



# District Elections

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Tracy  
Education and Public Input

October 28, 2025



# Council Actions Requested

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Conduct first of two public hearings to receive input on the composition of voting districts before maps are drafted

Request any additional information needed from staff and/or the demographer before the next public hearing to facilitate providing direction on creation of draft plans



# Potential Timeline: Phase I

Event	Date
Hearing 1- Education and public input	Oct 28
Hearing 2- Public input and initial direction	Nov 18
Public plan and Communities of Interest submission deadline	Nov 25
Publish public and draft maps	Dec 4



# Potential Timeline: Phase II

Event	Date
Hearing 3- Review plans and potential sequence of elections and provide direction	Dec 11
Publish revised maps	Jan 6
Hearing 4- Review. Make final edits. Select plan	Jan 13
Introduce Potential Ordinance Establishing By-District Elections and Sequence of Elections (tentative)	Jan 20
Adopt Potential Ordinance Establishing By-District Elections and Sequence of Elections (tentative)	Feb 3



# California Voting Rights Act

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Can require jurisdictions to transition to district elections

Provides guidance for sequencing of elections

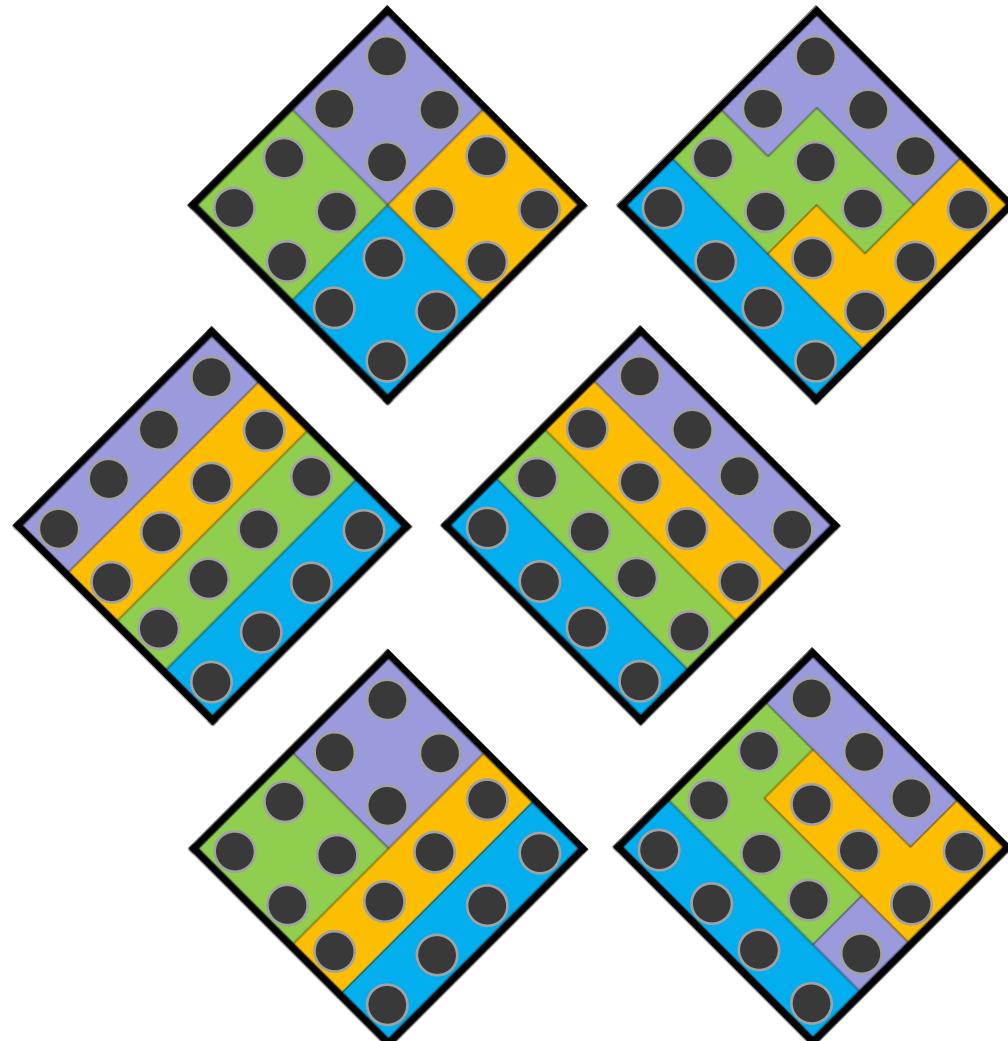
# What is Districting?

