Redistricting

Rohnert Park
Education and Public Input

Actions Requested

Conduct first of two public hearings to receive input on the composition of voting districts before maps are drafted

Request any additional information needed from staff and/or the demographer before the next public hearing to facilitate providing direction on creation of draft plans

Timeline

| Hearing	Purpose	Date
1	• Education • Public input	October 26
2	• Public input • Initial direction	January 11
3	• Review plans (public & draft) • Provide additional direction	February 8
4	• Review or further revise plans • Select final plan	March 8

What is Redistricting?

Members elected from districts

Populations shift over time

Redistricting the act of
redrawing those lines

How those lines are drawn
affects how people are
represented
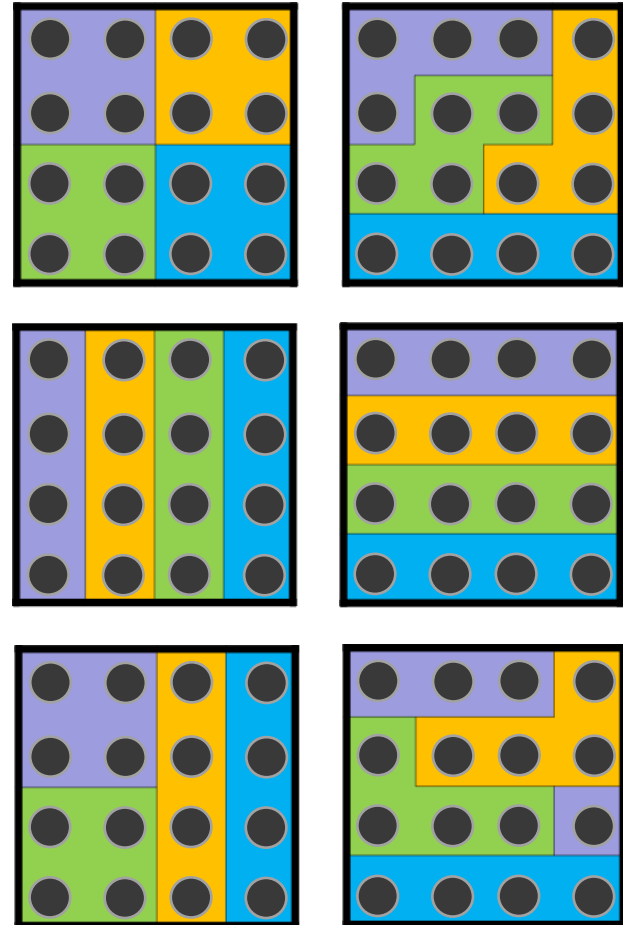
Why Redistrict?

New Data: Census conducted every ten years

Evolving Rules: Federal/state law continue to change. Both through legislation and the courts

Public Input: Communities change over time. New opportunities to engage public
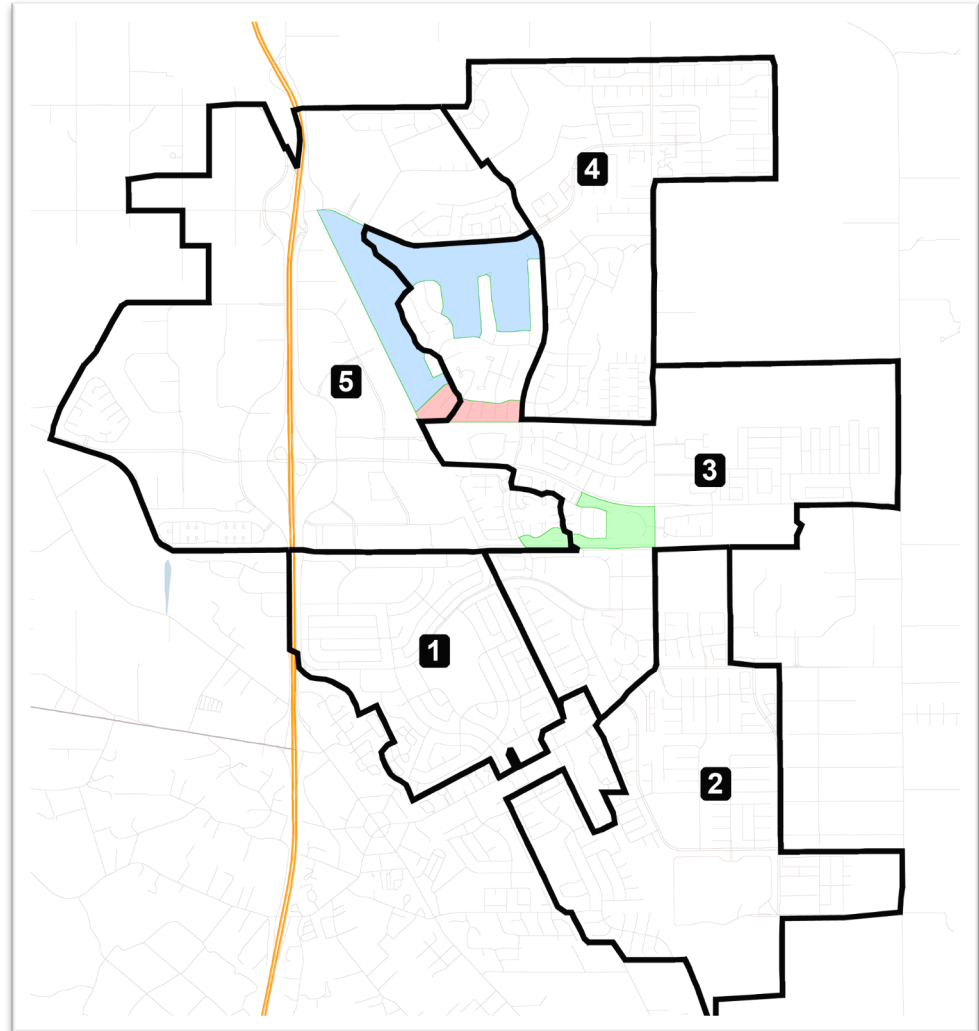
Census Geography

