



PALMDALE

a place to call home

**ADVISORY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
38300 SIERRA HIGHWAY
SUITE B
PALMDALE, CA 93550
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
5:30 PM
www.cityofpalmdale.org**

WELCOME

In accordance with the current guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, the Council Chamber is open for in-person public comment and seating. Masks are required to be worn by all persons in attendance. It is recommended that all citizens practice social distancing to the extent possible while in attendance. Commissioners may choose to participate via conference call.

How to observe the meeting virtually:

1. Spectrum local access Channel 27
2. Online live webcast at www.cityofpalmdale.org.

How to Submit Public Comments:

VERBAL PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE MEETING – (ZOOM Number: US: +1 669 900 9128 Webinar ID: 896 9713 6000 Passcode: 172370 Webinar attendee link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89697136000?pwd=VzNzcmZlcTRxWFIZSDITL2pNUDZMQQT09>. Verbal comments must be limited to 3 minutes. Public comments submitted will become part of the official meeting record.

The safety and well-being of employees and the public remains the City's top priority. The City of Palmdale appreciates your patience and understanding during these challenging times.

The Advisory Redistricting Commission is making every effort to follow the spirit and intent of the Brown Act and other applicable laws regulating the conduct of public meetings in order to maximize transparency and public access.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (661) 267-5151 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

If you require oral Spanish translation, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (661) 267-5151 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Your courtesy is requested to help our meetings run smoothly. If you'll be kind enough to follow these simple rules, we can make the best possible use of your time and ours:

Please refrain from public displays or outbursts, such as unsolicited applause, comments, cheering, foul language or obscenities.

Any disruptive activities that substantially interfere with the ability of the Advisory Redistricting Commission to carry out its meeting will not be permitted and offenders will be asked to leave the meeting.

Please turn off/mute your cell phones and mobile devices.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS ANDRE, BUTLER, COULSON, HARRIS, ORTEGA, REILY, REINA, THEDFORD, THORNTON

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Now is the time for public participation for any person wishing to speak to the Advisory Redistricting Commission on matters listed or not listed on the agenda, within the jurisdiction of the Commission. If you are attending the meeting by phone, please press *9 to "raise your hand." If attending by personal computer, please click the "raise your hand" button. Press *6 to un-mute yourself, state your name and begin speaking.

PLEASE NOTE: A three-minute limit is imposed on each speaker.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 5.1 Approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on August 23, 2021. (Staff Reference: Staff Secretary Smith)

6. PUBLIC HEARING

- 6.1 Public Hearing to receive input from the community regarding the redrawing of election district boundaries. (Staff Reference: Staff Secretary Smith)

7. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
ADVISORY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
38300 SIERRA HIGHWAY, SUITE B
PALMDALE, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 23, 2021**

www.cityofpalmdale.org

1) CALL TO ORDER

Staff Secretary Smith called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS ANDRE, BUTLER, COULSON, DAVENPORT, HARRIS,
ORTEGA, REILY, REINA, SADLER, THEDFORD, THORNTON

PRESENT: Shameka Andre, Patrick Coulson, Vivian Davenport, Avrum Harris,
Antonio Ortega, Phyliss Reily, Suzann Reina, Lorraine Sadler,
Engel Thedford, Bennie Thornton.

ABSENT: Rochelle Butler.

4) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4.1) Adopt Resolution No. ARC 2021-001, a Resolution of the Advisory
Redistricting Commission of the City of Palmdale for the Election of
Officers. (Staff Reference: Secretary Smith)

Motion: Nominate Antonio Ortega as Chair.

Moved by Antonio Ortega, seconded by Shameka Andre.

Discussion ensued. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: Substitute motion to nominate Suzanne Reina

Moved by Lorraine Sadler, seconded by Vivian Davenport.

Discussion continued.

Motion: Substitute motion to nominate Suzanne Reina as Chair and
Antonio Ortega as Vice Chair.

Moved by Antonio Ortega, seconded by Lorraine Sadler.

Vote: Motion carried (10-0)

Yes: Shameka Andre, Patrick Coulson, Vivian Davenport, Avrum
Harris, Antonio Ortega, Phyliss Reily, Suzann Reina, Lorraine Sadler,
Engel Thedford, Bennie Thornton.

Absent: Rochelle Butler.

This item was taken out of order.

Motion: Appoint City Clerk Smith as staff secretary for the Advisory Redistricting Commission.

