

Santa Rosa Junior College
2021 District Elections
Community Outreach & Data



Welcome

Agenda

Things we will cover:

- California Voting Rights Act
- What is Districting
- Traditional Districting/Redistricting Principles
- Districting Timeline
- Communities of Interest
- Map Tool Demonstration
- Public Testimony on Communities of Interest
- District Population
- Public Hearing Schedule

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 defined as differences in voting patterns which can be shown to be correlated to race, religion, national origin, or membership in any other protected class.

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 board of trustee.

What is Districting

Definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries.

These boundaries do not determine:

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

Traditional Districting Principles

Preventing a District 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 Districting Principles

Drawing New Board of Trustee Lines for Fair Representation

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Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

Communities of interest are the building blocks of districts.

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Subjective
- Open-ended to be as inclusive as possible

Examples of Voting Rights Act Communities

- Latinos
- Asians
- African Americans

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While communities of interest may include race, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing district boundaries.

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

- Historical communities
- Economic interests
- Racial composition
- Ethnic Areas
- Cultural amenities
- Religious facilities
- Immigrant communities
- Languages spoken
- Geographic features
- Neighborhoods
- Economic opportunity zones
- Tourism Areas
- School districts
- Outdoor recreation areas
- Communities defined by natural resource features
- Downtown / Urban
- Rural or Agricultural
- Homeowner or Renters
- Creative arts communities
- Media markets
- *Many, many more*

What is NOT a Community of Interest

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

The Fair Maps Act explicitly prohibits these groups from being considered as communities of interest

- Political party affiliation
- Incumbents
- Political candidates

It also is hard, in districting to truly consider:

- *Groups of similarly minded people who do not share a similar geographic location.*
- *Communities of Interest that are district or statewide*

Communities of Interest

Three Critical Questions in Defining YOUR Community

Communities can be best described by answering these three questions:

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped?
- What is the community's relationship with the jurisdiction being districted? How is it affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials?

Is this a Community of Interest?

A group of renters who live downtown testifies to the Board of Trustees.

Would this be considered a *Community of Interest*?

Is this a Community of Interest?

A group of renters who live downtown testifies to the Board of Trustees.

Would this be considered a *Community of Interest*?

YES! This group of residents can easily to be mapped in a distinct area AND they share a common policy interest, which can be addressed through legislation or public services.

Is this a Community of Interest?

A statewide group of people who are fans of the San Francisco Giants testifies to the Board of Trustees.

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A statewide group of people who are fans of the San Francisco Giants testifies to the local Board of Trustees.