Change every ten years

California: 710,145 to 519,723

Don't always match existing district boundaries.

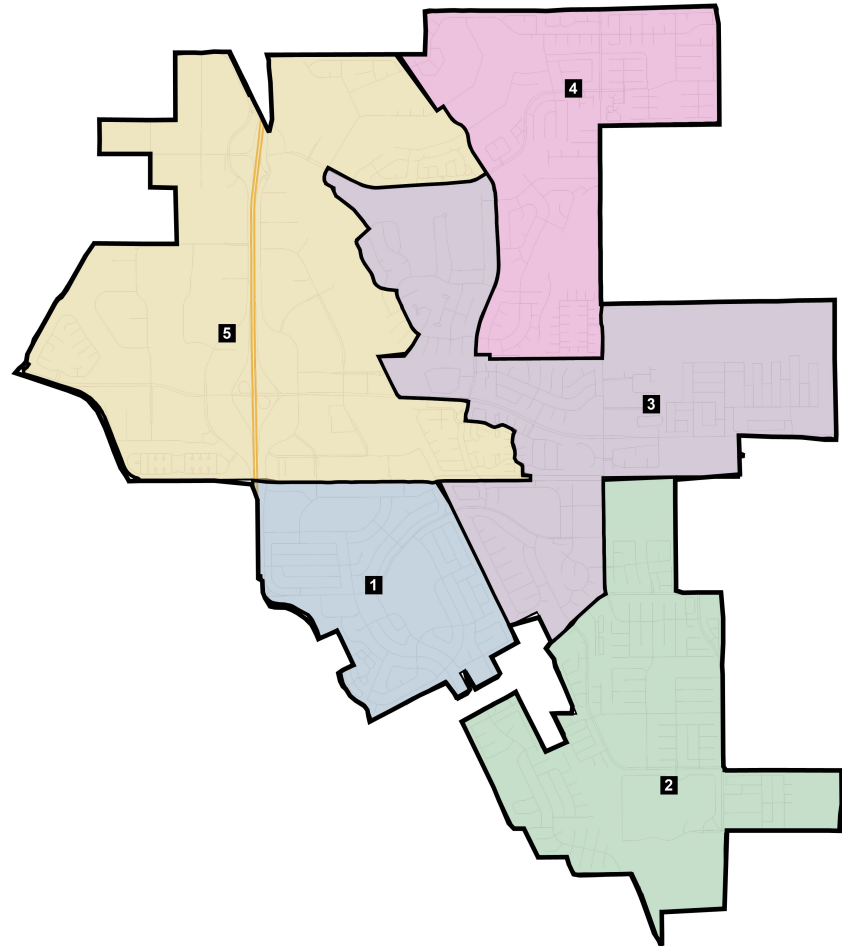Mitigate in future through Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP)

Rohnert Park converted to district elections after deadline for 2020 BBSP

2020 Census Blocks Split by Current Districts

Current Lines

#	Population^	
	Total	Deviation
1	8,105	-8.9%
2	8,790	-1.2%
3	Unavailable due to split blocks	
4	8,306	-6.6%
5	Unavailable due to split blocks	
Total	44,465	
Ideal	8,893	

