

CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 14, 2023

5:30 PM – Special Meeting

David B. Roberts Council Chambers

City Hall

2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova

Auburn City Hall - Rose Room

1225 Lincoln Way,

Auburn, CA 95603

Join the Meeting Via Zoom Link:

<https://cityofranhocordova.zoom.us/j/86115249072?pwd=NDhUMUFqaENWaTBkNXFEWi9lSTA3Zz09>

Join the Meeting via the Zoom Phone Number

Zoom Phone Number: +1 669 900 6833, +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 861 1524 9072

Password: 578969

Instructions to Make Public Comment

Submitting Public Comment via Email

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment via email will need to submit written comments to CityClerk@cityofranhocordova.org no later than 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 14, 2023. Written comments received no later than 2:00 p.m. will be distributed to the Council, filed in the record, and will not be read aloud. All comments submitted later than 2:00 p.m. will be distributed to the Council.

Listening to a Zoom Meeting by Zoom Video Conference

To make a public comment using the Zoom platform, please use the “raise hand” feature at the bottom center of the screen. Please make sure to enable audio controls once access has been given by the City Clerk’s office to speak. Please wait to be called upon by the City Clerk.

Listening to a Zoom Meeting by Phone Only

You can join a Zoom meeting via teleconferencing/audio conferencing using a cell phone or traditional landline phone. To request to make a public comment by phone press *9 to raise your hand. Please wait to be called upon by the City Clerk.

All public comments will be limited to three minutes.

If you have questions related to the City Council Meeting or the use of Zoom, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (916) 851-8720 before Monday, August 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. SPECIAL MEETING - CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Council Members Garrett Gatewood, Siri Pulipati, David Sander, Donald Terry, and Mayor Linda Budge.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

At a special meeting, citizens wishing to address the Council for any matter on the agenda may do so at the time the matter is discussed. Under the provisions of the California Government Code, the City Council is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not on the agenda.

3. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

3.1. **Subject:** Public Hearing Requesting Public Input Regarding the Composition of Potential Council Election Districts as the City is Working to Transition from At-large to District-based Elections for City Council Members, and

Possible Continued Discussion With and Direction to Staff and Consultants Regarding the Number of Districts Including Whether or Not to Transition from an Appointed Mayor to a Directly Elected Mayor.

Recommendation: 1. To provide education and to receive public input regarding the composition of potential Council election districts as the City is working to transition from at-large to district-based elections for City Council Members pursuant to the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

2. Possible further discussion and direction to staff and consultants about the number of districts including whether or not to transition from an appointed Mayor to a directly elected Mayor.

4. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Budge will adjourn the meeting to closed session.

5. CLOSED SESSION - CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Council Members Garrett Gatewood, Siri Pulipati, David Sander, Donald Terry, and Mayor Linda Budge

6. CLOSED SESSION

Council will meet in closed session to discuss the following item:

- 6.1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION: Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)(One Case relating to a letter from Scott J. Rafferty on behalf of Neighborhood Elections Now received on June 7, 2023 petitioning the City to comply with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) by beginning the process of transitioning from at-large to single-member district City Council elections for the November 2024 Election or potentially be sued under the CVRA).

7. OPEN SESSION - REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

The City Attorney will report on action taken in closed session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Special Meetings listed below are subject to change/cancellation without further notice.

Unless the Council adopts a motion to extend the meeting, any item that is not initiated before 11:00 p.m. will be continued to the next day at 5:30 p.m. or scheduled on the next regular meeting agenda of the Council.

Public documents related to items on the open session portion of this agenda, which are distributed to the City Council less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, shall be available for public inspection at the time the documents are distributed to the Council. Documents are available for inspection at the City Clerk's office located in Rancho Cordova City Hall.

The agenda items are accessible on the City's website at www.cityofranhocordova.org on Fridays prior to the Special City Council Meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 21, 2023	5:30 PM Regular Meeting
August 29, 2023	5:30 PM Special Meeting/Work Session
September 5, 2023	4:00 PM Special Meeting/Regular Meeting
September 18, 2023	5:30 PM Regular Meeting
September 26, 2023	5:30 PM Special Meeting/Work Session
October 2, 2023	4:00 PM Special Meeting/Regular Meeting
October 16, 2023	5:30 PM Regular Meeting
October 24, 2023	5:30 PM Special Meeting/Work Session

If you have any technical questions related to the agenda items, please contact City Hall at (916) 851-8700.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (916) 851-8720 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

I, Stacy Leitner, City Clerk for the City of Rancho Cordova, declare that the foregoing agenda for the August 14, 2023 Special Meeting of the Rancho Cordova City Council was posted and available for review on August 11, 2023 at City Hall of the City of Rancho Cordova, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670. The agenda is also available on the city website at www.cityofranchocordova.org.

Signed August 11, 2023 at Rancho Cordova, California.



Stacy Leitner, CMC
City Clerk

MEMORANDUM



ITEM 3.1.

DATE: August 14, 2023
TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Stacy Leitner, City Clerk
SUBJECT: **PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTING PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF POTENTIAL COUNCIL ELECTION DISTRICTS AS THE CITY IS WORKING TO TRANSITION FROM AT-LARGE TO DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND POSSIBLE CONTINUED DISCUSSION WITH AND DIRECTION TO STAFF AND CONSULTANTS REGARDING THE NUMBER OF DISTRICTS INCLUDING WHETHER OR NOT TO TRANSITION FROM AN APPOINTED MAYOR TO A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR**

RECOMMENDATION

1. To provide education and to receive public input regarding the composition of potential Council election districts as the City is working to transition from at-large to district-based elections for City Council Members pursuant to the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).
2. Possible further discussion and direction to staff and consultants about the number of districts including whether or not to transition from an appointed Mayor to a directly elected Mayor.

RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The presentation will provide education to identify the neighborhoods, other "communities of interest," and other local factors that should be considered or used as 'building blocks' when drawing the draft maps. This hearing will also highlight resources available to the public on the City's website related to district-based elections.

In addition, the City Council may further direct staff and consultants about the number of districts including whether or not to transition from an appointed Mayor to a directly elected Mayor.

BACKGROUND

The City Council was elected under an at-large election system, whereby Council Members are elected by voters of the entire City. On June 7, 2023, the City received a letter from attorney Scott J. Rafferty asserting that the at-large election system violates the California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA") and threatens litigation if the City declines to voluntarily convert to district-based elections. District-based elections is a method of electing the members to the City Council in which

the candidate must reside within an election district and is elected only by voters residing within that election district.

Mr. Rafferty and other attorneys have served similar letters and subsequently filed lawsuits in recent years against numerous other public agencies across the state for CVRA violations alleging racially polarized voting. Upon receiving the letter from attorney Scott J. Rafferty, staff scheduled a closed session on June 19, 2023 to discuss the threatened CVRA litigation.

The CVRA provides a "Safe Harbor" provision to local government agencies with at-large election systems. Under the provision, a local agency has 45 days from the date of receipt of the letter to adopt a resolution of intent to transition from at-large to district-based elections. If the City of Rancho Cordova complies with the "Safe Harbor" provisions, the amount of attorney's fees Mr. Rafferty can collect is expected to be approximately \$37,000 if the City complies with the process to transition from at-large to district-based elections.