Moved by Shameka Andre, seconded by Antonio Ortega.

Vote: Motion carried (10-0)

Yes: Shameka Andre, Patrick Coulson, Vivian Davenport, Avrum Harris, Antonio Ortega, Phyliss Reily, Suzann Reina, Lorraine Sadler, Engel Thedford, Bennie Thornton.

Absent: Rochelle Butler.

Motion: Adopt Resolution No. ARC 2021-001

Moved by Lorraine Sadler, seconded by Avrum Harris.

Vote: Motion carried (10-0)

Yes: Shameka Andre, Patrick Coulson, Vivian Davenport, Avrum Harris, Antonio Ortega, Phyliss Reily, Suzann Reina, Lorraine Sadler, Engel Thedford, Bennie Thornton.

Absent: Rochelle Butler.

5) ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Staff Secretary Smith administered the Oath of Office to all Commissioners in attendance.

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Hofbauer, Councilmember Loa, Councilmember Carrillo, City Manager Murphy, and Deputy City Manager Behen introduced themselves to the Advisory Redistricting Commissioners and expressed gratitude for their desire to serve the community.

Xavier Flores, Antelope Valley League of United Latin American Citizens, commented regarding polarized districts, and civil rights.

7) DISCUSSION AND TRAINING ON THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT

7.1) Ralph M. Brown Act. (Staff Reference: Deputy City Attorney Pletcher)

Deputy City Attorney Pletcher provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the Ralph M. Brown Act and California Government Code pertaining to the roles and responsibilities of the Commission.

8) PRESENTATIONS

8.1) Doug Johnson, President of National Demographics Corporation ("NDC"), provided a brief background of the company and a detailed overview of the redistricting process to the Advisory Redistricting Commission.

- 8.2) Sydni Overly, Tripepi Smith, provided a brief overview on the outreach and public engagement efforts to the Advisory Redistricting Commission.

Mr. Johnson commented that NDC, Tripepi Smith and the City are 100% dedicated to total openness and transparency.

Discussion ensued regarding the map submission timeline, review of maps, release of census data, promoting of workshops, social media accounts, and outreach. Deputy City Attorney Pletcher highly recommended that the Commissioners create separate, private and public accounts for social media use. Staff Secretary Smith provided clarification regarding district workshops.

Chair Reina called for a brief recess at 6:45 pm.

9) ADVISORY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION BYLAWS

- 9.1) Adopt the Advisory Redistricting Commission Bylaws. (Staff Reference: Secretary Smith)

Motion: Adopt the Advisory Redistricting Commission Bylaws.
Moved by Avrum Harris, seconded by Vivian Davenport.

Vote: Motion carried (8-0)

Yes: Shameka Andre, Patrick Coulson, Vivian Davenport, Avrum Harris, Antonio Ortega, Phyliss Reily, Suzann Reina, Lorraine Sadler.

Abstain: Engel Thedford, Bennie Thornton.

Absent: Rochelle Butler.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Reina adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to September 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 38300 Sierra Highway, Suite B, Palmdale, CA 93550.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this September 14, 2021.

Suzann Reina, Chair

ATTEST:

Shanae S. Smith, Staff Secretary



City Council Staff Report

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
TO: ADVISORY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
CITY CLERK DIVISION
DISTRICT: ALL
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY
REGARDING THE REDRAWING OF ELECTION DISTRICT
BOUNDARIES

ISSUE

Public Hearing to receive input from the community regarding the redrawing of election district boundaries.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Receive a report from staff on the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to redraw district boundaries; and
- 2) Conduct public hearings and workshops to receive public input on district boundaries.

BACKGROUND

Every ten years, cities with by-district election systems must use new Census data to review and, if needed, redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all districts have nearly equal population. The redistricting process for the City of Palmdale must be completed by April 17, 2022.

DISCUSSION

The City adopted its current district boundaries in 2016 based on 2010 census data as required by law. The districts must now be redrawn using the 2020 Census data and in compliance with the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions ("FAIR MAPS") Act, which was adopted by the California legislature as AB 849 and took effect January 1, 2020.