^ 2020 Census Redistricting Data. Adjusted for incarcerated populations

WAGAMAN STRATEGIES

Current Lines

#	Population^		Citizen Voting Age Population+				
	Total	**Deviation**	**Total**	**Latino***	**Asian***	**Black***	**White**
1	8,105	-8.9%	5,087	26.6%	5.4%	2.3%	64.4%
2	8,790	-1.2%	6,407	17.6%	9.2%	5.4%	71.3%
3	Unavailable due to split blocks						
4	8,306	-6.6%	7,237	14.0%	5.2%	0.8%	77.1%
5	Unavailable due to split blocks						
Total	44,465		31,611	18.8%	5.7%	3.1%	72.0%
Ideal	8,893						

^ 2020 Census Redistricting Data. Adjusted for incarcerated populations
+ Adjusted 2015-2019 American Community Survey Special Tabulation
* Calculated pursuant to OMB BULLETIN NO. 00-02

WAGAMAN
STRATEGIES

Criteria

In order of priority:

- Equal Population

- Federal Law

- Contiguous

- Neighborhoods & communities of interest
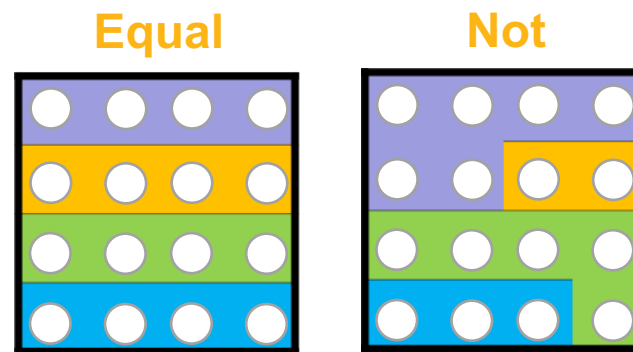
- Understandable boundaries

- Compactness

Equal Population

Equal Population:
"Substantially"

Exact: no. Good faith: yes

Deviation: Difference between actual & ideal size

CA adjusts for incarcerated populations

Equal   **Not**

Federal Law

Race: Must not be the "predominant" factor

Can consider along with traditional, race-neutral, criteria

Traditional criteria must not be subordinate

Vote Dilution (Voting Rights Act): Avoid depriving minority voters of an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice

Discriminatory intent not required, only effect

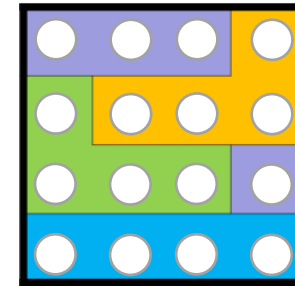Does not appear to be applicable to Rohnert Park redistricting

Contiguous

Contiguity: All parts should be connected

By more than a point

If separated by water, must be bridge, tunnel or ferry

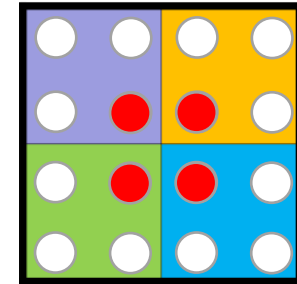# Neighborhoods and Communities

Community of Interest:

Population with common social or economic interests

That should be in a single district for fair/effective representation

Minimize splits of communities of interest into different districts

Split Community

Neighborhoods and Communities

Examples: Common assets like schools and shopping areas, housing, culture and language, and employment

Can consider existing data such as city planning information
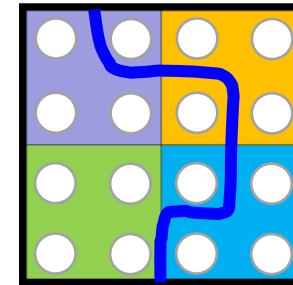
No definitive dataset. **Need public testimony!**

Law generally does not limit the kinds of interests that may bind a community

May not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or candidates.