On July 17, 2023, the Council adopted a Resolution of Intent to work towards transitioning from at-large to district-based elections. Moving to district-based elections would require a Council Member (and all candidates for that position) to reside within a designated district boundary, and each Council Member would be elected only by voters of the appropriate district. A copy of the Council adopted Resolution 108-2023 declaring the City's intention to move to district-based elections is included in this report as Attachment 3.

As required by Elections Code Section 10010, the City will hold at least two (2) public hearings prior to the release of draft maps of Council election districts. Council will then hold an additional two (2) more public hearings to solicit public input regarding the content of the draft maps and the proposed sequence of elections. Furthermore, the Council may introduce for first reading an ordinance establishing the district boundaries and the district-based election method pursuant to California Government Code Section 34886 and Elections Code Section 10010. At the conclusion of the process, a public hearing will be held for a second reading of the ordinance implementing a Council election district map.

The first hearing was held on Monday, August 7, 2023. Today's hearing continues the process to fulfill the requirement of California Elections Code Section 10010 that states: "(1) Before drawing a draft map or maps of the proposed boundaries of the districts, the political subdivision shall hold at least two public hearings over a period of no more than 30 days, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts."

The intention of this hearing is to identify the neighborhoods, other "communities of interest," and other local factors that should be considered or used as 'building blocks' to draw draft maps. The public is welcome to propose complete districting maps, but it is not required.

This hearing will also highlight resources available to the public on the City's website related to district-based elections.

Number of Districts and Possible Transition to Elected Mayor

Early in the process of transitioning to district-based elections, the Council will need to provide direction to staff and consultants on the number of Council districts to be created including whether or not to transition from an appointed Mayor to a directly elected Mayor. The Council currently annually appoints a member of the City Council to serve for one year as Mayor of the City. Staff would welcome Council input and possibly direction.

At the August 7, 2023 Public Hearing, Council provided direction to narrow the number of potential districts down to the following options: five (5) districts with a rotating council appointed mayor, six (6) districts with an elected mayor, or seven (7) districts with a rotating council appointed mayor.

FISCAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE

Neighborhood Elections Now will receive a partial reimbursement, capped at approximately \$37,000 if the City complies with the process to transition from at-large to district-based elections.

The City is working with a professional demographer at an estimated cost of \$60,000-\$80,000 to assist the City with the process of transitioning from at-large to district-based elections.

The City will also incur additional fees for City Attorney time, community meetings, assistance from consultants for public outreach, and staff time.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. PowerPoint Presentation 1
2. PowerPoint Presentation 2
3. Resolution No. 108-2023

DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS

BACKGROUND & INFORMATION



Tonight's Goals & Conversation

Goals

- To provide key background information about district-based elections
- Demonstrate mapping tool

Tonight's Agenda

- Threat of Lawsuit and City Options
- Resolution of Intent
- Timeline Required by Law
- Public Hearings & Community Forums
- Community Outreach
- Community Information
- Mapping Tool Demonstration



Threat of Lawsuit & City Options

June 7, 2023 Letter from Attorney

- At-large election system violates the California Voting Rights Act
- Litigation unless city converts to district-based elections

City's Options

- Proceed with the conversion process.
- Do not proceed with the conversion process. Assume the risk of a lawsuit, legal fees, and have the court determine districts



Resolution of Intent

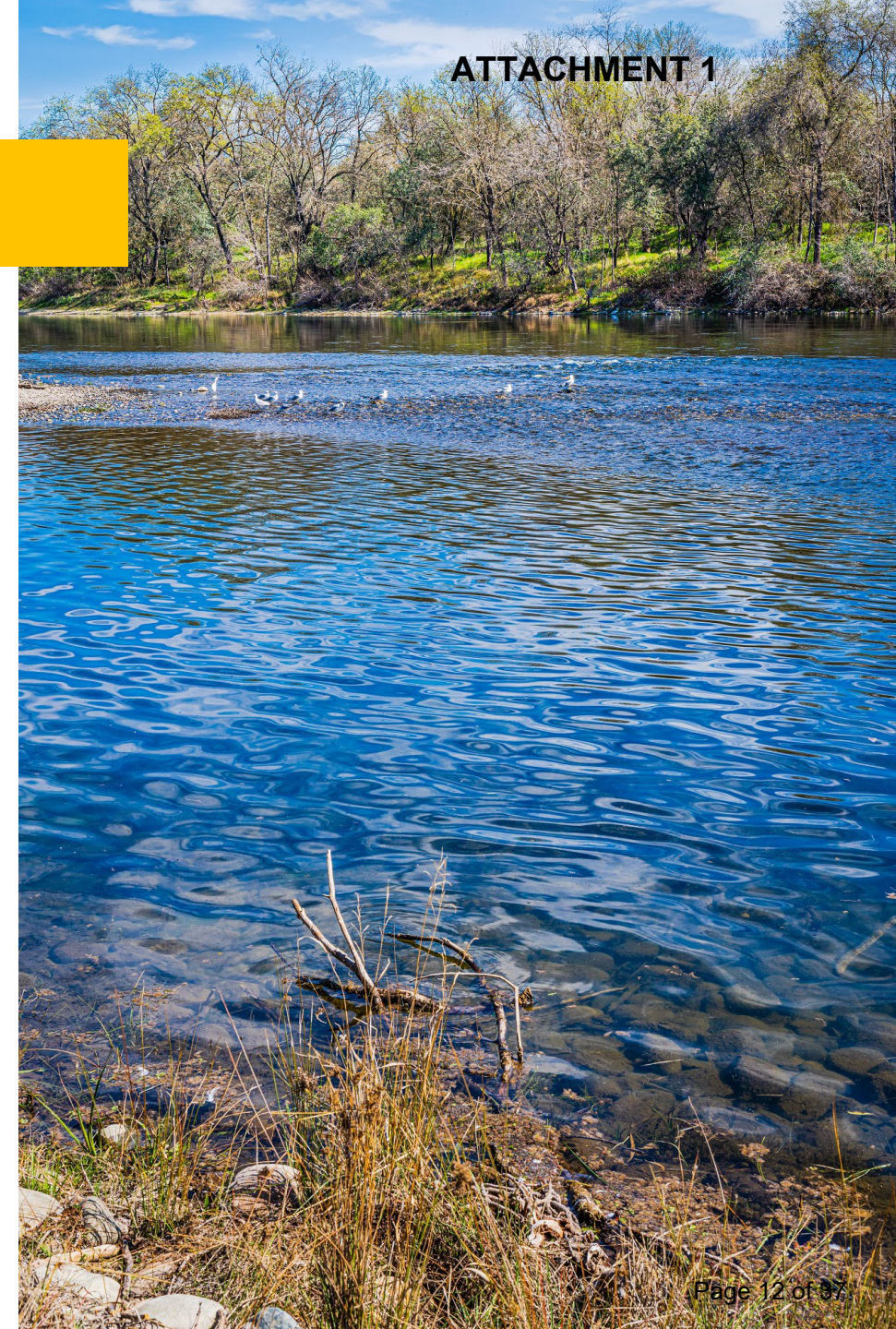
July 17, 2023 City Council meeting

- **Public Discussion** of potential transition from at-large to district-based elections
- A **Resolution of Intent** passed, declaring the City's intention to work to transition to district-based elections for City Council Members.

