

DISTRICTING IN FORT BRAGG

City Council Meeting
Public Hearing
July 23, 2018



CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA) AND THE SAFE HARBOR PROVISION

■ Switched to Districts as a result of CVRA:

- 165+ School Districts
- 28 Community Colleges
- 90+ Cities
- 1 County Board of Supervisors
- 10+ Special Districts

■ Cases & Settlements

- No successful defense
- Palmdale only trial on merits (lost)
- Settlements
 - Palmdale - \$4.5 Million
 - Modesto - \$3 Million
 - Anaheim - \$1.1 Million
 - Whittier - \$1 Million
 - Santa Barbara - \$600k
 - Merced City - \$42k

SAFE HARBOR PROVISION

- Originally only available to Cities with populations of under 100,000, expanded to all cities January 1, 2017
 1. Prospective plaintiff(s) must provide written notice asserting violation of CVRA
 2. If city adopts a resolution within 45 days of “notice” outlining intent to transition to by-district election system, provides 90 days to implement
 3. Prospective plaintiff(s) are limited to \$30,000 in attorney’s fees and costs

Source: California Elections Code Section 10010

GENERAL CITY ELECTION SYSTEMS

1. At-large

- Candidates reside anywhere in the City
- All voters vote for all City Councilmembers
- Fort Bragg's current electoral system

2. From-district

- City Councilmember candidate must reside in district he/she wishes to represent
- All voters vote for all City Councilmembers
- Not immune from CVRA lawsuit

3. By-district

- City Councilmember candidate must reside in district he/she wishes to represent
- Only voters in the given district vote for the candidates in that district
- Voters only vote for a single City Councilmember
- Only system immune from CVRA lawsuit

SAFE HARBOR DISTRICTING TIMELINE

# of Days	Date	Action
	5-25-2018	Revised Patterson 45-day notice received
1	7-9-2018	Hearing: City Council adopts Intent Resolution No. 4109-2018 (starts 90-day clock)
14	7-23-2018	Hearing: Public input on composition of districts (1 of 2)
35	8-13-2018	Hearing: Public input on composition of districts (2 of 2)
53	8-31-2018	Publish draft district map(s) and sequencing
63	9-10-2018	Hearing: Public input on draft maps (1 of 2) and sequencing
77	9-24-2018	Hearing: Public input on draft maps (2 of 2) and First Reading of Districting Ordinance
84	10-1-2018	Special Meeting: Adoption of Districting Ordinance
90	10-7-2018	90 Days – Council Meeting not scheduled until 10-9-2018
	11-3-2020	First district election for 2 City Councilmembers