Understandable Boundaries

Understandable: Easily identifiable by residents

Natural and artificial barriers, streets, or city limit
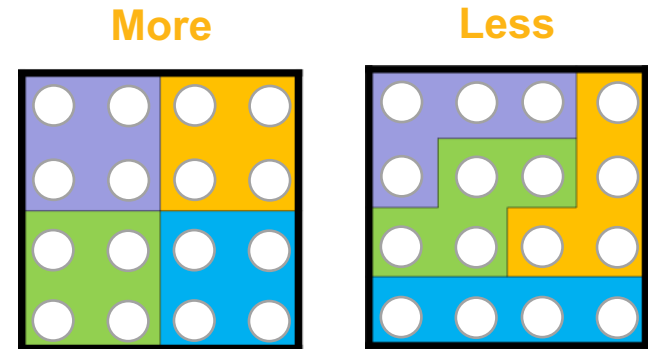
Boundaries

Compactness

Compactness: Generally, should be aware of shape and appearance

Specifically, nearby areas of population not bypassed for more distant ones

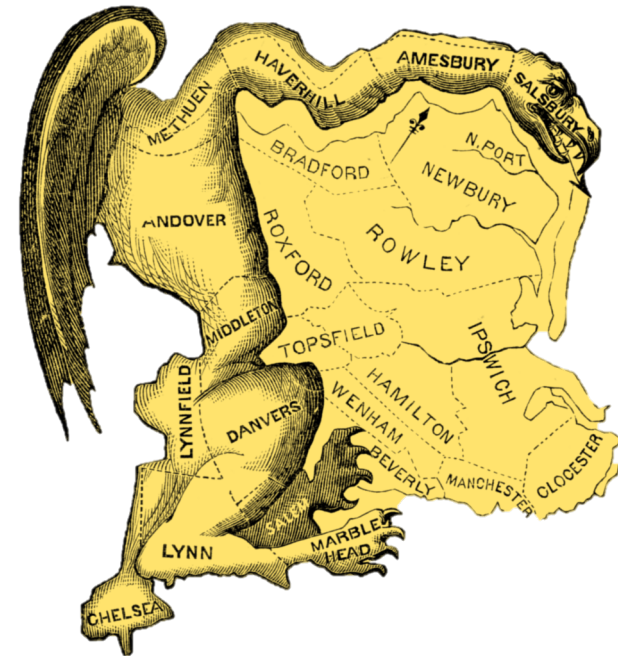Does not favor abstract shapes or statistical measure

More   **Less**

Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering: From a cartoon depicting an 1812 Massachusetts district

Shall not adopt for purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party

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

Things to Remember

Strive for population equality. Be prepared to justify deviations

Focus on traditional criteria. Draw contiguous districts that respect communities, while using understandable boundaries, and are compact when possible

Do not use race as the predominant factor. Only as one of many factors and cannot subordinate other redistricting criteria

WAGAMAN STRATEGIES

Census Data

Census: Conducted every ten years.

Purpose is to count every person

Used to determine if populations are equal

Reported by census blocks

ACS: Monthly sample averaged over five years

Purpose to estimate a more detailed demographics

Used to determine compliance with Voting Rights Act.

Reported primarily by census block groups or tracts

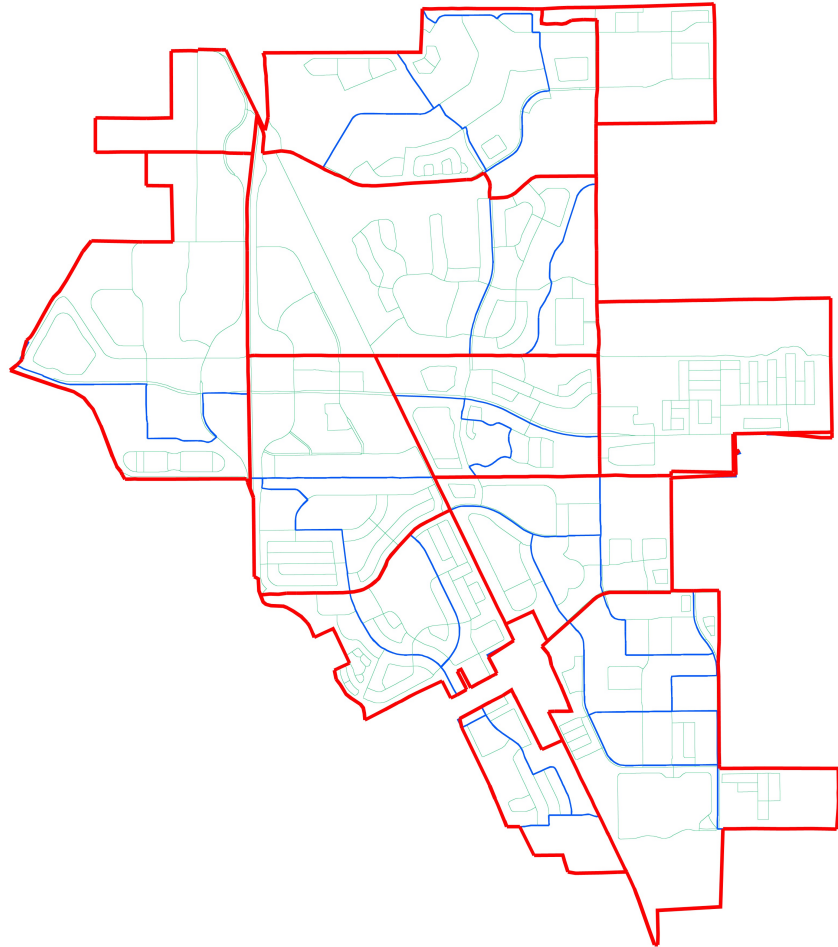But California breaks down CVAP data to census block