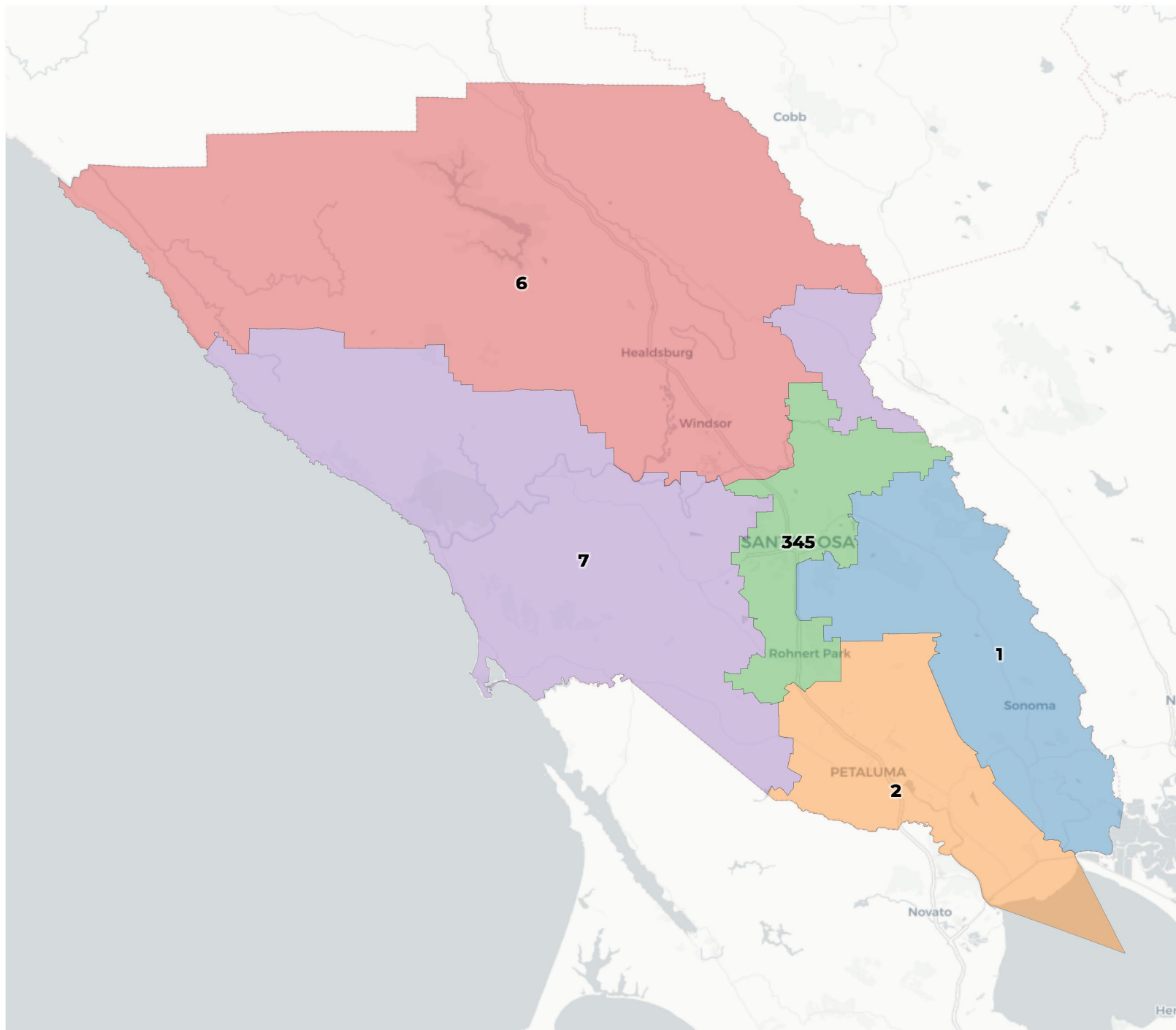
Is this a Community of Interest?

NO! It is important that a community of interest is distinct enough to draw on a map. This group overlaps throughout the entire state, and