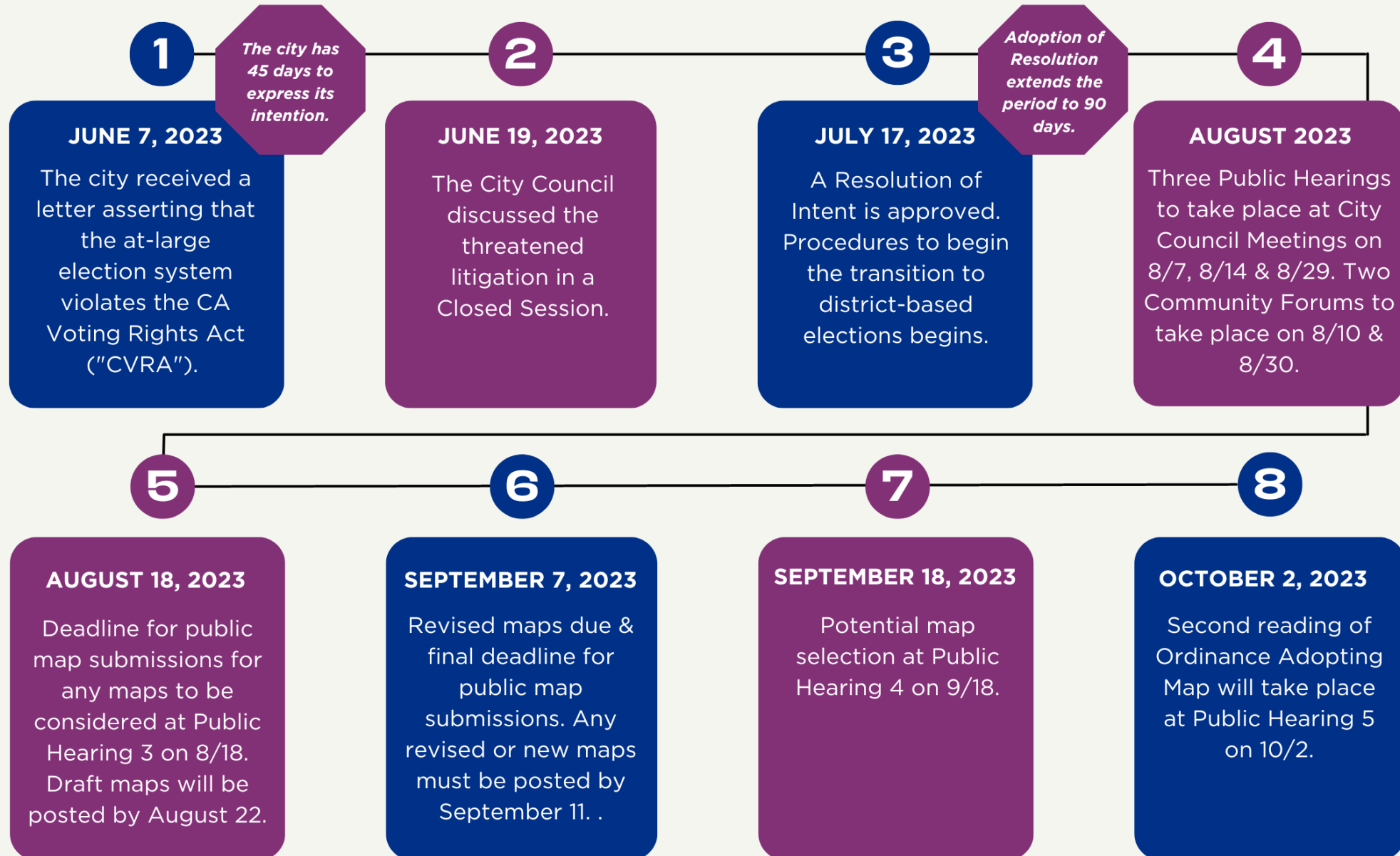


Timeline Required by Law

- California Voting Rights Act provides a “**Safe Harbor**” provision to local government agencies with at-large election systems.
- **45 days** to express its intention
- **90 days** to hold at least four public hearings, drawing and publishing of maps, and the sequence of elections



CityofRanchoCordova.org/Districts



Public Hearings & Community Forums

PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMUNITY FORUMS

Public Hearing #1: Education about and Public Input on Composition of Districts

August 7, 2023 • 6:30 PM
Rancho Cordova City Hall

Community Forum: Informal Discussion and Mapping Tools Demonstration

August 10, 2023 • 5:30 PM
Rancho Cordova City Hall

Public Hearing #2: Education about and Public Input on Composition of Districts

August 14, 2023 • 5:30 PM
Rancho Cordova City Hall

The public hearings will take place during City Council meetings.

Public Hearing #3: Draft Maps, Revision and Election Sequence Discussion

August 29, 2023 • 5:30 PM
Rancho Cordova City Hall

Community Forum: Informal Draft Maps Discussion

August 30, 2023 • 5:30 PM
Rancho Cordova City Hall

Public Hearing #4: Map Selected and Ordinance Introduced

September 18, 2023 • 6:30 PM
Rancho Cordova City Hall

Public Hearing #5: Map Adopted by Ordinance

October 2, 2023 • 6:30 PM
Rancho Cordova City Hall

Para información en español, escanee el código QR:
Для получения информации на русском языке
отсканируйте QR-код:



For more information, visit: CityofRanchoCordova.org/Districts

The Law Requires:

At least four public hearings for the public to provide input.

The City Is:

- Holding five public hearings and two community forums for a total of seven public meetings.
- Each of the seven meetings will have translators for both Spanish- and Russian-speaking guests.