As opposed to an at-large system, representatives are elected from districts

Districting is simply the process of drawing boundaries

How those lines are drawn affects how people are represented

Mayor still elected at-large





# Relevant Laws

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U.S. Constitution

Federal Voting Rights Act

State Constitution and Code

Case Law

# Equal Population

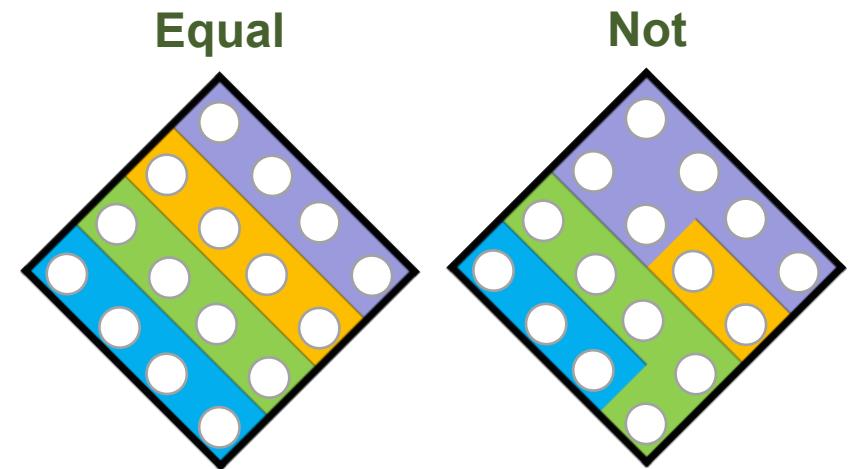
**Equal Population:** "As far as practicable"

Exact: no. Good faith: yes

**Deviation:** Difference between actual & ideal size

10% no longer clear “safe harbor”

California provides adjusted data for incarcerated populations





# Demographics

Total	Total	NH-White	Latino*	Asian*	Black*
Population^	93,350	27.0%	38.7%	22.7%	6.9%
Voting Age Population^	69,112	29.8%	35.5%	23.1%	7.1%
Citizen Voting Age Population+	59,598	32.8%	34.6%	21.7%	8.0%

<sup>^</sup> 2020 Census Redistricting Data. Adjusted for incarcerated populations

<sup>+</sup> Adjusted 2019-2023 American Community Survey Special Tabulation

<sup>\*</sup> Calculated pursuant to OMB BULLETIN NO. 00-02



# 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment & Voting Rights Act

**Race:** Must not be the “predominant” factor

Can consider along with traditional, race-neutral, criteria

Traditional criteria must not be subordinate

**Vote Dilution:** Avoid depriving minority voters of an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice

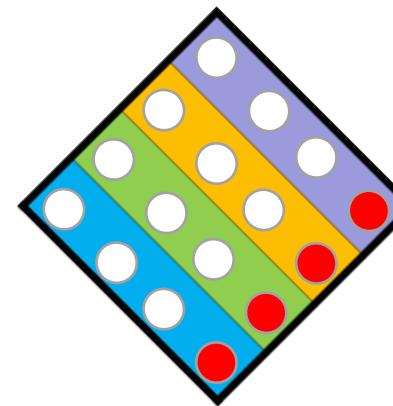
Discriminatory intent not required, only effect

# Voting Rights Act

## Gingles Criteria:

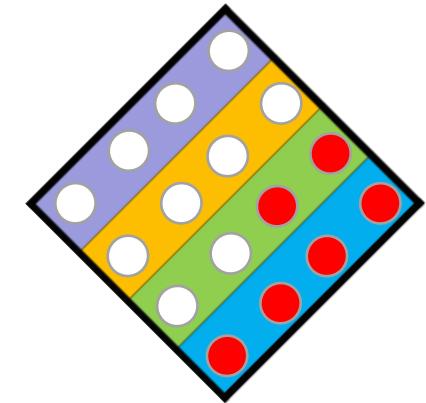
1. The minority group must be sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a district
2. The minority group must be politically cohesive
3. The white majority votes sufficiently as a block to enable it to usually defeat the minority's preferred candidate