Under the Act, the council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the listed order of priority (Elections Code 21601(c) for general law cities / 21621(c) for charter cities):

- 1) Comply with the federal requirements of equal population and the Voting Rights Act
- 2) Geographically contiguous
- 3) Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest” (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
- 4) Easily identifiable boundaries
- 5) Geographic compactness (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)
- 6) Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party

Once the prioritized criteria are met, other traditional districting principles can be considered, such as:

- 1) Minimize the number of voters delayed from voting in 2022 to 2024
- 2) Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office
- 3) Future population growth

By law, the City must hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input on the drawing of district maps:

- At least one hearing must occur before the city or county draws draft maps
- At least two hearings must happen after the drawing of draft maps
- The fourth hearing can happen either before or after the drawing of draft maps
- City or county staff or consultants may hold a public workshop instead of one of the
- Required public redistricting hearings

To increase the accessibility of these hearings, cities and counties must take the following steps:

- At least one hearing must occur on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6 p.m. on a weekday
- If a redistricting hearing is consolidated with another local government meeting, the redistricting hearing portion must begin at a pre-designated time
- Local public redistricting hearings should be made accessible to people with disabilities

The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community on what factors should be taken into consideration while creating district boundaries. The public is requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps. A *community of interest* under the relevant Elections Code for cities (Section 21601(c) / 21621(c)] 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.”

Possible features defining community of interest might include, but are not limited to:

- A. School attendance areas;
- B. Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
- C. Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
- D. Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
- E. Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
 - (1) Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
 - (2) Languages spoken at home; and
 - (3) Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

Next Steps:

On November 3, 2021, the City Council will conduct Public Hearing #2 to seek additional public input and provide direction on criteria to be considered while drafting district maps. Following that hearing, draft district maps and proposed election sequencing will be posted to the City website and available in the Office of the City Clerk.

The dates for Public Hearings #3 and #4 to consider draft maps are yet to be determined depending on release of the delayed U.S. Census data and state prisoner population adjusted counts.

FISCAL IMPACT

City Council has appropriated \$150,000 in the FY 2021/2022 mid-year budget adjustments to meet the 2021 Redistricting Program requirements.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal I: Maintain effective public safety and protection for life, property, and the environment.

- C. Use a variety of methods to communicate timely, useful, and trusted information about city programs, services, and policies.

Goal II: Ensure long-term fiscal health of the City and maintain funding for services.

- C. Involve and expand engagement to enhance public oversight and transparency.

Prepared by:

Certified as to availability of Funds:

Approved by:

Approved as to form:

Shanae Smith

Keith Kang, Finance Manager

J.J. Murphy, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Christopher Beck, City Attorney

Report to Mayor and City Council
Re: ARC Public Hearing and Introduction to Redistricting
September 14, 2021
Page 4

