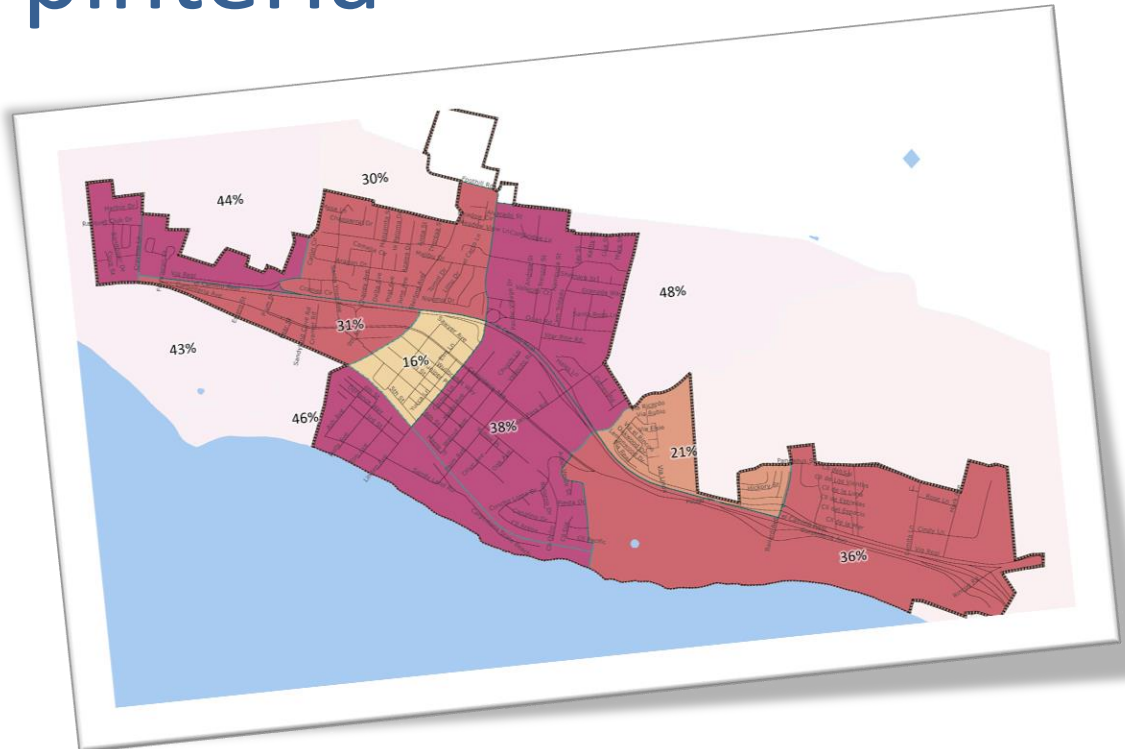# REDISTRICTING PARTNERS

CVRA and Districting
City of Carpinteria

Overview

This presentation will cover a range of topics to facilitate a process of public education and involvement in a transparent and fair districting process.

- The California Voting Rights Act
- Districting vs. Redistricting vs. Gerrymandering
- Traditional Districting/Redistricting Principles
- Population and Composition
- Mapping of the City of Carpinteria

What is the CVRA?

The California Voting Rights Act is a state law that prohibits the use of At-Large election systems in local government if there is racially polarized voting.

"At Large" is defined as anything other than a system in which an elected official lives in a district, and is only elected by members of that district.

"Racially Polarized Voting" is determined through an analysis which quantifies the amount of voting which can be shown to be correlated to race.

What is the CVRA?

The California Voting Rights Act takes the principles of the Federal Voting Rights Act and expands it regarding districted elections in two key ways:

While Federal law uses "majority minority" districts as a standard for vulnerability, the CVRA only requires "ability to influence."

The CVRA requires that plaintiffs get full reimbursement for legal fees associated with any successful challenge.

What is the CVRA?

The California Voting Rights Act takes the principles of the Federal Voting Rights Act and expands it regarding districted elections in two key ways:

While Federal law uses "majority minority" districts as a standard for vulnerability, the CVRA only requires "ability to influence."

The CVRA requires that plaintiffs get full reimbursement for legal fees associated with any successful challenge. *These can be lessened or eliminated if the district follows a strict and prompt process for districting.*

What is Districting

definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries.

These boundaries determine:

- Eligibility to run for office - must live within boundaries to qualify for election.
- Who votes in the election – only voters within the district vote for their councilmember.

What is Districting

definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries.

These boundaries do not determine:

- How the city decides to govern. The city can still work to achieve goals that benefit the city as a whole rather than the interests of any single district.
- How services or relationships between the city and the public are managed.