### Cracking



Dispersing into several districts such that a block-voting majority can routinely outvote

### Packing



Concentrating to minimize influence in other districts



# Traditional Criteria

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**Elections Code 22000  
establishes ranked criteria:**

Contiguity

Community of Interests

Topography/Geography

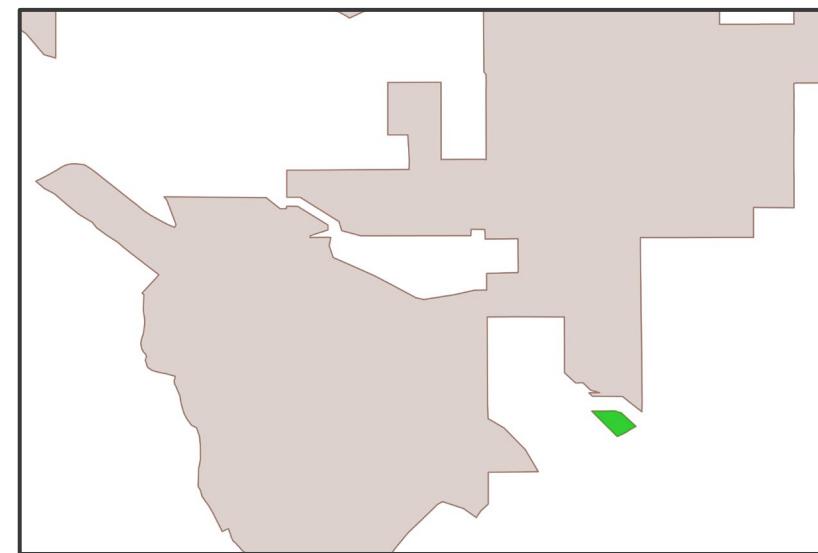
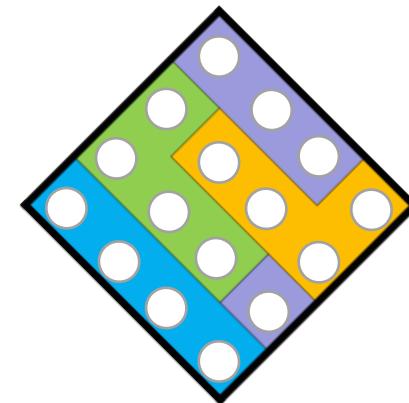
Compactness

# Contiguity

**Contiguity:** All parts should be connected

Special cases such as non-contiguous portions of the city

**Non-Contiguous**



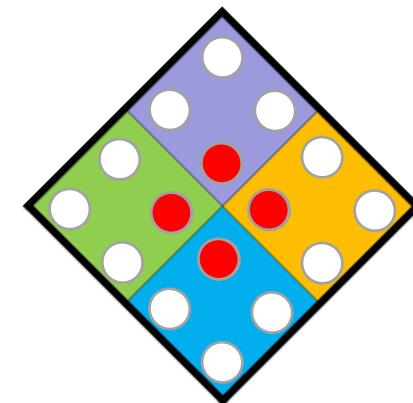
# Community of Interest

## Community of Interest:

Common social or economic interests. Bringing like people together for representation

