



# Soledad Healthcare District Introduction to Districting

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# Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From Zone” or “Residence” Zones
3. “By Zone”

**The California Voting Rights Act  
was written to specifically  
encourage by-zone elections.**

# California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

- ❑ Under the Federal Voting Rights Act (passed in 1965), a jurisdiction must fail 4 factual tests before it is in violation of the law.
  
- ❑ The California VRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems by eliminating two of the US Supreme Court Gingles tests:
  - ❑ ~~Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~
  - ❑ Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
  - ❑ Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
  - ❑ ~~Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?~~
  
- ❑ Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting and dilution of the protected class’s voting strength

# Demographic Summary

Each of the 5 zones will contain about 5,044 people.

Population counts do not include the prison.

<i>Soledad Healthcare District</i>					
Category	Field	Total	Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	20,176	Age	age0-19	37%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	89%		age20-60	52%
	NH White	6%		age60plus	11%
	NH Black	1%	Immigration	immigrants	35%
	NH Asian/PacIsl.	3%		naturalized	23%
	NH Native Amer.	0%	Language spoken at home	english	21%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	7,873		spanish	77%
	Hisp	85%		asian-lang	2%
	NH White	10%		other lang	0%
	NH Black	0%	Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	35%
	Asian/PacIsl.	5%		Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad
Native Amer.	0%	bachelor	6%		
Voter Registration (Nov 2022)	Total	8,609	graduatedegree		4%
	Latino est.	91%	Child in Household	child-under18	56%
	Spanish-Surnamed	82%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	59%
	Asian-Surnamed	1%		Household Income	income 0-25k
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%	income 25-50k		17%
	NH White est.	5%	income 50-75k		14%
NH Black	0%	income 75-200k	49%		
Voter Turnout (Nov 2022)	Total	2,975	income 200k-plus		9%
	Latino est.	83%	Housing Stats	single family	83%
	Spanish-Surnamed	74%		multi-family	17%
	Asian-Surnamed	1%		rented	40%
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%		owned	60%
	NH White est.	12%		Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2019-2023 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data. Turnout and Registration data from California Statewide Database. "Latino" figures calculated by NDC using Census Bureau's Latino undercount by surname estimate.	
NH Black	0%				
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total	5,676			
	Latino est.	85%			
	Spanish-Surnamed	78%			
	Asian-Surnamed	1%			
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%			
NH White est.	17%				
NH Black est.	0%				

# CVRA Governance Impact

## □ Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:

- Over 340 school districts
- 46 Community College Districts
- 209 cities
- 1 County Board of Supervisors
- Over 75 special districts

## □ Local jurisdictions:

- City of Soledad
- City of Gonzalez
- Soledad Unified School District
- Gonzalez Unified School District

# CVRA Legal Impact

## □ Cases So Far:

- Palmdale, Santa Clara, Santa Monica, Burbank and Huntington Beach went or are going to trial on the merits.
- Palmdale and Santa Clara lost.
- Burbank and Huntington Beach have upcoming CVRA trials.
- Santa Monica has an upcoming retrial.
  
- Modesto and Palmdale each spent about \$1.8 million on their defense (in addition to the attorney fee awards in those cases). Santa Clara spent an estimated \$1.5 million on its defense.
- Santa Monica has spent an estimated \$7 million so far.

# CVRA Financial Impact

- **Sample settlements:**
  - Palmdale: \$4.7 million
  - Modesto: \$3 million
  - Highland: \$1.3 million
  - Anaheim: \$1.1 million
  - Whittier: \$750,000
  - Santa Barbara: \$600,000
  - Tulare Hospital: \$500,000
  - Camarillo: \$233,000
  - Compton Unified: \$200,000
  - Madera Unified: about \$170,000
  - Hanford Joint Union Schools: \$118,000
  - Merced City: \$42,000
- **An estimated \$16 million in total settlements and court awards so far.**
- **Plaintiffs in the Santa Monica trial requested \$22 million in legal fees after just the original trial.**

# Districting Process

Step	Description
<b>Resolution of Intent</b> July 31, 2025	Board adopts a Resolution of Intent to Adopt by-zone elections.
<b>Two Initial Hearings</b> August 28 & September 25	Held prior to release of draft maps. To educate residents and solicit input on the composition of zones.
<b>Release draft maps</b> October 16	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3 <sup>rd</sup> hearing.
<b>Two hearings on draft maps</b> October 23 & November 20	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
<b>Map adoption</b> November 20, 2025	Map adopted via ordinance or resolution. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.
<b>November 2026</b>	First Zones hold election; remaining Zones will hold first election in 2028 (Current Directors serve their full term regardless which Zone they live in).

# Districting Rules and Goals

## 1. Federal Laws

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



## 2. California Criteria

*In prioritized order:*

1. **Geographically contiguous**
2. **Avoid division of neighborhoods and “communities of interest”**  
(Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
3. **Avoid division of Cities and Census Designated Places**
4. **Easily identifiable boundaries**
5. **Compact**  
(Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

## 2. California Prohibition

“Shall not adopt election district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.”

## 3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles

**Future population growth**

# Next Steps

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1. Any questions?
2. Tonight: Adopt the Resolution of Intent