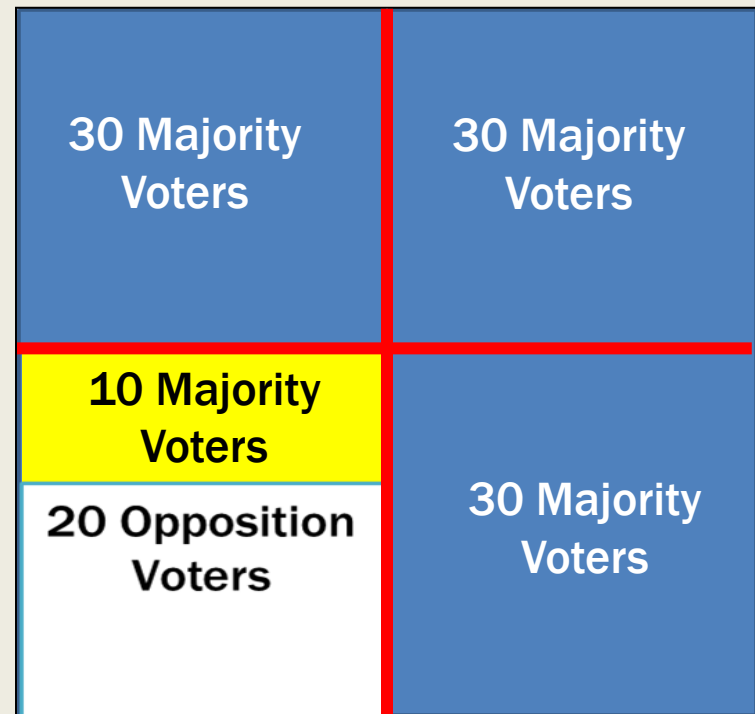
HOW DISTRICTS CAN WORK

■ At-Large Election



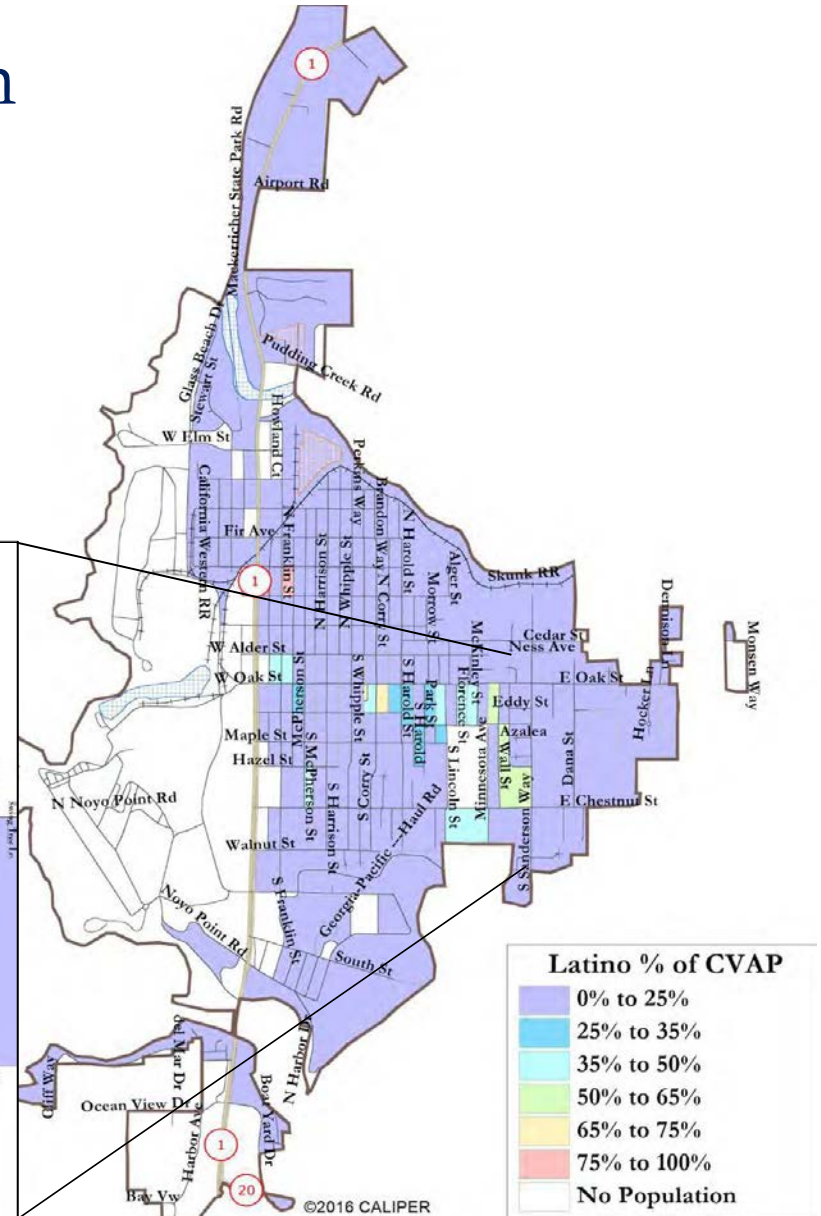
When the majority voting bloc significantly outnumbers another the majority wins every seat

■ By-District Election



If smaller group is geographically concentrated, it can elect a candidate from a its district