Minimize splits and keep together to allow for effective and fair representation

## Split Community





# Community of Interest

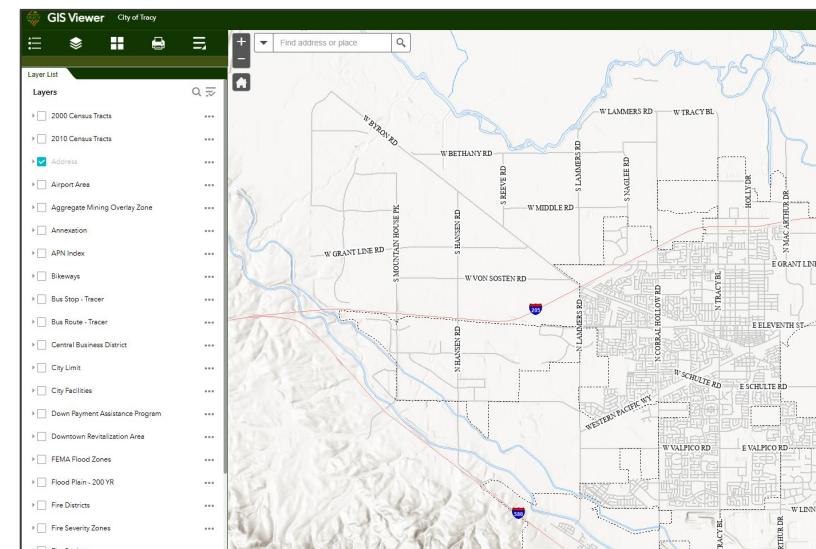
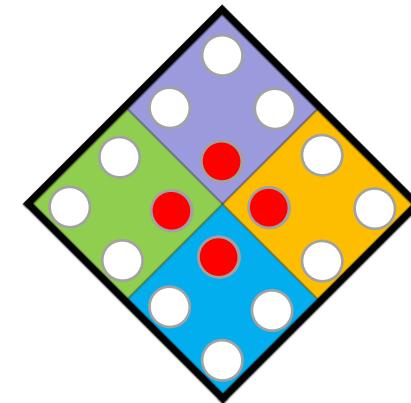
## Community of Interest:

For example, shared policy concerns, socioeconomic characteristics, histories, and cultural districts

Can consider existing information but no definitive dataset

## Need public testimony!

## Split Community



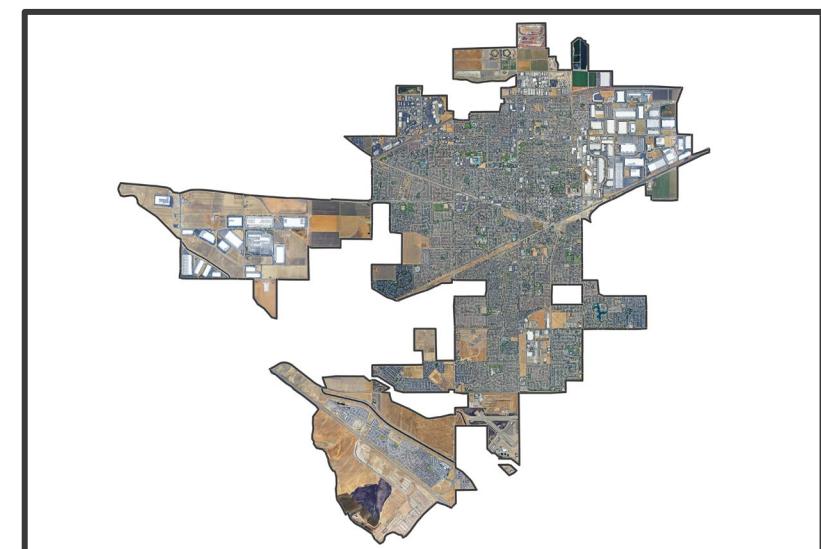
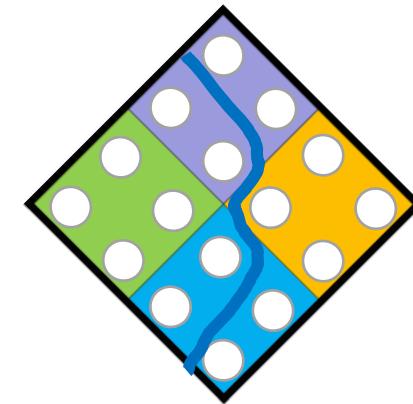
# Topography/Geography

## Topography and Geography:

Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following city, natural, and man-made boundaries

