



Coastside County Water Districting Overview

December 10, 2019

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

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- 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:
 - (crossed-out tests are Federal Tests that plaintiffs no longer have to prove to show a violation of the California law)
 - ~~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 a statistical test for a correlation (not causation) between ethnicity and voting

- Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:
 - At least 215 school districts
 - 34 Community College Districts
 - 126 cities
 - For comparison, before passage of CVRA only 29 California cities used by-district elections.
With all of the CVRA-driven changes we have gone from 29 to over 150 cities
 - 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - 35 water and other special districts.

Tentative Districting Timeline

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings Dec. 10 and 17	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the communities in the City.
Hearings on Draft Maps Jan. 14 and 28	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequencing.
Final Hearing and Adoption Feb. 11	Final public hearing; selection of map and election year sequence; Board adoption.
Election Day: November 2020	First by-division elections held.
Adjust Maps: 2021	Map adjusted using 2020 Census data
Election Day: November 2022	First by-division election held in remaining divisions.

Federal Laws

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

Traditional Redistricting Principles

- ❑ Communities of interest
- ❑ Compact
- ❑ Contiguous
- ❑ Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
- ❑ Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
- ❑ *Planned future growth*
(2021 consideration)



1st Question: what is your neighborhood or community of interest?

A Community of Interest is generally defined as a neighborhood or community of shared interests, views, problems, or characteristics.

Possible community feature/boundary definitions include:

- ❑ School attendance areas
- ❑ Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals, and/or hills
- ❑ Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks
- ❑ Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns
- ❑ Shared demographic characteristics
 - ▣ Such as similar levels of income, education, or linguistic isolation



Defining Communities of Interest

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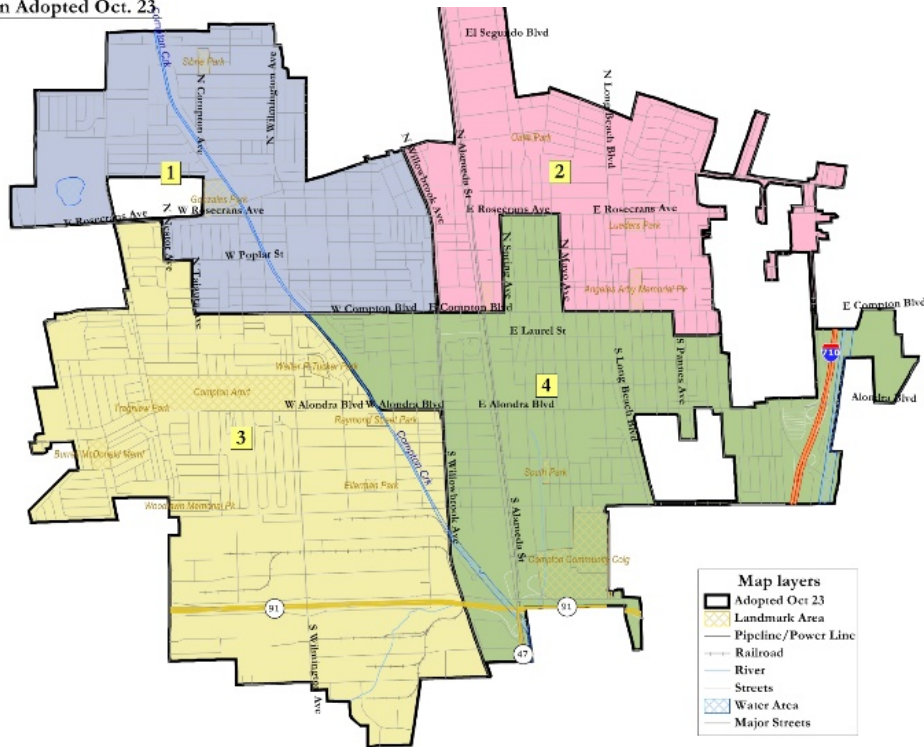
2nd Question: Does a Community of Interest want to be united in one district, or to be divided to have a voice in multiple elections?



