

CITY OF CLOVIS

Introduction to Districting

November 18, 2024

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National Demographics Corporation

Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From District” or “Residence” Districts
3. “By District”

The California Voting Rights Act was written to specifically encourage by-district 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 ability to elect or influence the outcome of elections

CVRA Impact

- **Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:**
 - 200 cities
 - At least 328 school districts
 - 46 Community College Districts
 - 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - 73 water and other special districts.

- **Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica fought “on the merits.” All lost.**
 - Santa Monica: CA Supreme Court sent case back down. Now back in Superior Court.
 - Palmdale spent about \$1.8 million, Santa Clara \$1.37 million, and Santa Monica over \$7 million, just on their defense.
 - Santa Monica plaintiffs requested \$22 million
 - So far, no jurisdiction has won a case.

- **Sample settlements and fee awards:**
 - Palmdale: \$4.7 million
 - Santa Clara: \$3.8 million
 - Modesto: \$3 million
 - Highland: \$1.3 million
 - Anaheim: \$1.1 million
 - Whittier: \$1 million
 - 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 \$20 million in total settlements and court awards so far.**

Districting Process

Step	Description
Pre-draft map hearing November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held prior to release of draft maps • Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts
Pre-draft map hearing December 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held prior to release of draft maps • Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts
Release draft maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to hearing • Public maps must be submitted by 10 days prior to hearing
Hearing on draft maps January 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and revise the draft maps
Hearing on draft maps February 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and revise the draft maps
Selection of final map March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select final map and the election sequence • First reading of the Ordinance • Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption
Ordinance adoption March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map adopted via Ordinance
Within 21 days of Map adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue compliance report

Districting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



2. California Criteria

Mandatory 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. **Easily identifiable boundaries**
4. **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.”

No other criterion may be prioritized over statutory criteria.

3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles

Future population growth

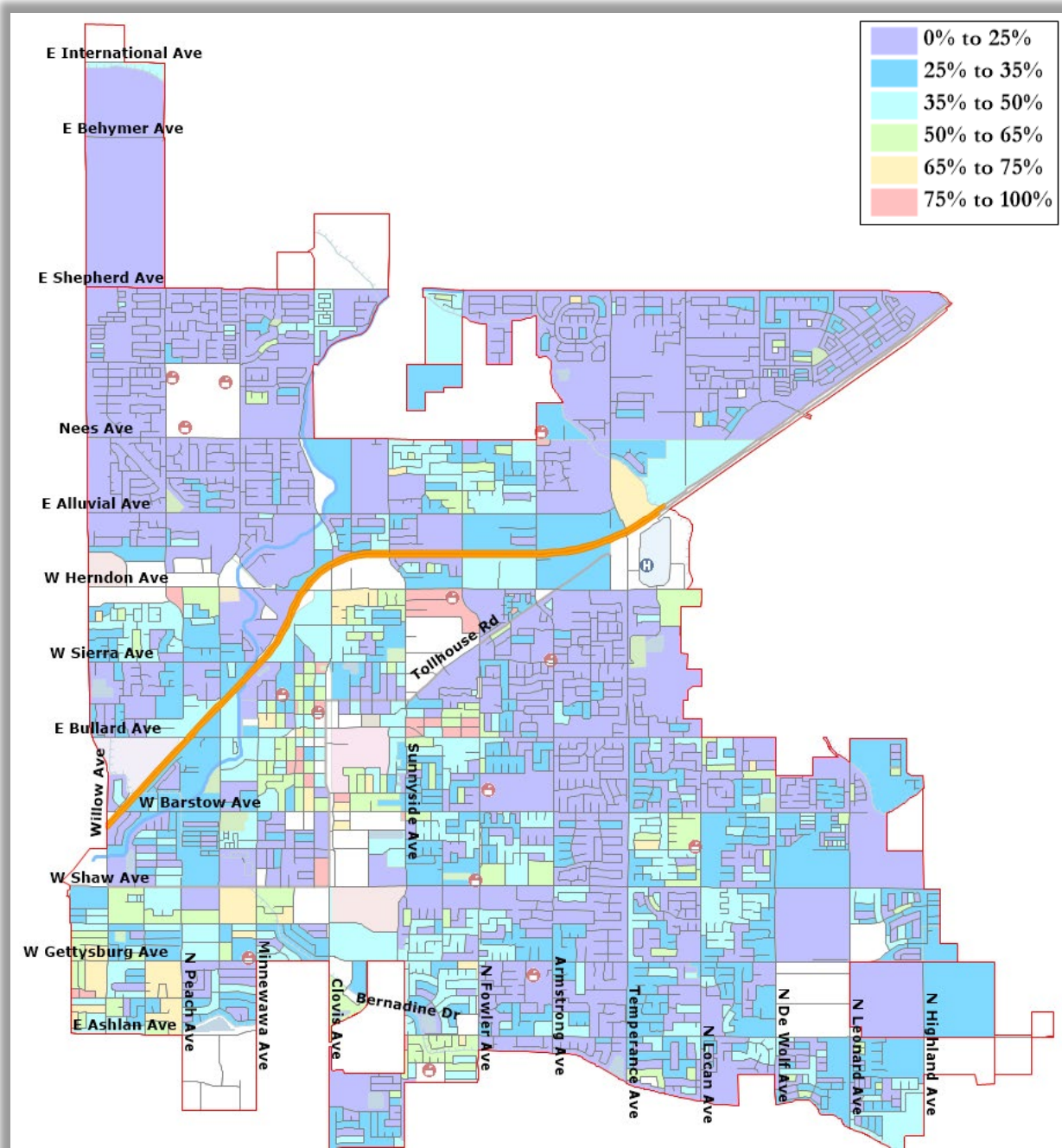
Demographic Summary

Each of the five districts must contain about 24,092 people.

