

City of Santa Maria Council Districting 2017

Criteria and Process

March 7, 2017

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Election Systems

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1. “At-Large” or “Citywide” elections
2. “From-District” or “Residence” requirements, with At-Large elections
3. “By-District” voting

**The California Voting Rights Act
favors by-district voting**



Why Districts?

At-Large Election

100 majority voters

20 opposition voters

When one voting bloc significantly outnumbers another, the majority wins every at-large seat.

By-District Election

30 majority voters

30 majority voters

10 majority voters

20 opposition voters

30 majority voters

But if the smaller group is geographically concentrated, it can elect someone who shares their views to the Council or Board.

Large-Scale Shift Statewide

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- Signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis in 2002
 - ▣ Suspended by Superior Court, but reinstated by appeals court in 2006.
 - ▣ AB350 signed by Gov. Brown went into effect 1/1/2017 limiting (plaintiff's) attorney fees to \$30,000

- Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:
 - ▣ At least 142 school districts
 - ▣ 28 Community College Districts
 - ▣ 53 cities
 - ▣ 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - ▣ 8 water and other special districts.

- Key decisions & settlements
 - ▣ Only Palmdale has gone to trial on the merits (the city lost)
 - ▣ Key settlements:
 - Palmdale: \$4.7 million
 - Modesto: \$3 million
 - Highland: \$1.3 million
 - Anaheim: \$1.1 million
 - Whittier: \$1 million
 - Santa Barbara: \$600,000
 - Tulare Hospital: \$500,000
 - Madera Unified: plaintiff attorneys asked for \$1.8 million, but received about \$170,000
 - Hanford Joint Union Schools: \$118,000
 - Merced City: \$42,000
 - Placentia: \$20,000

CVRA Legal Impacts

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- CVRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems
 - ▣ Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting
 - ▣ These expert-driven cases are almost prohibitively expensive, even if a jurisdiction wins



Transition Overview

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Date	Event
March 7	Council holds Public Hearing to take testimony on the composition of potential districts
March 30	Council holds Public Hearing to take testimony on the composition of potential districts
Mid April	Draft maps (including public submissions) published
April 20	Council holds Public Hearing to take testimony on the draft maps and election sequencing
May 2	Public Hearing and Map Ordinance Introduction (at regular Council Meeting)
May 16	2 nd reading and final adoption of Ordinance
November 2018	First two Council Districts hold elections
November 2020	Remaining Council Districts hold elections

Federal Laws

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



Traditional Criteria

- Communities of interest
- Compact
- Contiguous
- Visible (Natural & man-made) topographical or geographical boundaries and/or features
- Respect for voters' wishes and continuity in office (avoiding pairing that results in head-to-head contests between incumbents)
- Planned future (population) growth

Defining Communities of Interest

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A Community of Interest is a neighborhood or community of shared interests, views, or characteristics.

Possible community feature/boundary definitions include:

- ❑ School Attendance Areas
- ❑ City borders
- ❑ 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



Demographic Summary

The key numbers are the Total Population (it determines the number of people per district) and Citizen Voting Age Population, or CVAP (which measures voting strength based on eligible voters).

(Table is updated with the latest CVAP and ACS data that came out last month.)

