



# El Monte Union High School District

## Introduction to the California Voting Rights Act & Districting

10/26/2016

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# CVRA Statewide Impact

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- 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



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# Districting Process

10/26/2016

# Typical School District Process

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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 <i>(Must be complete at least 125 days prior to 1<sup>st</sup> by-area election date)</i>
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.*

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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 <b><i>(Must be complete at least 125 days prior to 1<sup>st</sup> by-area election date)</i></b>
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”

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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

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

## Traditional Redistricting Principles

- Communities of interest
- Compact
- Contiguous
- Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
- Respect voters' choices
- Planned future growth



# Defining Communities

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- ❑ 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.



# Choosing the Map

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- ❑ 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