What is <u>Re</u>districting

<u>Redistricting</u> is the process of adjusting district lines every 10 years after the release of the US Census. The best known examples are Congress and the legislature.

Within the US, redistricting has become an extremely politicized process and been the subject of more high-profile Supreme Court decisions than any other part of our elections system.

What is Gerrymandering

The Gerrymander

The term Gerrymander came from a cartoon depicting a rather serpentine looking district created by Governor Elbridge Gerry in Massachusetts.
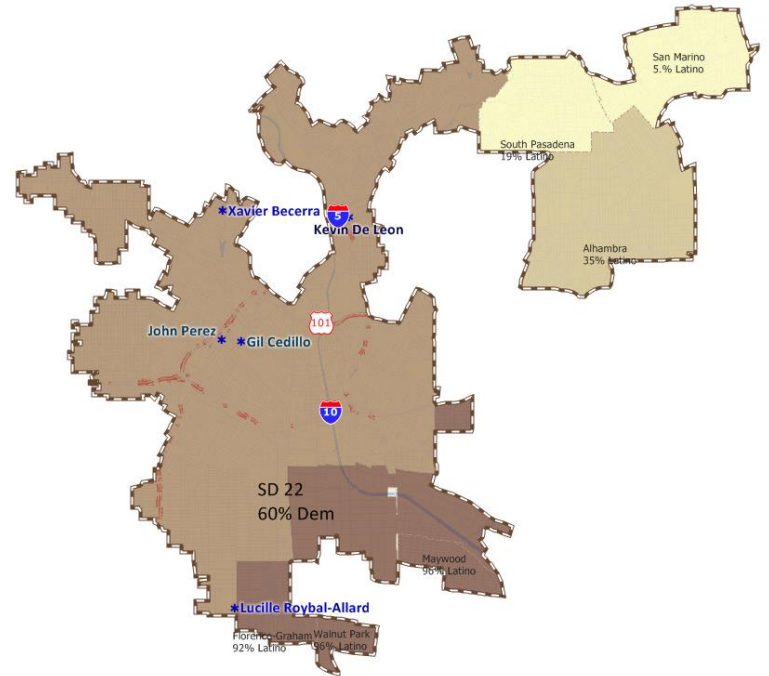
What is Gerrymandering
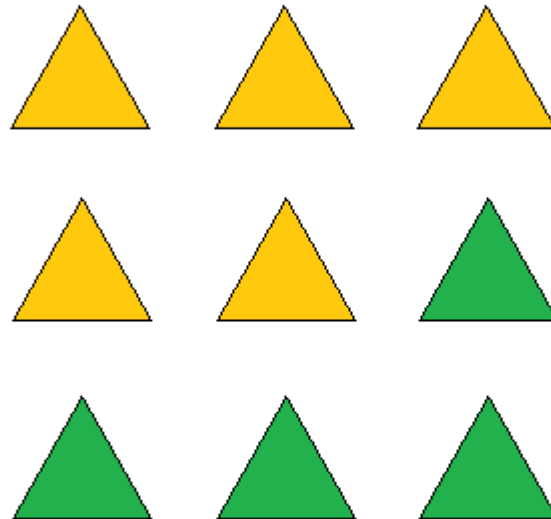
the Gerrymander

There are more recent examples of gerrymandering, even in California.
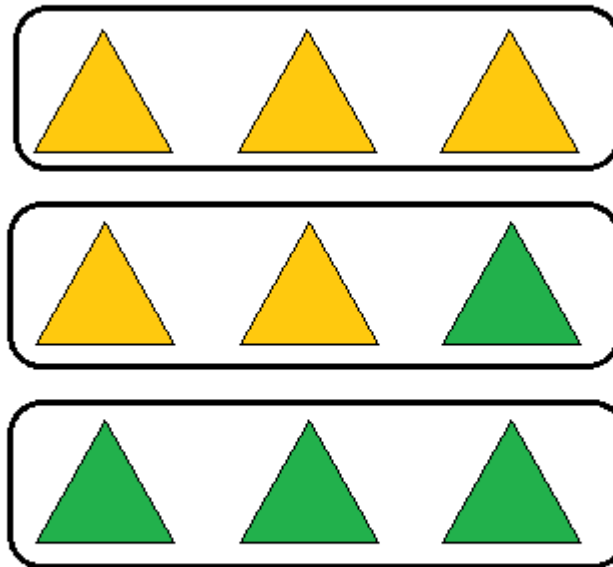
This 2001 Senate District is a great example.