Census Geography

Type	#	Average Pop
Block	339	131
Block Group	35	1,270
Tract	11	4,042

Slice Geography

Type	#	Average Pop
Slice	52	855

Slices: Combination of census block groups, understandable boundaries, and existing plan

Used to encourage public redistricting plans
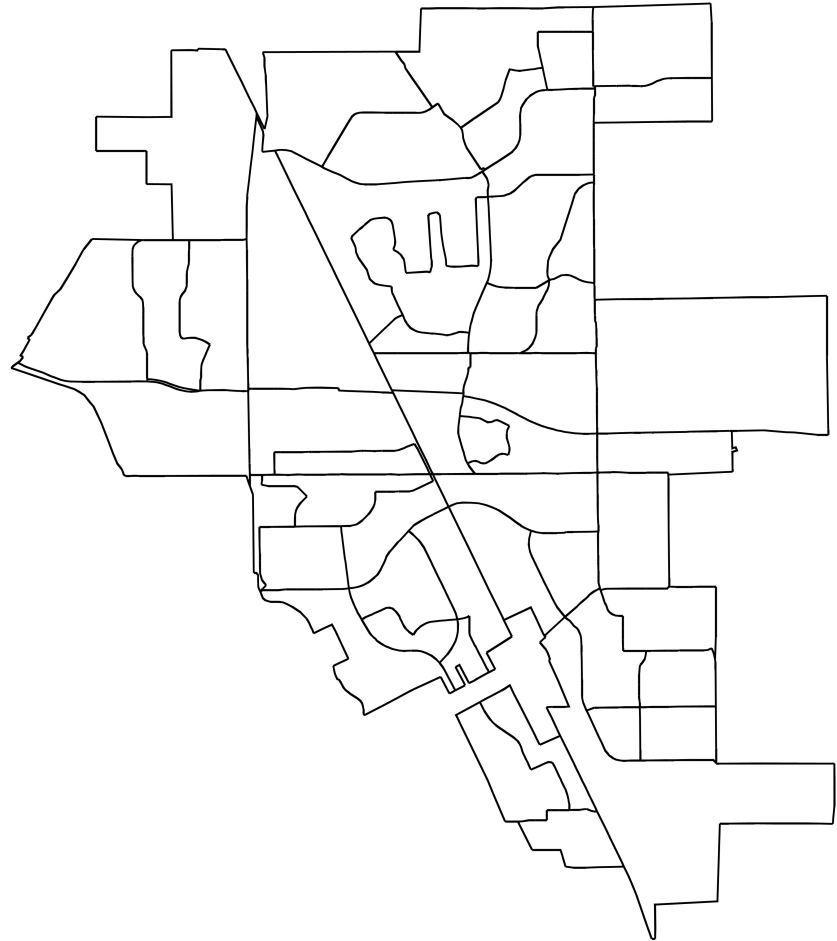
Two Phases

Phase I: At least 1 hearing before drawing draft plans:
- October 26
- January 11

Chance for public to provide input on communities of interest, existing lines, and then propose their own plans

All public input to website

Phase II: At least 2 hearings after first draft plans
- February 8
- March 8

Chance for public feedback, suggested changes, alternate plans, & additional community of interest testimony

Final plans must be adopted by April 17

Public Input

Communities of Interest:

- Where is it located?
- What is the mutual interest of the community?
- Why should it be kept together?

Printable worksheet on the website

Plans:

Worksheet and interactive excel using slices

Online tool using census blocks

Basic demographics, PDF, interactive map, and GIS files produced for all plans

All posted at least 7 days before hearing

Resources

Webpage
- www.rpcity.org/redistricting
- Will be maintained for ten years

Email Contact
- redistricting@rpcity.org