



District Elections

Tracy
Education and Public Input

October 28, 2025



Council Actions Requested

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

Can require jurisdictions to transition to district elections

Provides guidance for sequencing of elections

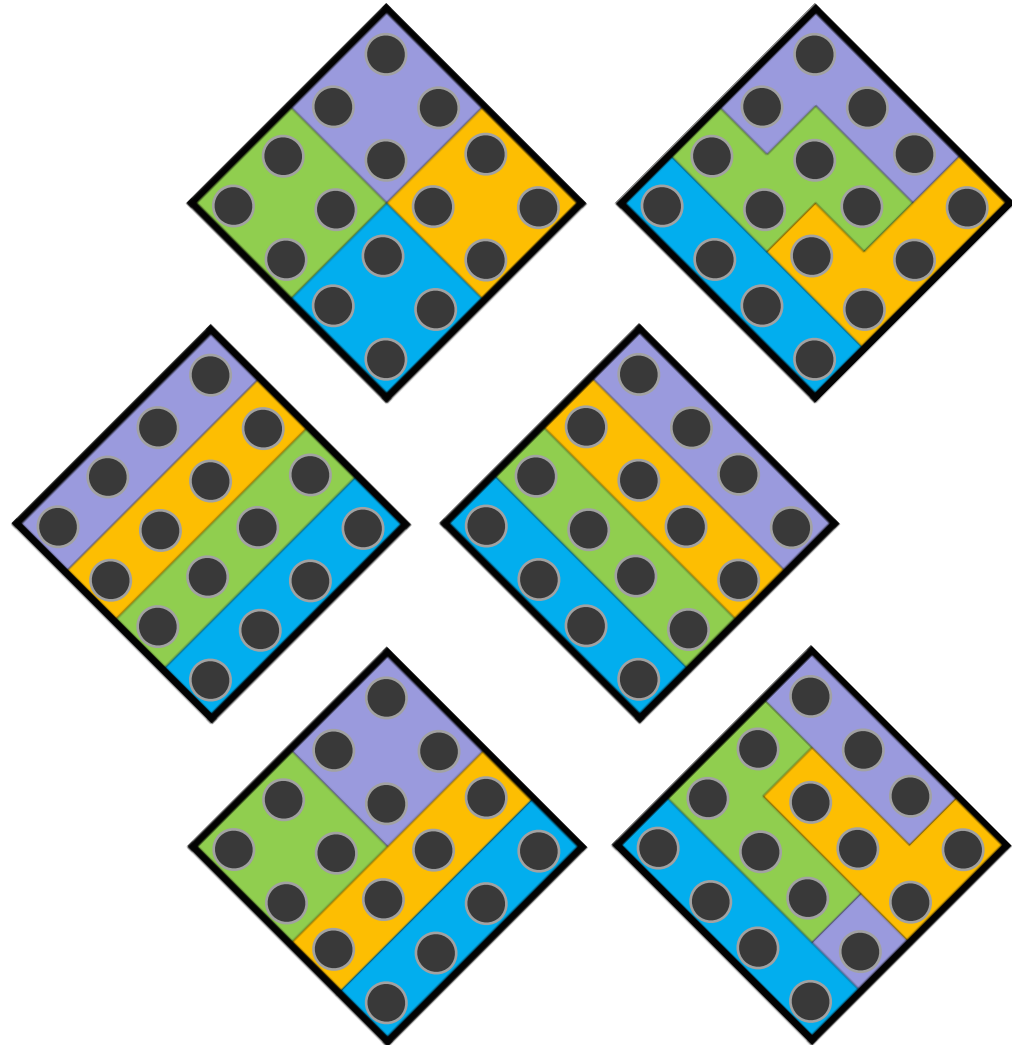
What is Districting?