it is unlikely that a governing agency has any say over these issues.

Submit Community of Interest Feedback

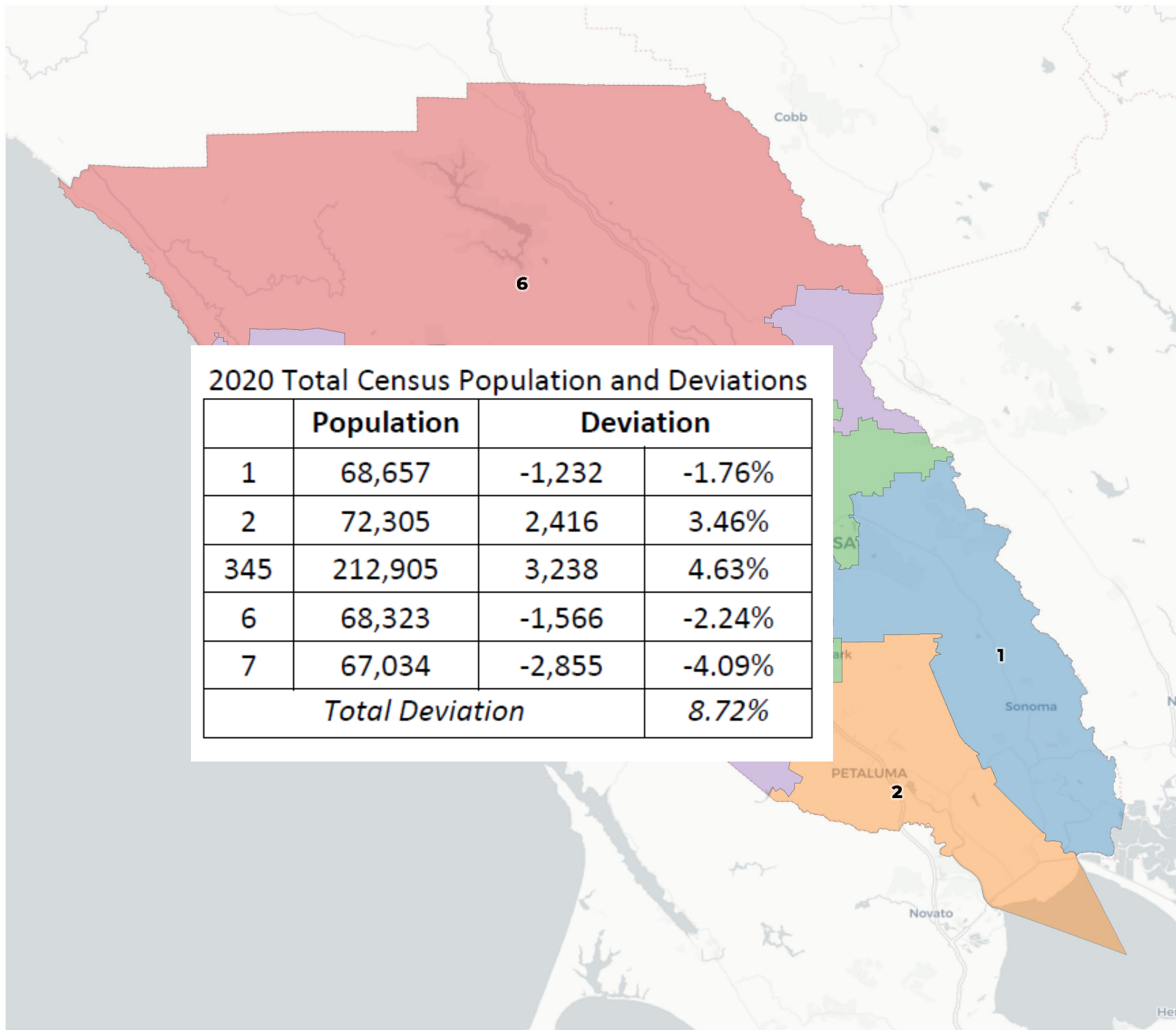
Submit comments or feedback on your Community of Interest to:

