12,971
Deviation	0
Deviation %	0.0%
Other	5,493
Other %	42.3%
Latino	4,237
Latino %	32.7%
Asian	350
Asian %	2.7%
Black	2,891
Black %	22.3%

Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

	California City
Total CVAP	9,166
Other CVAP	4,175
Other CVAP %	45.5%
Latino CVAP	2,565
Latino CVAP %	28.0%
Asian CVAP	124
Asian CVAP %	1.4%
Black CVAP	2,302
Black CVAP %	25.1%



REDISTRICTING PARTNERS