

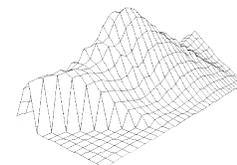


Transition to District-Based Elections of Directors

Public Hearing #2

GOLETA SANITARY DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 20, 2021



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Oakland and Saratoga, California

Agenda

- 1. Background**
- 2. Legal requirements (as demographers understand them)**
- 3. Identifying communities of interest**
- 4. For more information see GSD website**

Background

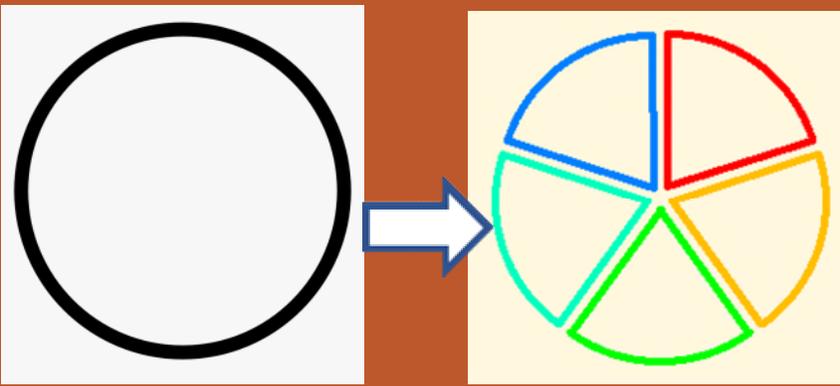
The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) has encouraged many jurisdictions to move from at-large to by-district elections.

July 2018 - GSD received a California Voting Rights Act letter challenging GSD's at-large election of Directors

August 2018 - GSD Board passed a resolution to transition to by-district elections after 2020 Census data were available

Tonight's Hearing – second of two initial hearings to be held within 30 days of each other. Purpose is to receive public input about factors to consider when drafting maps