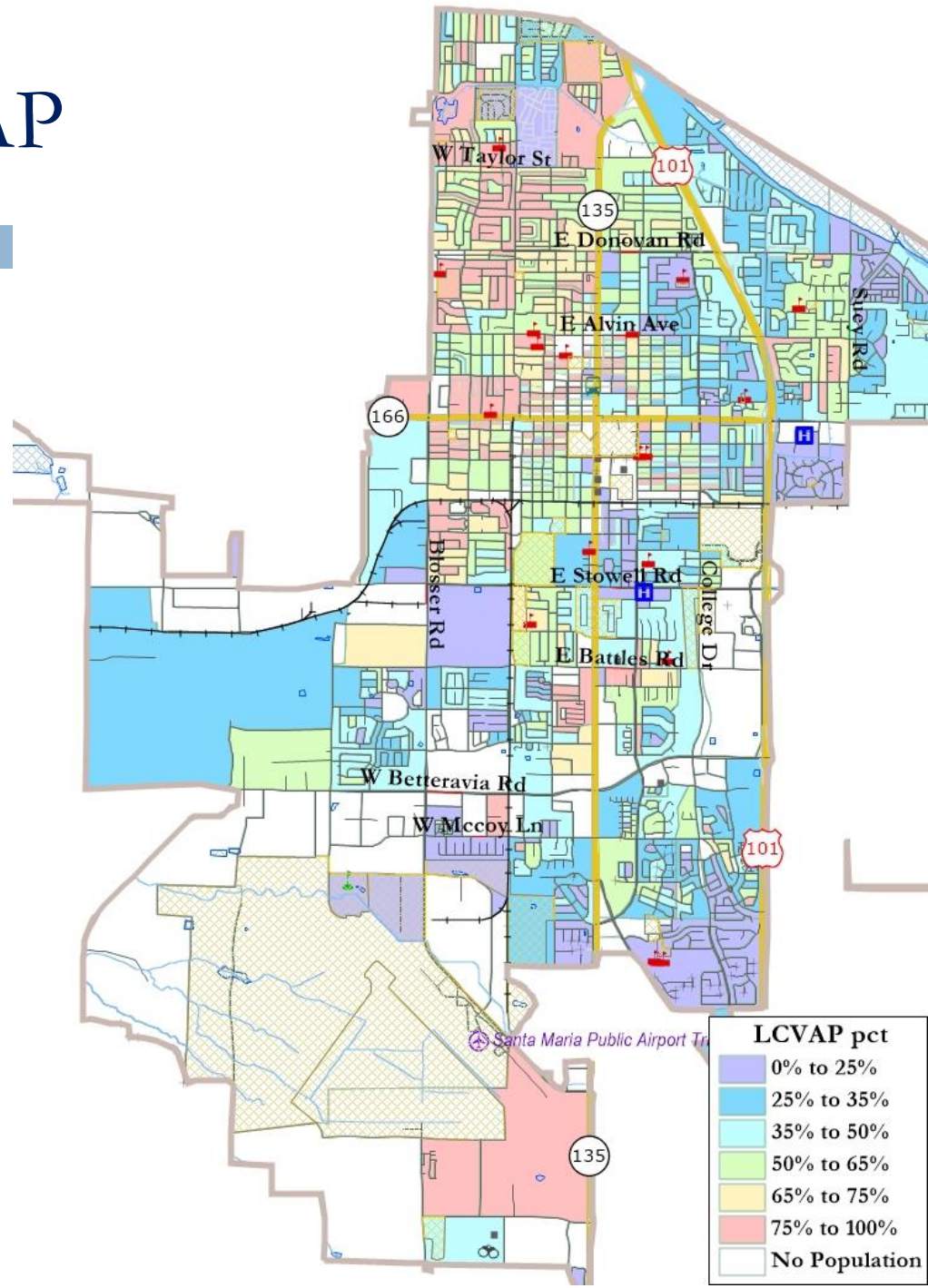
Race/Ethnic Profile	Count	Percent	ACS Profile	Count	Percent
Total Population	99,553		ACS Total Population	102,493	3%
Latino	70,114	70%	Age 0 - 19	35,686	35%
NH White	21,626	22%	Age 20 - 60	53,669	52%
NH Black/African-American	1,387	1%	Age 60+	13,138	13%
NH Native American	597	1%			
NH Asian-American	5,124	5%	Immigrant	35,483	35%
NH Pacific Islander	191	0%	Naturalized (pct of total immigrants)	9,208	26%
NH Other	202	0%	Age 5+	92,913	
NH Multi-Race	312	0%	Speak English at home	33,486	36%
Voting Age Population total	68,251		Speak Spanish at home	54,434	59%
VAP Latino	43,917	64%	Speak an Asian language at home	3,196	3%
VAP NH White	18,421	27%	Speak other language at home	1,798	2%
VAP NH Black/African-American	1,027	2%	Speak English only "well" or less	31,513	34%
VAP NH Native American	462	1%	Age 25+	58,056	
VAP NH Asian-American	3,956	6%	Age 25+, no HS degree	24,103	42%
VAP NH Pacific Islander	134	0%	Age 25+, HS degree (only)	26,685	46%
VAP NH Other	128	0%	Age 25+, bachelor degree (only)	5,087	9%
VAP NH Multi-Race	206	0%	Age 25+, graduate degree (only)	2,180	4%
Citizen VAP total	46,292		Households	27,441	
CVAP Latino	23,247	50%	Child under 18 in Household	11,749	43%
