

Belmont-Redwood Shores School District Districting 2023



June 15, 2023

Agenda

Things we will cover:

- What is Districting
- Traditional Districting/Redistricting Principles
- Communities of Interest
- DistrictR
- BRSSD population data
- Public Hearing Schedule

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 zone vote for their board member.

What is Districting

Definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries.

These boundaries do not determine:

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

Required Redistricting Criteria

Traditional redistricting principles used throughout the country and written into state law

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

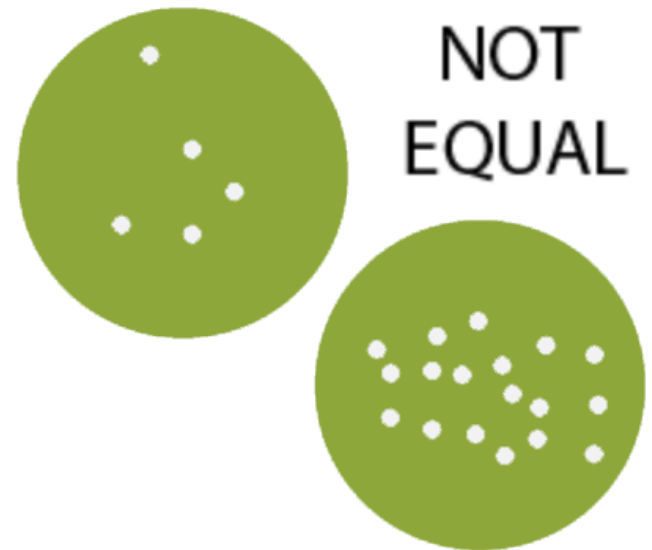
- **Relatively equal size - people, not citizens**
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following city, natural, and man-made boundaries
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Equal Population

Utilizing the US Census Decennial File

What is “equal” population has been a key subject in districting litigation.

- Population Equality is based on “People” not citizens or voters or other metrics.
- 10% deviation presumed equal. Other agencies / states have different plan deviation requirements.



Required Redistricting Criteria

Ranked criteria that must be followed in city redistricting

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- **Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump**
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines,
following city, natural, and man-made boundaries
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Contiguity

Two definitions for what is contiguous

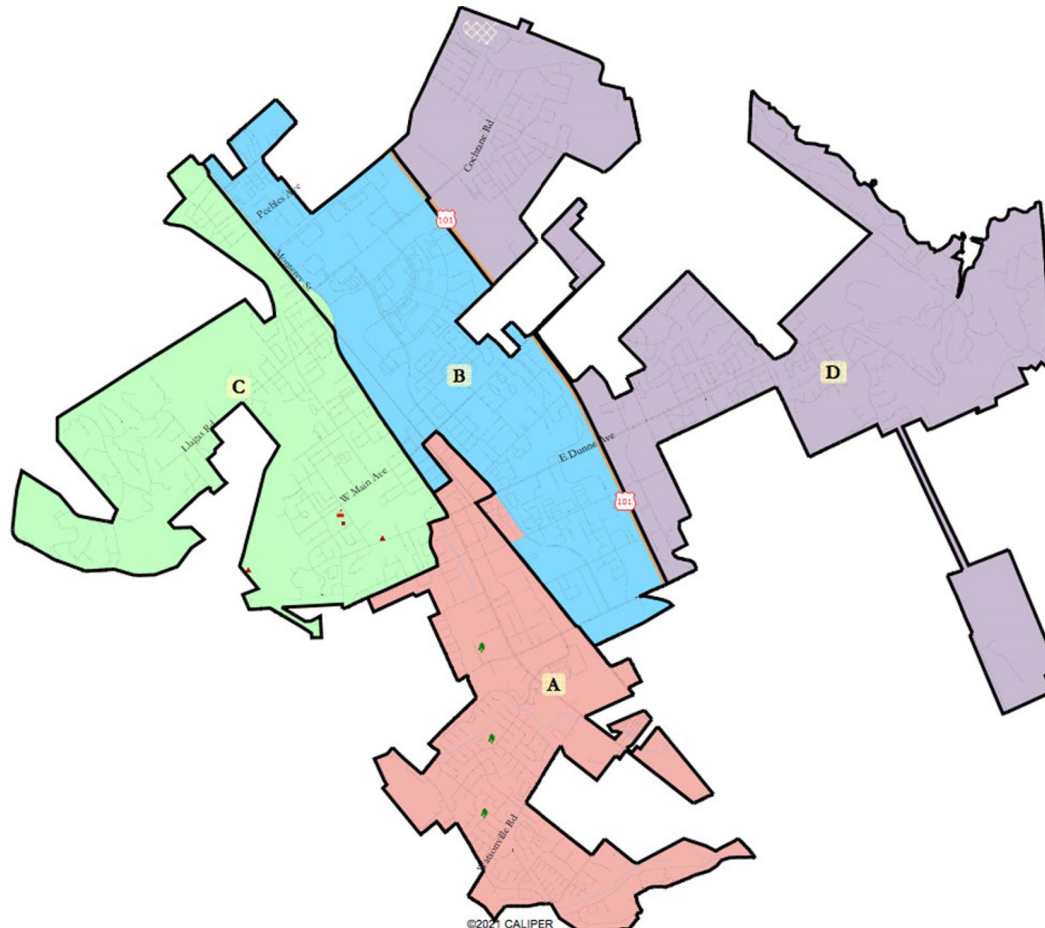
Contiguity should be thought of as “literal” and “functional.”

