



Sunnyvale



# City Council Election System Changes Project Community Map-making Kick-off Meeting

# Presentation Overview

- » Project Overview
- » Phase I Outreach Results
- » Phase I Council Direction
- » Phase 2 Goals and Process



# Why change the electoral system?

- » At-large voting systems are targets of CVRA litigation
- » No city has won a CVRA lawsuit
- » Court decisions remove local authority
- » CVRA litigation is expensive
- » City received a letter alleging CVRA violations in October 2018



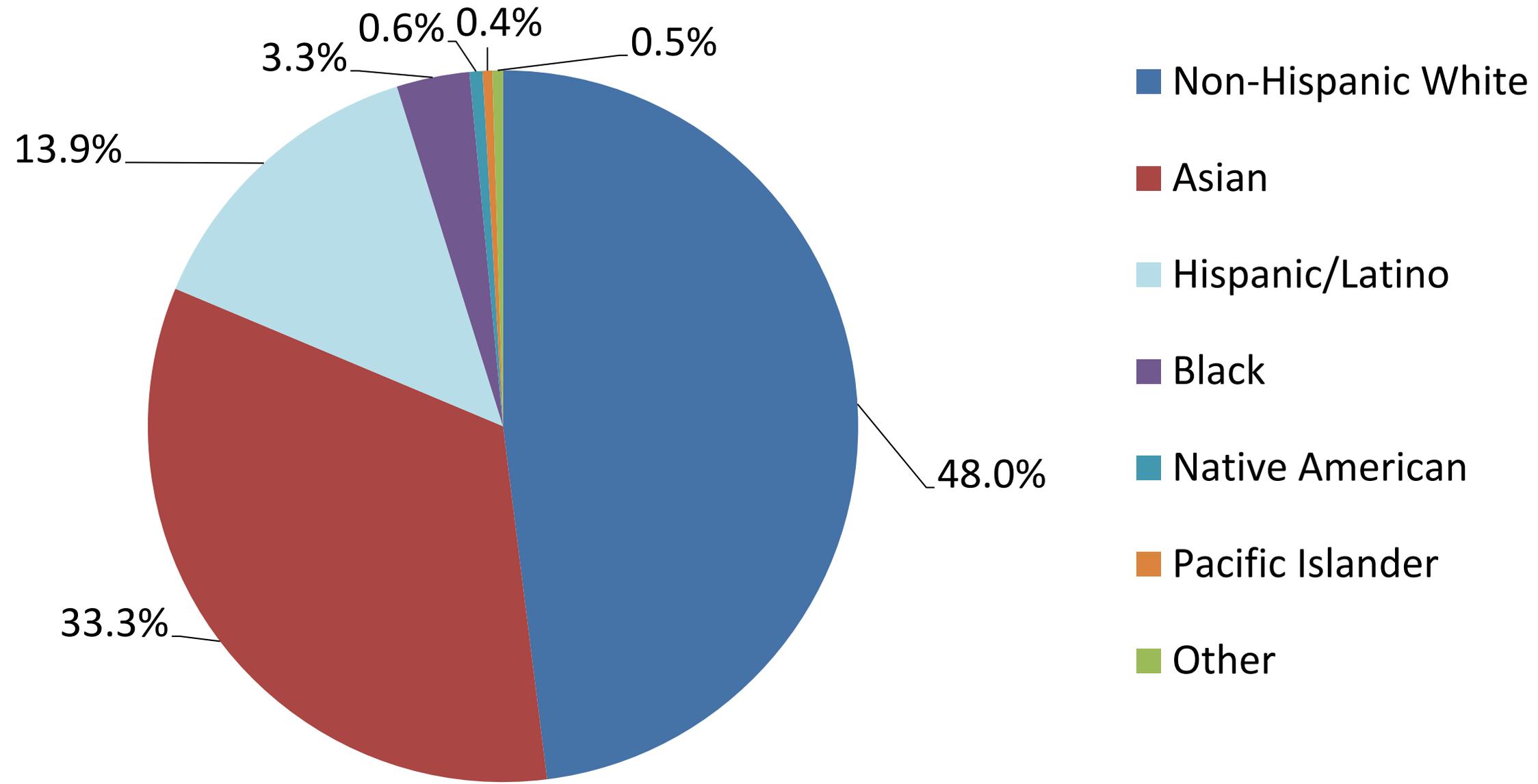
# What is the CVRA?