Category	Field	Total	Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	120,461	Age	age0-19	31%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	31%		age20-60	51%
	NH White	48%		age60plus	18%
	NH Black	3%	Immigration	immigrants	12%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	15%		naturalized	62%
	NH Native Amer.	2%	Language spoken at home	english	76%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	79,591		spanish	13%
	Hisp	28%		asian-lang	7%
	NH White	56%		other lang	4%
	NH Black	4%	Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	7%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	12%		Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad
	Native Amer.	0%	bachelor		22%
Voter Registration (Nov 2022)	Total	72,655	graduatedegree		13%
	Latino est.	26%	Child in Household	child-under18	40%
	Spanish-Surnamed	23%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	62%
	Asian-Surnamed	6%		Household Income	income 0-25k
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%	income 25-50k		15%
	NH White est.	63%	income 50-75k		14%
NH Black	4%	income 75-200k	46%		
Voter Turnout (Nov 2022)	Total	38,468	income 200k-plus		15%
	Latino est.	20%	Housing Stats	single family	80%
	Spanish-Surnamed	18%		multi-family	20%
	Asian-Surnamed	4%		rented	34%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%		owned	66%
	NH White est.	70%	Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2018-2022 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	4%				
Total	59,718				
Latino est.	22%				
Spanish-Surnamed	21%				
Asian-Surnamed	5%				
Filipino-Surnamed	1%				
NH White est.	70%				
NH Black est.	3%				