- An area that is one whole piece is “literally contiguous.”
- An area that represents how the population functions or how people are connected is “functionally contiguous.”



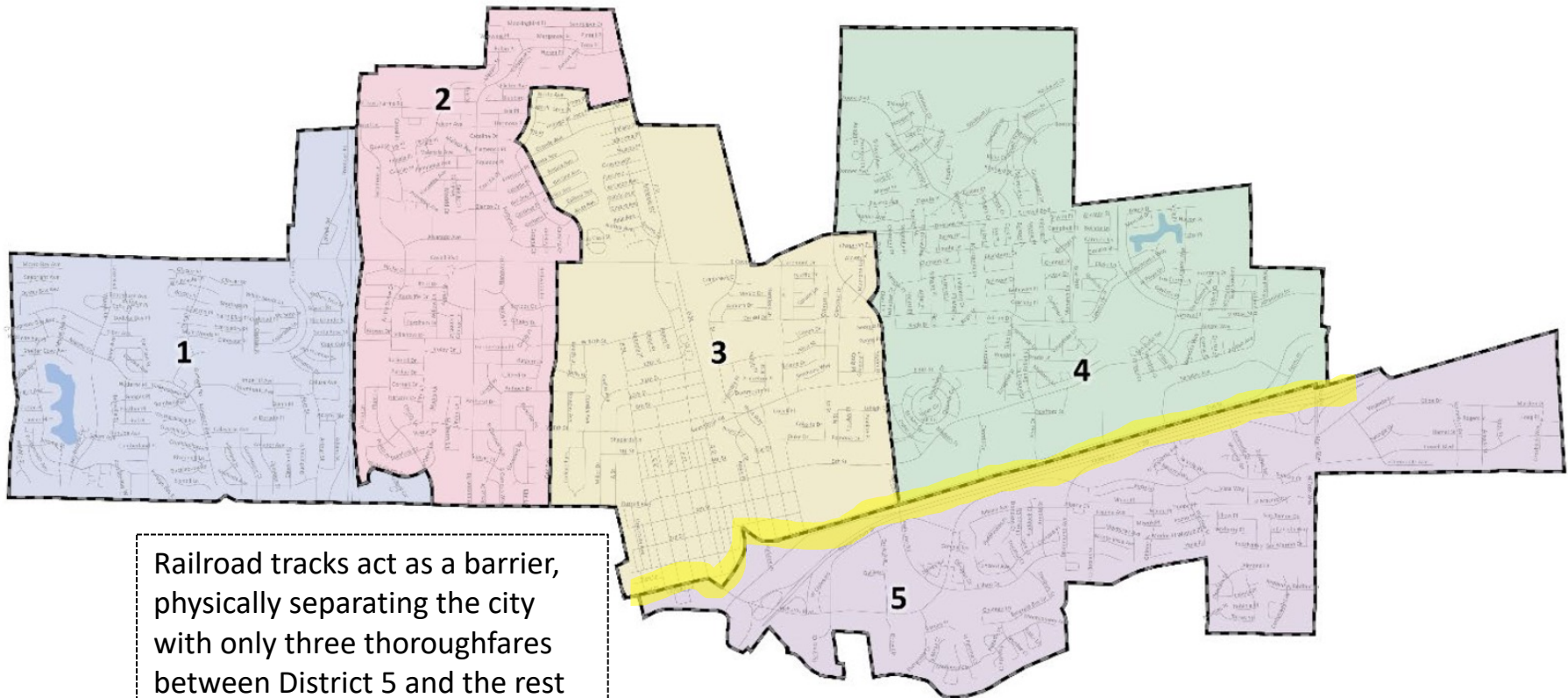
Contiguity

Determining what is “contiguous”



Contiguity

Determining what is “contiguity”



Railroad tracks act as a barrier, physically separating the city with only three thoroughfares between District 5 and the rest of the city.