Draft maps will be presented at subsequent public hearings in the Spring



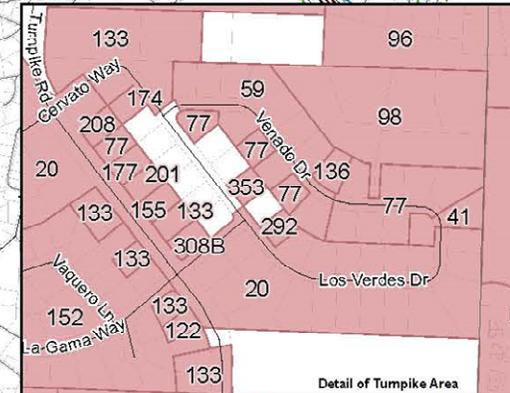
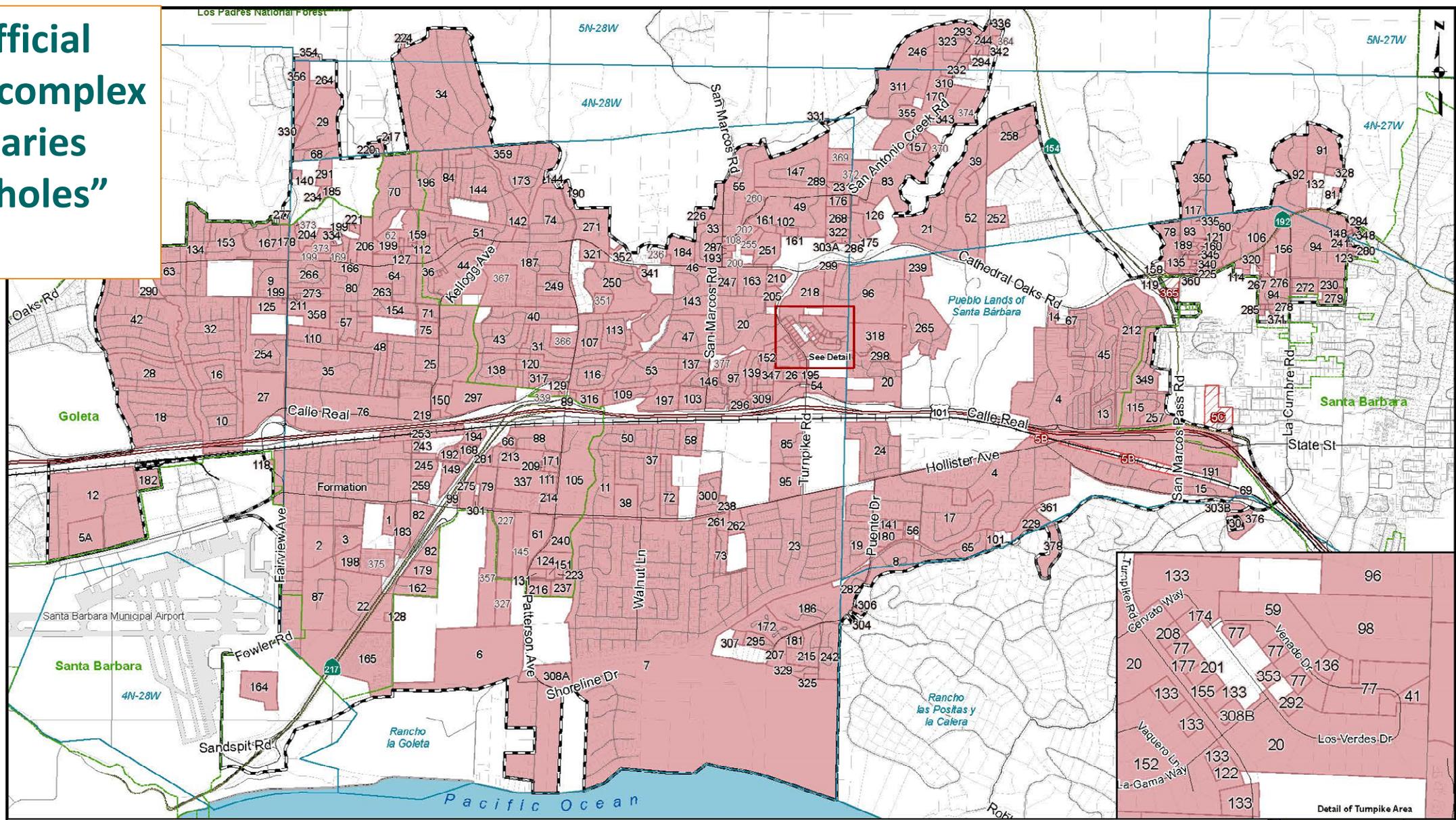
Changing from at-large to by-district election of Directors

All GSD voters currently elect *all* Board members (*at-large*).

In *by-district* elections, a Director is elected by voters living in the election district. Directors must live in the district they represent.

- **When demographers draft districting plans, federal and state laws apply (described later).**
- **Current Directors complete their terms of office even if they do not live in the new election district they would represent.**
- **The newly-created election districts will be used until after the 2030 Census, when GSD will need to redistrict if districts' total populations are no longer equal.**

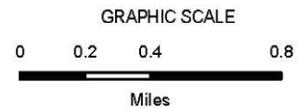
GSD official map: complex boundaries with "holes"



Goleta Sanitary District

Compiled by the Santa Barbara County Surveyor's Office on 05/21/2020.
 Last Action: 378, La Cumbre Mutual Water Company Annex., LAFCO 18-20, recorded 2/19/2019.
 Sphere of influence: 11/4/2010 Last Amended 2/19/2019.
 See Boundary Activity Table at <http://countyofsb.org/pwd/specialdistricts.sbc>

Completion information was not found for all proposed boundary changes, therefore the numbering is not continuous.
 NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER: This data is for reference only. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, errors and conditions originating from physical sources used to develop the database may be reflected in this data. Santa Barbara County shall not be liable for any errors, omissions, or damages that result from inappropriate use of this document. No level of accuracy is claimed for the boundary lines shown hereon and lines should not be used to obtain coordinate values, bearings or distances.