- » Prohibits voting systems that dilute the votes of racial minorities
- » Prohibits at-large elections that impair the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice
- » Has a “safe harbor” which allows district-based election systems as the remedy



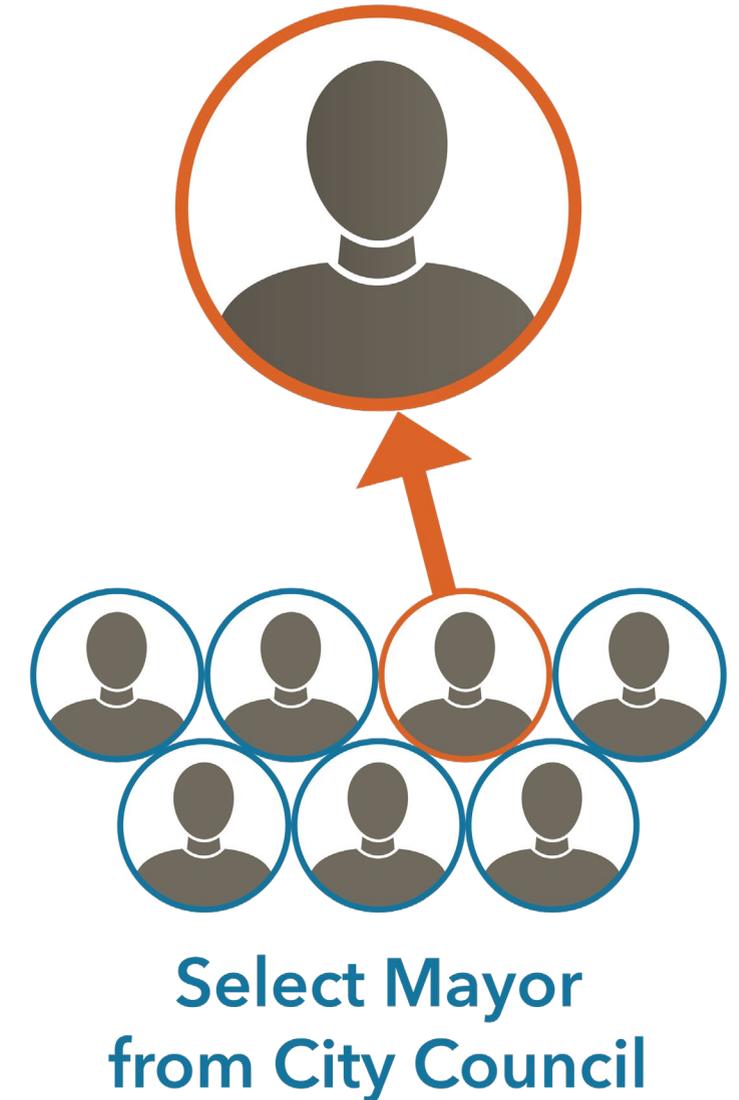
# Sunnyvale Demographics

Sunnyvale Citizen Voting Age Population 2016



# Existing Council Electoral System

- » At-large Council election system
- » 7 numbered Council seats
- » Council term = 4 years
- » Mayor serves two-year term