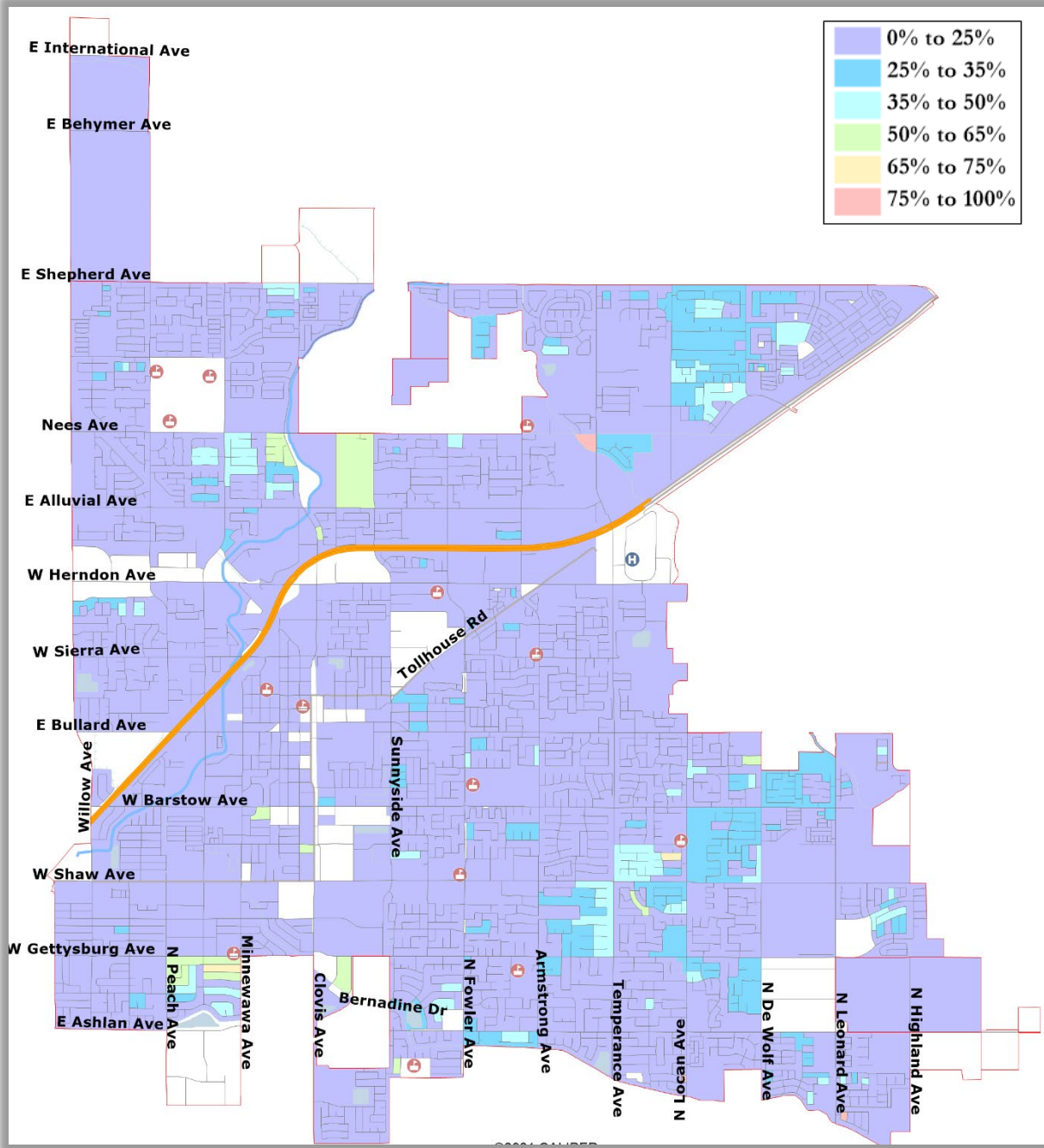
Latino CVAP

Latino eligible voters are somewhat concentrated in the center and southwest portions of the city.



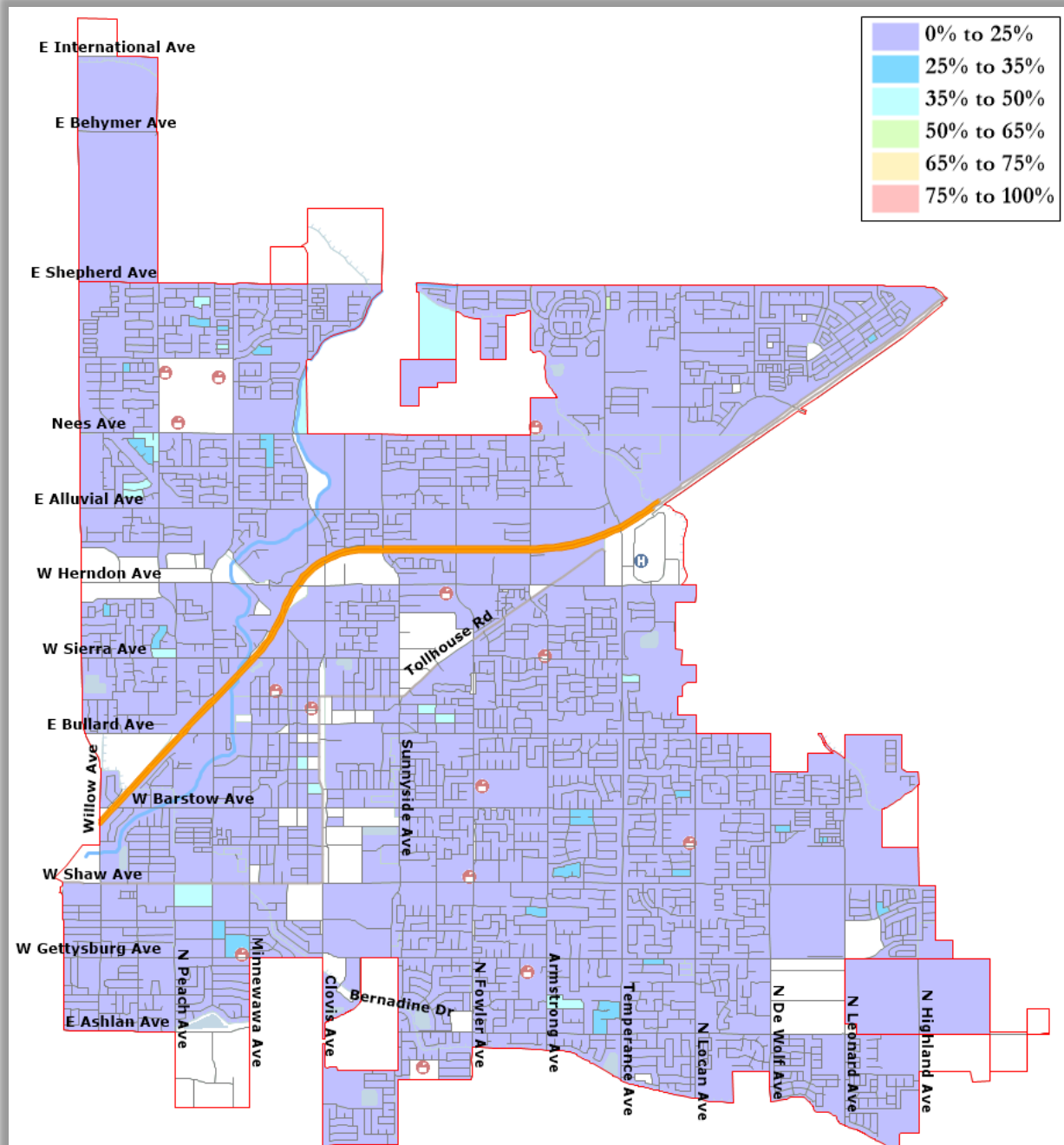
Asian-American CVAP

Asian-American eligible voters are somewhat concentrated in the northeast, north-central and southwest portions of the city.



African-American CVAP

African-American eligible voters are not concentrated in any one part of the city.



Defining Neighborhoods

1st Question: How do you describe or name the area where you live?

