

City of Rohnert Park Districting Overview

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

2

- 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:
 - ~~1. Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~
 2. Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
 3. Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
 - ~~4. Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?~~
- Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting

- Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:
 - At least 202 school districts
 - 34 Community College Districts
 - 120 cities
 - 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - 15 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

Districing Process

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings Nov. 12 and Nov. 26	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the communities in the District. Hearings must be within 30 days of each other
Release draft maps	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3rd hearing.
Two Hearings on Draft Maps Dec. 10 and Jan. 14	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequencing. Hearings must be within 45 days of each other
Introduce Ordinance and Final Adoption Jan. 14 and Jan. 28	Map must be posted 7 days prior to adoption.
Election Day November 2020	First by-district election held in two districts.
Adjust Maps 2021	Map adjusted using 2020 Census data
Election Day November 2022	First by-district election held in remaining three districts.

Federal Laws

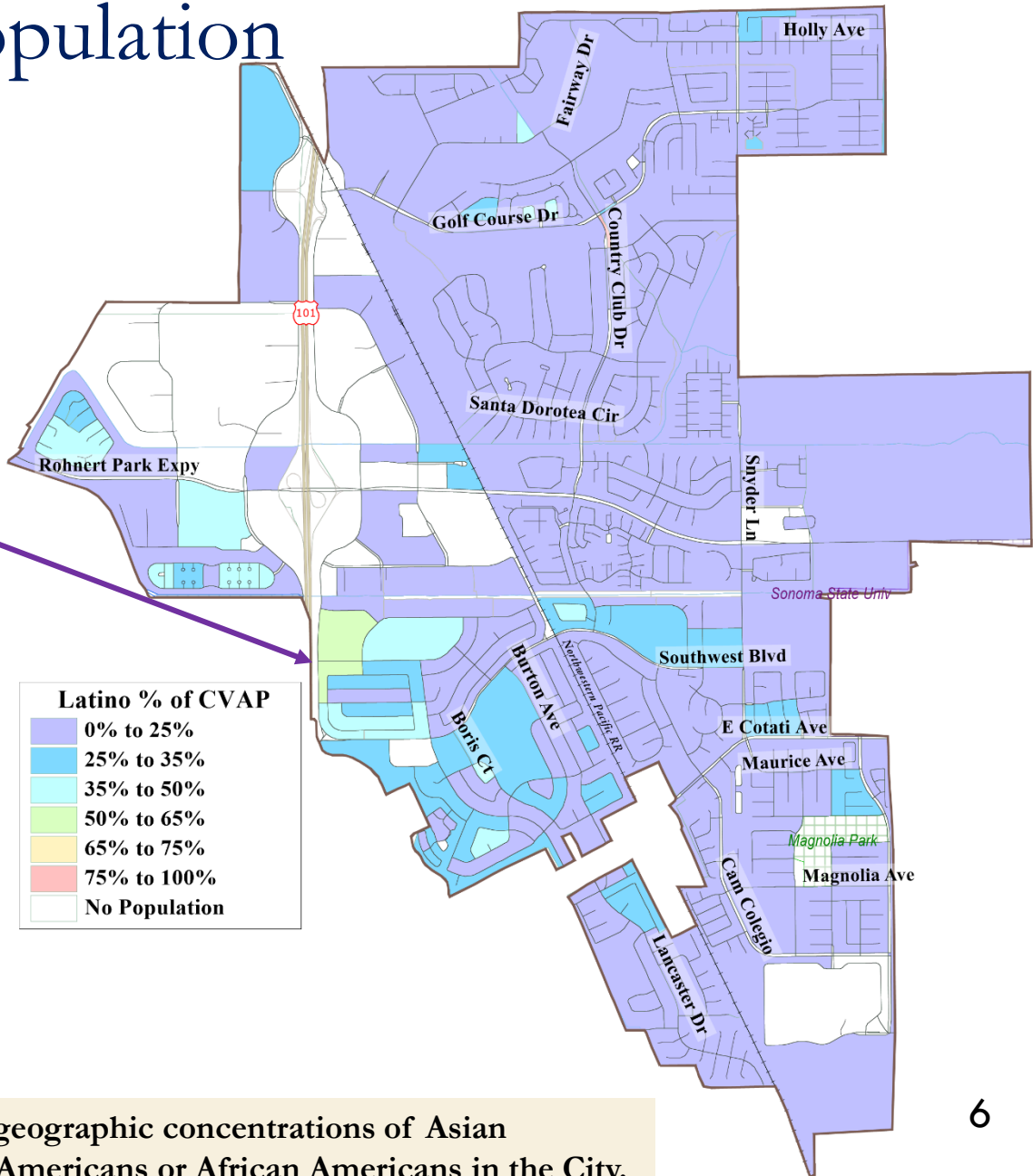
- ❑ Equal Population
- ❑ Federal Voting Rights Act
- ❑ No Racial Gerrymandering