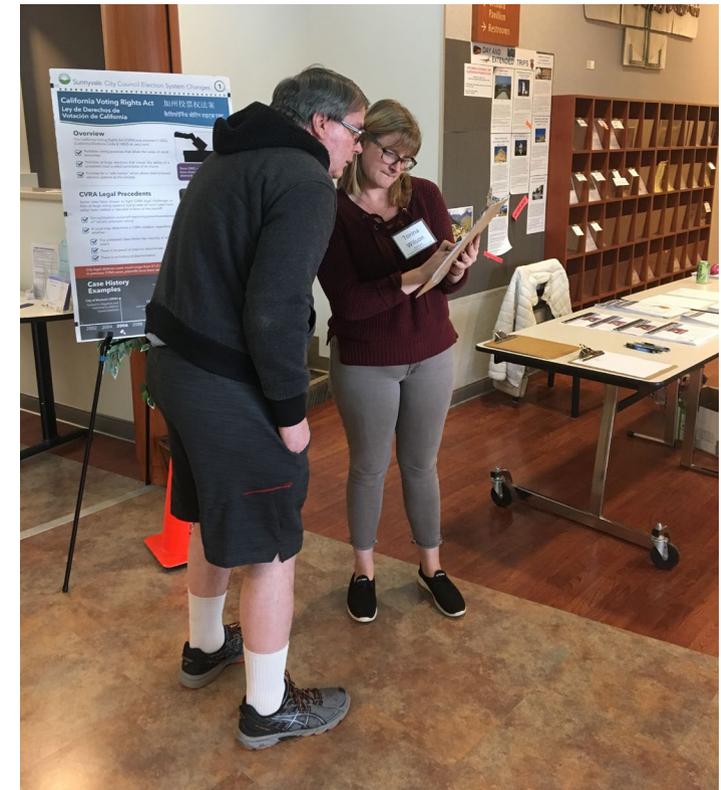
# Focus of Phase 1 Community Input

- » Education about CVRA and election systems
- » Process to elect mayor and number of Council districts to create
- » Factors to consider when drawing districts



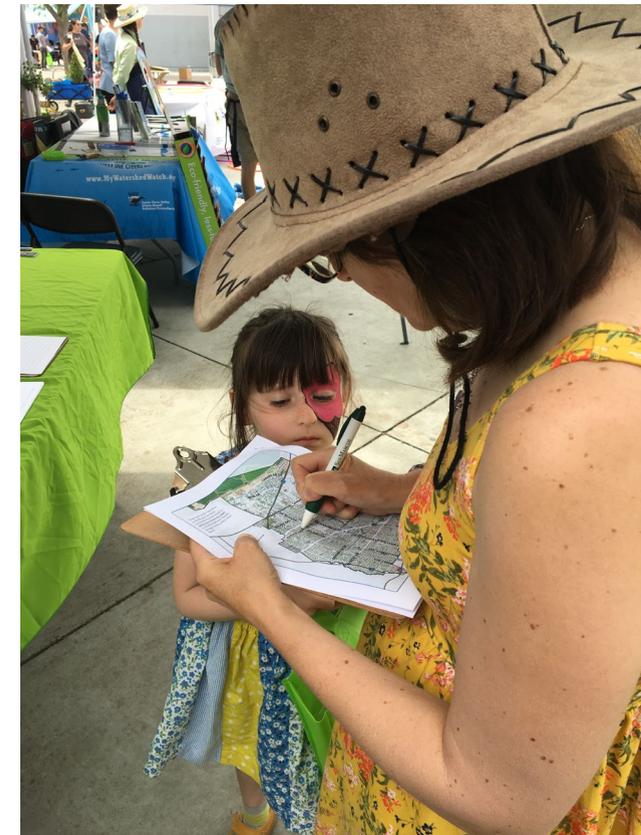
# Phase I Public Input Strategies

- » Educational Open Houses (2)
- » Community Input Workshops (3)
- » Pop-up Events (12)
  - *Farmer's market (2)*
  - *Community centers (2)*
  - *Religious centers (4)*
  - *Mobile home parks (2)*
  - *Sunnyvale Library (1)*
  - *Fit & Fun Fair (1)*
- » CAC Meetings (3), City Council Meetings (3)
- » Online Engagement
- » Presentations to Community Organizations (9)