ATTACHMENT

1. Introduction to Redistricting PowerPoint Presentation

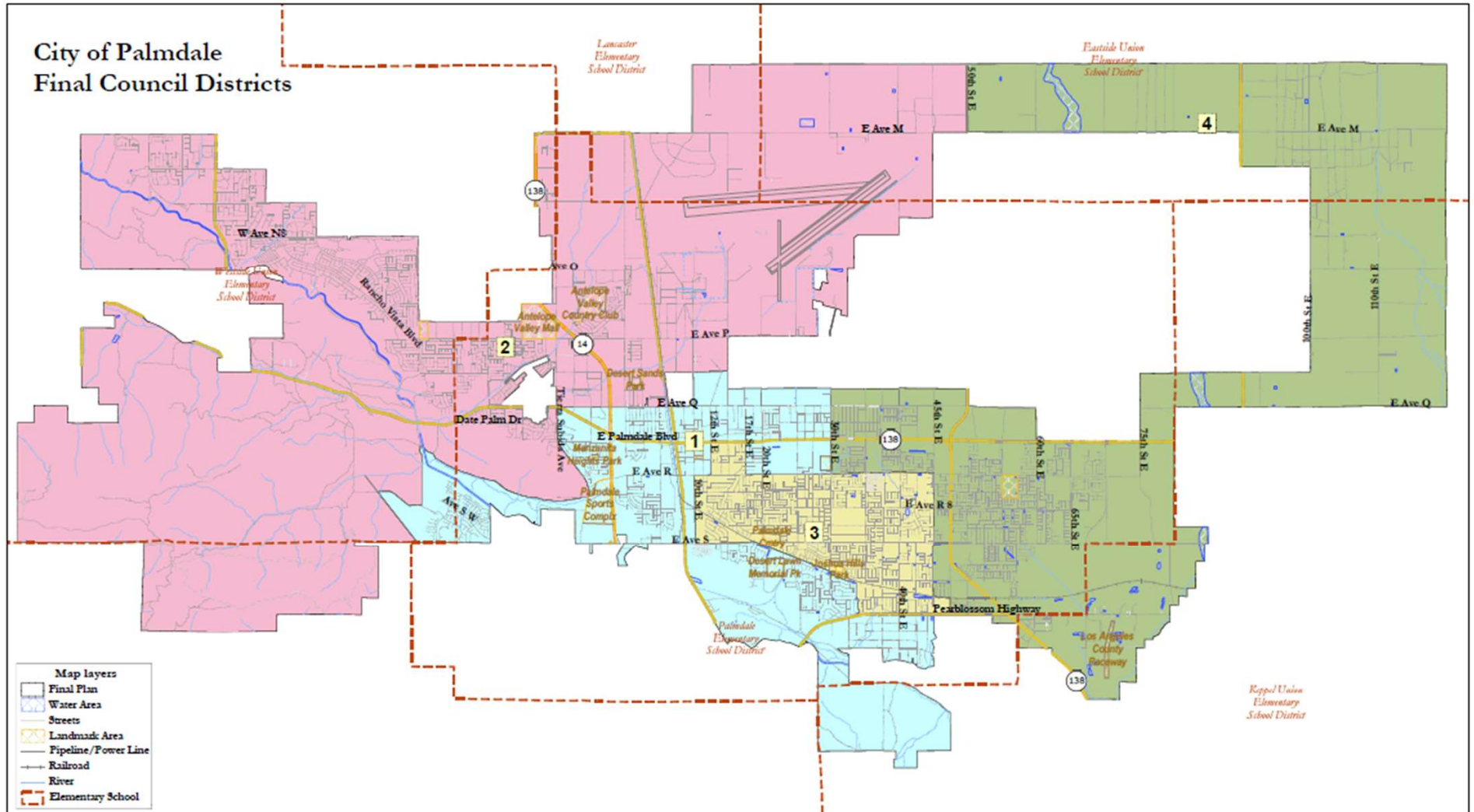
City of Palmdale



Introduction to Redistricting

National Demographics Corp.

Current District Map



Redistricting Timeline

Date	Event
August 23, 2021	Advisory Redistricting Commission (ARC) holds 1 st meeting
September 14, 2021	Public hearing #1
September 20, 2021	California to release official redistricting data
October 12, 2021 October 16, 2021 October 25, 2021	Community Workshops to demo mapping tools and receive public input
November 3, 2021	Public hearing #2
January 12, 2022	Public hearing #3
January 21, 2022	Deadline for ARC to recommend map to City Council
TBD	Public hearing #4
April 17, 2022	Legal deadline for Council to adopt new district map
November 8, 2022	First election with new map

Legal Requirements & Other Goals

1. Federal Law

- ✓ Ensure equal population
- ✓ Comply with federal Voting Rights Act
- ✓ Prevent racial gerrymandering

2. California Law

1. Ensure geographic **contiguity**
 2. Minimize division of neighborhoods & **“communities of interest”**
 3. Create easily identifiable boundaries
 4. Maintain **compactness**
- ✓ Do not “favor or discriminate against a political party”

3. Other Goals

- Minimize changes to election cycles
- Respect voters’ choices
- Preserve core of existing districts
- Anticipate future growth

Do not bypass a nearby population to take in a more distant population

Demographic Summary of Existing Districts

Each of the 4
districts must
contain about
42,362 people

Palmdale - Current Districts (2020 Census Raw)

District		1	2	3	4	Total
2020	2020 Census (Raw)	44,162	41,776	41,403	42,109	169,450
	Deviation from ideal	1,800	-587	-960	-254	2,759
	% Deviation	4.25%	-1.38%	-2.26%	-0.60%	6.51%
2020 Total Pop	% Hisp	62%	40%	72%	73%	62%
	% NH White	14%	34%	11%	9%	17%
	% NH Black	18%	13%	11%	13%	14%
	% Asian-American	4%	9%	3%	3%	5%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	22,828	25,847	21,894	22,798	93,367
	% Hisp	53%	33%	61%	62%	52%
	% NH White	23%	44%	20%	17%	27%
	% NH Black	17%	13%	13%	17%	15%
	% Asian/Pac.Isl.	4%	9%	4%	4%	6%

Defining Neighborhoods



What is your neighborhood?