2nd Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

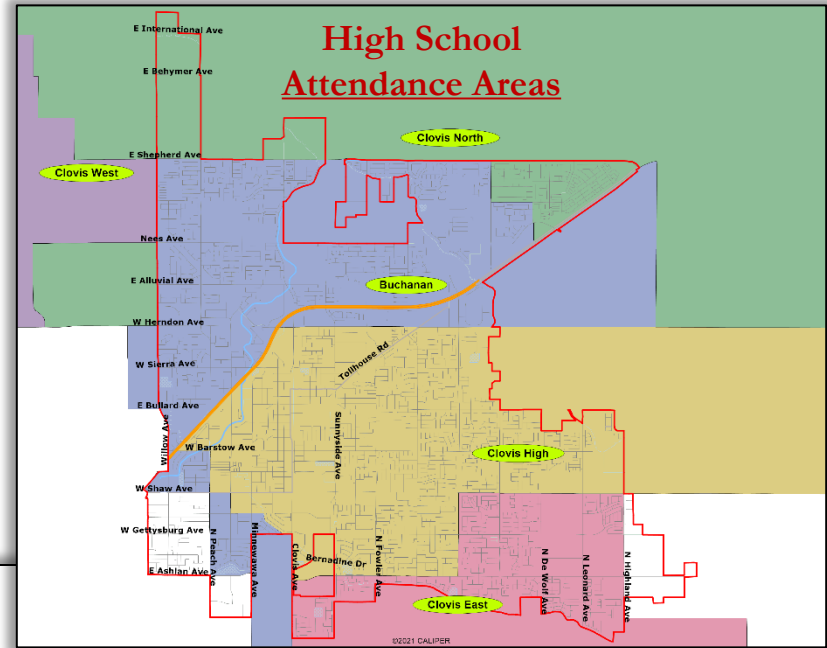
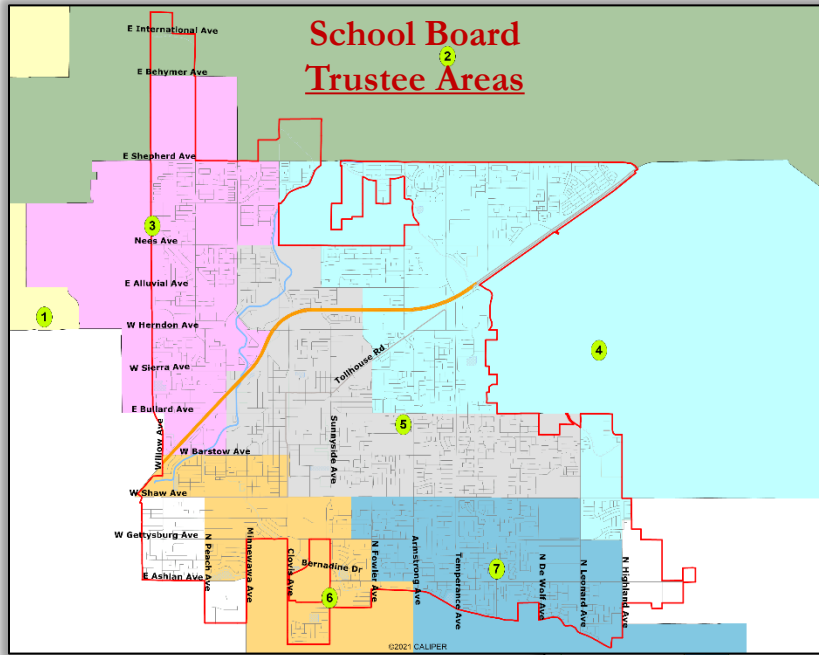
3rd Question: What other neighborhoods are there?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

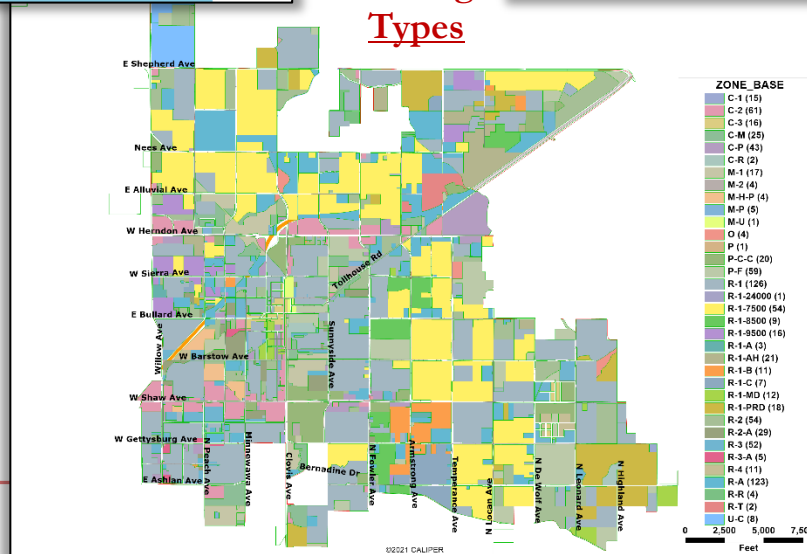
- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- Areas around parks or schools
- Other neighborhood landmarks