Community Outreach

Goals

- Broad and targeted
- Meet residents where they are

Tactics

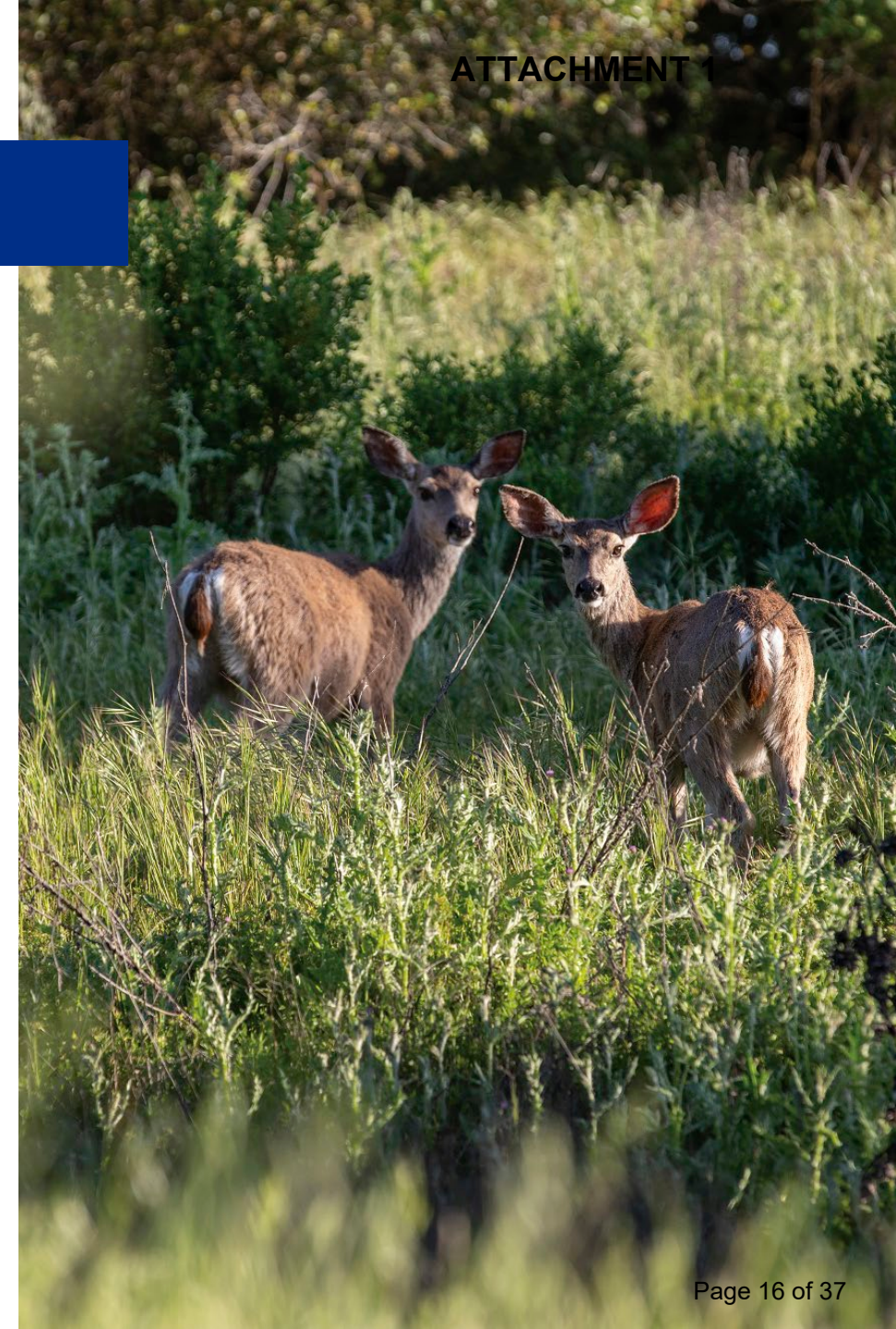
- **Citywide postcard** in English, Spanish, Russian
- **Rancho Cordova News Alerts**
- **Rancho Cordova News**
- **City Social Media** – Facebook, Instagram, X, Nextdoor
- **Grapevine article, ad and public hearing notice**
- **Sac Bee public hearing notice**
- **Flyers to diverse communities** - FCCP, Russian American Media, Spanish-language businesses, KP, Viva, Sunrise Indian market, Mi Rancho, Halal Mart Market, Afghan Supermarket
- **Flyers to community partners** – CCC, Chamber, Explorer, CRPD, Children's Museum, FCUSD, SCUSD