Districting Criteria and Principles

- ❑ Geographically Contiguous
- ❑ Neighborhoods and Communities of interest
- ❑ Clear visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
- ❑ Compact (Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)
- ❑ Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
- ❑ Future Population Growth



Latino Population




There is a concentration of Latino eligible voters in a small area north of Southwest Blvd around John Reed Elementary School and Alicia Park.

There are no large geographic concentrations of Asian Americans, Native Americans or African Americans in the City.

Neighborhoods

7



Rohnert Park GIS Viewer
Hosted by the City of Santa Rosa

What do you consider the names and borders of the neighborhoods of Rohnert Park?

Home Tools

Pan Zoom In Zoom Out Full Extent Bookmarks Previous Extent Next Extent Identify Print Export Share

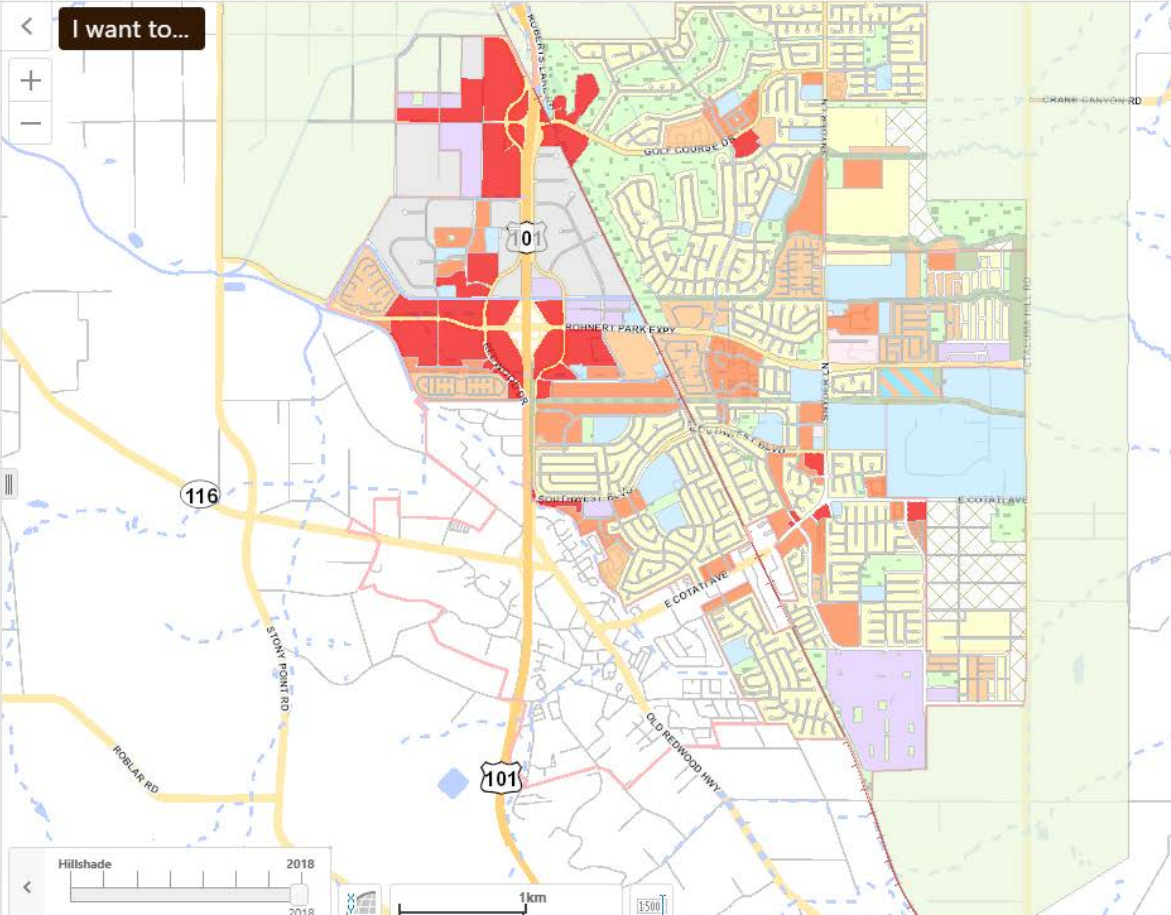
Navigation Find Data Tasks

Layers I want to...

Public Rohnert Park

Filter Layers... Filter

- Rural Estate Residential
- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- High Density Residential
- C-R/R-H
- Industrial
- Commercial - N
- Commercial - R
- Mixed Use
- Office
- Public/Institutional
- Parks/Recreation
- Open Space - Environmental Conservation
- Open Space - Agriculture and Resource Management
- Public/Institutional/Medium



Hillshade 2018

1km

7

What are “Communities of Interest” (beyond neighborhoods)?

“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.”

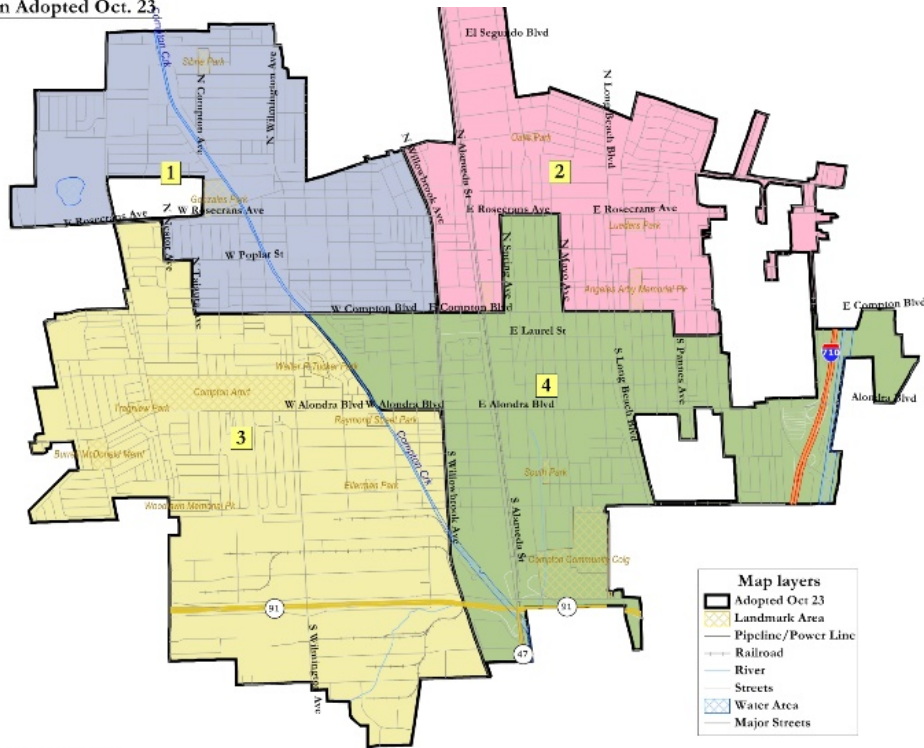
Possible examples include:

- ❑ Shared demographic characteristics
 - ▣ Such as similar levels of income, education, or linguistic isolation
- ❑ School attendance areas
- ❑ Areas around parks and other landmarks
- ❑ Common social or economic interests, such as downtown, commercial or industrial areas
- ❑ Traffic corridors