Possible Neighborhoods



Zoning Types



Defining Communities of Interest

California Elections Code Section 21130(c)(2):

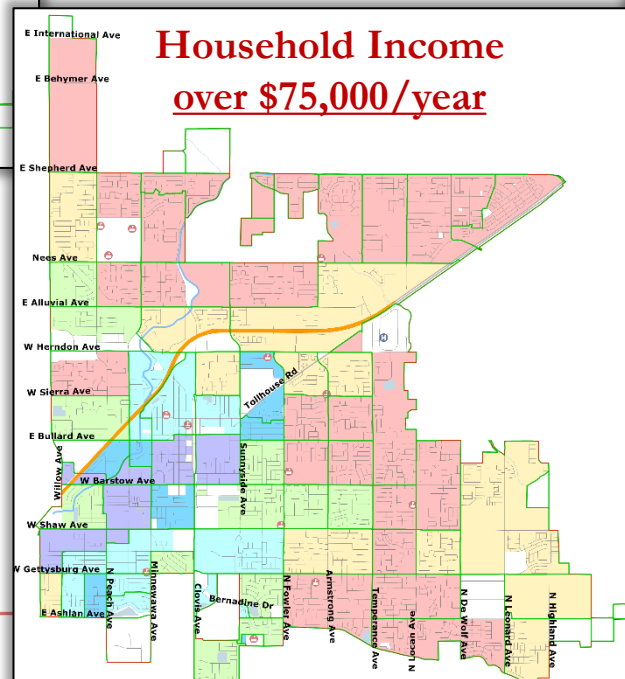
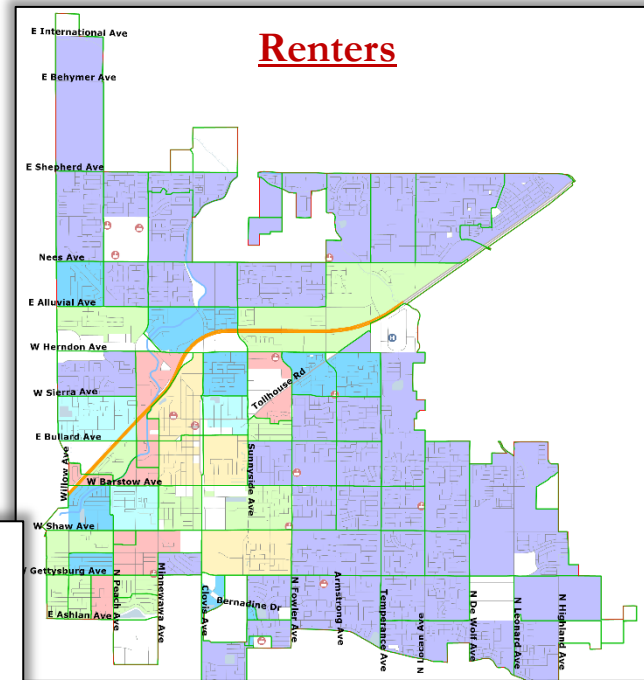
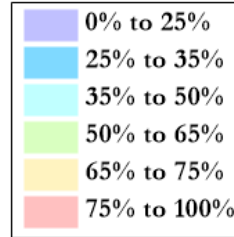
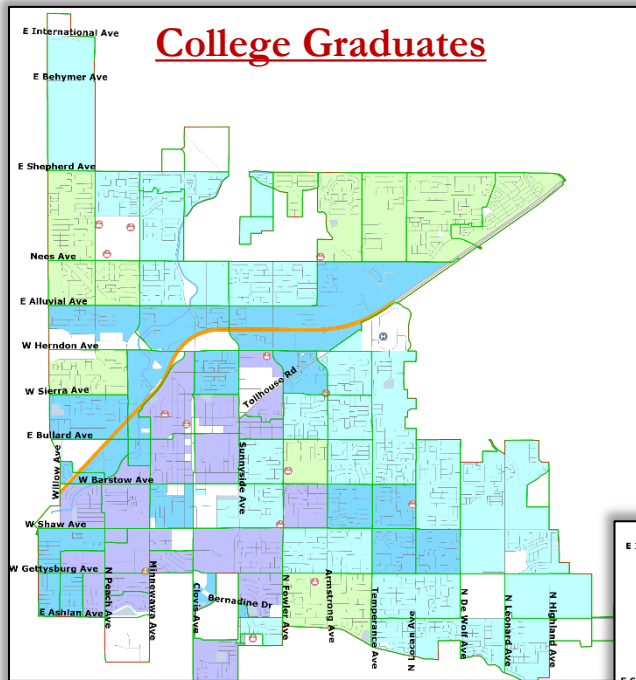
A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

The shared interests may include (but are not limited to):