What is Gerrymandering
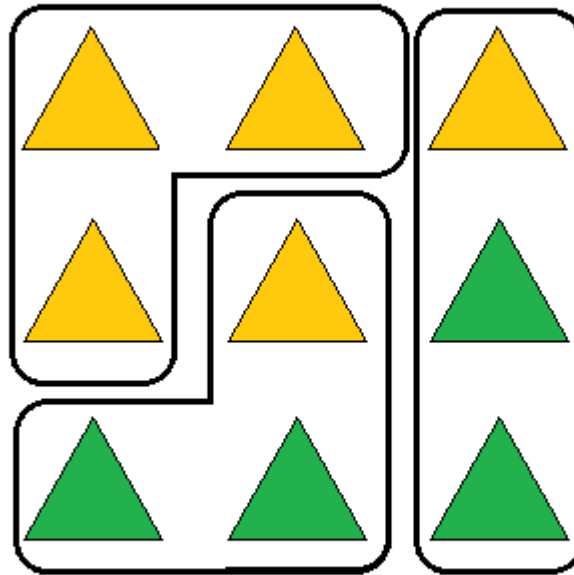
How does gerrymandering work?

What is Gerrymandering

How does gerrymandering work?

What is Gerrymandering

How does gerrymandering work?

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain *"communities of interest"*
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- **Relatively equal size - people, not citizens**
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain *"communities of interest"*
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- **Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump**
- Maintain *"communities of interest"*
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- **Maintain "*communities of interest*"**
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

What is a community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act

- Latinos
- Asians
- African Americans

While race is a community of interest, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing districts.

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

What is a community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

Other Communities, example are:

- People living near an industry (farming, higher education, manufacturing)
- Senior Citizens or Students
- Downtown / Urban
- Rural or Agricultural
- Homeowners or Renters

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain *"communities of interest"*
- **Follow city/county/local government lines**
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain *"communities of interest"*
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- **Keep districts compact – appearance/function**

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

New Criteria for 2020 under the Fair Maps Act:

- Count prisoner population at their residence prior to incarceration.
- Defines "communities of interest" as not including relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
- Prohibits districts from being drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party.
- Prohibits mid-decade redistricting.

City of Carpinteria

Preliminary Findings

Estimated population according to the American Community Survey is 13,376.

We can't use the estimated population for the districting process, but we can use it for planning purposes. Using this estimated population to determine an estimated target size of a council district the ideal population is:

Ideal Population for 5 districts: 2,675

Under the "equal population" criteria the total district population deviation (from smallest to largest) cannot exceed 10%.

City of Carpinteria
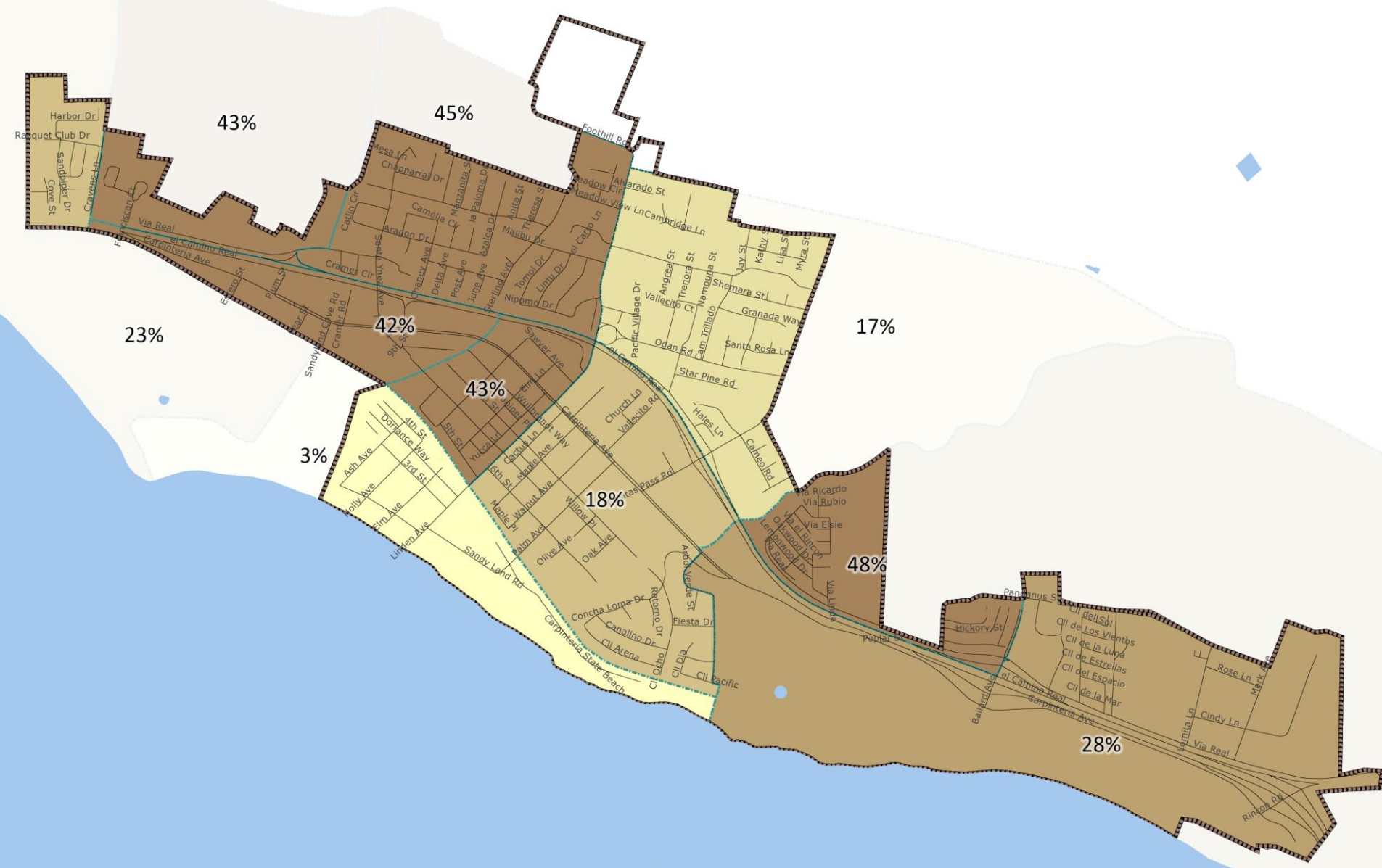
Preliminary Findings

