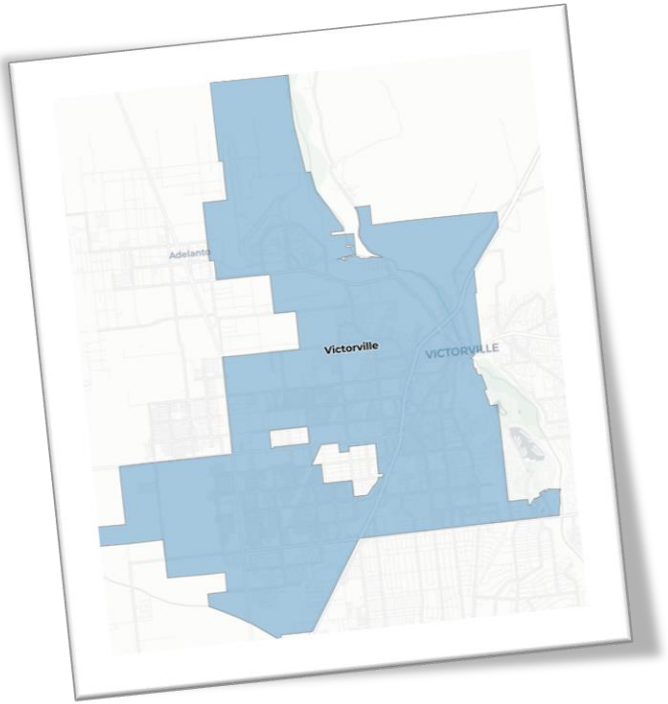
REDISTRICTING PARTNERS

CVRA and Districting
City of Victorville



October 14, 2021

REDISTRICTING PARTNERS

Overview

This presentation will cover a range of topics to facilitate a process of public education and involvement in a transparent and fair districting process.

- The California Voting Rights Act
- Districting vs. Redistricting vs. Gerrymandering
- Traditional Districting/Redistricting Principles
- Population and Composition
- What's next/timeline

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What is the CVRA?

The California Voting Rights Act is a state law that prohibits the use of At-Large election systems in local government if there is racially polarized voting.

"At Large" is defined as anything other than a system in which an elected official lives in a district, and is only elected by members of that district.

"Racially Polarized Voting" is determined through an analysis which quantifies the amount of voting which can be shown to be correlated to race.

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What is the CVRA?

The California Voting Rights Act takes the principles of the Federal Voting Rights Act and expands it regarding districted elections in two key ways:

While Federal law uses “majority minority” districts as a standard for vulnerability, the CVRA only requires “ability to influence.”

The CVRA requires that plaintiffs get full reimbursement for legal fees associated with any successful challenge.

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While Federal law uses “majority minority” districts as a standard for vulnerability, the CVRA only requires “ability to influence.”

The CVRA requires that plaintiffs get full reimbursement for legal fees associated with any successful challenge. ***These can be lessened or eliminated if the district follows a strict and prompt process for districting.***

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What is Districting

definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries.

These boundaries determine:

- Eligibility to run for office - must live within boundaries to qualify for election.
- Who votes in the election – only voters within the district vote for their councilmember.

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What is Districting

definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries.

These boundaries do not determine:

- How the city decides to govern. The city can still work to achieve goals that benefit the city as a whole rather than the interests of any single district.
- How services or relationships between the city and the public are managed.

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What is Redistricting

definition

Redistricting is the process of adjusting district lines every 10 years after the release of the US Census. The best known examples are Congress and the legislature.

Within the US, redistricting has become an extremely politicized process and been the subject of more high-profile Supreme Court decisions than any other part of our elections system.

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What is Gerrymandering

The Gerrymander

The term Gerrymander came from a cartoon depicting a rather serpentine looking district created by Governor Elbridge Gerry in Massachusetts.

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Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain *"communities of interest"*
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

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City of Victorville

Preliminary Findings

Estimated population according to the 2020 Census Data is **131,417**.

- Grew by 15,517 counted residents
- 13.4% growth rate

Ideal Population for 4 districts: 32,855

Under the “equal population” criteria, the total district population deviation (from smallest to largest) cannot exceed 10%.