Not always compact

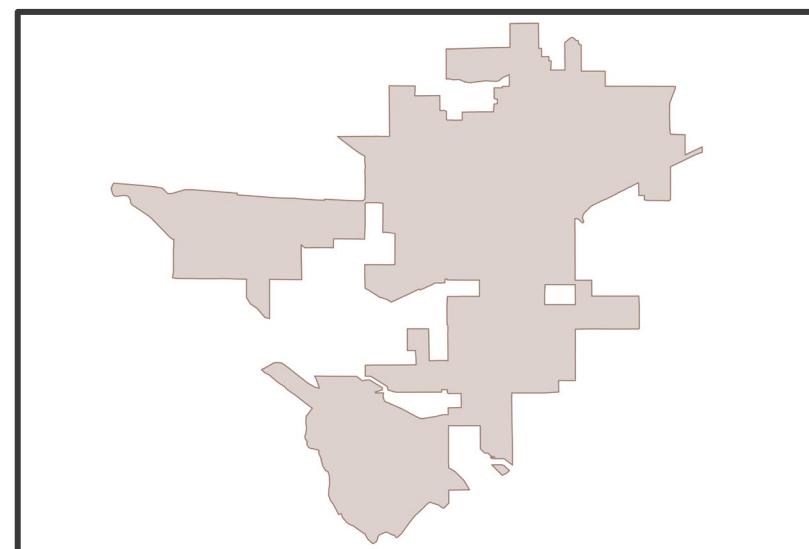
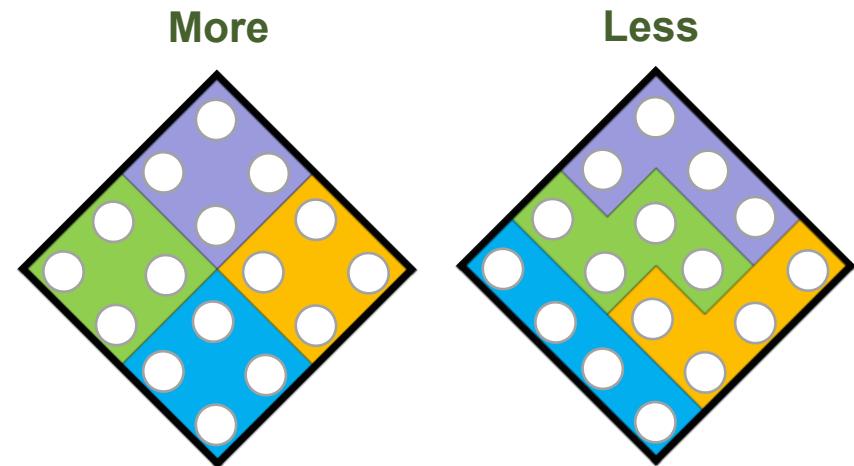
### Split Boundary



# Compactness

**Compactness:** Be aware of shape and appearance

Keeping in mind this is lower ranked than other criteria



# Prohibitions

## Political Parties, Incumbents, & Candidates:

Cannot draw for purpose of  
advantaging or disadvantaging

Communities of interest cannot  
be defined by relationships  
with any of the above





# Things to Remember

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**Strive for population equality.** Be prepared to justify deviations

**Ensure compliance with federal Voting Rights Act.** Avoid vote dilution where required

**Do not use race as the predominant factor.** Only as one of many factors and cannot subordinate other redistricting criteria

**Focus on traditional criteria.** Draw contiguous divisions, respecting communities of interest, making use of existing topography and geography, while being compact as possible.

**Don't focus on politics.** Avoid considering impacts on parties, incumbents, or candidates.



# Census Data

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**Census:** Conducted every ten years.

Purpose is to count every person

Used to determine if populations are equal

Reported by census blocks

**ACS:** Monthly sample averaged over five years

Purpose to estimate a more detailed demographics

Used to determine compliance with Voting Rights Act.