CVAP NH White	18,031	39%	Income \$0-25k	5,815	21%
CVAP NH African-American	753	2%	Income \$25-50k	7,929	29%
CVAP NH Asian & Pacific Islander	3,746	8%	Income \$50-75k	5,200	19%
CVAP Other (incl. Nat. Amer. & Pac. Isl)	515	1%	Income \$75-200k	8,024	29%
Voter Registration (Nov. 2014)	27,517		Income \$200k+	472	2%
Latino Reg	14,190	52%	Housing units	28,923	
Asian-Surnamed Reg.	371	1%	Single-Family	20,656	71%
Filipino-Surnamed Reg.	746	3%	Multi-Family	8,267	29%
Est. NH White Reg.	11,582	42%	Vacant	1,482	5%
Est. African-Amer. Reg	469	2%	Occupied	27,441	95%
Democratic Reg.	10,835	39%	Rented	13,823	50%
Republican Reg.	8,614	31%	Owned	13,617	50%
Other/No Party Reg.	8,068	29%			
Voters Casting Ballots (Nov. 2014)	14,502	53%	Voters Casting Ballots (Nov. 2012)	20,439	74%
Latino voters	5,645	39%	Latino voters	8,817	43%
Asian-Surnamed voters	183	1%	Asian-Surnamed voters	270	1%
Filipino-Surnamed voters	359	2%	Filipino-Surnamed voters	540	3%
Est. NH White voters	7,902	54%	Est. NH White voters	10,014	49%
Est. African-Amer. Reg	311	2%	Est. African-Amer. Reg	465	2%
Democratic voters	5,656	39%			
Republican voters	5,827	40%			
Other/No Party voters	3,018	21%			