What are its geographic boundaries?


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

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

Beyond Neighborhoods: Defining “Communities of Interest”

Under California Elections Code, “community of interest” has a very specific definition in the context of redistricting:



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.

Definitions of “communities of interest” do **not** include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates

What Defines My Community?

What brings us together?

- Common interests or experiences
- Similar issues or concern
- Shared culture, language, history

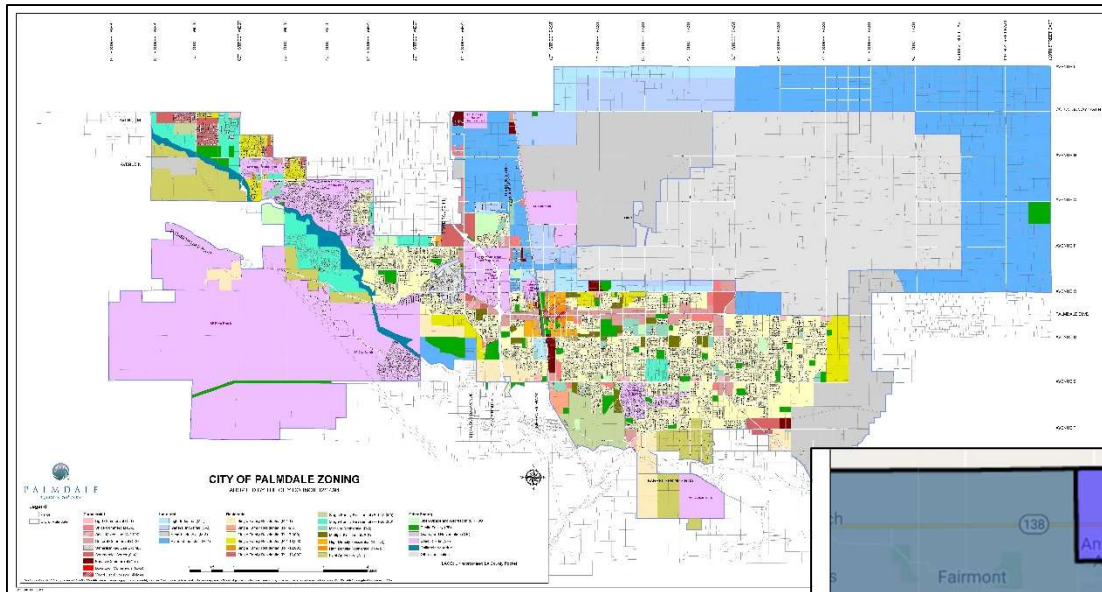
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Where are we?

- Areas around parks, schools, or other landmarks
- Bounded by highways, major roads, waterways, hills, etc.

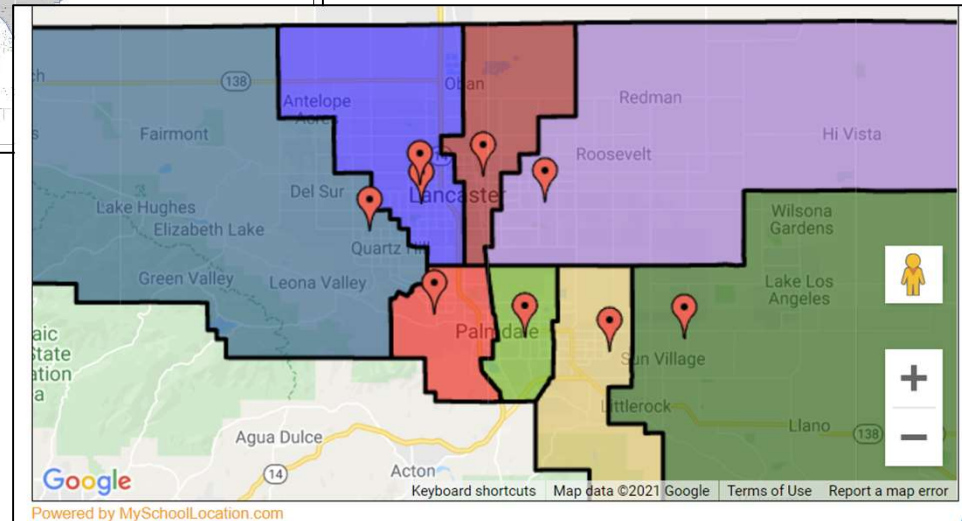
→ Should my community be kept together in
ONE council district?