Reported primarily by census block groups or tracts

But California breaks down CVAP data to census block

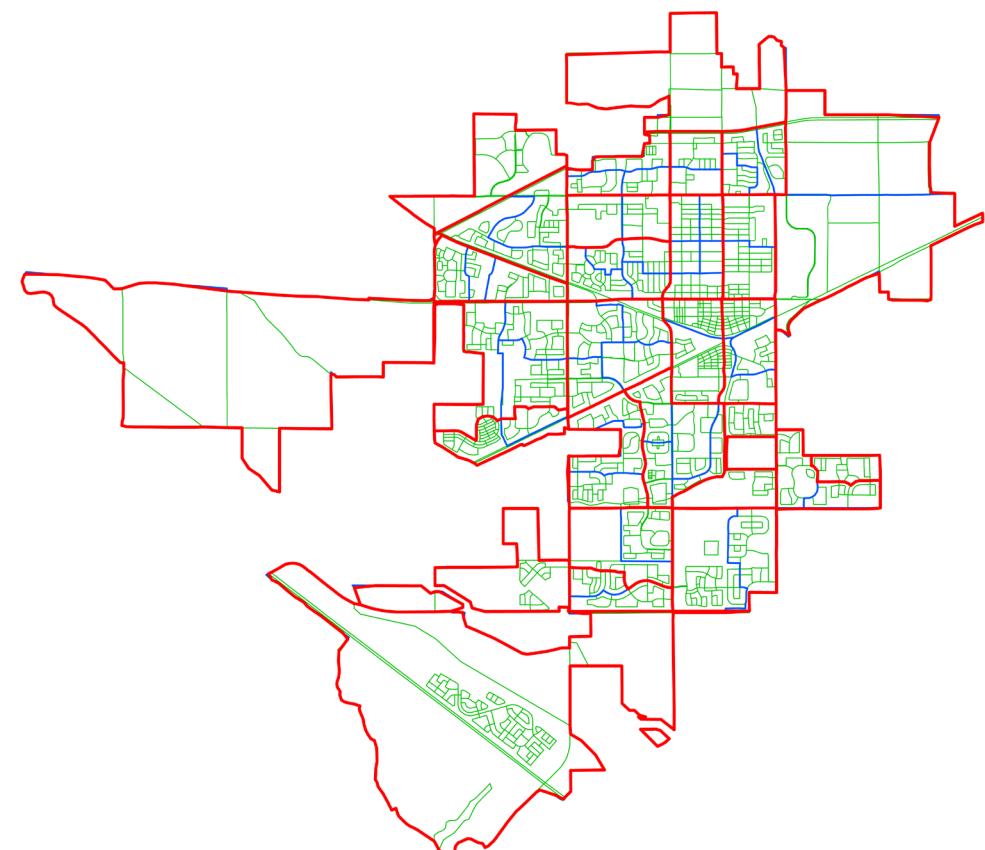
# Census Geography

Type <sup>+</sup>	#	Average Pop
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Block 1,080 86