Community Information

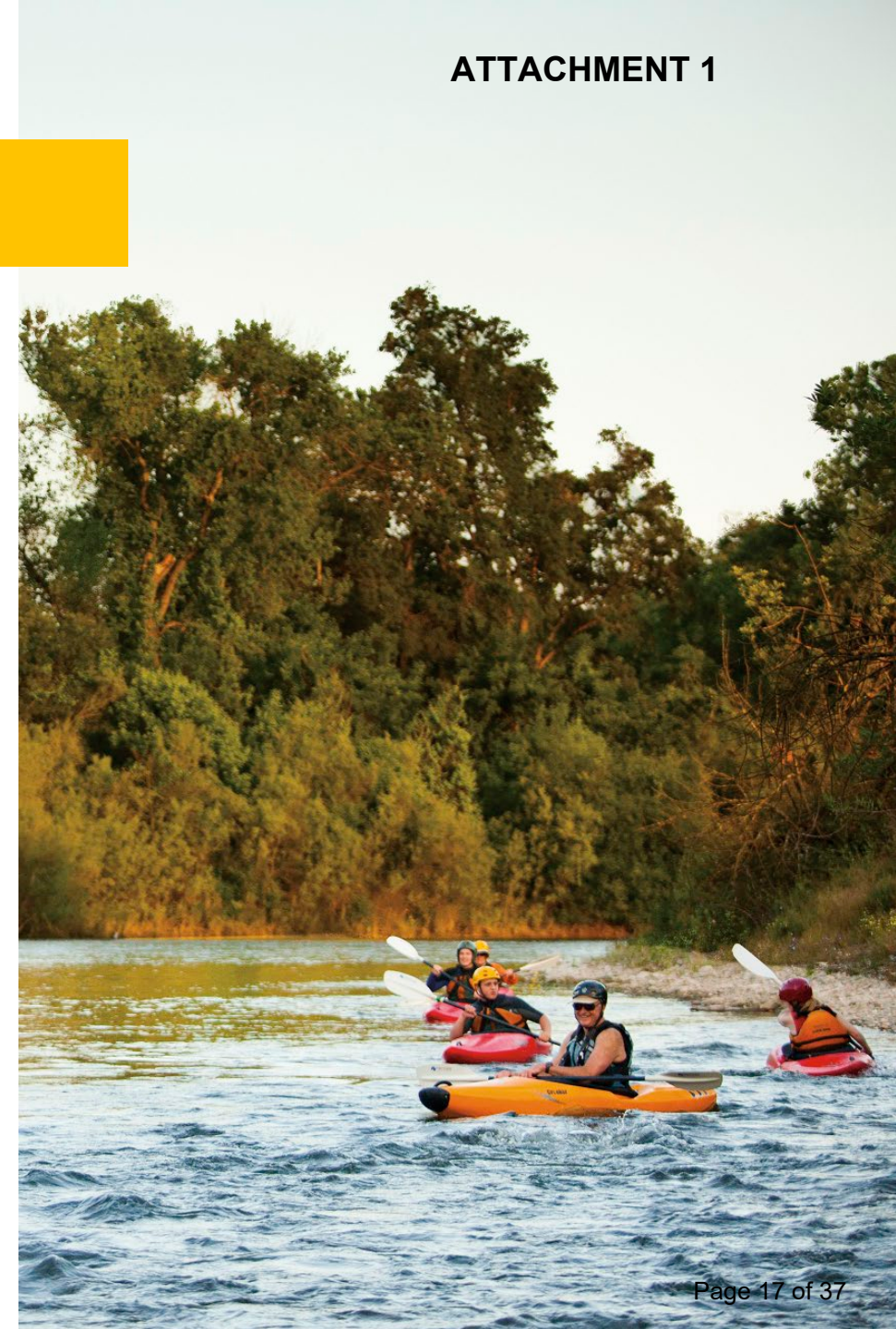
Cityofranchocordova.org/districts

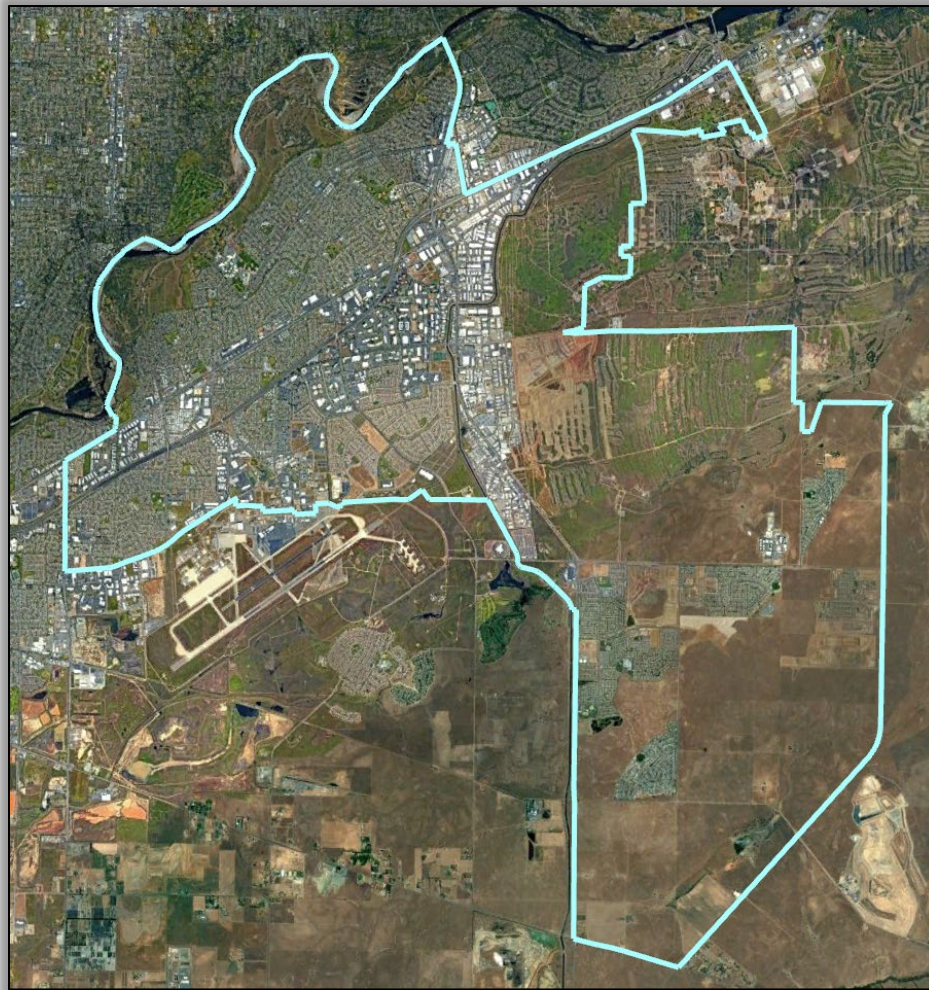
- One-stop for districting information
- Multiple links from homepage
- Complete information available
- Continuously updating
- Council Meeting agendas, staff reports and presentations
- Mapping tool and submitted maps



Mapping Tool Demonstration

Mapping Tool: <https://drawranchocordova.org/>





Rancho Cordova Introduction to Districting

August 14, 2023

Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From District” or “Residence” Districts
3. “By District”

The California Voting Rights Act
was written to specifically
encourage by-district elections.

Topics Not Covered in Districting

- ❑ Term Limits
- ❑ Council pay
- ❑ Full- vs Part-time Council
- ❑ “Strong Mayor” form of government

Any of these topics would be a separate agenda item and adoption process.

ITEM 3.1. California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) ATTACHMENT 2

- ❑ 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:
 - ❑ ~~Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~
 - ❑ Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
 - ❑ Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
 - ❑ ~~Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?~~
- ❑ Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting

CVRA Impact

- ❑ Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:
 - ❑ At least 275 school districts
 - ❑ 36 Community College Districts
 - ❑ 191 cities
 - ❑ 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - ❑ 53 water and other special districts.
- ❑ Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica fought “on the merits.” All lost.
 - ❑ Santa Monica and Santa Clara are appealing.
 - ❑ Palmdale spent about \$1.8 million, Santa Clara about \$800,000, and Santa Monica between \$5 and \$8 million, just on their defense.
 - ❑ Santa Monica plaintiffs requested \$22 million
 - ❑ No jurisdiction has won a case.
- ❑ Key settlements:
 - ❑ Palmdale: \$4.7 million
 - ❑ Santa Clara: \$3.16 million
 - ❑ Modesto: \$3 million
 - ❑ Highland: \$1.3 million
 - ❑ Anaheim: \$1.1 million
 - ❑ Whittier: \$1 million
 - ❑ Santa Barbara: \$600,000
 - ❑ Tulare Hospital: \$500,000
 - ❑ Compton Unified: \$200,000
 - ❑ Madera Unified: about \$170,000
 - ❑ Hanford Joint Union Schools: \$118,000
 - ❑ Merced City: \$42,000

Districting Process

Step	Description
Hearing 1 August 7	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
Community Forum August 10	Informal discussion of process, mapping tools, neighborhoods and communities of interest.
Hearing 2 August 14	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
Initial Map Deadline August 18	Initial deadline for residents to submit draft maps for Council consideration at the August 29 hearing.
Draft Maps Posted August 22	All draft maps must be posted on the project website 7 days in advance of the August 29 hearing.
Hearing 3 August 29	First Council consideration of draft maps.
Community Forum August 30	Informal discussion of draft maps.
Final Map Submission Deadline September 7	Deadline for residents to submit draft maps for Council consideration at the September 18 hearing.
All Draft Maps Posted September 11	All draft maps must be posted on the project website 7 days in advance of the September 18 hearing.
Hearing 4 and Map Selection September 18	Council consideration of draft maps, selection of preferred map and election sequence, and introduction of ordinance adopting the map.
Hearing 5 and Map adoption October 2	Public hearing followed by second reading of the ordinance adopting the map.

Districting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



2. California Criteria for Cities

1. **Geographically contiguous**
2. **Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest”**
(Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
3. **Easily identifiable boundaries**
4. **Compact**
(Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

Prohibited: “Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party.”

3. Other Traditional Districting Principles

Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office
Future population growth

Demographic Summary

ITEM 3.1

The ideal population is the total population divided by the number of districts:

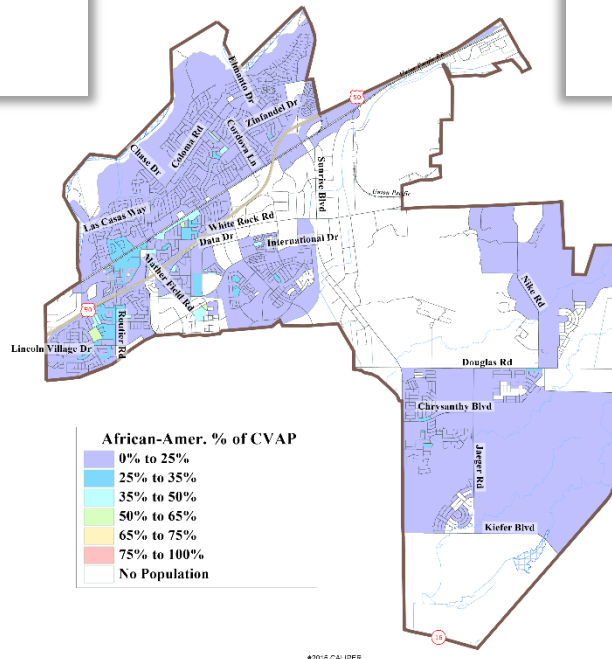
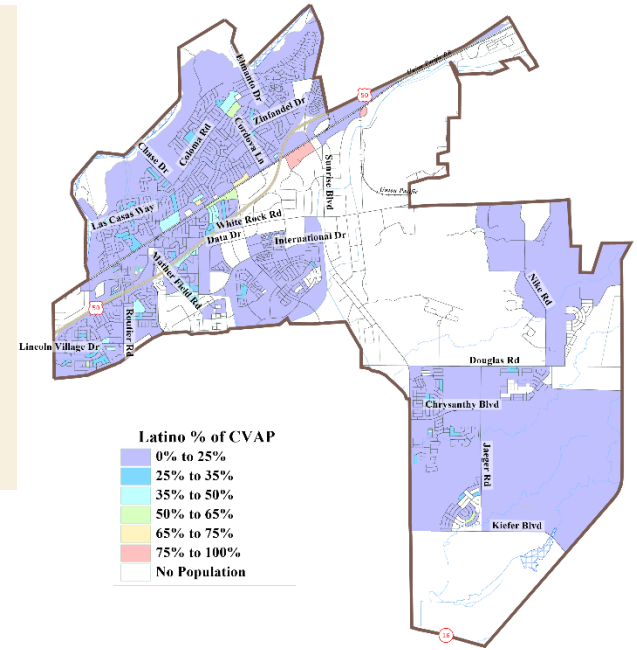
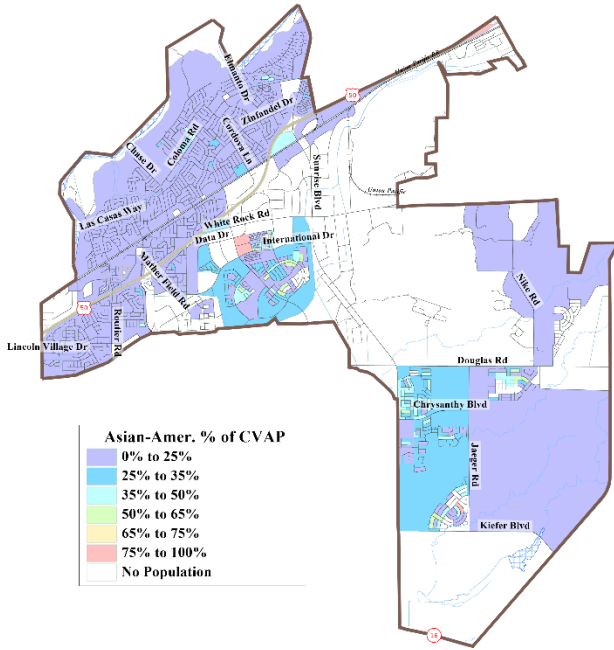
# Districts	Ideal Pop.
5	15,929
6	13,274
7	11,378

Category	Field	Total	Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	79,643	ATTACHMENT 2 Age	age0-19	28%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	22%		age20-60	55%
	NH White	45%		age60plus	17%
	NH Black	11%	Immigration	immigrants	24%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	19%		naturalized	61%
	NH Native Amer.	2%	Language spoken at home	english	65%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	51,505		spanish	12%
	Hisp	16%		asian-lang	9%
	NH White	54%		other lang	14%
	NH Black	13%	Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	16%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	15%		hs-grad	61%
	Native Amer.	1%		bachelor	19%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	42,812		graduatedegree	8%
	Latino est.	15%	Child in Household	child-under18	37%
	Spanish-Surnamed	14%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	67%
	Asian-Surnamed	6%	Household Income	income 0-25k	14%
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%		income 25-50k	17%
	NH White est.	65%		income 50-75k	18%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	NH Black	11%		income 75-200k	44%
	Total	33,951		income 200k-plus	7%
	Latino est.	13%	Housing Stats	single family	74%
	Spanish-Surnamed	13%		multi-family	26%
	Asian-Surnamed	6%		rented	44%
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%		owned	56%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2018)	NH White est.	66%	Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data. Turnout and Registration data from California Statewide Database. "Latino" figures calculated by NDC using Census Bureau's Latino undercount by surname estimate.		
	NH Black	11%			
	Total	22,072			
	Latino est.	12%			
	Spanish-Surnamed	11%			
	Asian-Surnamed	5%			
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%			
	NH White est.	69%			
	NH Black est.	11%			

Protected Class Concentrations

Asian-Americans are concentrated around Stone Creek and Tuscany Parks and around Anatolia.

Latinos and African-Americans are not geographically concentrated.



Defining Neighborhoods

1st Question: What is your neighborhood?

2nd Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- Areas around parks or schools
- Other neighborhood landmarks

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.



Beyond Neighborhoods:

Defining Communities of Interest

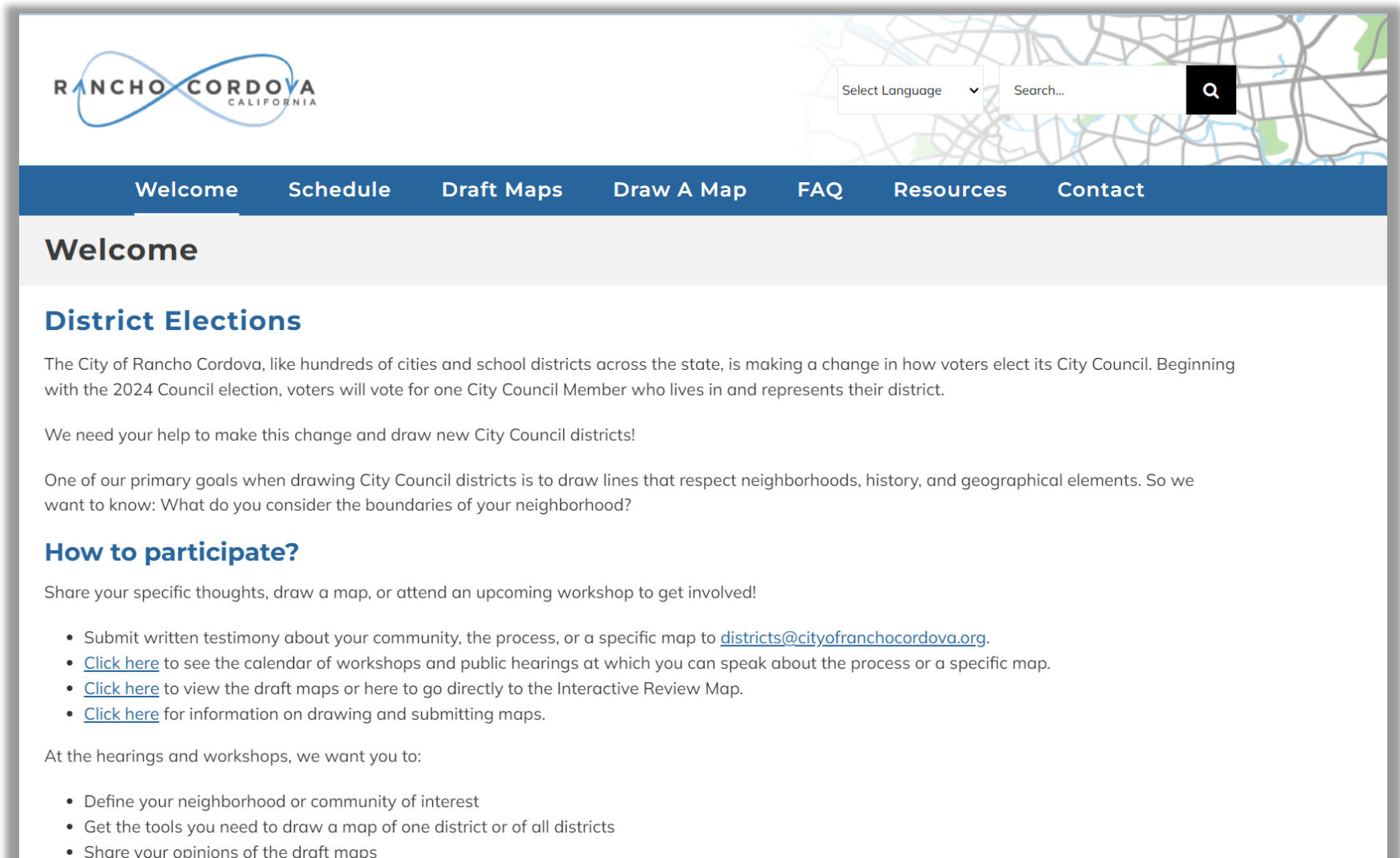
1st Question: What defines your community?