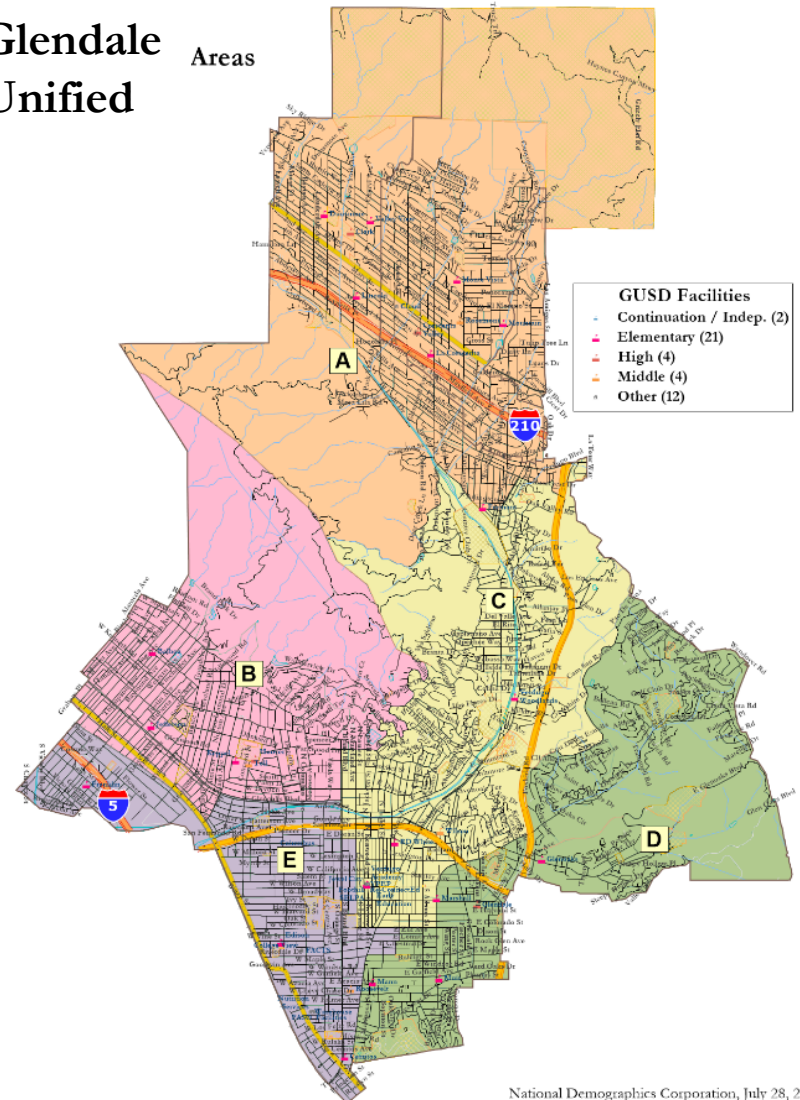
Sample Compact Maps

City of Compton
2012 Redistricting
Plan Adopted Oct. 23

Compton

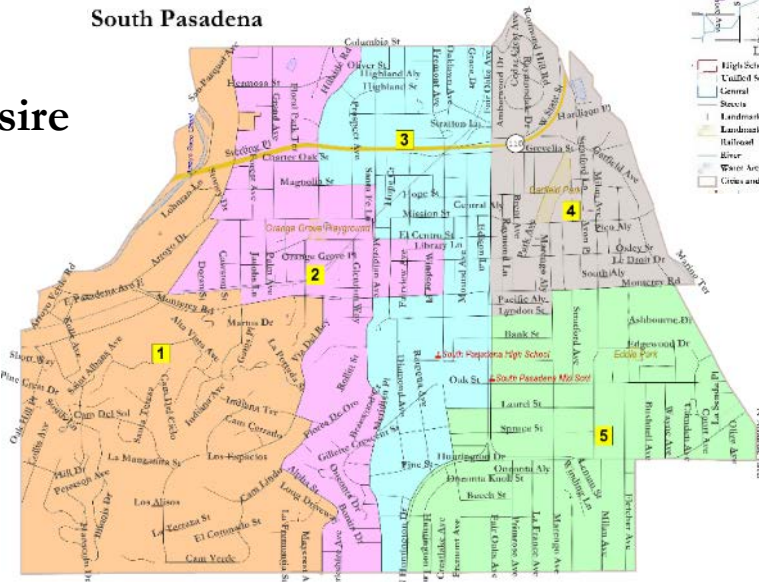
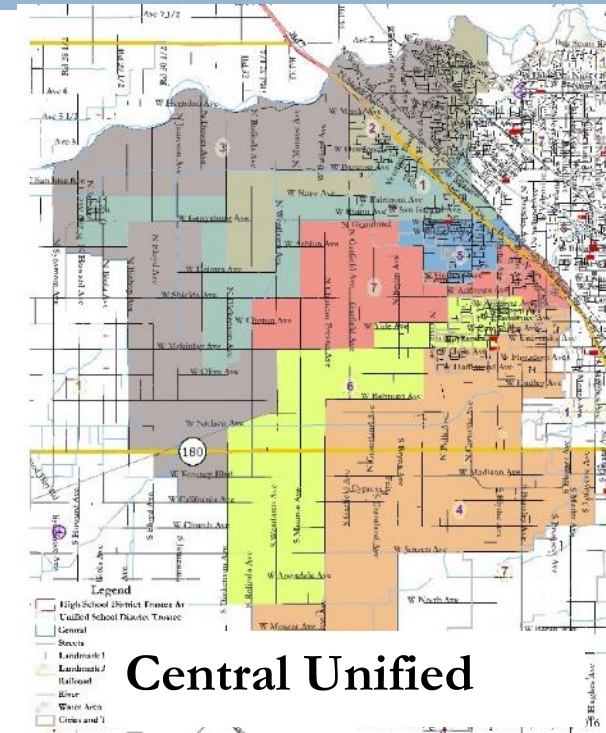
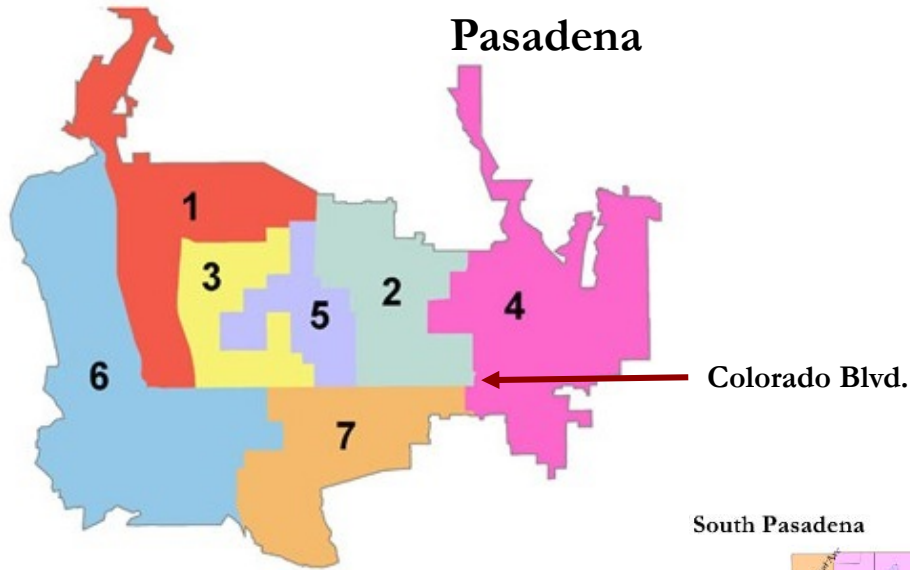


Glendale Unified Areas



Examples of highly compact maps that keep regions and communities united, with nooks and jogs driven only by equal population requirements.

Sample Multiple-Representative Maps



Examples of maps where a desire to have all members touch downtown (Pasadena) or rural areas (Central), or as many neighborhoods as possible (South Pas), led to policy-driven but non-compact maps.

Discussion

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1. What is your neighborhood or “community of interest”?
2. Do you prefer your neighborhood be kept together in one trustee area, or have multiple representatives?