Block Group 62 1,506

Tract 24 3,890



*+ Includes Block Groups and Tracts only partially within the jurisdiction.*

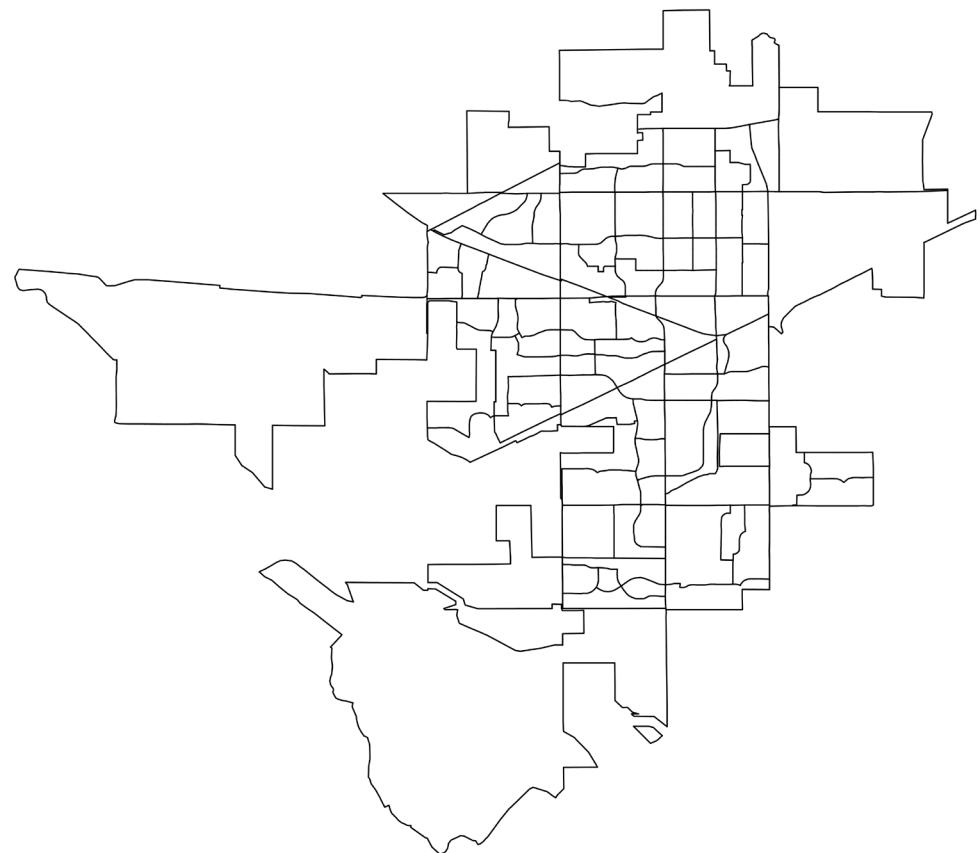
# Slice Geography

Type	#	Average Pop
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Slice 91 1,026

**Slices:** Combination of census and other understandable boundaries.

Used to lower barriers to public redistricting plans





# Two Phases

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## **Phase I:** Before drawing draft plans:

- October 28
- November 18

Chance for public to provide input on communities of interest, existing lines, and then propose their own plans

All public input to website

## **Phase II:** After first draft and public plans:

- December 11
- January 13

Chance for public feedback, suggested changes, consider alternate plans, and more public input

Final plan adopted by February 3



# Public Outreach

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Public outreach is not only legally required, but also critical to producing the information needed to produce a plan.

Public can contribute in multiple ways.



# Public Outreach

- Districting webpage was launched on October 10, 2025
- Email announcement and social media posts issued on October 13, 2025
  - Email was sent to 16,779 addresses with 66% open rate
- Districting featured in the City Manager's October Newsletter issued on October 14, 2025
- Direct mailer was sent to 45,774 addresses in the City (residents and businesses) on October 15, 2025

**CITY OF TRACY DISTRICTING WEBPAGE**

**CIUDAD DE TRACY PAGINA DE WEB DE DISTRITACION**

**City Manager's Newsletter**

**CITY OF TRACY DISTRICTING WEBPAGE**

**Public Hearing Schedule**

**Calendario de Audiencias Públicas**

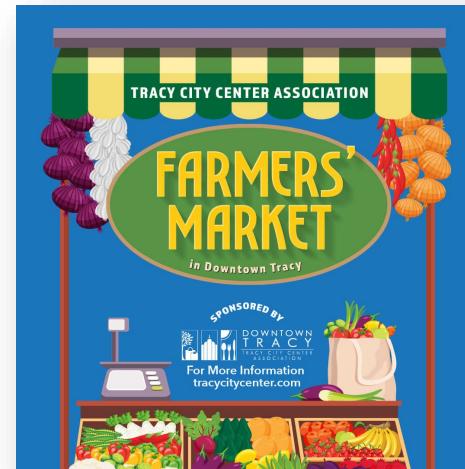
**WAGAMAN STRATEGIES**

WAGAMAN STRATEGIES

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# Public Outreach

- Staff attended the Farmers Market on October 25, 2025
- Staff attended the Día de Los Muertos Family Day event on October 25, 2025
- The City's consultant, Triepi Smith, placed 86 calls to community organizations to inform them about districting



# Public Outreach

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- Planned Outreach
  - Animated video about districting
  - Additional appearances at the Farmers Market throughout the districting process
    - Next Date: November 15, 2025, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
  - Consistent social media posts
  - Informational flyers
  - Utility bill insert in November (flyer)
- Next Public Hearing: **November 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**





# Public Input

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## Communities of Interest:

- Where is it located?
- What is the mutual interest of the community?
- Why should it be kept together?

Online tool and printable worksheet on the website

## Plans:

Draw one district or all four

Online tool using blocks

Printable worksheet using slices

Basic demographics, PDF, and interactive map produced for all plans (including public)

# Resources

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## In Person/Mail

- City Clerk's Office  
333 Civic Center Plaza  
Tracy, CA 95376



## Webpage

- [cityoftracy.org/districting](http://cityoftracy.org/districting)

## Email

- [districting@cityoftracy.org](mailto:districting@cityoftracy.org)

## Phone

- (209) 831-6105  
City Clerk's Office- Public Line