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

U.S. Constitution

Federal Voting Rights Act

State Constitution and Code

Case Law



Equal Population

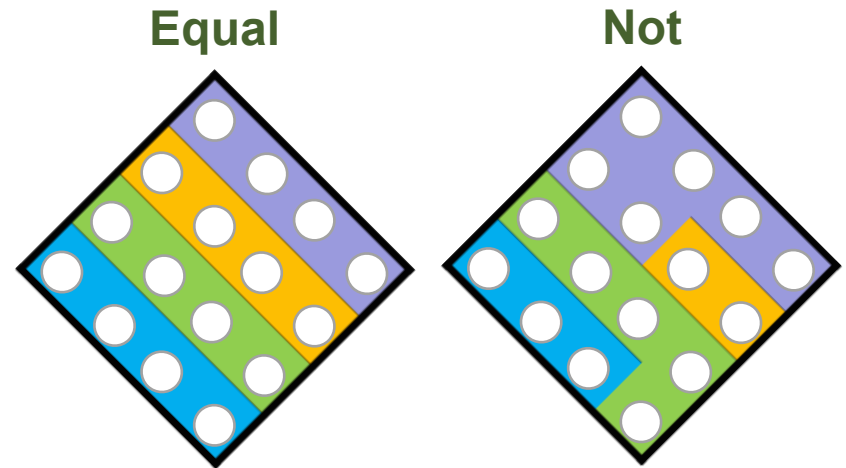
Equal Population: "As far as practicable"

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%

^ 2020 Census Redistricting Data. Adjusted for incarcerated populations

+ Adjusted 2019-2023 American Community Survey Special Tabulation

** Calculated pursuant to OMB BULLETIN NO. 00-02*



14th 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

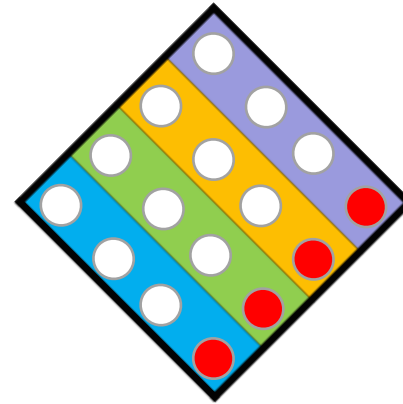
Discriminatory intent not required, only effect

Voting Rights Act

Gingles Criteria:

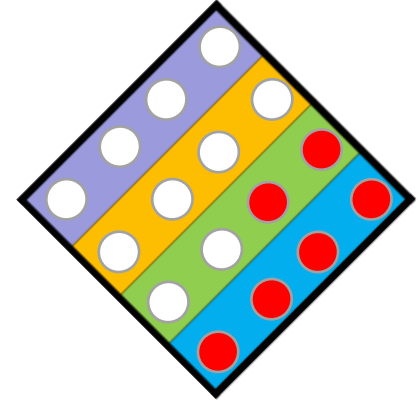
1. The minority group must be sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a district
2. The minority group must be politically cohesive
3. The white majority votes sufficiently as a block to enable it to usually defeat the minority's preferred candidate

Cracking



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

Packing



Concentrating to minimize influence in other districts



Traditional Criteria

Elections Code 22000 establishes ranked criteria:

Contiguity

Community of Interests

Topography/Geography

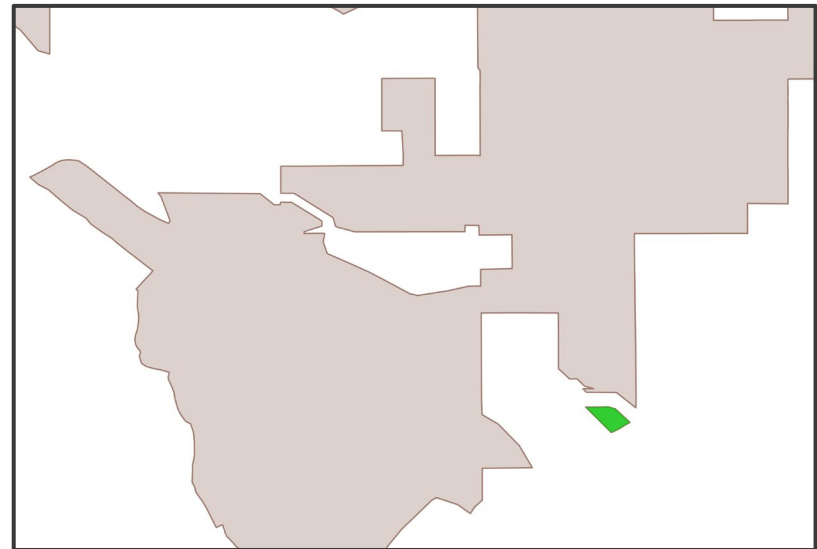
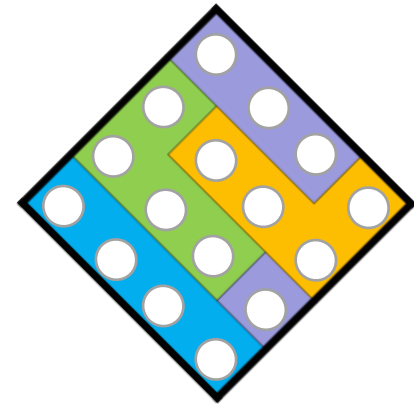
Compactness

Contiguity

Contiguity: All parts should be connected

Special cases such as non-contiguous portions of the city

Non-Contiguous



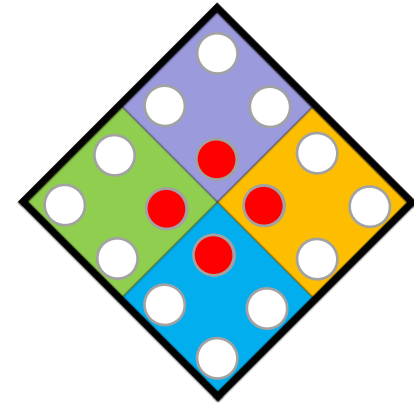
Community of Interest

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



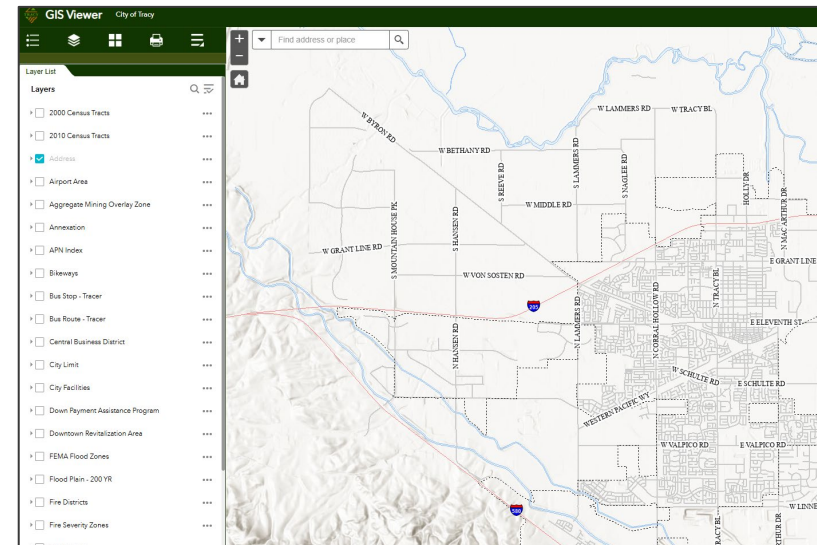
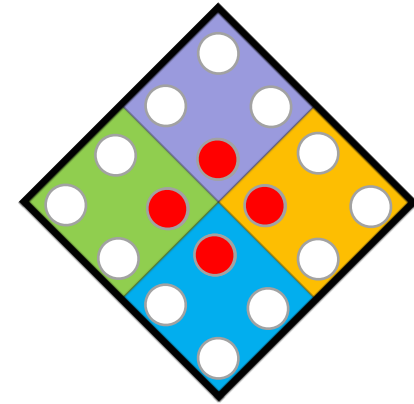


For example, shared policy concerns, socioeconomic characteristics, histories, and cultural districts

Can consider existing information but no definitive dataset

Need public testimony!