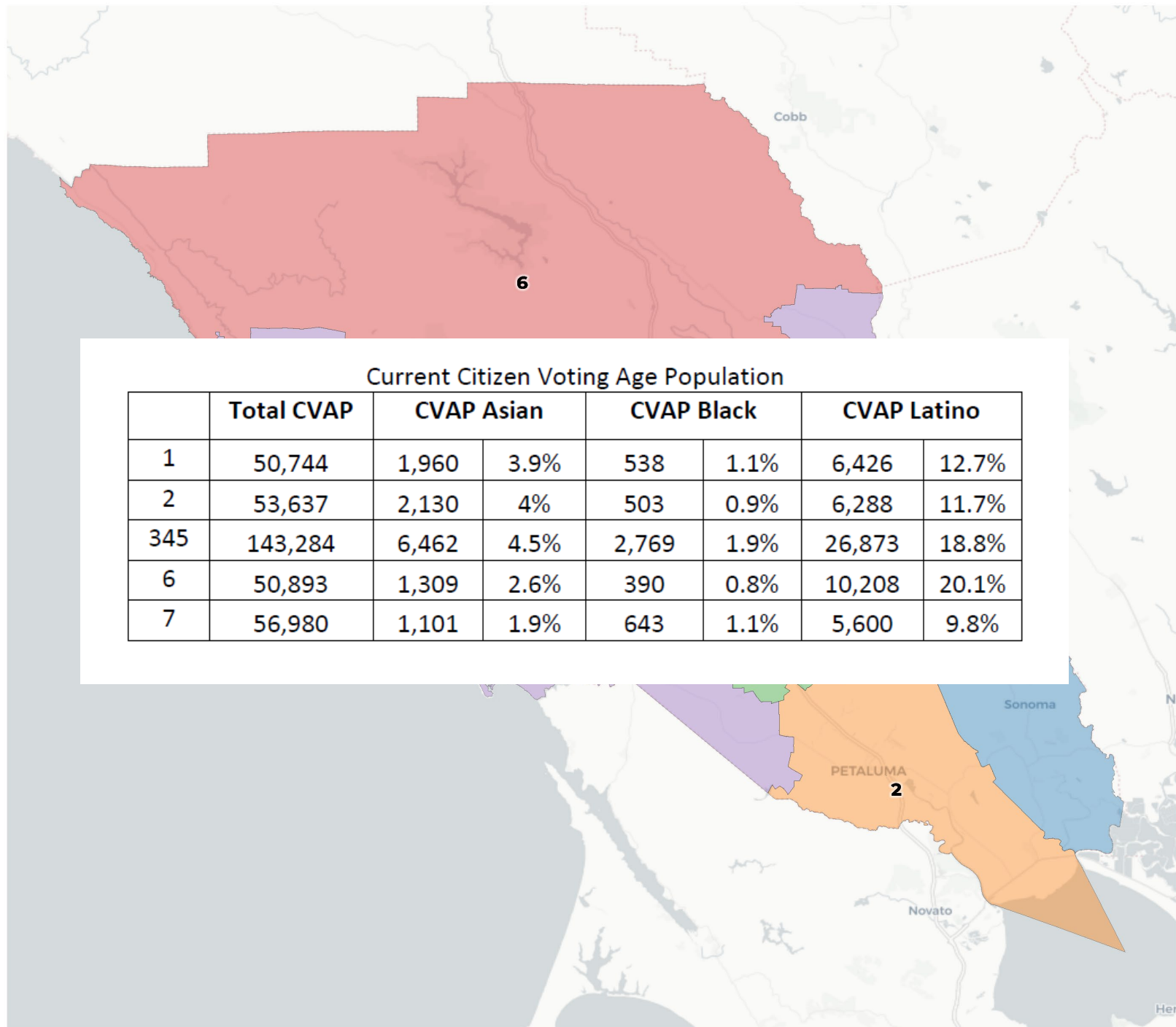
redistricting@santarosa.edu



2020 Total Census Population and Deviations

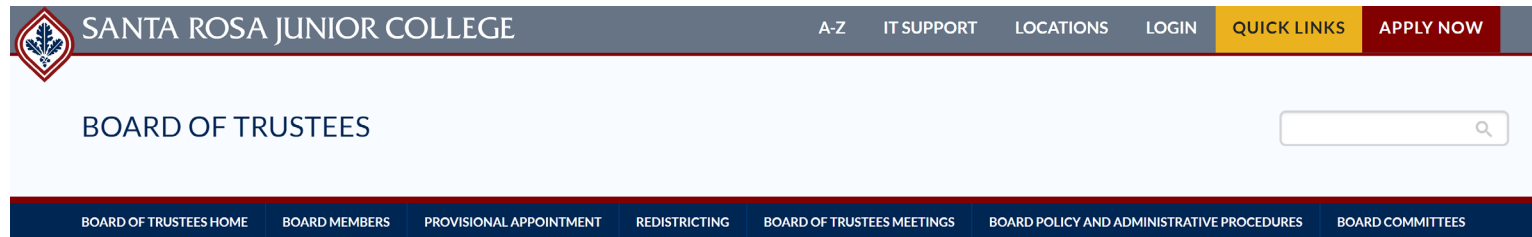
	Population	Deviation	
1	68,657	-1,232	-1.76%
2	72,305	2,416	3.46%
345	212,905	3,238	4.63%
6	68,323	-1,566	-2.24%
7	67,034	-2,855	-4.09%
<i>Total Deviation</i>		<i>8.72%</i>	





Santa Rosa Junior College District Website

<https://trustees.santarosa.edu/redistricting>



REDISTRICTING

In fall 2017, SRJC conducted a number of board study sessions to review the boundaries for the five current trustee areas. The district hired legal counsel and a demographer to investigate the issues, to provide historical perspective, to provide an overview of process and costs and to explore possible adjustments in the boundaries to create seven individual trustee areas. The trustees also listened to community input on the potential for boundary adjustments.

Current Trustee Area Map can be found [here](#).

Based on information received and the likelihood that boundaries would need to be revised with the federal census in 2020, the recommendation was for the board of trustees to wait to address redistricting at that time.

2020 Census

By waiting until 2020, the redistricted boundary adjustments would reflect the up-to-date 2020 census data and thus avoid multiple adjustments to boundaries, potential voter confusion and significant additional costs to the district.

The 2020 census was significantly impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the census data that informs the districting process was not released until September 2021.



Districting Process

Timeline and Hearing Themes

November 9, 2021	1 st Pre-Map Hearing: Process, Fundamentals, and Timeline
November 30, 2021	2 nd Pre-Map Hearing: Data and Communities of Interest
December 14, 2021	1 st Map Hearing: Presentation on three draft maps with input from the public and Board
January 11, 2022	2 nd 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



**REDISTRICTING
PARTNERS**