

CASCADE UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Introduction to Districting

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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)

- ❑ 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 and dilution of the protected class’s voting strength

CVRA Impact

- ❑ **Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:**
 - ❑ At least 240 school districts
 - ❑ 34 Community College Districts
 - ❑ 160+ cities
 - ❑ 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - ❑ Over 50 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 \$7 million so far. Plaintiffs in Santa Monica requested \$22 million in legal fees after the original trial.
- ❑ **Sample 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.**

Districting Process

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings January 10 & January 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held prior to release of draft maps• Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts
Release draft maps February 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3rd hearing
Two hearings on draft maps February 14 & February 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence
Map adoption March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map adopted via Resolution• Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption
County Committee Late March or mid-April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shasta County Committee on School District Organization• Public Hearing and Action

Districting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



2. California Criteria

In prioritized order:

- 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)

California Prohibition

“Shall not adopt election district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.”

Other Traditional Districting Principles

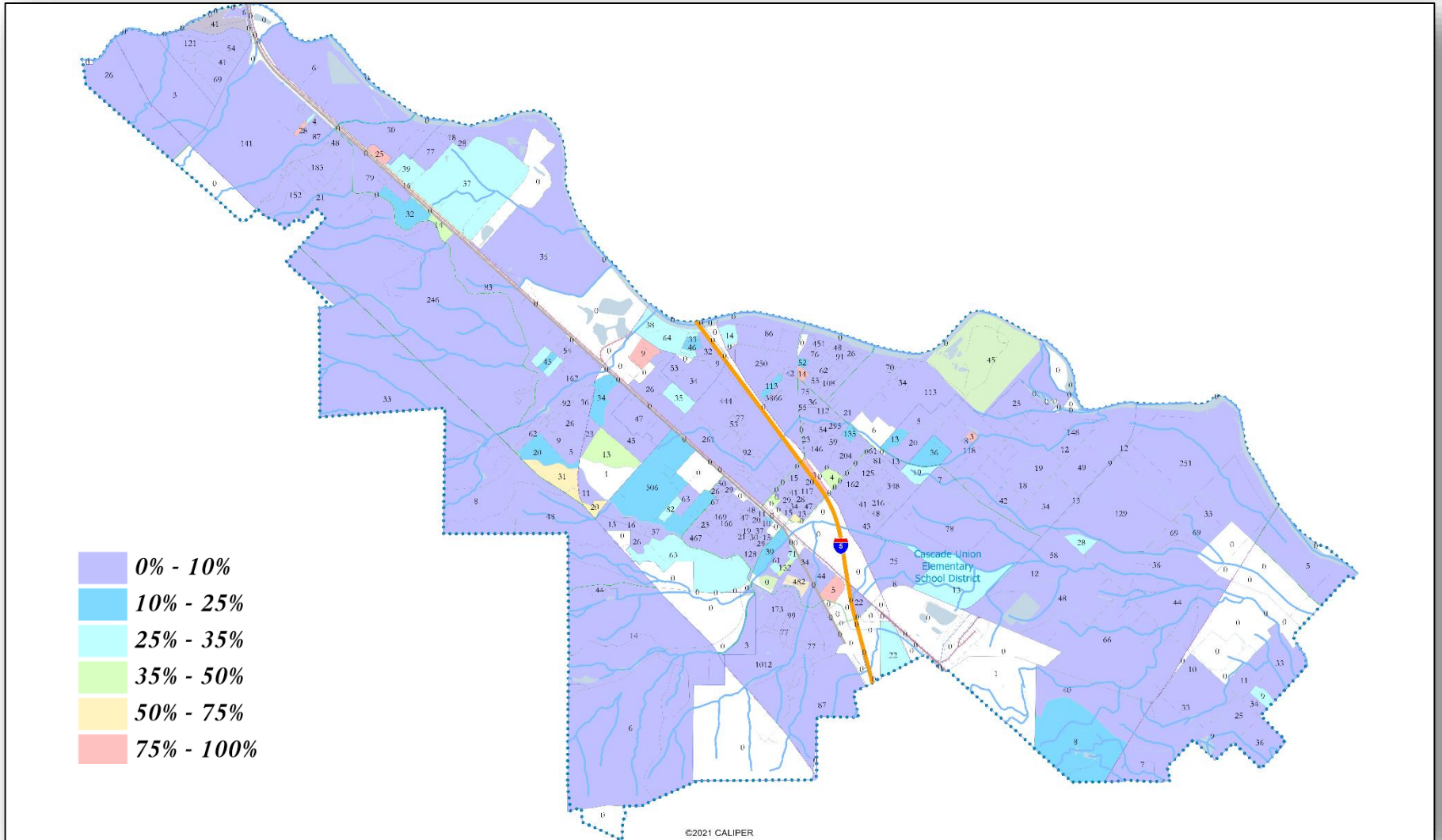
Future population growth

Demographic Summary

Each of the Trustee Areas must contain about 3,314 people.

Category	Field	Total	Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	16,571	Age	age0-19	27%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	15%		age20-60	48%
	NH White	71%		age60plus	25%
	NH Black	1%	Immigration	immigrants	6%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	5%		naturalized	43%
	NH Native Amer.	7%	Language spoken at home	english	89%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	12,079		spanish	10%
	Hisp	12%		asian-lang	1%
	NH White	80%		other lang	1%
	NH Black	1%	Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	4%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	2%		Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad
	Native Amer.	5%	bachelor		11%
Total	8,907	graduatedegree	4%		
Voter Registration (Nov 2022)	Latino est.	10%	Child in Household	child-under18	32%
	Spanish-Surnamed	9%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	53%
	Asian-Surnamed	1%		Household Income	income 0-25k
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%	income 25-50k		25%
	NH White est.	87%	income 50-75k		17%
	NH Black	1%	income 75-200k		26%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2022)	Total	4,929	income 200k-plus	3%	
	Latino est.	6%	Housing Stats	single family	76%
	Spanish-Surnamed	6%		multi-family	24%
	Asian-Surnamed	1%		rented	43%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%		owned	57%
	NH White est.	90%	Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	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.	
NH Black	1%				
Total	6,969				
Latino est.	7%				
Spanish-Surnamed	7%				
Asian-Surnamed	1%				
Filipino-Surnamed	1%				
NH White est.	89%				
NH Black est.	1%				

Latino CVAP



Defining Neighborhoods

- How do you describe or name the area where you live?
- What are its geographic boundaries?
- What other neighborhoods are there?

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
- School attendance boundaries
- Other neighborhood landmarks



Defining Communities of Interest

California Elections Code Section 21130(c)(2):

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.

The shared interests may include (but are not limited to):

- ❑ Shared public policy concerns such as education, public safety, public health, environment, housing, transportation, and access to social services. cultural districts;
- ❑ Shared socioeconomic characteristics;
- ❑ Similar voter registration rates and participation rates; and /or
- ❑ Shared histories.

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

Your Turn

- ❖ **What area do you consider your neighborhood?**
- ❖ **What are your “communities of interest”?**

For each answer, please provide:

- Geographic boundaries
- The history or defining shared characteristic of the area

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

- ❖ **Any other questions about the process, criteria, maps, or any other part of this process?**



Share Your Thoughts

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