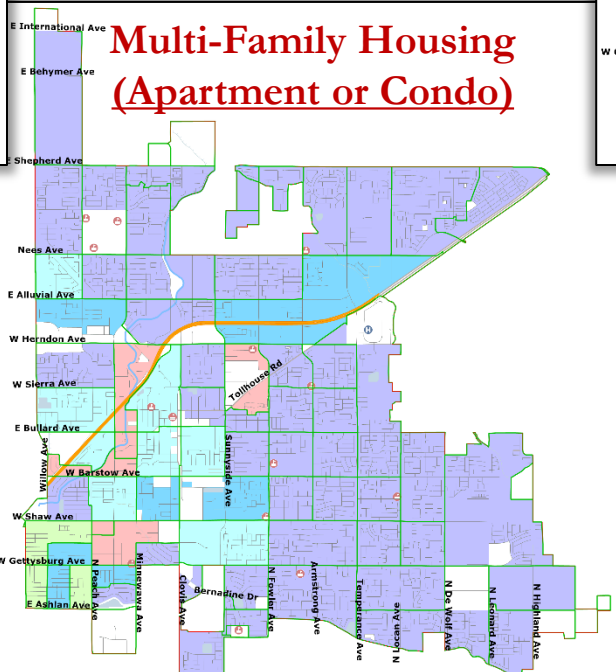
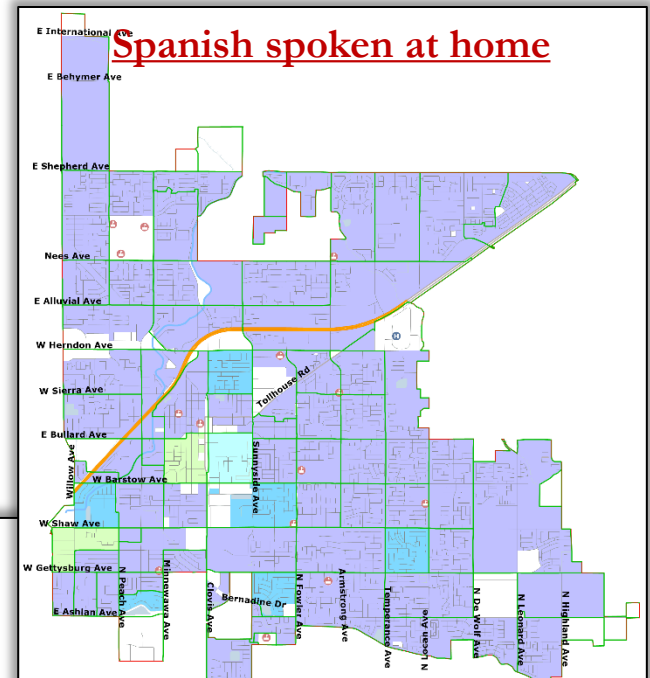
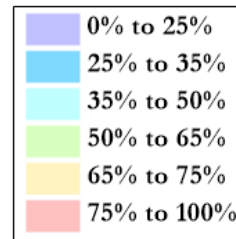
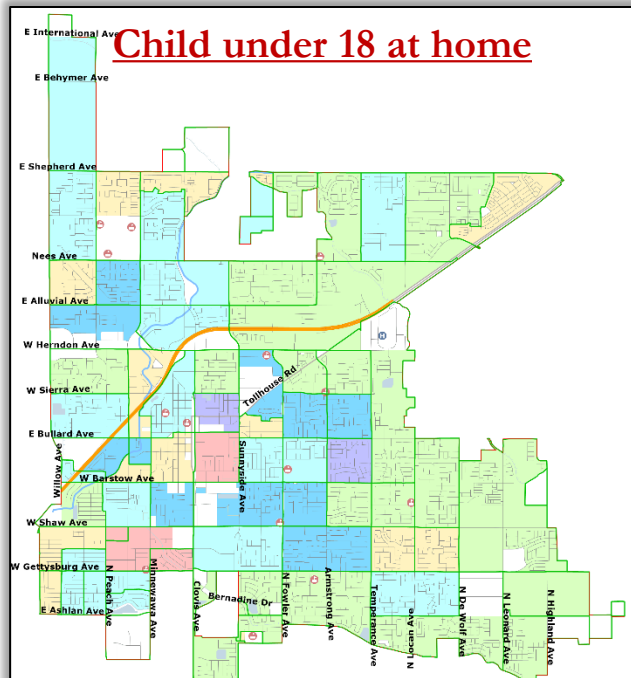
- ❑ Shared public policy concerns such as education, public safety, public health, environment, housing, transportation, and access to social services. cultural districts;
- ❑ Shared socioeconomic characteristics;
- ❑ Similar voter registration rates and participation rates; and /or
- ❑ Shared histories.