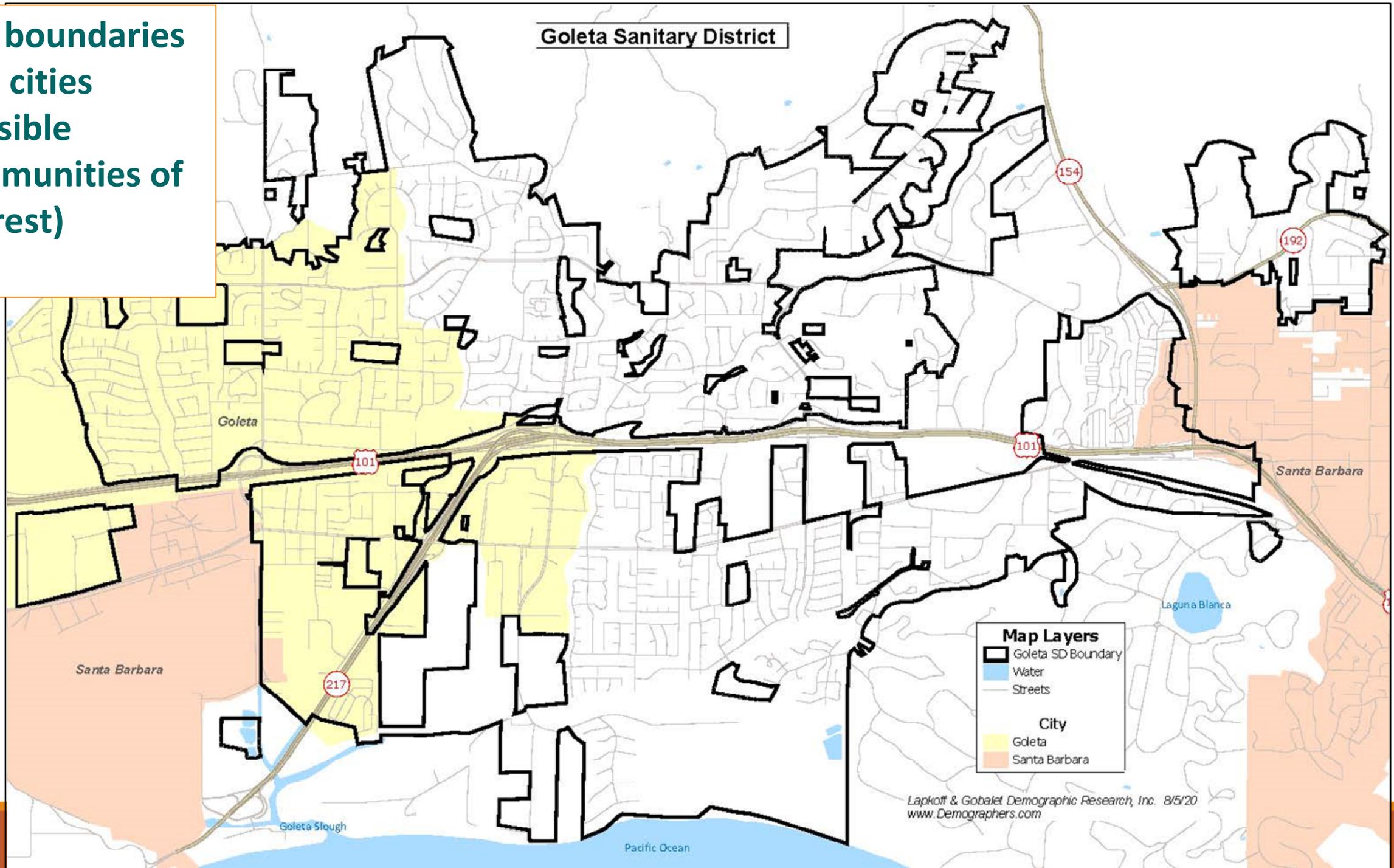


Legend

- Freeways
- Highways
- Roads
- Railroads
- Parcels
- Sections
- Land Grants and Townships
- City Boundaries
- County Boundary
- Formation
- Annexation
- Detachment
- Sphere of Influence



**GSD boundaries
with cities
(possible
Communities of
Interest)**



GSD Demographics from 2020 Census*

* Counts are from California's official redistricting data - the California Statewide Database's (SWDB's) adjusted 2020 Census counts to allocate inmates to previous home addresses.

