IMPERIAL VALLEY HEALTHCARE 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.**

NDC

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 323 school districts
  - 46 Community College Districts
  - 198 cities
  - 1 County Board of Supervisors
  - Over 75 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 April 11 & 25	• Held prior to release of draft maps • Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts
Release draft maps May 2	• Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3rd hearing
Two hearings on draft maps May 9 & June 13	• Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence
Map adoption June 13	• Map adopted via Resolution • Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption

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. **Minimize divisions of neighborhoods and "communities of interest"**
   (Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)

3. **Minimize divisions of Cities and Census Designated Places**

4. **Easily identifiable boundaries**

5. **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."

AB918

"Provide for representation in accordance with demographic, including population, and geographic factors of the entire area of the district."

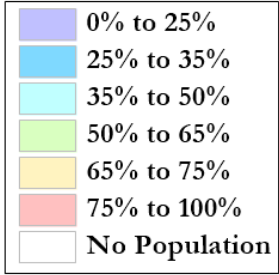### Other Traditional Districting Principles
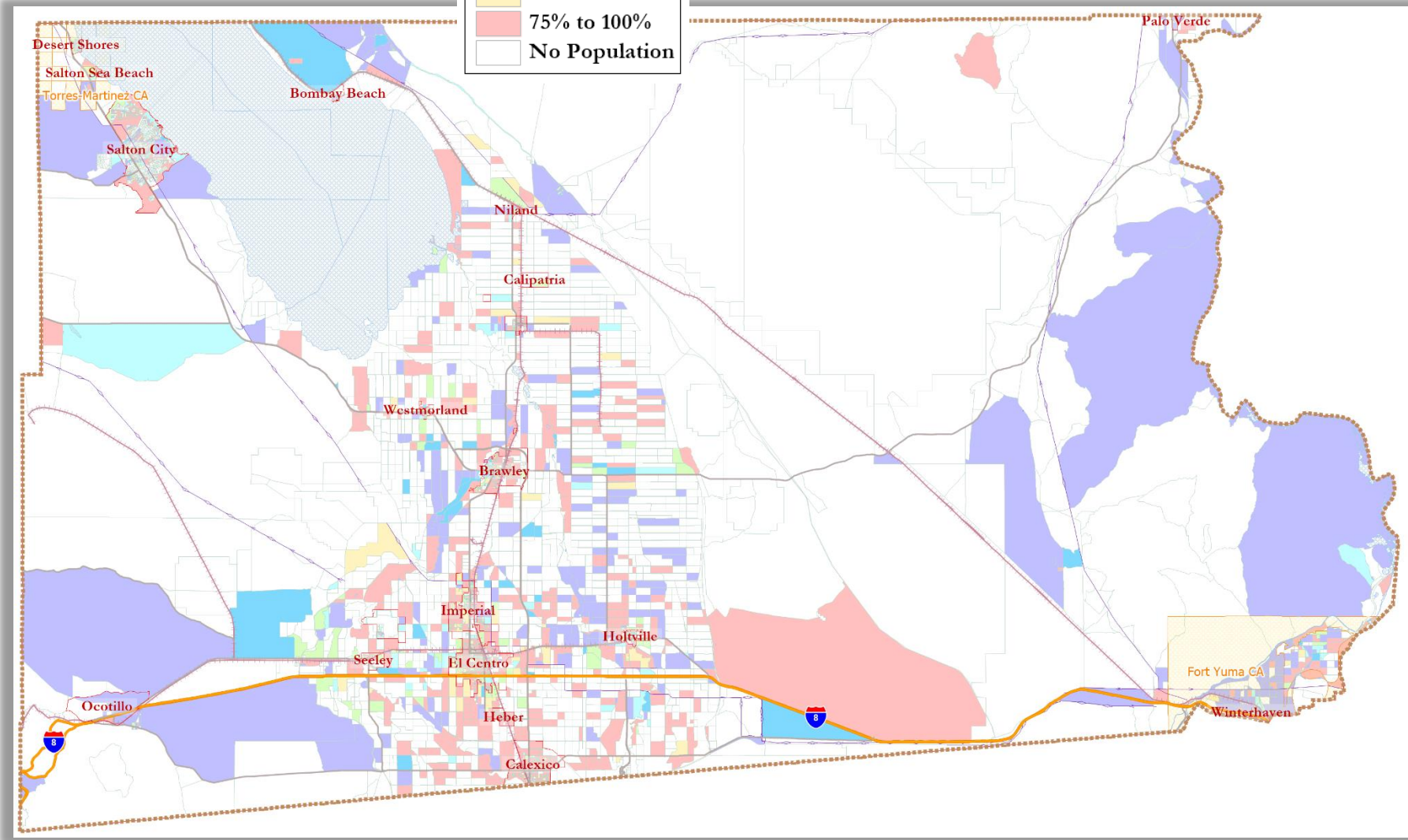
Future population growth

Demographic Summary

> **Each of the 7 divisions must contain about 24,804 people.**

Category	Field	Total		Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	173,626			age0-19	33%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	86%		Age	age20-60	49%
	NH White	9%			age60plus	19%
	NH Black	1%		Immigration	immigrants	31%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	2%			naturalized	53%
	NH Native Amer.	1%			english	25%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	103,583		Language spoken at home	spanish	74%
	Hisp	80%			asian-lang	1%
	NH White	14%			other lang	1%
	NH Black	4%		Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	36%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	1%		Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	55%
	Native Amer.	1%			bachelor	12%
Voter Registration (Nov 2022)	Total	86,852			graduatedegree	4%
	Latino est.	82%		Child in Household	child-under18	39%
	Spanish-Surnamed	73%		Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	47%
	Asian-Surnamed	1%		Household Income	income 0-25k	25%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%			income 25-50k	22%
	NH White est.	12%			income 50-75k	15%
	NH Black	1%			income 75-200k	33%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2022)	Total	29,997			income 200k-plus	5%
	Latino est.	72%		Housing Stats	single family	75%
	Spanish-Surnamed	65%			multi-family	25%
	Asian-Surnamed	1%			rented	42%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%			owned	58%
	NH White est.	20%				
	NH Black	2%				
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total	55,461				
	Latino est.	77%				
	Spanish-Surnamed	71%				
	Asian-Surnamed	1%				
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%				
	NH White est.	20%				
	NH Black est.	2%				

Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2018-2022 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

Legend:
- 0% to 25%
- 25% to 35%
- 35% to 50%
- 50% to 65%
- 65% to 75%
- 75% to 100%
- No Population

Latinos are a majority of CVAP in virtually all populated areas.

There are no geographic concentrations of Asian-American or African-American CVAP in the County.

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 <u>that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation</u>.**

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 <u>not</u> 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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