Definitions of Communities of Interest may not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Socio-Economic Demographics



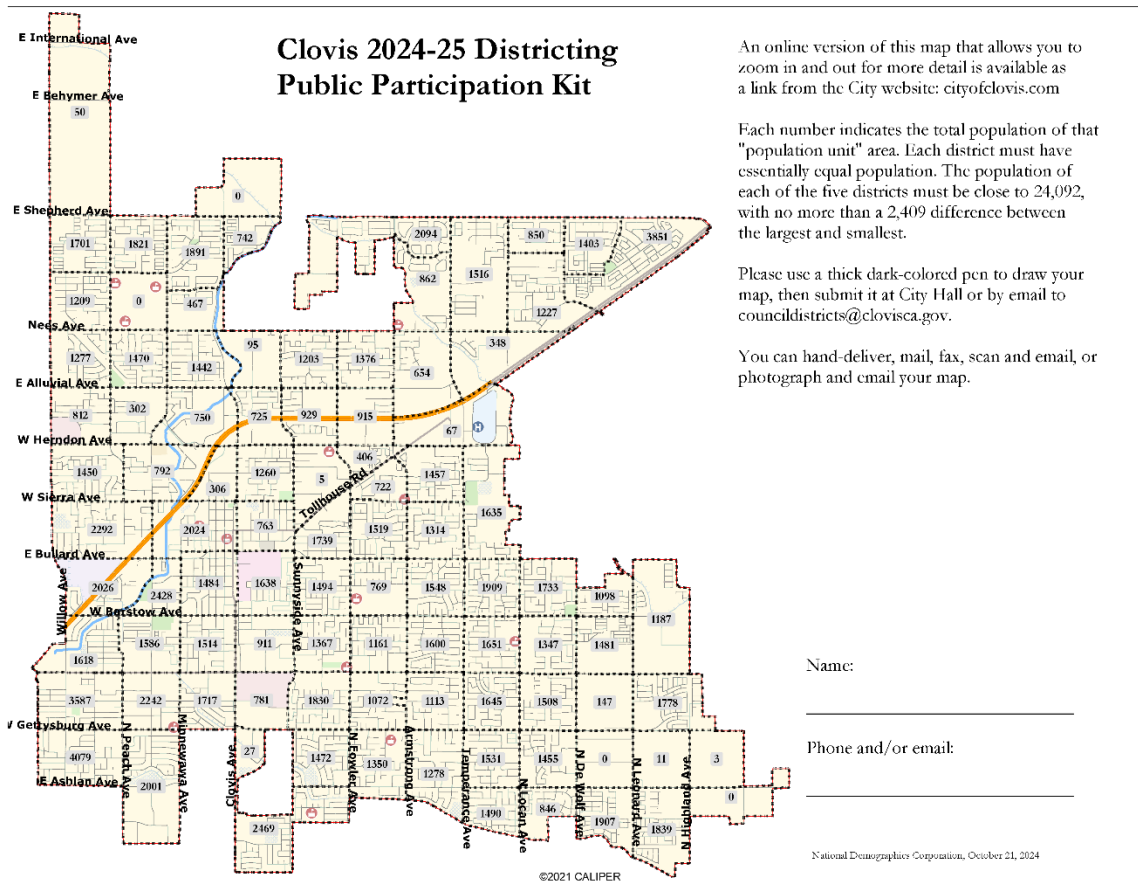
Socio-Economic Demographics



Simple Map Drawing Tool

Paper “Public Participation Kit”

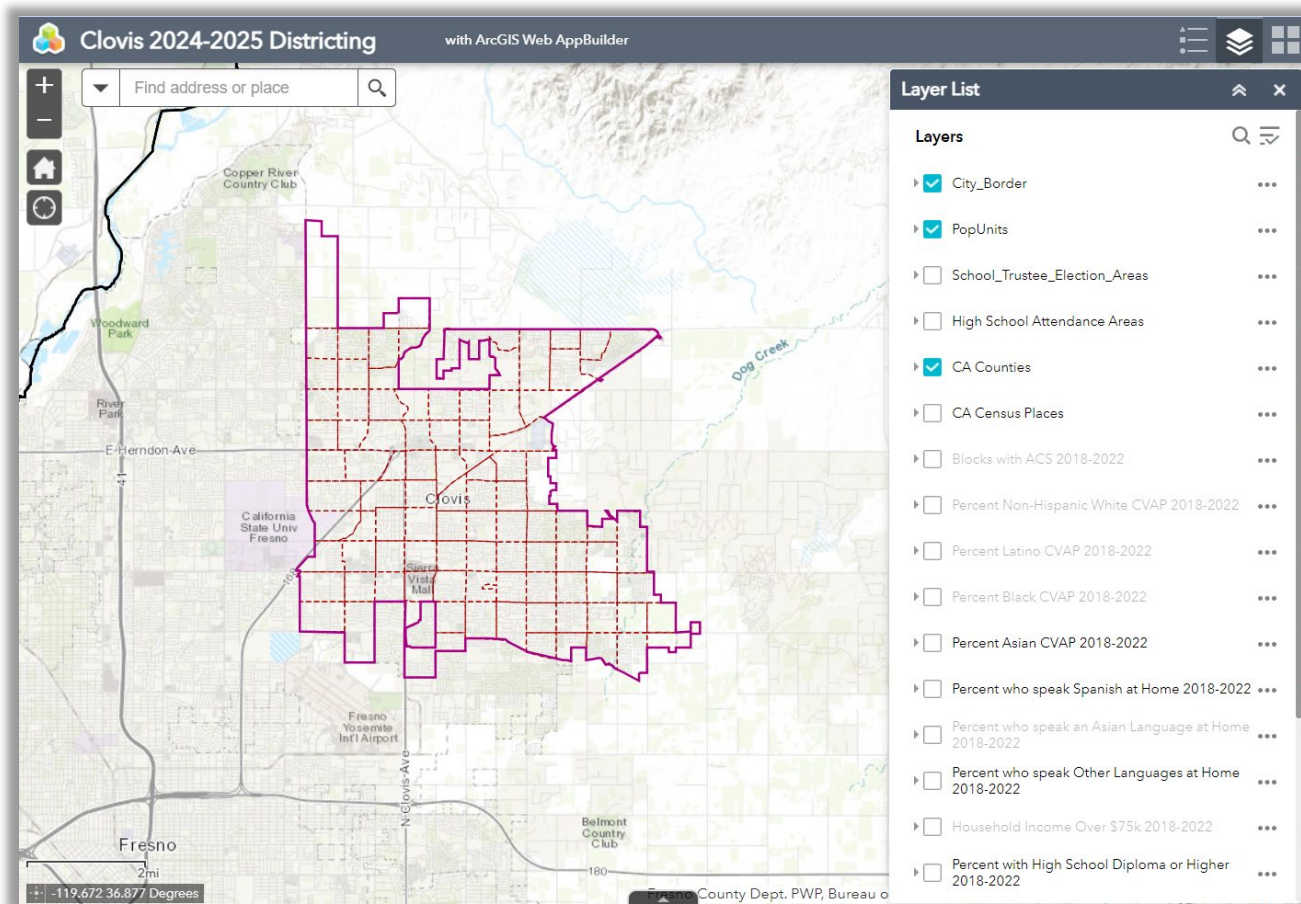
- For those without internet access or who prefer paper (in English or Spanish)
- Total Population Counts only – no demographic numbers