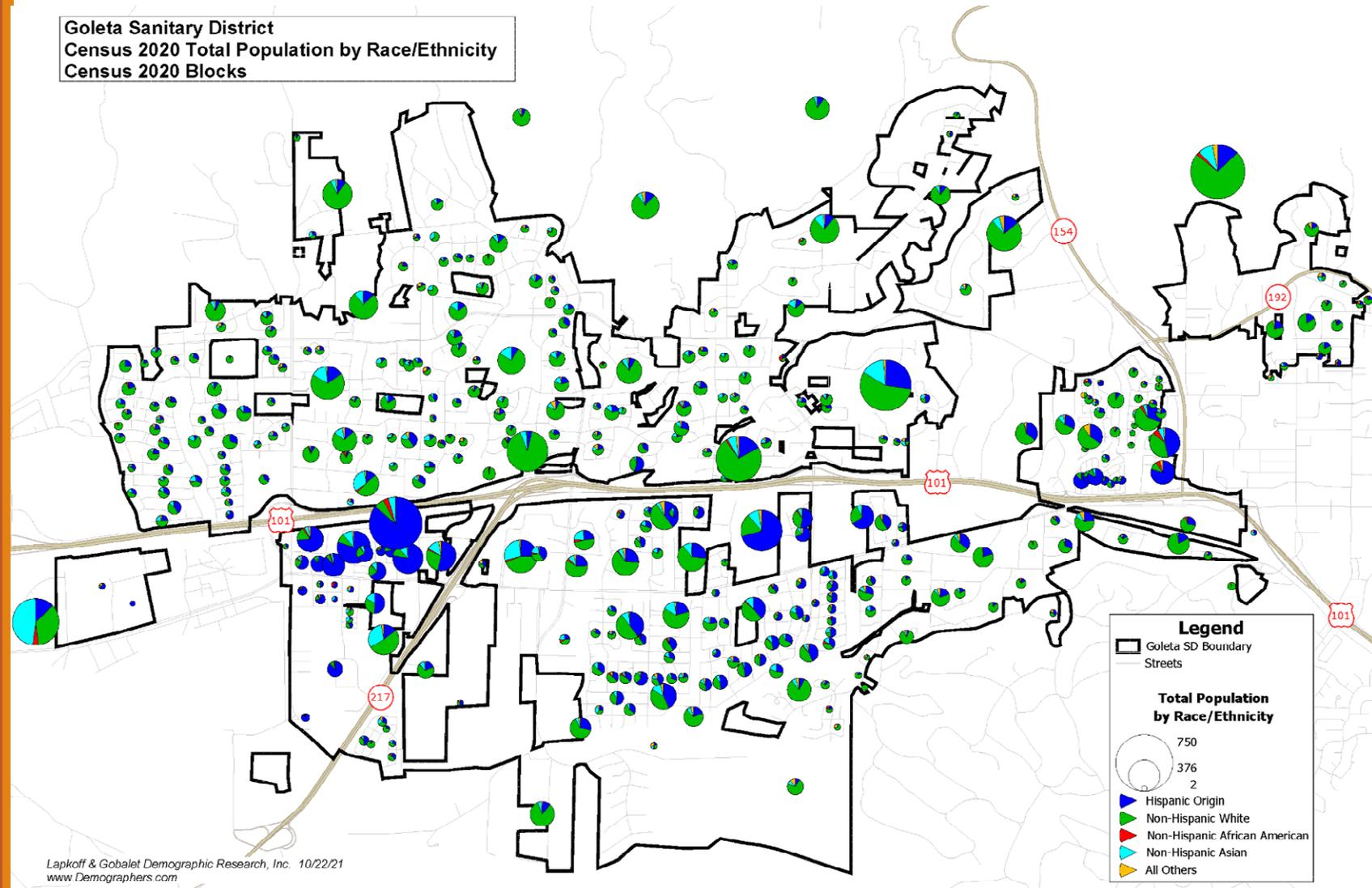
GSD Summary Demographics

	Total Population		18+ Population		Citizens of Voting Age (CVAP)	
NH White	21,653	55%	18,603	58%	19,127	67%
Hispanic	12,167	31%	9,021	28%	5,632	20%
NH Asian	3,536	9%	2,874	9%	1,726	6%
NH Others	1,239	3%	962	3%	1,329	5%
NH Black	497	1%	386	1%	619	2%
Total	39,092	100%	31,846	100%	28,433	100%