Split Community



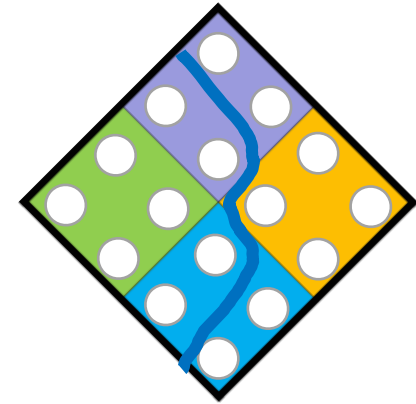
Topography/Geography

Topography and Geography:

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

Not always compact

Split Boundary

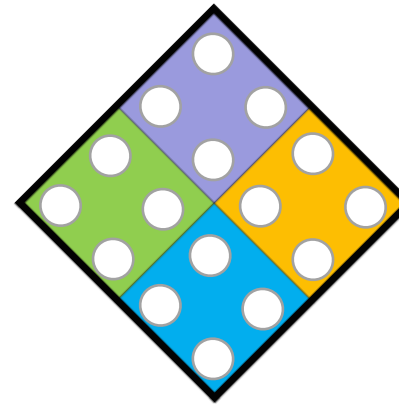


Compactness

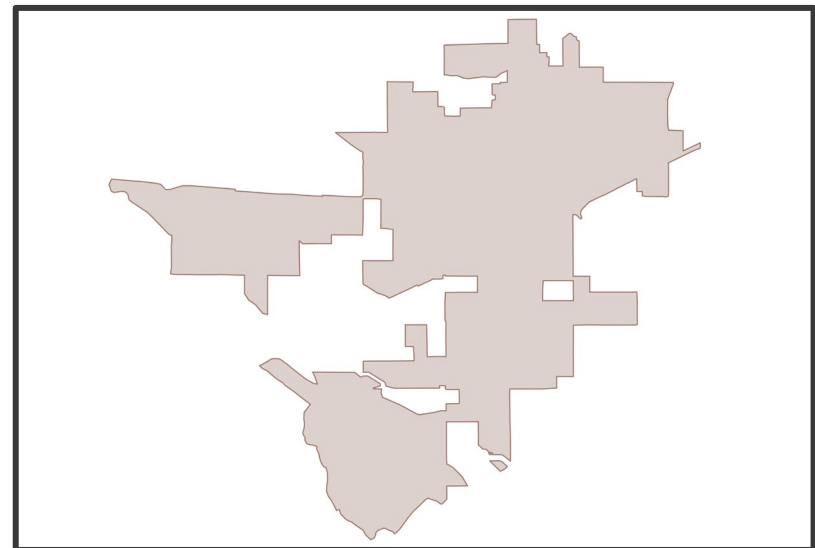
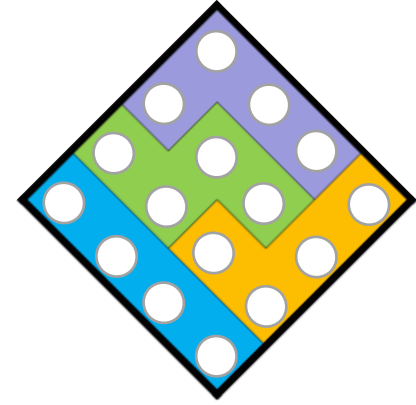
Compactness: Be aware of shape and appearance