Possible Communities of Interest



Zoning Areas

School Attendance Areas

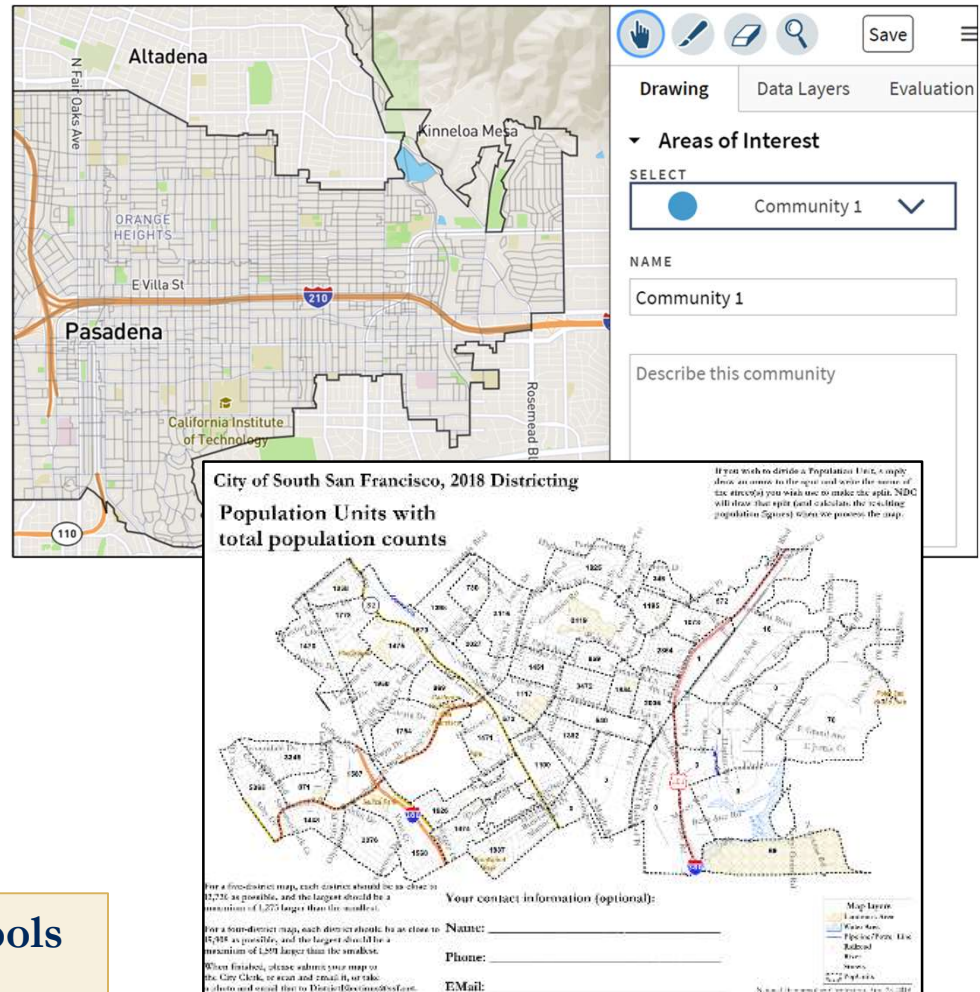


Public Mapping Tools

Use the tools to draw your community of interest, the district you want for your area, or an entire citywide map

- **DistrictR:** Easy-to-use online map drawing tool
- **Paper Participation Kit:** Simple paper map drawing tool

Palmdale's mapping tools
launch in October



Upcoming Community Workshops

Date	Location
October 12, 2021 5:30 PM	District 1 Community Workshop Holiday Inn 38630 5th Street West
October 16, 2021 1:00 PM	District 4 Community Workshop Knight High School 37423 70th Street East
October 16, 2021 5:00 PM	District 3 Community Workshop Palmdale Oasis Park Recreation Center 3850 East Avenue S
October 25, 2021 6:00 PM	District 2 Community Workshop Marie Kerr Park Recreation Center 2723-A West Rancho Vista Blvd.

Public Hearing & Discussion



- What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?
- What other notable areas are in the City and what are their boundaries?

Discussion on:

- ✓ “Neighborhoods”
- ✓ “Communities of interest”