	Total Registered Voters, 2020 General		Total Actual Voters, 2020 General	
Spanish Surname	5,312	20%	4,477	19%
Asian Surname	1,368	5%	1,179	5%
Chinese	461	2%	404	2%
Filipino	245	1%	216	1%
Vietnamese	199	1%	165	1%
Indian	184	1%	165	1%
Japanese	178	1%	153	1%
Korean	101	0%	83	0%
All Others	20,106	75%	18,417	77%
Total	26,786	100%	24,073	100%

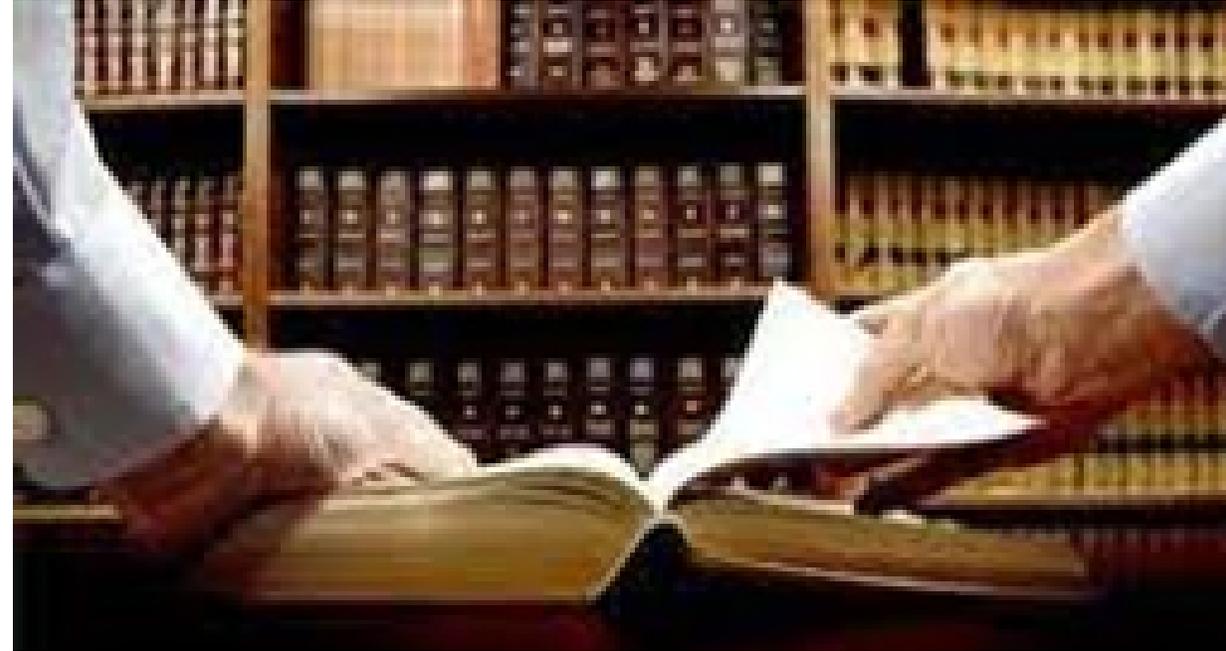
GSD Populations from 2020 Census, by race/ethnicity

Pies show California's official redistricting data (adjusted by the SWDB to reallocate prison inmates to previous home addresses)



Legal guidelines that demographers follow:

- ✓ **Federal law:**
 - Population equality
 - Voting Rights Act
 - No racial gerrymandering
- ✓ **State Elections Code**



Demonstration of the Population Equality Requirement

Courts have allowed some deviation from exact population equality for jurisdictions like GSD: the spread between the most- and least-populous districts should not exceed 10% of the “ideal district population” which is 1/5 of GSD’s total population.