Keeping in mind this is lower ranked than other criteria

More



Less

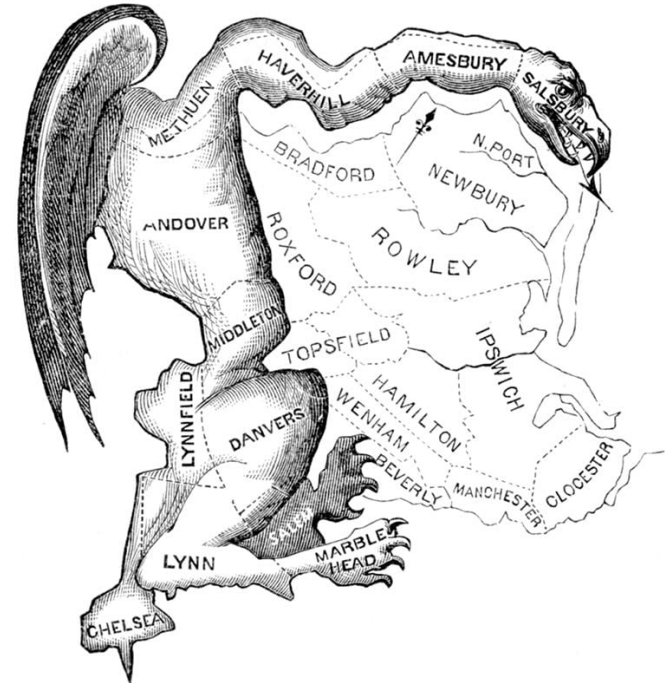


Prohibitions

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

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

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



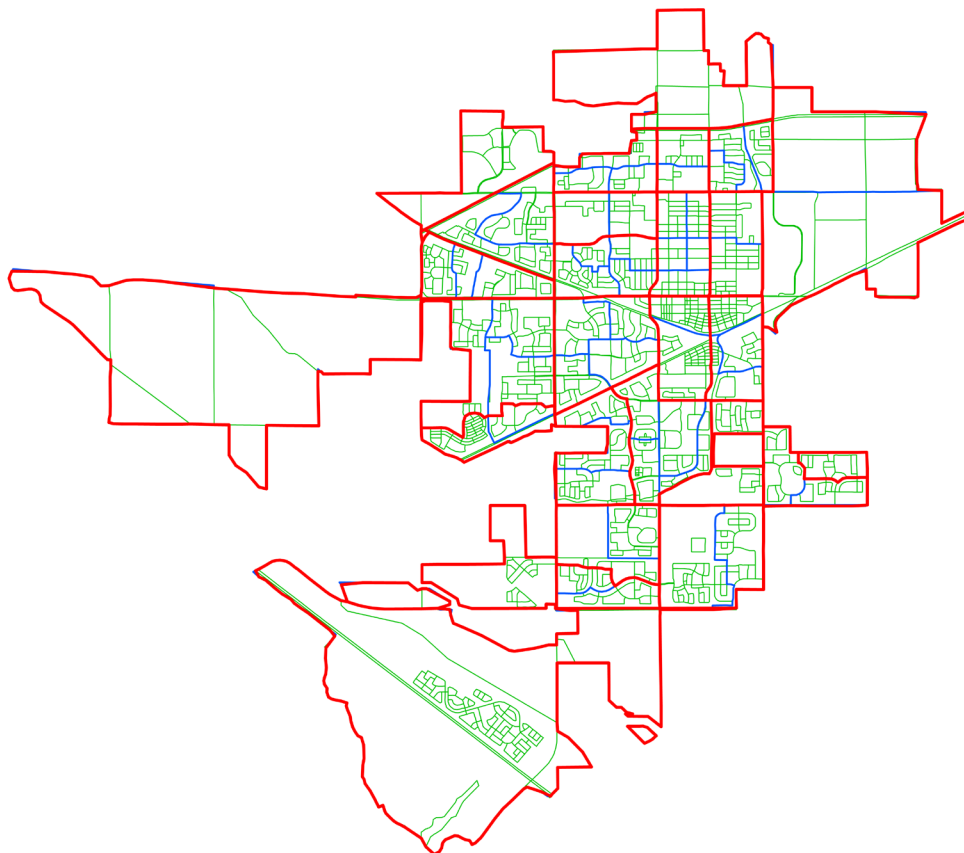
Census Geography

Type ⁺	#	Average Pop
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Block	1,080	86
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Block Group	62	1,506
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Tract	24	3,890
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+ Includes Block Groups and Tracts only partially within the jurisdiction.