- Geographic Area, plus
- Shared issue or characteristic
 - Shared social or economic interest
 - Impacted by city policies
- Tell us “your community’s story”

2nd Question: Would this community benefit from being “included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation”?

- Or would it benefit more from having multiple representatives?

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



Public Mapping and Map Review Tools

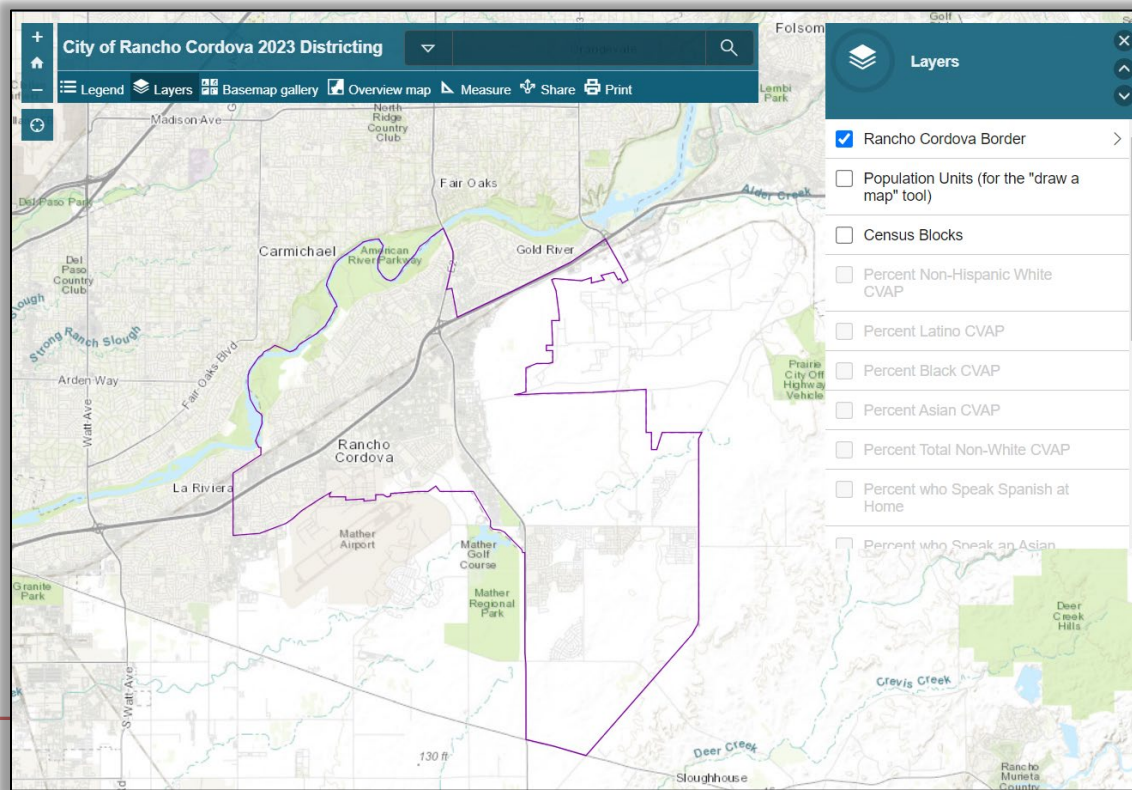
- Different tools for different purposes
- Different tools for different levels of technical skill and interest
 - Simple “review draft maps” tool
 - Easy-to-use one-page paper mapping tool
 - Powerful, data-rich “Draw a draft map” online tool

Whether you use the powerful online mapping tool, the paper tool, or just draw on a napkin, we welcome your maps!

Simple Map Review Tool

Online Interactive Review Map

- ESRI's "ArcGIS Online" – similar to Google Maps in ease of use
- Used to review, analyze and compare maps (not to create them)
- Includes overlays of "community of interest" and other data



ITEM 3.1. Simple Map Drawing Tool ATTACHMENT 2

Paper “Public Participation Kit”

- For those without internet access or who prefer paper
- Total Population Counts only – no demographic numbers

Rancho Cordova 2023 Districting Public Participation Kit

An online version of this map that allows you to zoom in and out for more detail is available as a link from the City website.

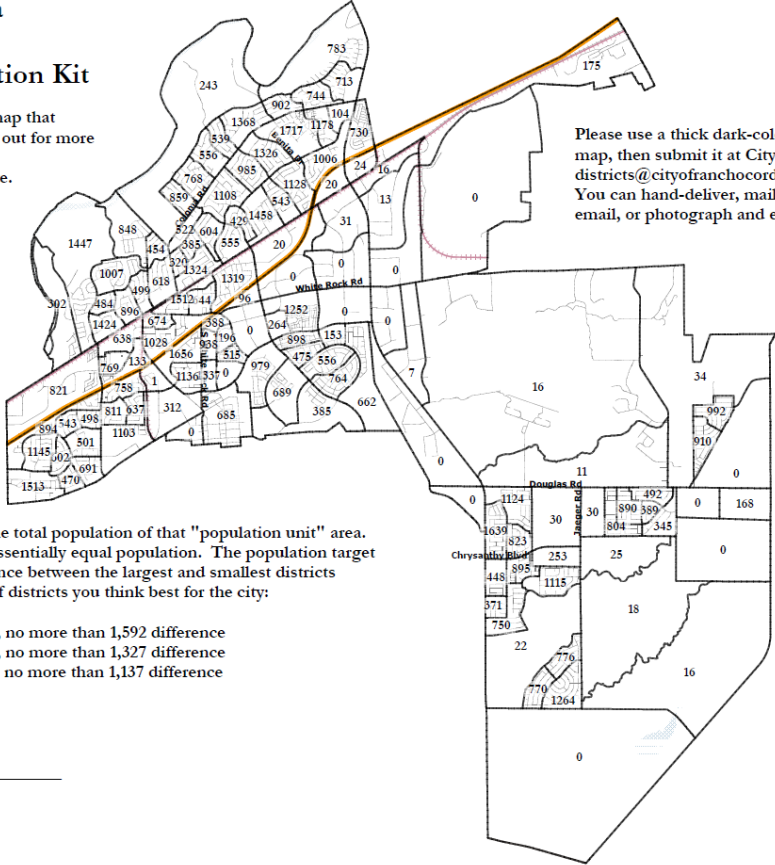
Please use a thick dark-colored pen to draw your map, then submit it at City Hall or by email to districts@cityofranhocordova.org. You can hand-deliver, mail, fax, scan and email, or photograph and email your map.