Interactive Map Review Tool

Interactive Map to view the data and draft maps

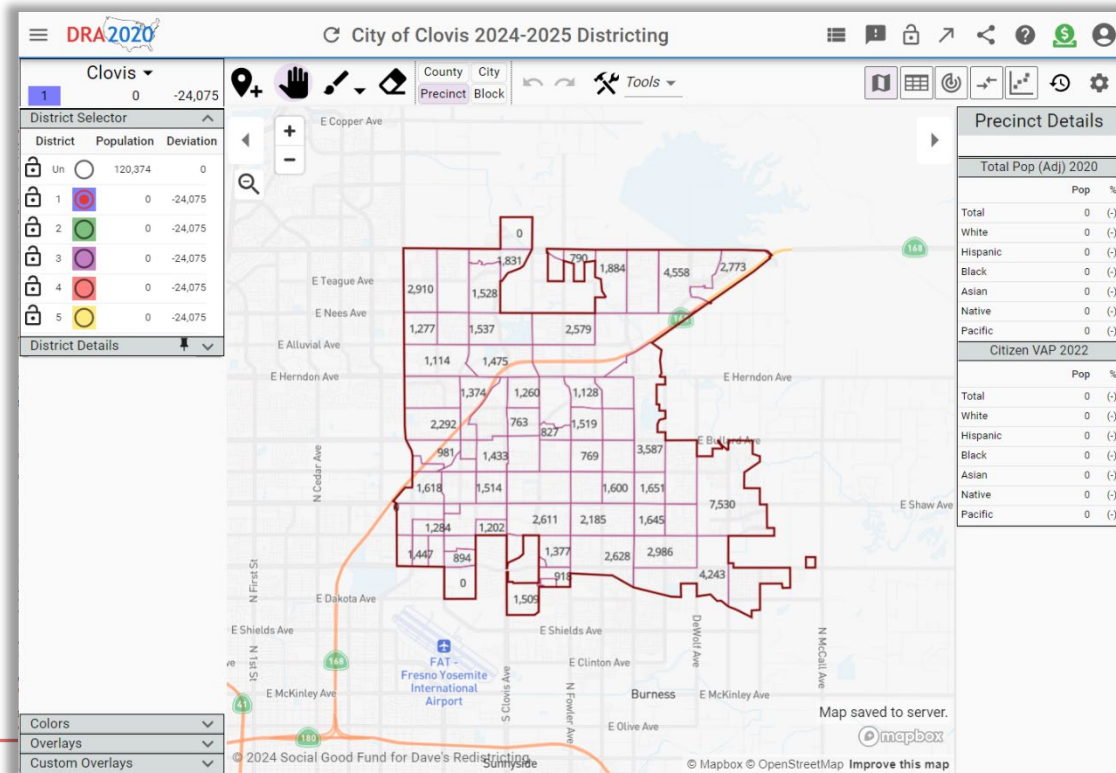
- Works much like Google Maps
- For viewing data only – it does not have a “draw a map” capability



Online Map Drawing Tool

Simple “paintbrush & eraser” tool. A 4-minute “how-to” video is on the website.

- Full demographic data available
- Create, collaborate and share your map
- **Remember: you must email your finished map’s hyperlink to the City mapping contact: councildistricts@clovisca.gov**



Your Turn:

What area do you consider your neighborhood?

What are your “communities of interest”?

For each answer, please provide:

- Geographic boundaries
- The history or defining shared characteristic of the area

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.

Any other questions about the process, criteria, maps, or any other part of this process?

Share Your Thoughts

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