# Phase I Outreach Results

- » Heard from 950+ residents
- » When creating future Council districts, the community prioritized the following be considered:
  - Communities of Interest
  - Cohesive Geographic Areas
  - Visible Boundaries
- » Most commonly identified communities of interest:
  - Homeowners Associations (HOAs)
  - Mobile Home Parks/Residential Neighborhoods
  - Major Roadways
  - School Boundaries



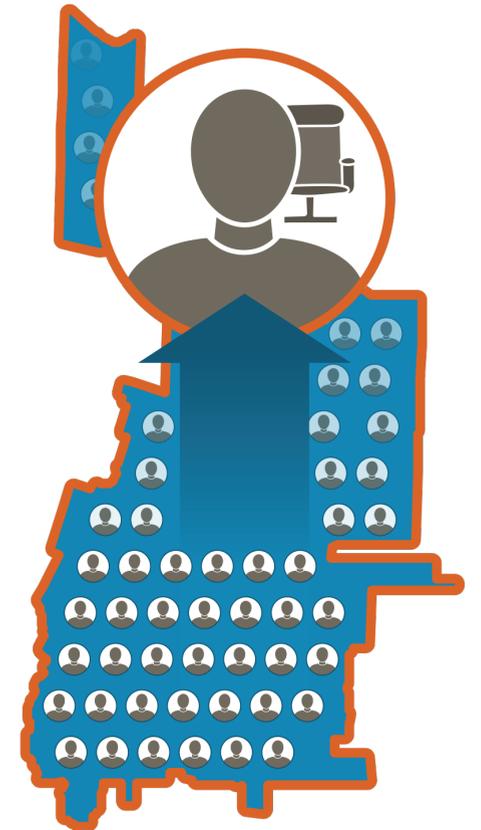
# Phase 1 Council Direction

» On June 18, Council directed staff to plan for:

- A six-district Council system
- Mayor to be elected at-large



*Six District  
Council Election  
System*



*Mayor  
Selected by  
At-Large Election*

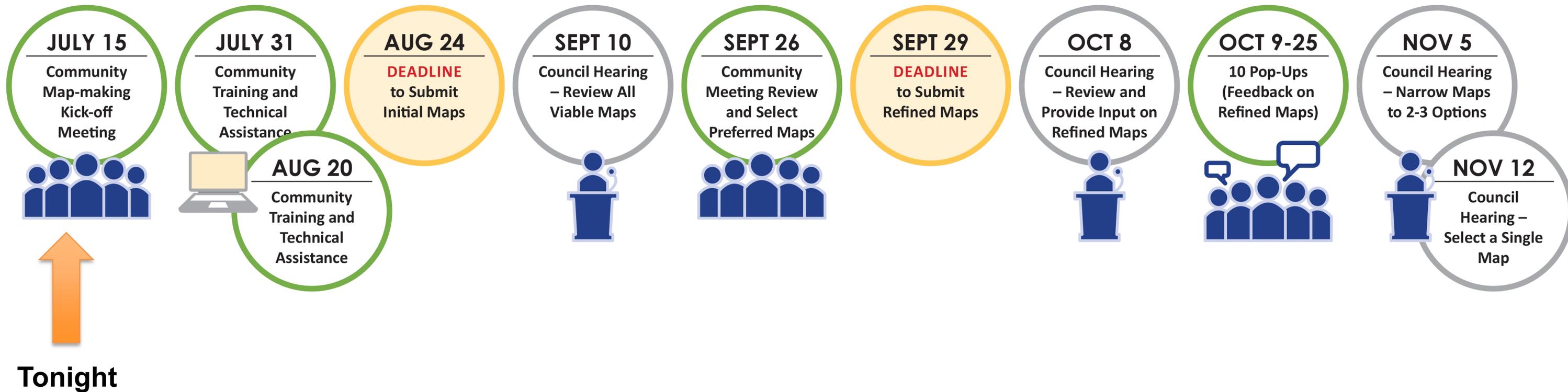
# Phase II Goals

- » Educate residents on the legal requirements and other parameters to create District maps
- » Train and offer technical assistance to help the public propose District maps
- » Solicit input from a wide range of Sunnyvale residents
- » Receive input on the range of Council District maps to consider