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Preliminary Findings

For determining ethnicity of a district we use the American Community Survey calculations of Citizen Voting Age Population or “CVAP” which is also sometimes called “eligible voters population”:

- CVAP: 72,251

- Asian CVAP: 2,533 3.5%
- Latino CVAP: 32,948 45.6%
- Black CVAP: 12,450 17.2%

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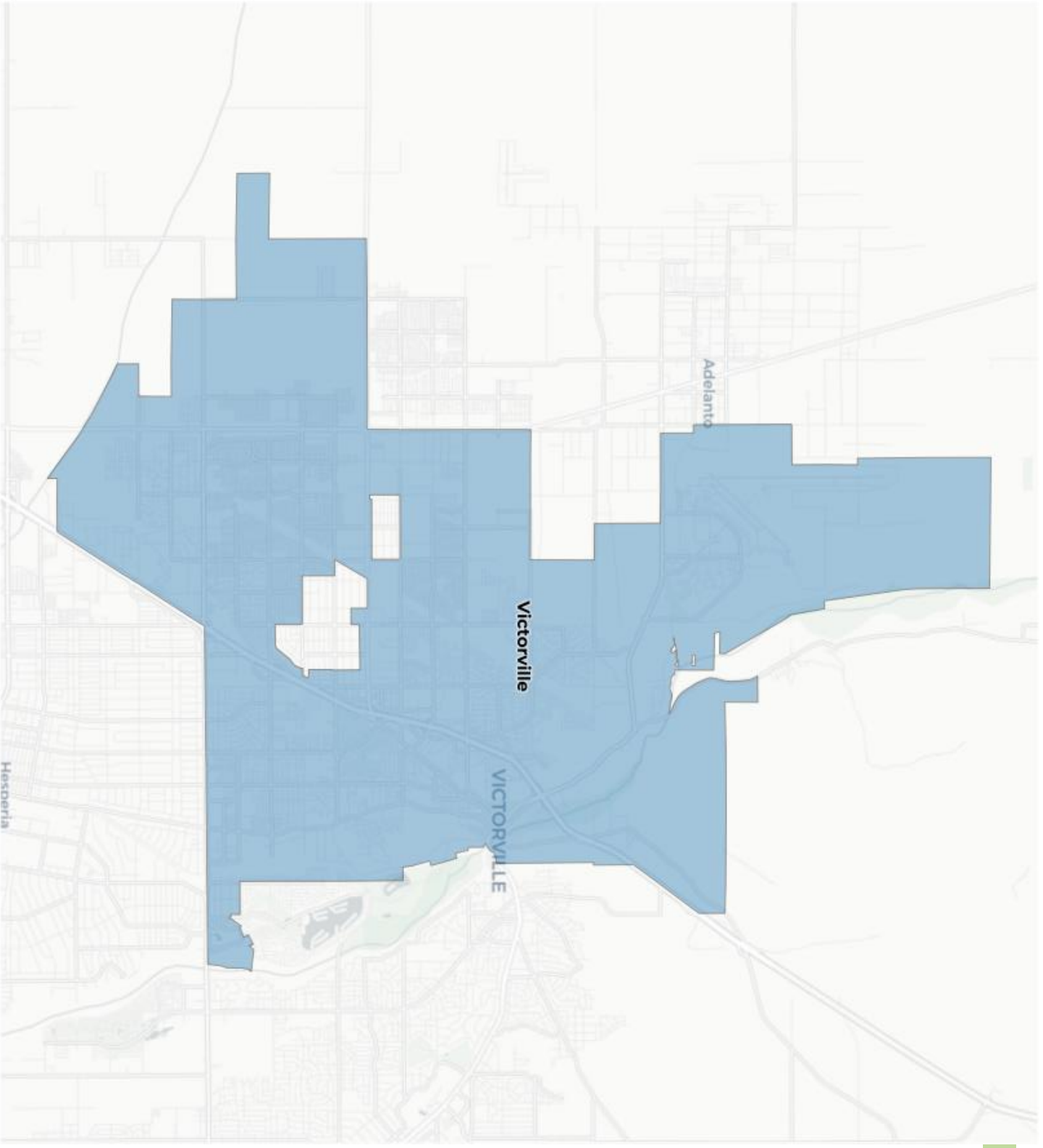
Current Lines