Sources: 2010 Census, California Statewide Database, and the 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Latino CVAP

Latinos are a Citywide slim majority of eligible voters (measured by CVAP) at 50.2 percent and are most heavily concentrated in the northwest part of the city.

Be aware that geographically large Census Blocks on this map can be misleading. For example, the “75% to 100% Latino CVAP” red block at the south end of the City has only 1 resident. What drives determinations of legal districting maps are the smaller, heavily populated, Census Blocks.



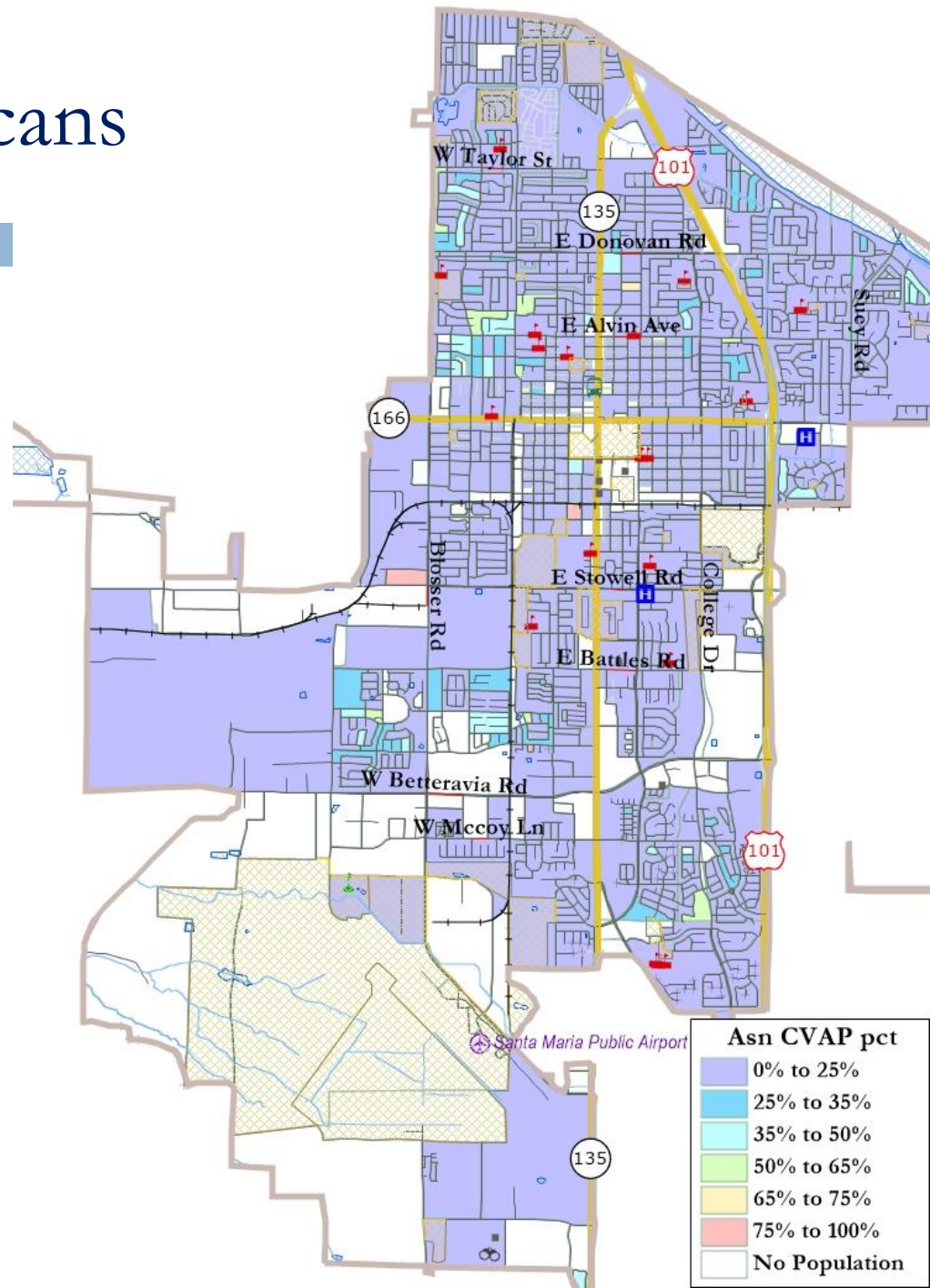
LCVAP pct	
	0% to 25%
	25% to 35%
	35% to 50%
	50% to 65%
	65% to 75%
	75% to 100%
	No Population