Required Redistricting Criteria

Ranked criteria that must be followed in city redistricting

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- **Easily identifiable and understandable lines,
following city, natural, and man-made boundaries**
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Required Redistricting Criteria

Ranked criteria that must be followed in city redistricting

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines,
following city, natural, and man-made boundaries
- **Keep districts compact – appearance/function**

Compactness

Determining what is “compact”

The measure of compactness can get complicated.

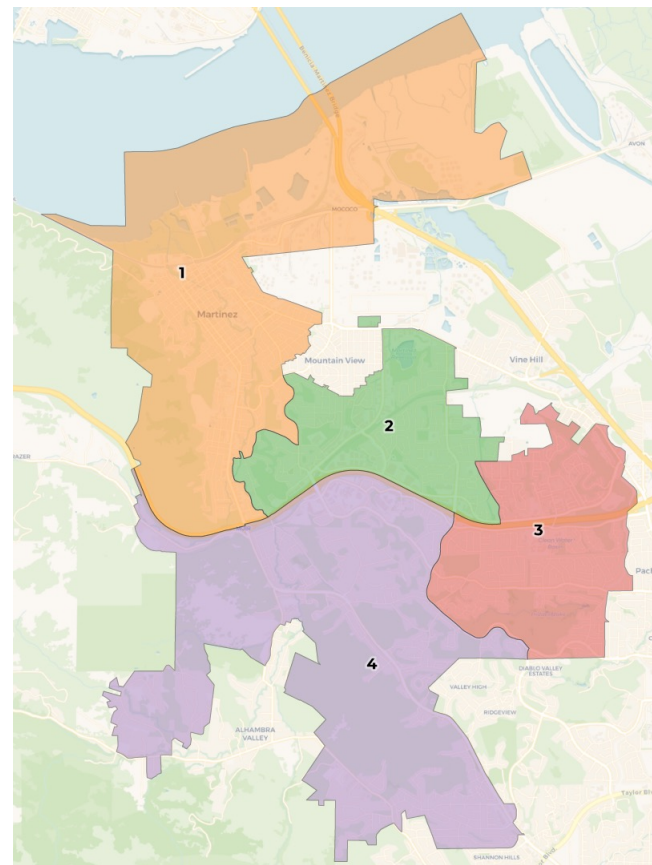
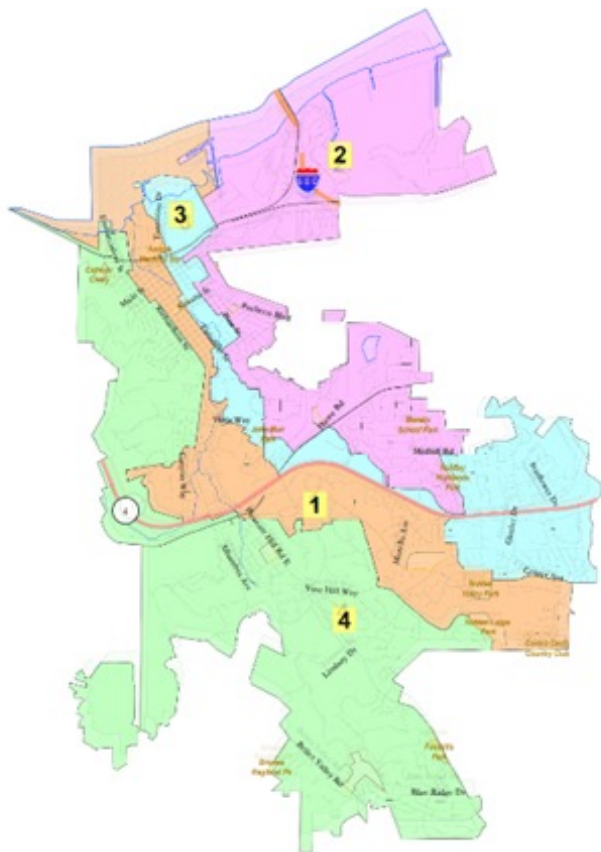
- Ratio of the circumference of a district and the area of a district.
- Measuring the number of distinct straight lines and the number of kinks and bends.
- Simply outlawing funny shapes.