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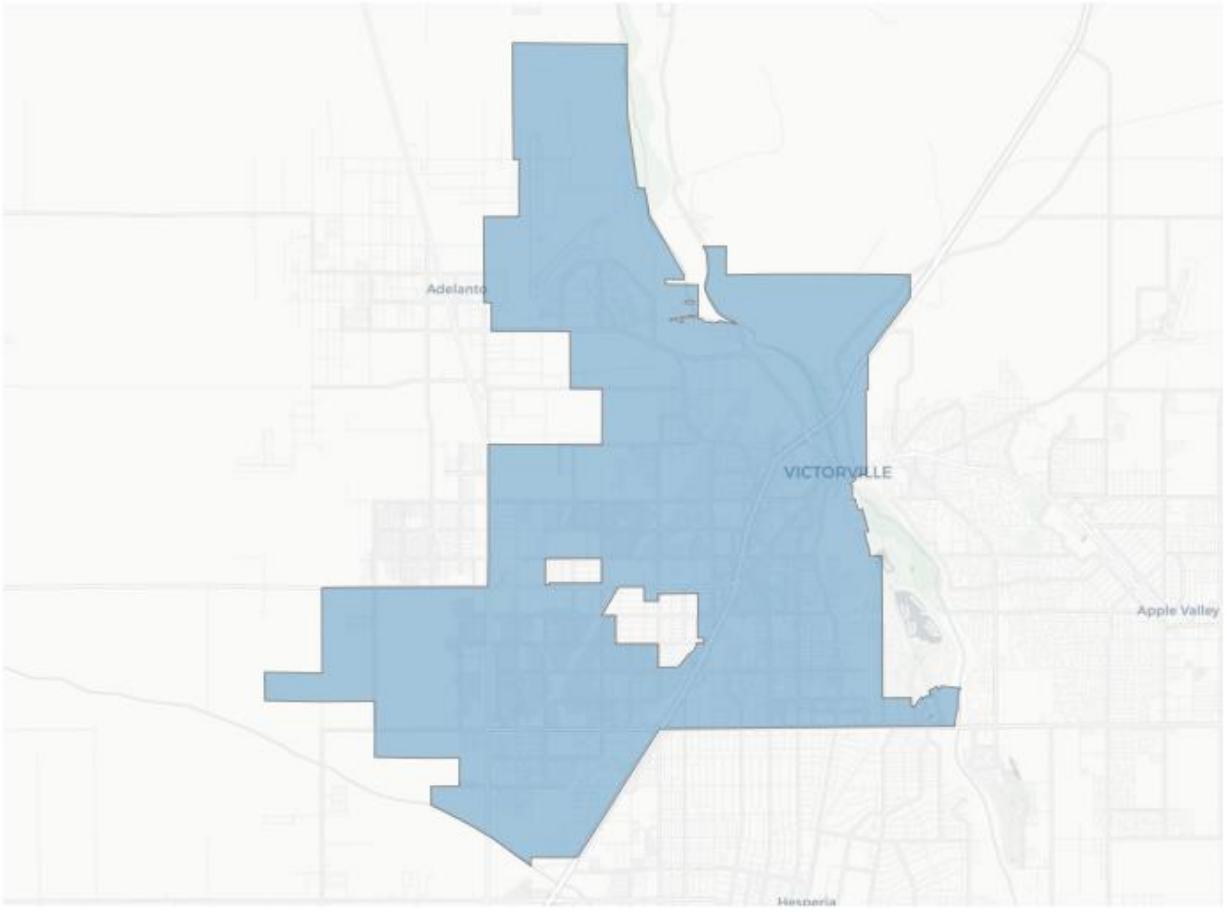
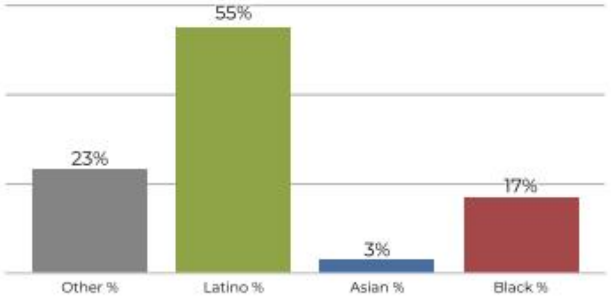
Current Lines

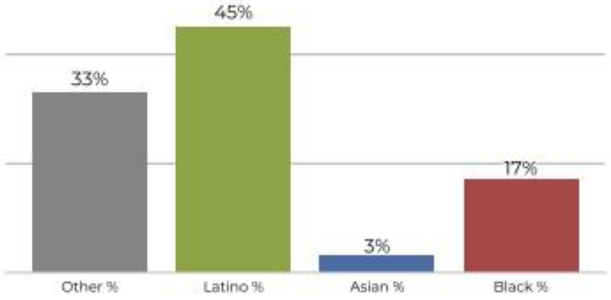
Victorville

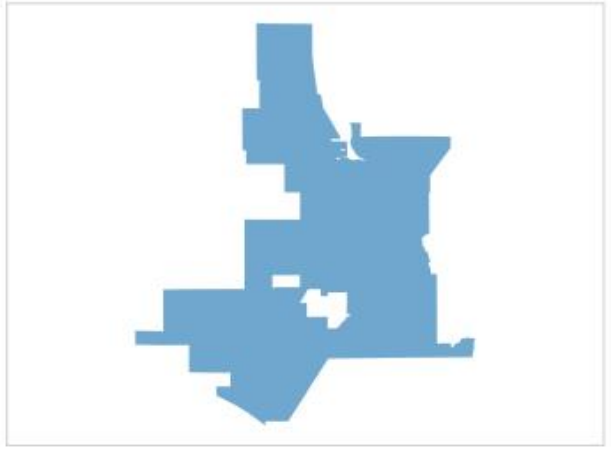


2020 Census



Citizen Voting Age Population





Population	Deviation	Deviation %	Other	Other %	Latino	Latino %	Asian	Asian %	Black	Black %
131,417	0	0.0%	31,035	23.6%	72,922	55.5%	5,178	3.9%	22,282	17.0%