Asian-Americans

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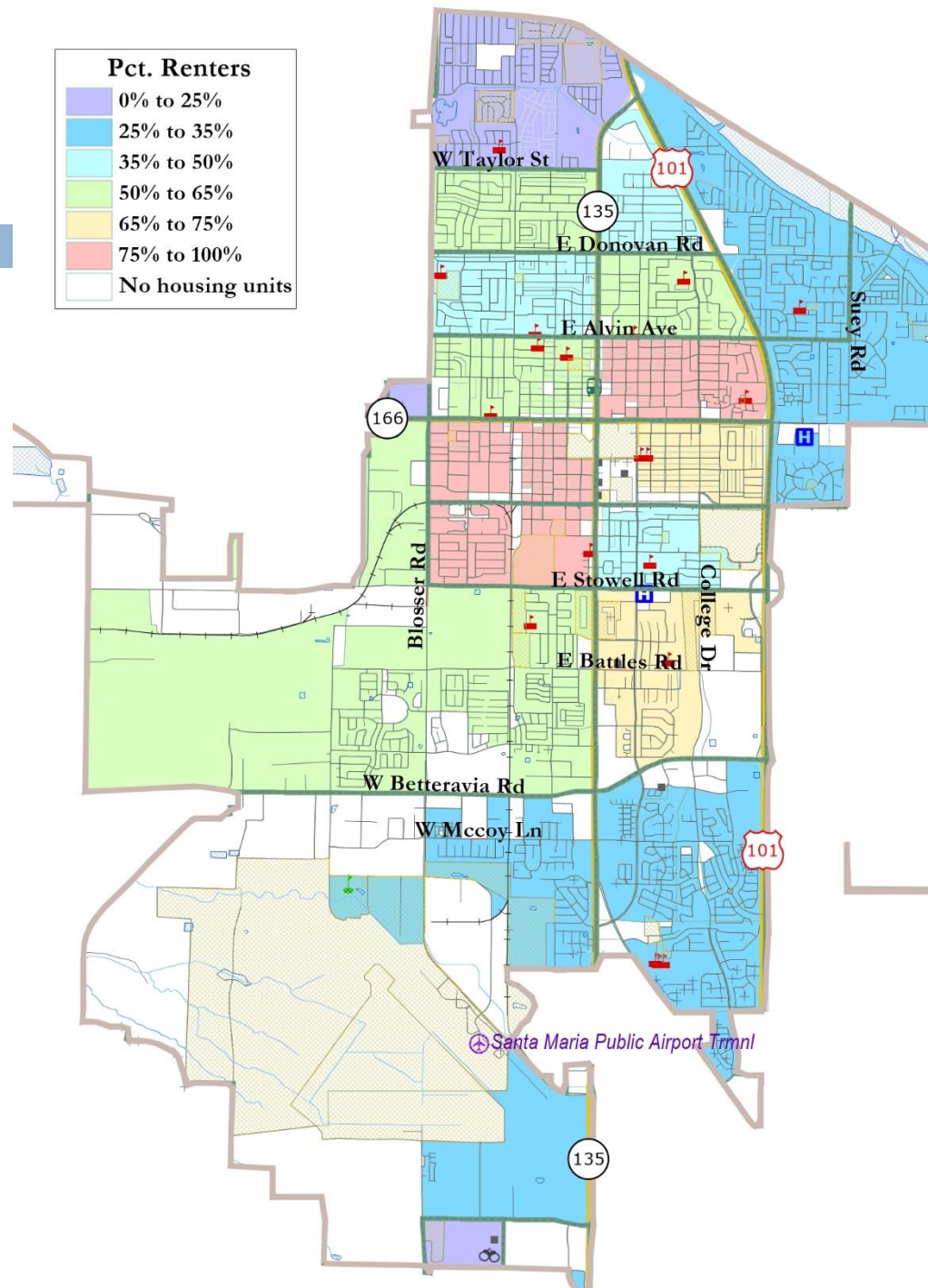
There are no neighborhoods with large and concentrated enough Asian-American residents to impact the drawing of district lines.

The same is true for African-Americans.

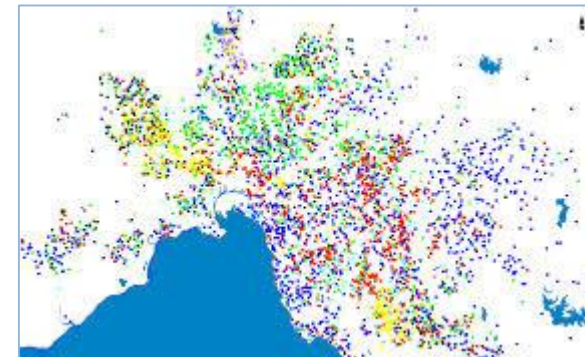


The percentage of housing units occupied by renters is an example of demographic data that can help identify “communities of interest.”

Note that non-ethnic data is only available at the Census Tract level of geography – shown with the green border lines – not the smaller city block or Census Block level of detail where we have the ethnic data.



- Additional data is available for use in identifying “communities of interest” when drawing districts:
 - ▣ Single-family and Multi-family housing unit areas
 - ▣ Languages spoken at home
 - ▣ Income levels
 - ▣ And much, much more



Key Community Input

How do you define your neighborhood or community of interest?

What other surrounding neighborhoods share similar interests?

Tonight's Public Hearing

- Purpose of the Public Hearing is not to engage in a debate on the merits of district-based elections
- The Public Hearing tonight is designed to receive input from the public on the composition of potential districts and relay this information to the demographer

- Open up the Public Hearing and receive input from the public on the composition of potential districts