NOT
COMPACT



Compactness

Determining what is “compact”



Required Redistricting Criteria

Ranked criteria that must be followed in city redistricting

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- **Maintain “*communities of interest*”**
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines,
following city, natural, and man-made boundaries
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

What are you looking for in trying to judge the applicability of a Community of Interest to the districting process?

- Group with shared culture / characteristics
- Geographic Nature / Density / Ability to be mapped
- Relationship to Agency / Policies

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

Communities of interest are the building blocks of districts.

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Subjective
- Open-ended to be as inclusive as possible

Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act

- Latinos
- Asians
- African Americans

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

Communities of interest are the building blocks of districts.

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Subjective
- Open-ended to be as inclusive as possible

Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act

- Latinos
- Asians
- African Americans

While communities of interest may include race, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing district boundaries.

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

- Historical communities
- Economic interests
- Racial composition
- Ethnic Areas
- Cultural amenities
- Religious facilities
- Immigrant communities
- Languages spoken
- Geographic features
- Neighborhoods
- Economic opportunity zones
- Tourism Areas
- School districts
- Outdoor recreation areas
- Communities defined by natural resource features
- Downtown / Urban
- Rural or Agricultural
- Homeowner or Renters
- Creative arts communities
- Media markets
- *Many, many more*

What is NOT a Community of Interest

Preventing a Districting from Becoming a Gerrymander

The Fair Maps Act explicitly prohibits these groups from being considered as communities of interest

- Political party affiliation
- Incumbents
- Political candidates

It also is hard, in redistricting to truly consider:

- *Groups of similarly minded people who do not share a similar geographic location.*
- *Communities of Interest that are districtwide.*

Communities of Interest

Three Critical Questions in Defining YOUR Community

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped?
- How would you describe the community's relationship with the jurisdiction, and how is your community affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials?

DistrictR Demonstration

Drawing a District Map or Your Communities of Interest

The BRSSD is using DistrictR as a public mapping tool to allow residents to draw District Maps and Communities of Interest Maps