For determining ethnicity of a district we use the American Community Survey calculations of Citizen Voting Age Population or "CVAP" which is also sometimes called "eligible voters population":

- CVAP: 8,871

- Asian CVAP: 167
- Latino CVAP: 2,642
- Black CVAP: 24
- White CVAP: 6,020

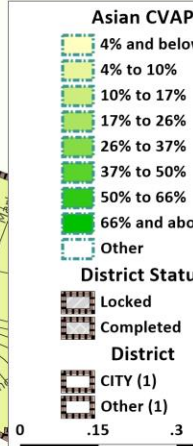City Boundaries and Streets
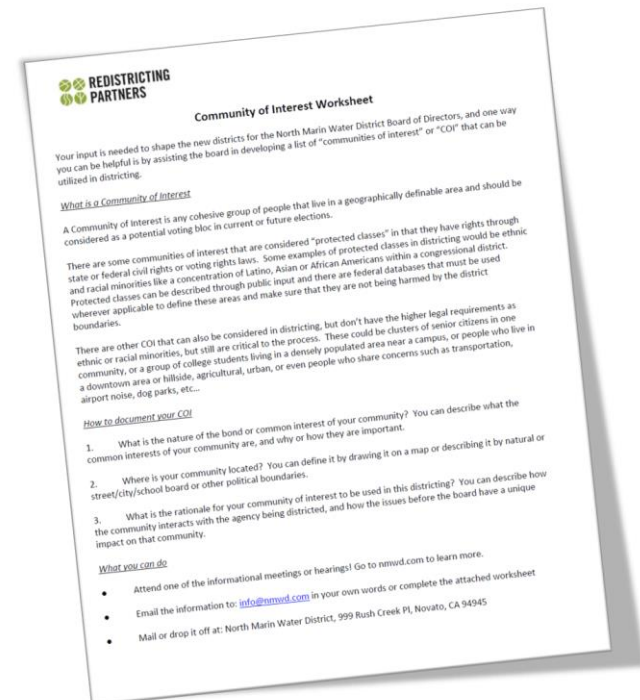
Latino CVAP

Asian CVAP

City of Carpinteria

What's Next

Public hearings will be held to obtain input on communities of interest and receive feedback on potential districting plans prior to board adoption

Input can be provided in public hearings or using our Community of Interest Worksheet.

City of Carpinteria

What's Next

Public hearings will be held to obtain input on communities of interest and receive feedback

October 14, 2019	1st Public Hearing
September 2021	2nd Public Hearing

(Wait for Census Release Summer / Fall of 2021)

7 Days before 3rd Hearing	*Initial draft maps published*
October 2021	1st Map Hearing
7 Days before 4th Hearing	*Publish amended draft maps (if any)*
January 2022	2nd Map Hearing
7 Days before adoption	*Publish final map*
February 2022	Adoption

REDISTRICTING PARTNERS