Population Balance

GSD Total Population	39,092
Number of Districts	5
Each District's Ideal Population	7,818
10% Deviation	782

Difference between most- and least populous district cannot be more than 782 persons

Federal Voting Rights Act

Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act:

Single-member election districts should be drawn so that members of protected groups (all race/ethnic groups except non-Hispanic Whites) have the ability to elect representatives of their choice if:

- **The protected group is sufficiently large & geographically compact to form a majority in a single-member district**
- **The protected group is politically cohesive**

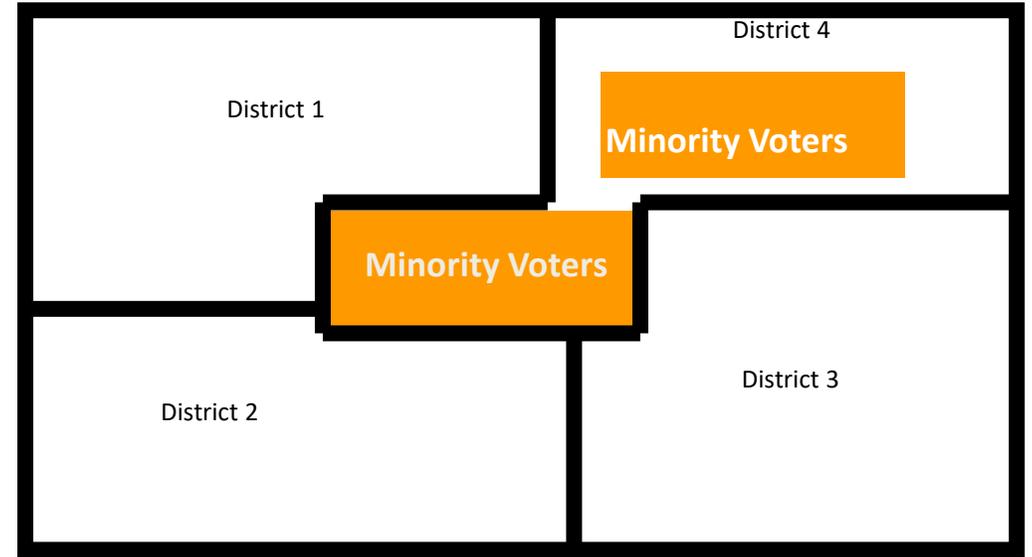
The Federal Voting Rights Act

“Packing” and “Cracking” are prohibited :

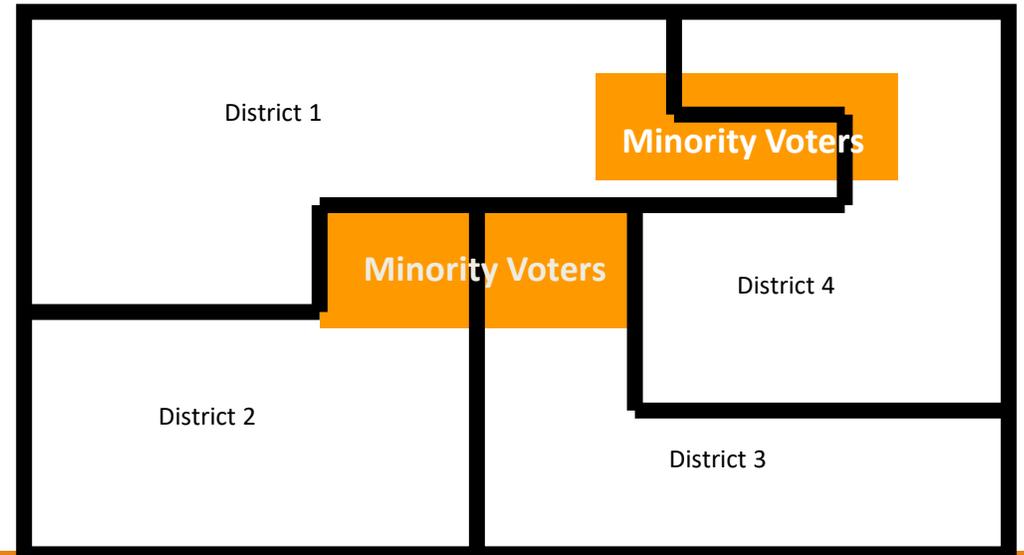
“‘**Packing**’ refers to the practice of filling a district with a supermajority of a given group or party. ‘**Cracking**’ involves the splitting of a group or party among several districts to deny that group or party a majority in any of those districts.”