# Phase II Process

2019

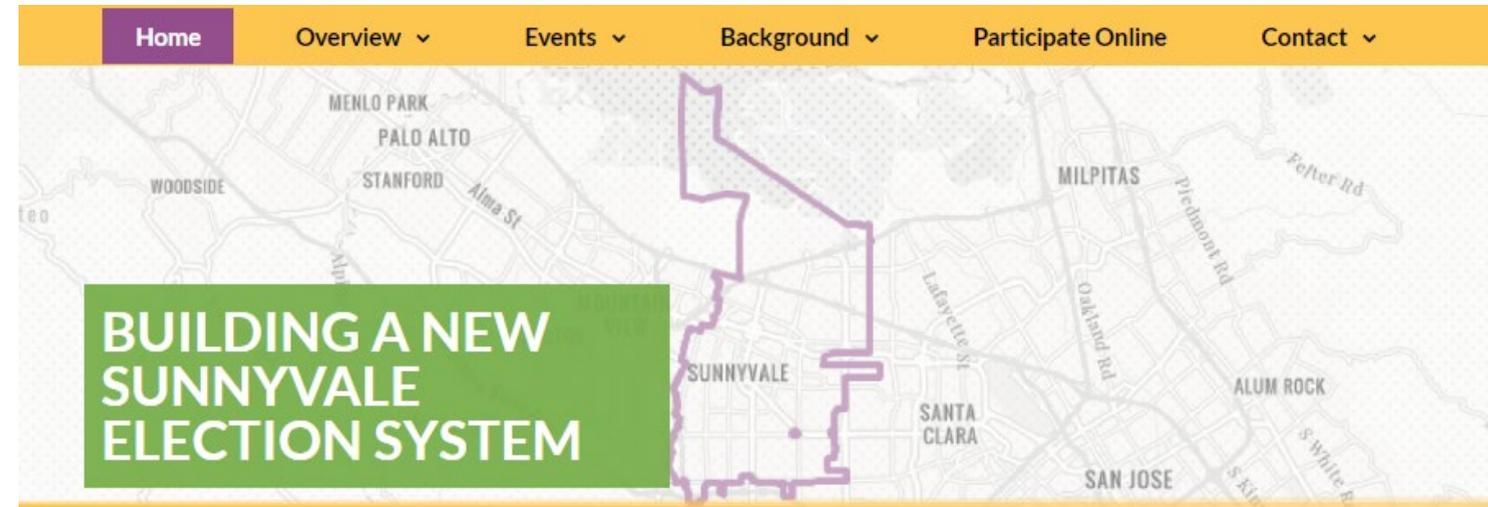


# Help Spread the Word

- » Share your ideas on Maptitude (or submit paper maps)
- » Encourage friends and family to participate
- » Share more ideas and thoughts after tonight's meeting



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## WHY ARE WE BUILDING A NEW ELECTION SYSTEM?

[Click here to learn more.](#)

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Do you have a question or comment about the Sunnyvale Council Election System Changes project? [Click here to share your thoughts.](#)



[Calendar](#)



[Participate Online](#)



[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



[Contact](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunnyvale Elections – Open Houses  
February 6, 2019 at 6:00 pm  
Sunnyvale Community Center:  
Community Room

February 9, 2019 at 9:30 am  
Columbia Middle School: Staff  
Lounge

[Click here for event details.](#)

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