Total CVAP	Other CVAP	Other CVAP %	Latino CVAP	Latino CVAP %	Asian CVAP	Asian CVAP %	Black CVAP	Black CVAP %
72,251	24,320	33.7%	32,948	45.6%	2,533	3.5%	12,450	17.2%

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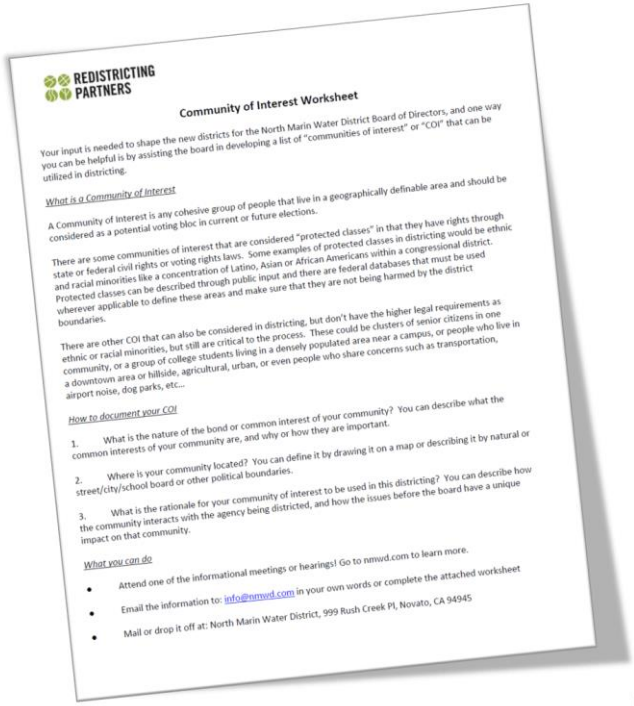
What's Next

Public hearings will be held to obtain input on communities of interest and receive feedback on potential districting plans prior to board adoption

Input can be provided in public hearings or using Community of Interest Worksheets and/or paper or online maps.



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Community of Interest Worksheet

Your input is needed to shape the new districts for the North Marin Water District Board of Directors, and one way you can be helpful is by assisting the board in developing a list of "communities of interest" or "COI" that can be utilized in districting.

What is a Community of Interest

A Community of Interest is any cohesive group of people that live in a geographically definable area and should be considered as a potential voting bloc in current or future elections.

There are some communities of interest that are considered "protected classes" in that they have rights through state or federal civil rights or voting rights laws. Some examples of protected classes in districting would be ethnic and racial minorities like a concentration of Latino, Asian or African Americans within a congressional district. Protected classes can be described through public input and there are federal databases that must be used wherever applicable to define these areas and make sure that they are not being harmed by the district boundaries.

There are other COI that can also be considered in districting, but don't have the higher legal requirements as ethnic or racial minorities, but still are critical to the process. These could be clusters of senior citizens in one community, or a group of college students living in a densely populated area near a campus, or people who live in a downtown area or hillside, agricultural, urban, or even people who share concerns such as transportation, airport noise, dog parks, etc...

How to document your COI

1. What is the nature of the bond or common interest of your community? You can describe what the common interests of your community are, and why or how they are important.
2. Where is your community located? You can define it by drawing it on a map or describing it by natural or street/city/school board or other political boundaries.
3. What is the rationale for your community of interest to be used in this districting? You can describe how the community interacts with the agency being districted, and how the issues before the board have a unique impact on that community.

What you can do

- Attend one of the informational meetings or hearings! Go to nmwd.com to learn more.
- Email the information to: info@nmwd.com in your own words or complete the attached worksheet
- Mail or drop it off at: North Marin Water District, 999 Rush Creek Pl, Novato, CA 94945

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What's Next

Public hearings will be held to obtain input on communities of interest and receive feedback

October 14, 2021	1st Public Hearing
October 26, 2021	Community Outreach Meeting
November 9, 2021	Community Outreach Meeting (Spanish)
November 15, 2021	Community Outreach Meeting
7 Days before Hearing	*Initial draft maps published*
November 30, 2021	1st Map Hearing
7 Days before Hearing	*Publish amended draft maps (if any)*
December 8, 2021	2nd Map Hearing
7 Days before adoption	*Publish final map*
December 16, 2021	Introduce Ordinance to establish districts/approve maps
December 26, 2021	Deadline to pass maps

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