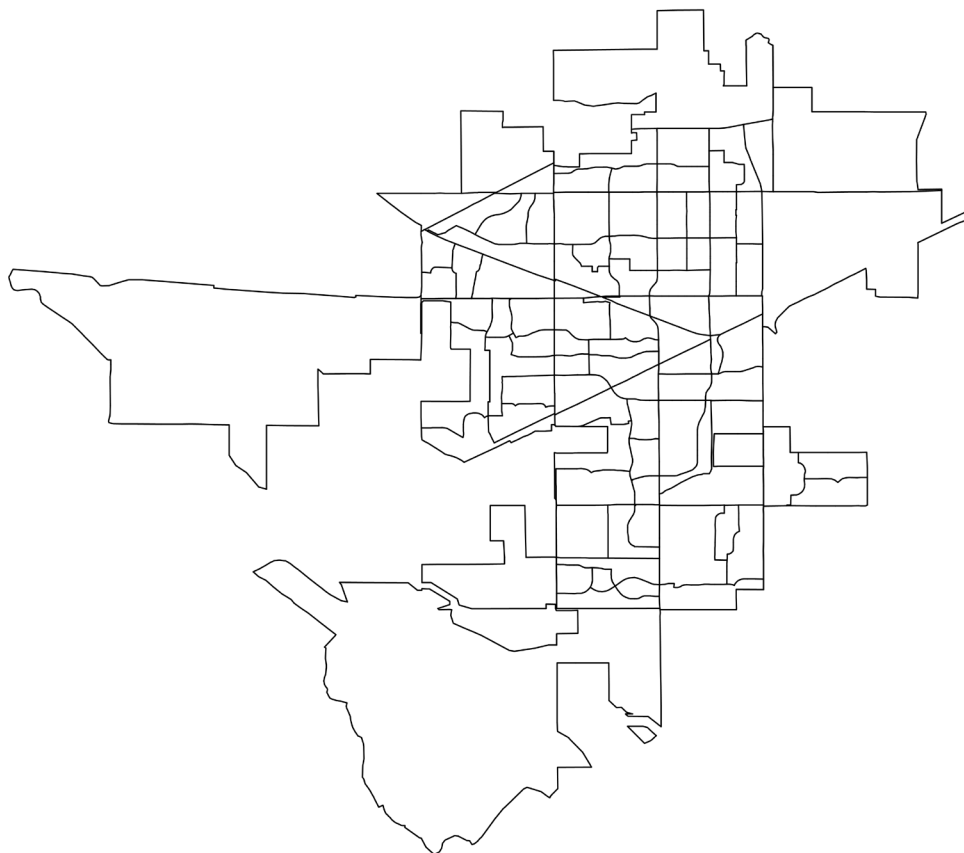
Slice Geography

Type	#	Average Pop
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Slice	91	1,026
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Slices: Combination of census and other understandable boundaries.

Used to lower barriers to public redistricting plans





Two Phases

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

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.



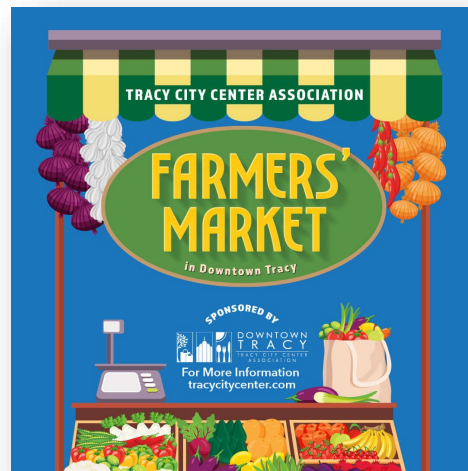
Public Outreach

- 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



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, Tripepi Smith, placed 86 calls to community organizations to inform them about districting



Public Outreach

- 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

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

In Person/Mail

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

Webpage

- cityoftracy.org/districting



Email

- districting@cityoftracy.org

Phone

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