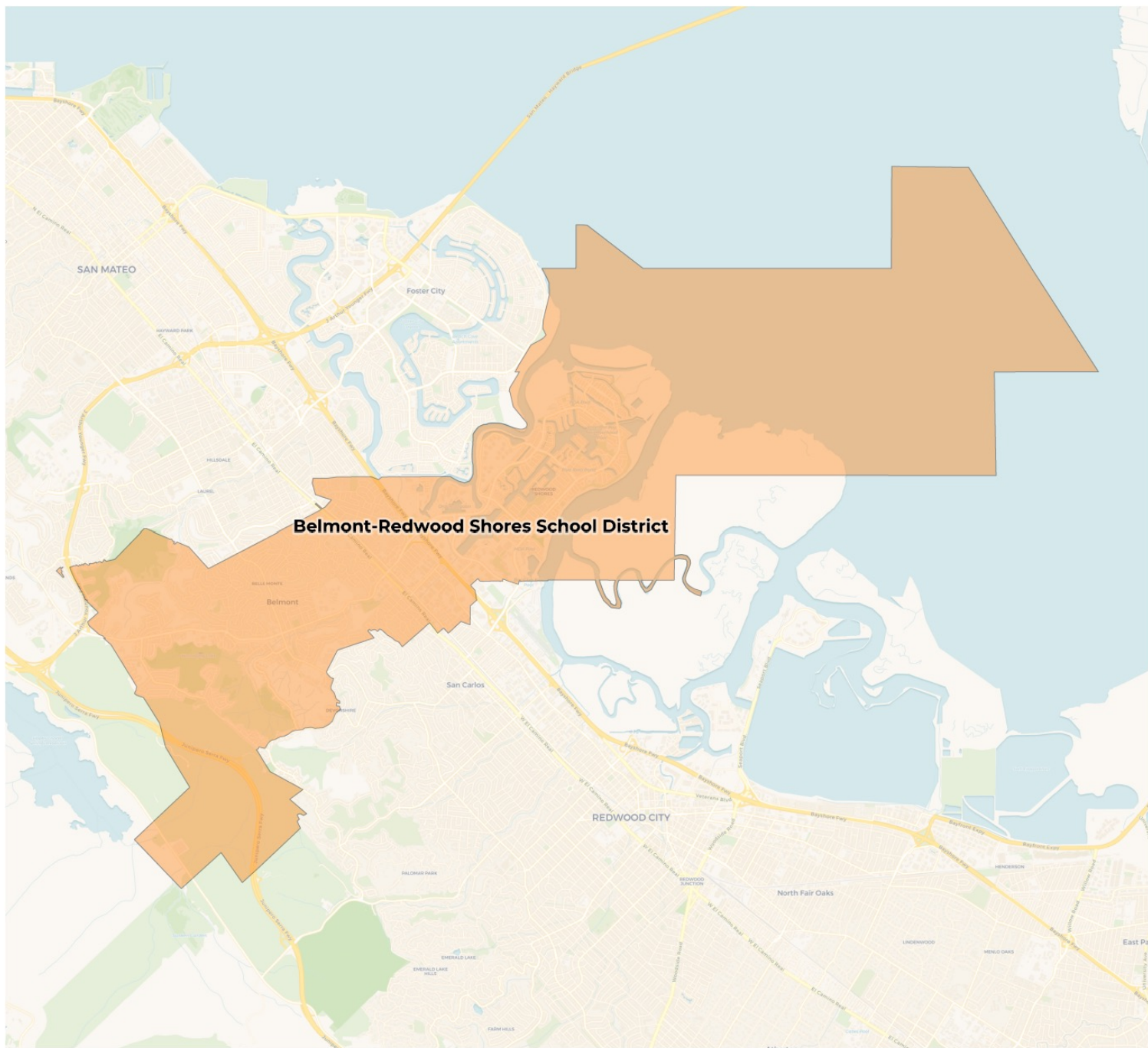


You draw the lines.

<https://districtr.org/>

Belmont-Redwood Shores School District At-Large

 REDISTRICTING
PARTNERS





Belmont-Redwood Shores School District At-Large

2020 Census

Belmont-Redwood Shores School District

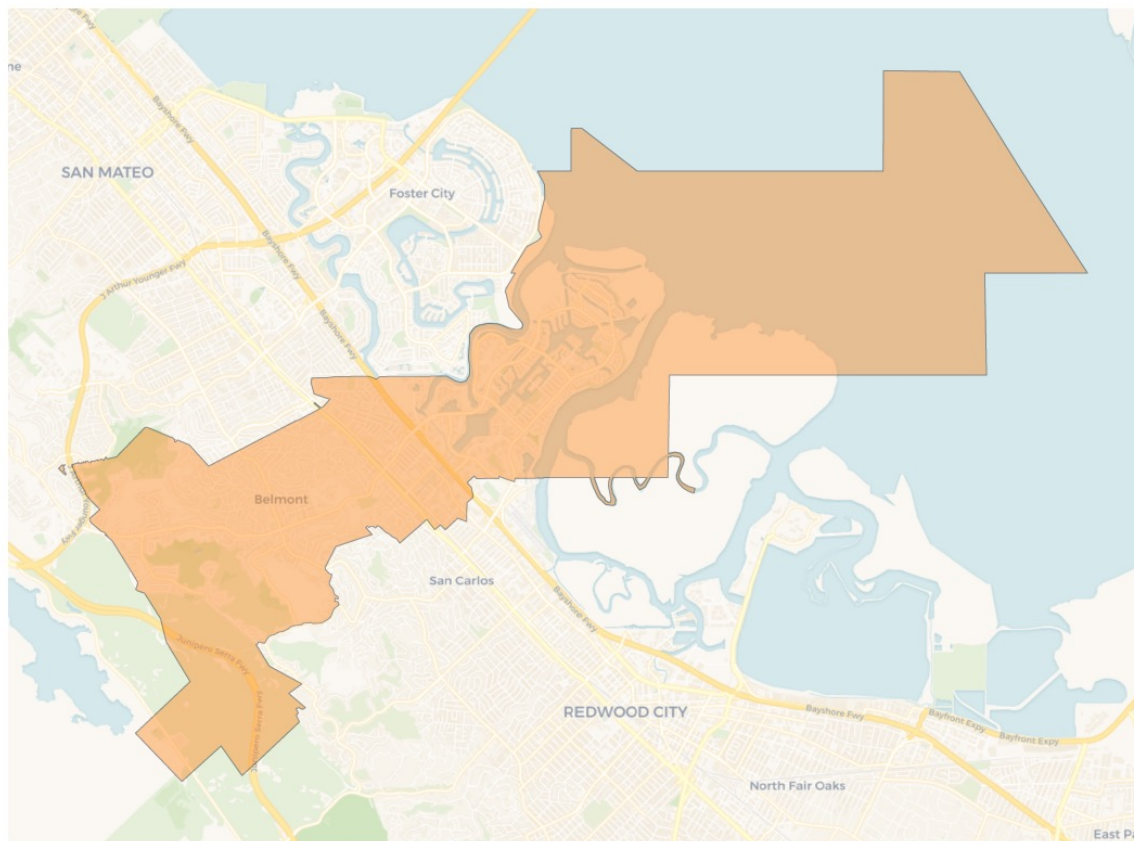
Population	44,919
Deviation	0
Deviation %	0.0%
Other	23,984
Other %	53.4%
Latino	5,203
Latino %	11.6%
Asian	15,137
Asian %	33.7%
Black	595
Black %	1.3%

Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

Belmont-Redwood Shores School District

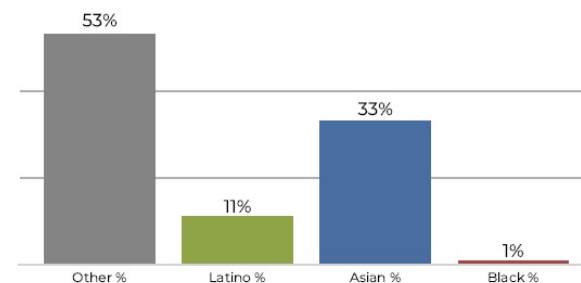
Total CVAP	26,991
Other CVAP	15,917
Other CVAP %	59.0%
Latino CVAP	2,651
Latino CVAP %	9.8%
Asian CVAP	8,014
Asian CVAP %	29.7%
Black CVAP	409
Black CVAP %	1.5%

Belmont-Redwood Shores School District

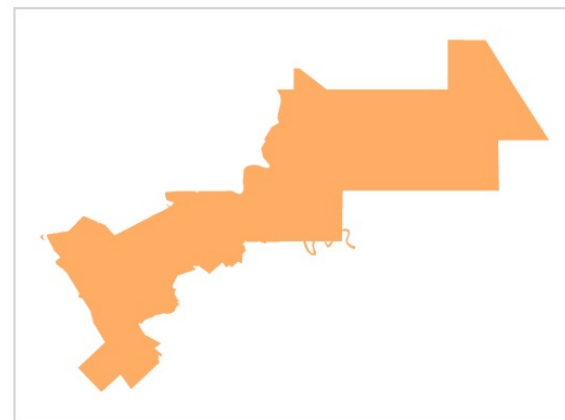
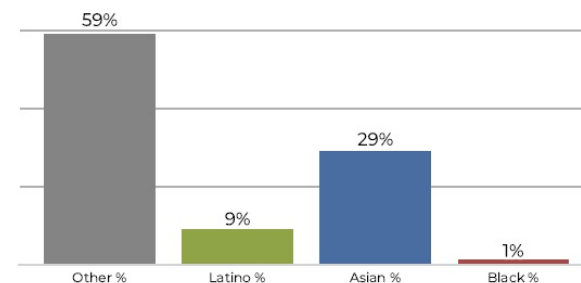


Population	Deviation	Deviation %	Other	Other %	Latino	Latino %	Asian	Asian %	Black	Black %
44,919	0	0.0%	23,984	53.4%	5,203	11.6%	15,137	33.7%	595	1.3%
Total CVAP	Other CVAP	Other CVAP %	Latino CVAP	Latino CVAP %	Asian CVAP	Asian CVAP %	Black CVAP	Black CVAP %		
26,991	15,917	59.0%	2,651	9.8%	8,014	29.7%	409	1.5%		

2020 Census



Citizen Voting Age Population



Redistricting Partners

Redistricting Timeline

The following five-meeting timeline follows the requirements of the California Voting Rights Act:

May 18, 2023	Public Hearing #1 (Pre-map)
June 15, 2023	Public Hearing #2 (Pre-map)
July TBD	Community Outreach Meeting
September 21, 2023	Public Hearing #3: Introduce Draft Maps
October 19, 2023	Public Hearing #4: Revised Draft Maps
November 2023	Public Hearing #5: Final Vote



**REDISTRICTING
PARTNERS**