Each number indicates the total population of that "population unit" area. Each district must have essentially equal population. The population target and the maximum difference between the largest and smallest districts depends on the number of districts you think best for the city:

5 Districts: Target: 15,929, no more than 1,592 difference
6 Districts: Target: 13,274, no more than 1,327 difference
7 Districts: Target: 11,378, no more than 1,137 difference

Name: _____

Phone and/or email: _____



Each number indicates the total population of that "population unit" area. Each district must have essentially equal population. The population target and the maximum difference between the largest and smallest districts depends on the number of districts you think best for the city:

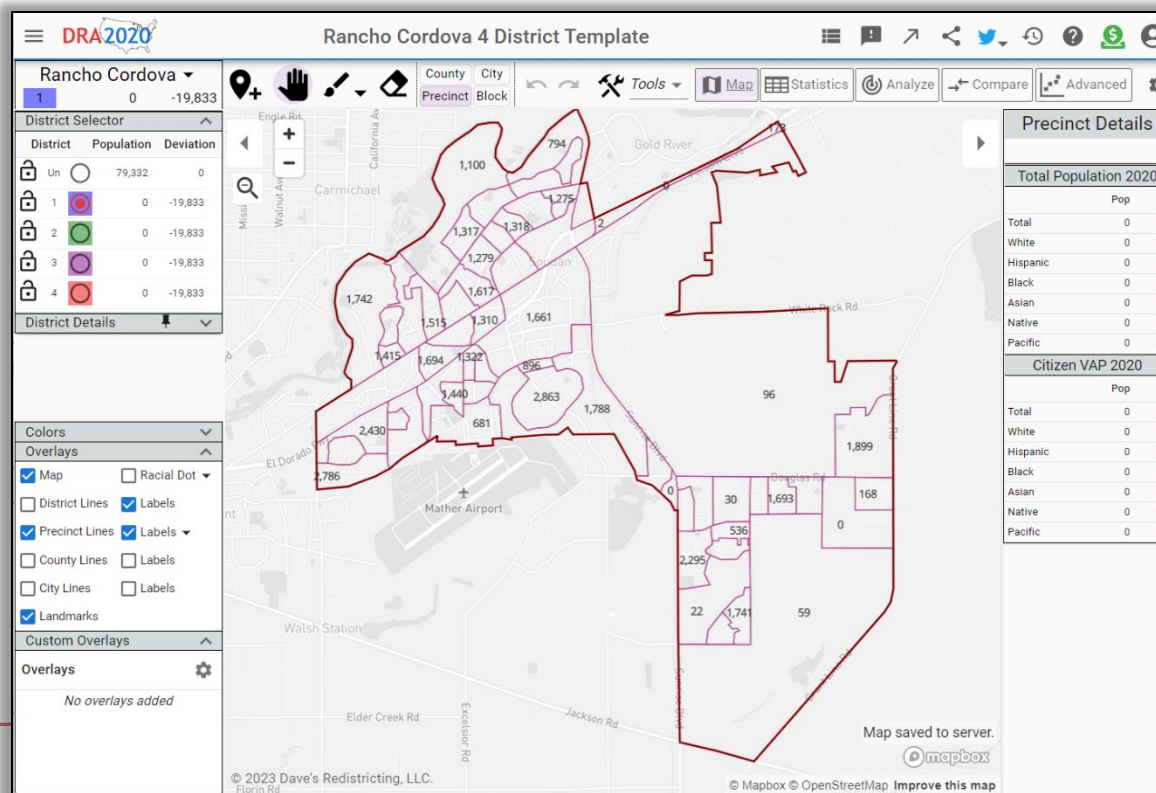
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7 Districts: Target: 11,378, no more than 1,137 difference

National Demographics Corporation, July 21, 2023
©2021 CALIPER

ITEM 3.1. Online Map Drawing Tool ATTACHMENT 2

Simple “paintbrush & eraser” tool. A 4-minute “how-to” video is on the website.

- Full demographic data available
- Create, collaborate and share your map
- Remember: you must send in the link to your map when you finish or the City has no way to know you drew a map!



Public Hearing & Discussion

Public Hearing Questions:

- ❑ What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?
- ❑ Any preferences on the number of districts and a rotating or citywide-elected Mayor?
- ❑ Any questions about the mapping tools?

Requested Council Direction:

- ❑ Direction on the number of districts and a rotating or citywide-elected Mayor.
 - ▣ Last week the Council narrowed the options to 4, 5 or 6.
 - ▣ Even numbers of districts have a citywide-elected Mayor; Odd numbers of districts have a rotating Mayor.

CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA

RESOLUTION NO. 108-2023

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA DECLARING ITS INTENTION, PURSUANT TO ELECTIONS
CODE SECTION 10010(e)(3)(A), TO TRANSITION FROM AT-LARGE TO DISTRICT-BASED
ELECTIONS AND TO INITIATE PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING
DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, the City of Rancho Cordova, California ("City") is a general law city, duly organized under the constitution and laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, members of the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova are currently elected in "at-large" elections, in which voters of the entire City elect the members of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 34886 permits the legislative body of a city to change its method of election by ordinance from an "at-large" system to a "district-based" system in which each member of the legislative body is elected only by the voters in the district in which the candidate resides; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2023, a notice of potential violation of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) was filed against the City of Rancho Cordova by attorney Scott J. Rafferty pursuant to Elections Code section 10010(e)(1), representing minority voters in Rancho Cordova and Neighborhood Elections Now, asking the City to begin the process to create single-member districts for the election to be held in November 2024; and

WHEREAS, the CVRA allows Prospective Plaintiffs to file a lawsuit against the City if the City does not adopt a resolution of intent to transition from at-large to district-based elections within 45 days of the notice ("45-day period"); and

WHEREAS, CVRA lawsuits can cost local jurisdictions millions of dollars to defend, and to date no jurisdiction has won a CVRA lawsuit; and

WHEREAS, the City will work with an experienced demographer to assist the City with the process to transition from at-large to district-based elections and to establish maps; and

WHEREAS, before drawing a draft map of the proposed boundaries of the districts, the City will hold at least two (2) public hearings over no more than thirty (30) days, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts; and

WHEREAS, the City will then publish and make available for release at least one (1) draft map of the new electoral districts, including the potential sequence of elections shown; and

WHEREAS, once the draft map has been publicized for at least seven (7) days, the City will hold at least two (2) additional public hearings, over no more than forty-five (45) days, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft map or maps and the proposed sequence of elections prior to the public hearing at which the Council adopts

a map; and

WHEREAS, if a draft map is revised at or following a public hearing, the revised map will be published and made available to the public at least seven (7) days before the City chooses to adopt it; and

WHEREAS, in determining the final sequence of staggered district elections, the City Council will give special consideration to the purposes of the CVRA, and will take in to account the preferences expressed by the members of the districts; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is intended solely to document the Council's intent to proceed with district-based elections; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now wishes to adopt criteria to guide the establishment of electoral districts consistent with legal requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby resolves, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, to adopt a district-based election system by ordinance as authorized by California Government Code section 34886 for use in the City's General Municipal Election for City Council Members.

SECTION 3. The City Council further resolves to retain an experienced demographer, hold at least five (5) public hearings and publish at least one (1) draft map and related sequence of elections.

SECTION 4. Staff is directed to publicize relevant maps, information, notices, agendas and other materials regarding district-based elections and to establish means of communication to answer questions from the public.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova this 17th day of July 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Gatewood, Pulipati, Sander, Terry, and Budge

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



Stacy Leitner, CMC
City Clerk



Linda Budge, Mayor