

# Districting 101

# About Us

Redistricting Partners is a firm that focuses on districting, demographics and voting rights act analysis.

- Works under a master agreement with the **Foundation for California Community Colleges** to provide services directly to districts. We have done more of this work with community colleges than any other firm.
- Similar partnership with the California School Boards Association for 2021.

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

# Traditional Districting 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
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Follow city/county/local government lines

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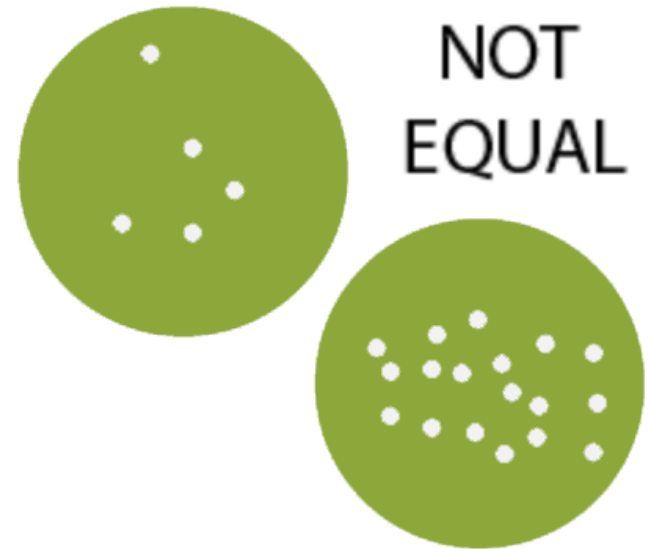
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# Equal Population

Utilizing the US Census Decennial File

What is “equal” population has been a key subject in districting litigation.

- Population Equality is based on “People” not citizens or voters or other metrics.
- 10% deviation or better.



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# Contiguity

Two definitions for what is contiguous

Contiguity should be thought of as “literal” and “functional.”

- An area that is one whole piece is “literally contiguous.”
- An area that represents how the population functions or how people are connected is “functionally contiguous.”



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# Compactness

## Determining what is “compact”

The measure of compactness can get complicated.

- Ratio of the circumference of a district and the area of a district.
- Measuring the number of distinct straight lines and the number of kinks and bends.
- Simply outlawing funny shapes.

NOT  
COMPACT

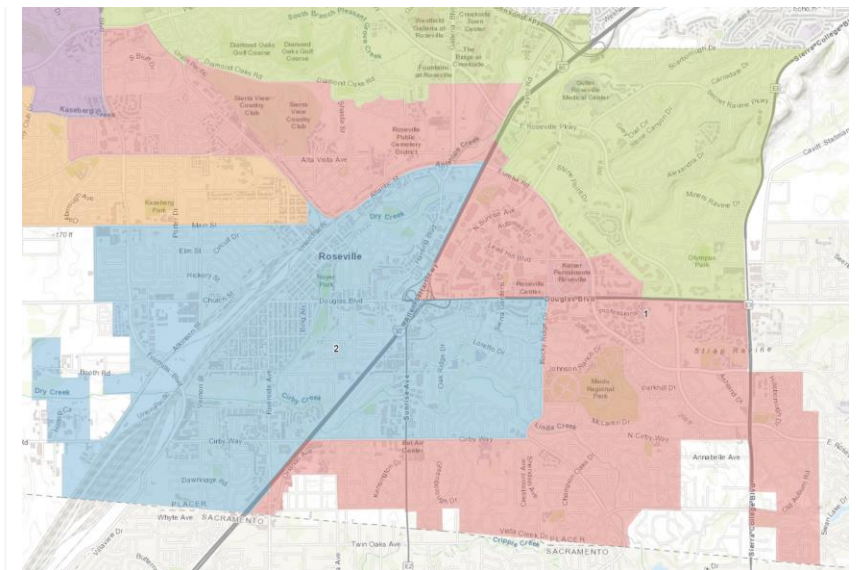
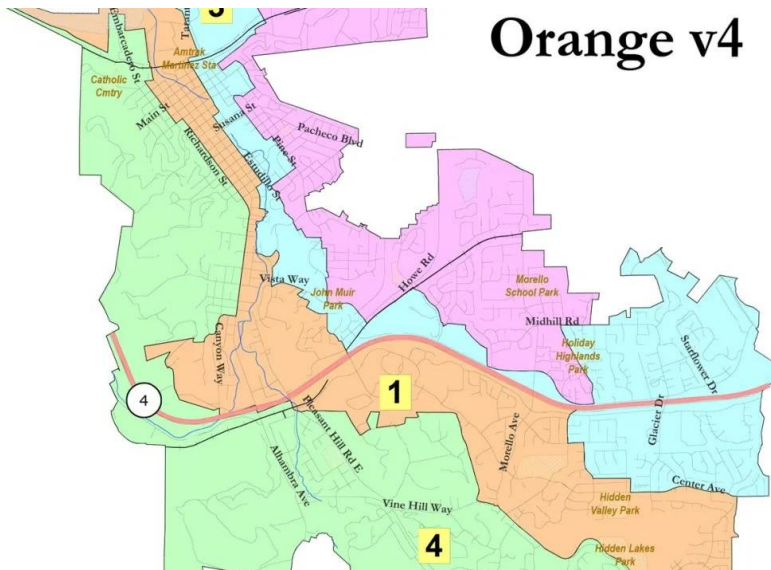


# Compactness

Determining what is “compact”

California has a rather elegant/simple definition.

- Not bypassing nearby populated areas in favor of more distant populated areas



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# Communities of Interest

Bringing like-minded people together for representation

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-minded people together for representation

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

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# Local Government Lines

The existing underlying governmental structure

Community Colleges often have a geographic relationship with their community, if it is conscious or not.

- Underlying School Districts / High School Areas
- Where campuses are located and Cities/Neighborhoods where different campuses conduct more outreach.

# Districting Process

Guided by the CVRA Safe Harbor Provisions

Utilizing the Safe Harbor Provisions of the California Voting Rights Act, Community College Districts can switch election systems and reduce potential legal fees.

- Requires 5 hearings
  - 2 Pre-mapping to build community of interest testimony
  - 2 Post-mapping hearings
  - 1 final up/down vote on final map
- Maps posted 7 days in advance of hearings in order for them to be discussed for final adoption.

# Districting Process

## Timeline and Hearing Themes

November 9, 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> Pre-Map Hearing: Process, Fundamentals, and Timeline
November 30, 2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pre-Map Hearing: Data and Communities of Interest
December 14, 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> Map Hearing: Presentation on three draft maps with input from the public and Board
January 11, 2022	2 <sup>nd</sup> Map Hearing: Presentation of updated draft maps with input from the public and Board
February 8, 2022	Final Map Adoption Hearing: Approval of final map



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PARTNERS**