

National Demographics Corporation



#### El Monte Union High School District Introduction to the California Voting Rights Act & Districting

Douglas Johnson, President

National Demographics Corporation (NDC)

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### **CVRA Statewide Impact**

- Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:
  - At least 135 school districts
  - 27 Community College Districts
  - 32 cities
  - 1 County Board of Supervisors (the last not-by-district County)
  - 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
  - Anaheim: \$1.1 million
  - Whittier: \$1 million
  - Santa Barbara: \$600,000
  - Tulare Hospital: plaintiff attorneys paid \$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





10/26/2016



### **Typical School District Process**

4		
Date	Action	
Step 1	Presentation on map-drawing criteria, process and demographics; Board consideration of Change and Criteria resolution(s), Board direction to start election waiver process	
Step 2	Initial Board hearing to discuss draft plans: Board direction on which maps to take to public forums. Board hearing on election waiver.	
Step 3	Public Forums on Draft maps (optional)	
Step 4	Board public hearing & adoption of Trustee Areas resolution	
Step 5	County Committee on School District Organization hearing and vote on Board- adopted trustee area map (Must be complete at least 125 days prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> by-area election date)	
Step 6	State Board of Education vote on election waiver	
Nov. 2017 or 18	First round of by-area elections	
Nov. 2019 or 20	Remaining trustee areas hold by-area elections	





## AB350 Process (starting 2017)

School Districts may not have to follow this process.

Date	Action	
Step 1	Presentation on map-drawing criteria, process and demographics; Board consideration of Change and Criteria resolution(s), Board direction to start election waiver process	
Step 2	Two board public hearings to gather public input on what neighborhoods and other elements should be the focus and/or building blocks of draft maps	
Step 3	Initial Board hearing to discuss draft plans: Board direction on which maps to take to public forums. Separate Board hearing on election waiver.	
Step 4	Public Forums on Draft maps (optional)	
Step 5	Board two additional Board public hearings, followed by adoption of Trustee Areas resolution	
Step 6	County Committee on School District Organization hearing and vote on Board- adopted trustee area map (Must be complete at least 125 days prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> by-area election date)	
Step 7	State Board of Education vote on election waiver	
Nov. 2017 or 18	First round of by-area elections	
Nov. 2019 or 20	Remaining trustee areas hold by-area elections	



# Community Engagement "3 E's"

- **1.** Engage the public
- 2. Educate the public
- 3. Empower the public
- Public comment hopefully will include:
  - Definitions of neighborhoods and "communities of interest"
  - Suggesting individual districts or entire plans
  - Sharing opinions on plans





Federal Laws	Traditional Redistricting Principles
Equal Population	Communities of interest
Federal Voting Rights Act	Compact
No Racial Gerrymandering	Contiguous
	Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
	Respect voters' choices

**D** Planned future growth



7

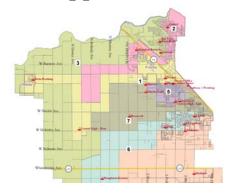


- □ There are many ways to define communities
- Best way to define a neighborhood remains to hear from the people who live there
- □ Some examples of communities of interest could include:
  - School attendance areas; housing developments; neighborhoods around parks; horse-friendly neighborhoods
- □ Some communities want to be **unified** to maximize their voice in single election.
- Other communities (often school attendance areas and senior living communities) want to be **divided** so they have multiple representatives answering to them.





- □ The consultant typically draws 3 or 4 initial draft maps to help illustrate options and get the discussion going
- □ Members of the public can submit or request alternative options
- □ If there are a lot of maps under consideration, after at least one hearing the Board often narrows the list down to 2 or 3 this enables the public to focus its input on the key maps under consideration
- It is often possible to 'mix and match' parts of different maps to arrive at a final map
- □ The selection of a District-preferred map is done by majority vote of the Board, followed by County Committee review and approval or disapproval



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