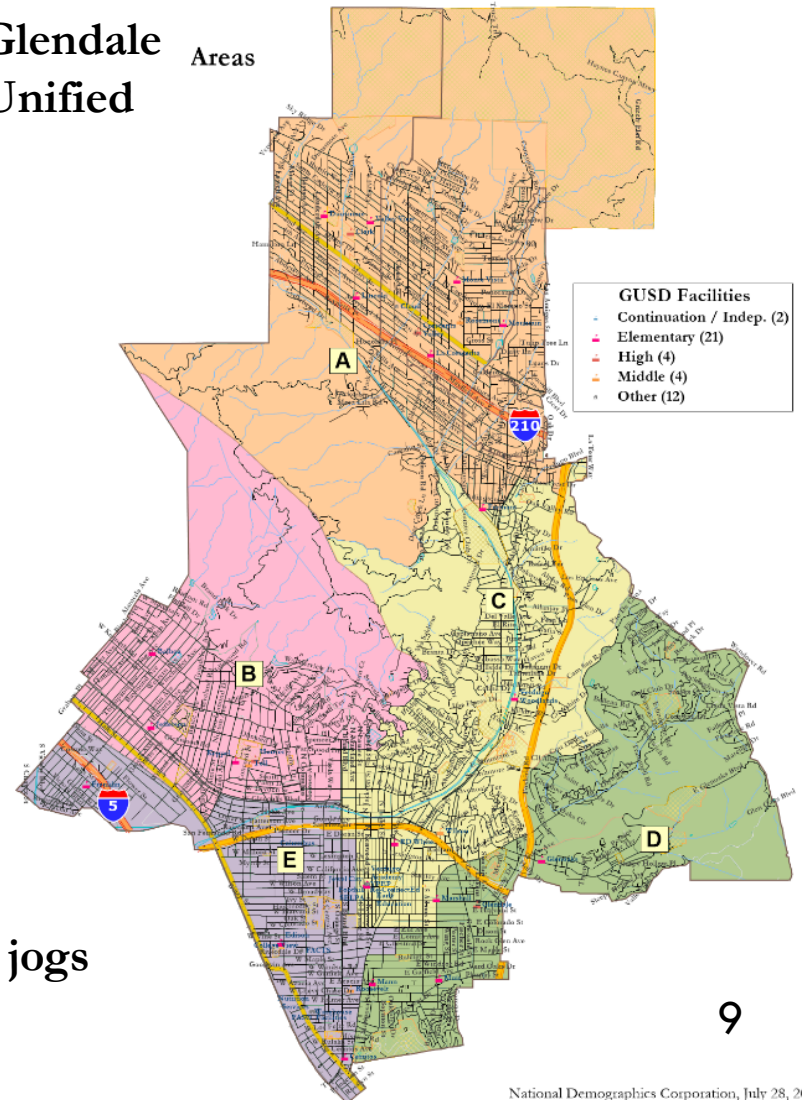
Sample Compact Maps

City of Compton
2012 Redistricting
Plan Adopted Oct. 23

Compton

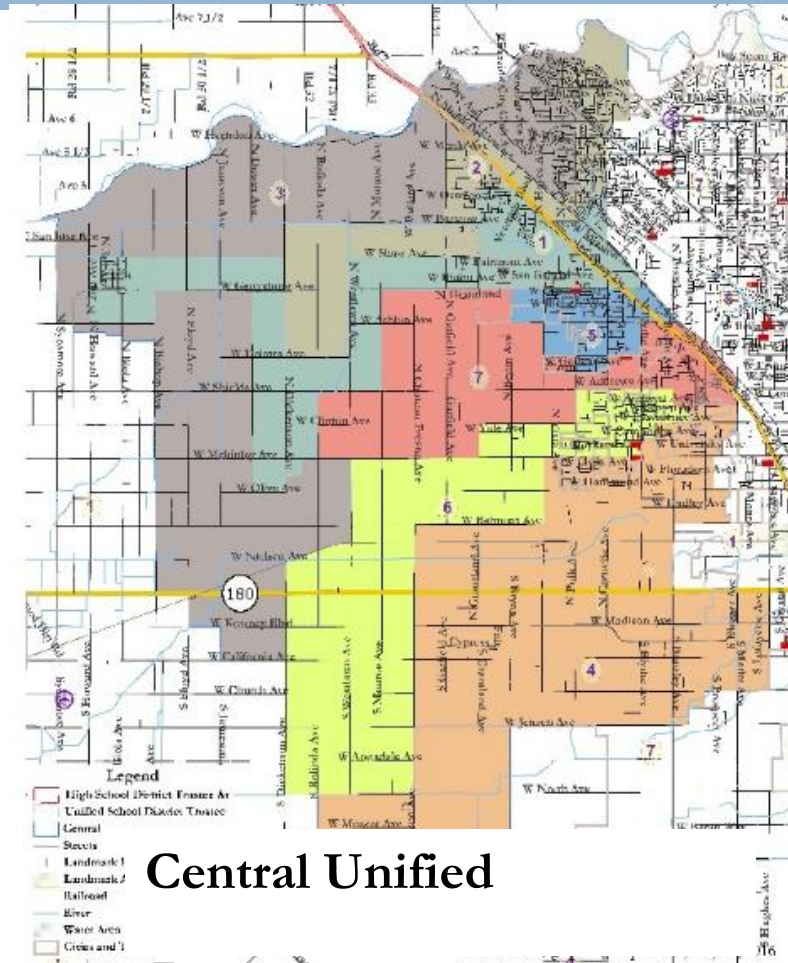
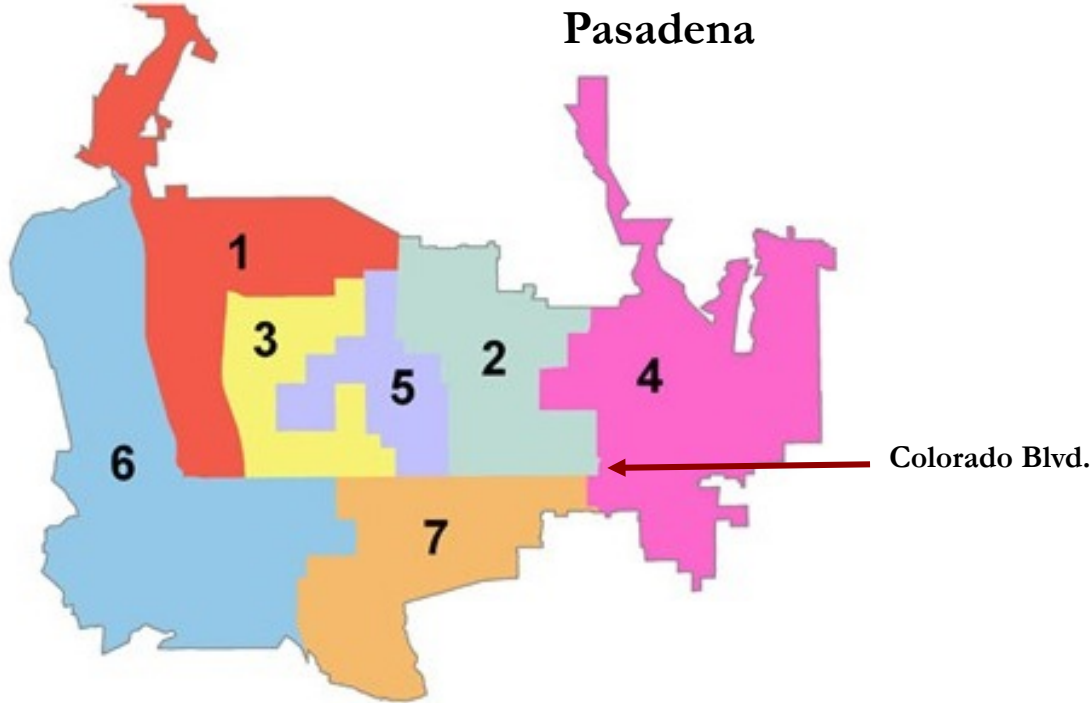


Glendale Unified Areas



Examples of highly compact maps, with nooks and jogs driven only by equal population requirements.

Sample Less-Compact Maps



Examples of maps where a desire to have all members touch downtown (Pasadena) or rural areas and attendance zones (Central), led to policy-driven but non-compact maps.

- Questions about process or criteria?
- What are the neighborhoods of the city?
- What are the communities of interest in the city?
 - ▣ Which communities of interest should be kept whole in one district?