- *Vieth v. Jubelirer*,
541 U.S. 267, 286 n.7 (2004)

Packing



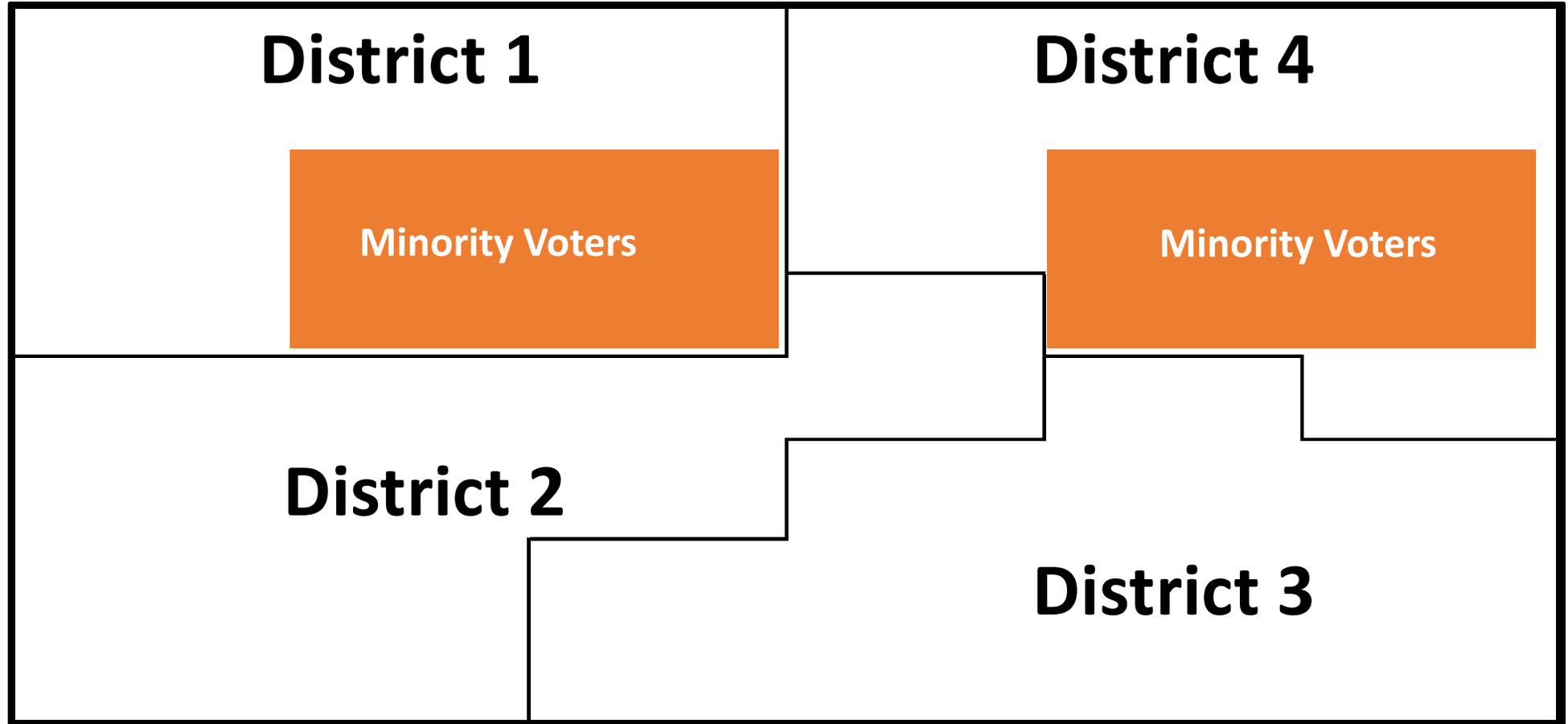
Cracking



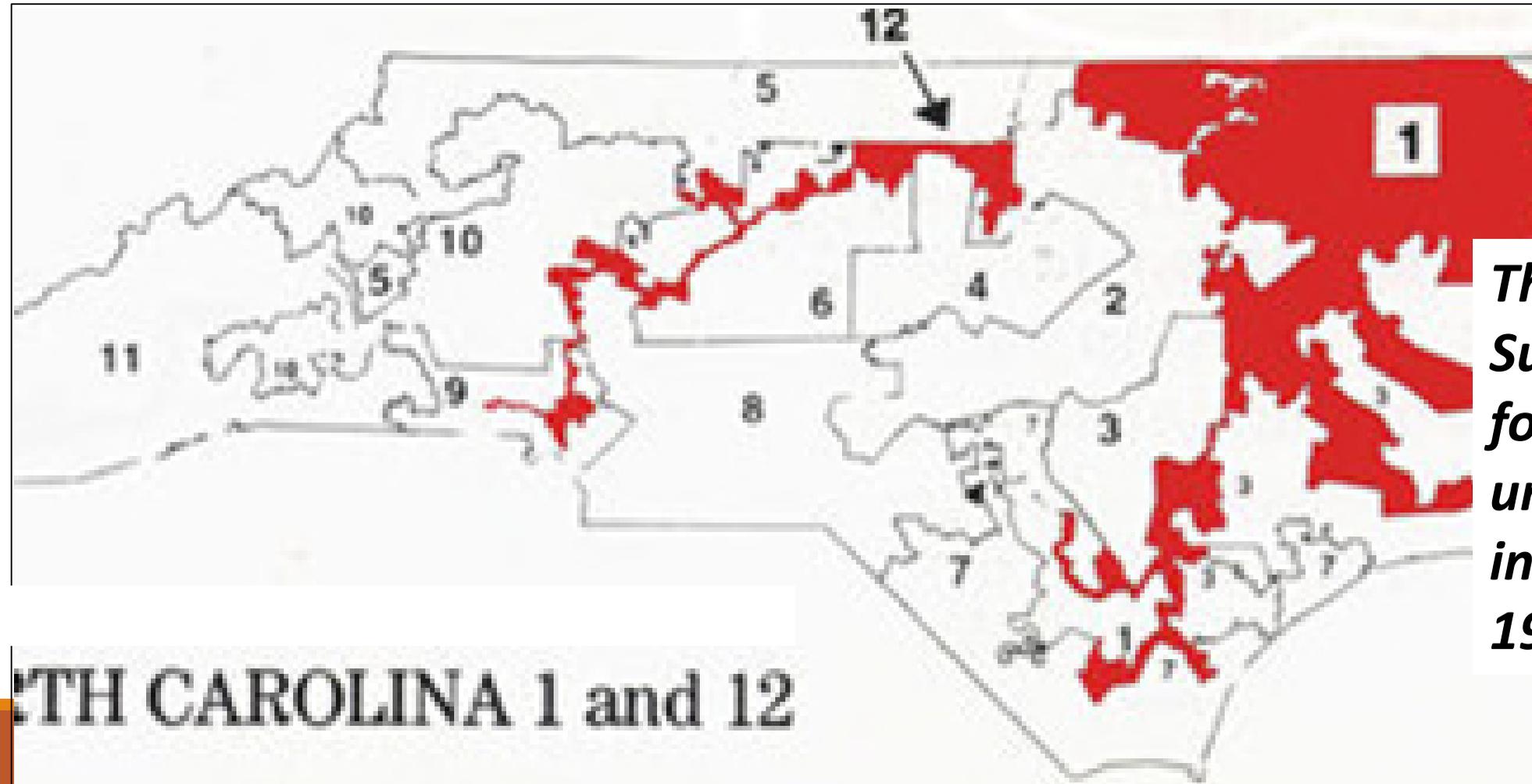
Best Practice:

Each orange block represents protected groups intact and in separate election districts

The Federal Voting Rights Act



Racial Gerrymandering is not Permitted: North Carolina's proposed Congressional Districts after Census 1990



The U.S. Supreme Court found District 12 unconstitutional in Shaw v. Reno, 1993

California Elections Code

“...give consideration to the following factors:

(1) Topography

(2) Geography

(3) Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory

(4) Communities of interests “

Communities of Interest (COIs)

COIs are contiguous areas in which people share social and economic interests and should be in a single election district, because their Community of Interest may be affected by the Policies of GSD Board of Directors.



Some Examples:

- Recognized neighborhoods
- Cities and unincorporated communities
- Areas with similar demographic characteristics
- Areas with similar issues

Questions for the Public:

What is your Community of Interest?

Do members of your Community of Interest want to be kept in one election district or to be divided and have a voice in elections of multiple representatives?

For More Information

GSD Website: <https://goletasanitary.org/about-us/transition-to-district-based-elections-faqs>

To submit questions and comments contact

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or call 805-967-4519 x.128