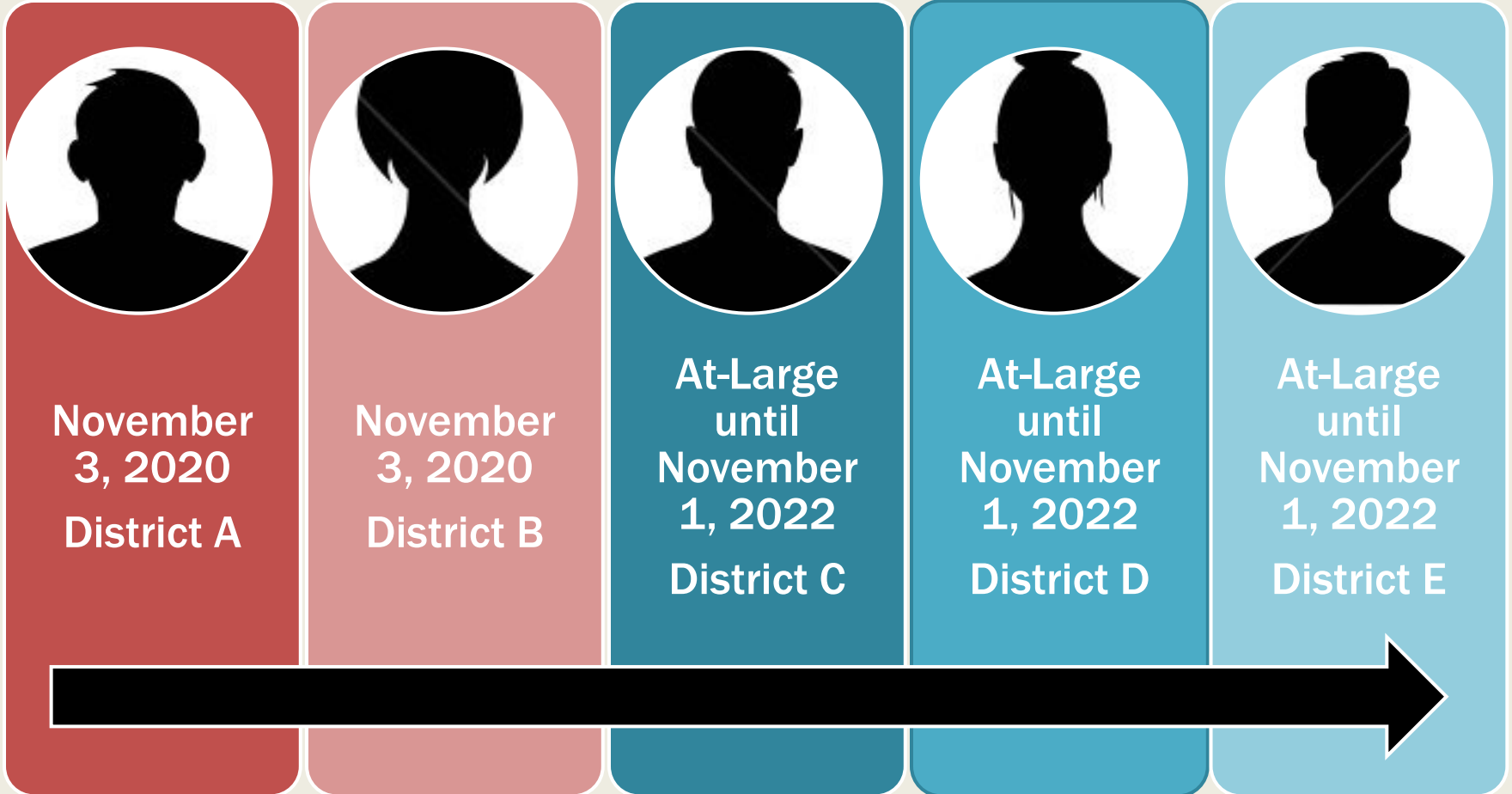
Latinos are particularly concentrated around Willow St.



CRITERIA FOR DRAWING DISTRICTS

1. Equal population (based on 2010 Census Blocks) – 1,455 each with less than 10% deviation
2. No racial gerrymandering – to include or exclude based on race
3. Communities of interest, such as neighborhood boundaries, retail/commercial districts, voting precincts, or shared demographic characteristics (similar levels of income or education)
4. Topographical and geographical boundaries, such as major roads, highways, creeks, rivers, railroad lines, and hills or valleys
5. Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory
6. Future Growth. Note that if the City transitions to district-based elections, the districts will require updating after the next census data is published in 2021.

ELECTION SEQUENCING



PUBLIC HEARING & DISCUSSION

- What is your neighborhood or “community of interest”?
- Should each district include a portion of the Mill Site?
- Should each district include a portion of Highway 1?
- Should each district include a portion of the Central Business District?
- What other factors should be considered?

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS