



Sunnyvale



# City Council Election System Changes Project

CAC Meeting February 20, 2019



# Presentation Overview

- » Why Change?
- » Existing Council Electoral System
- » CVRA
- » Sunnyvale Demographics
- » Project Process
- » Next Steps



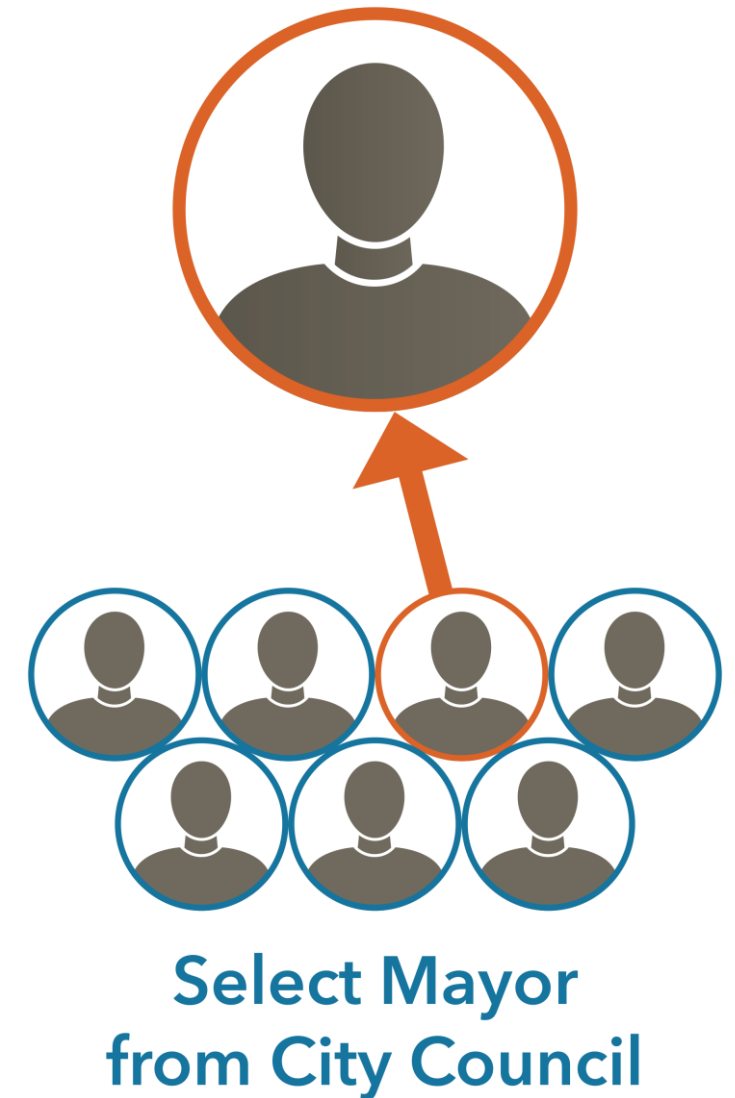
# Why change the electoral system?

- » 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



# Existing Council Electoral System

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





# CVRA Overview

- » 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



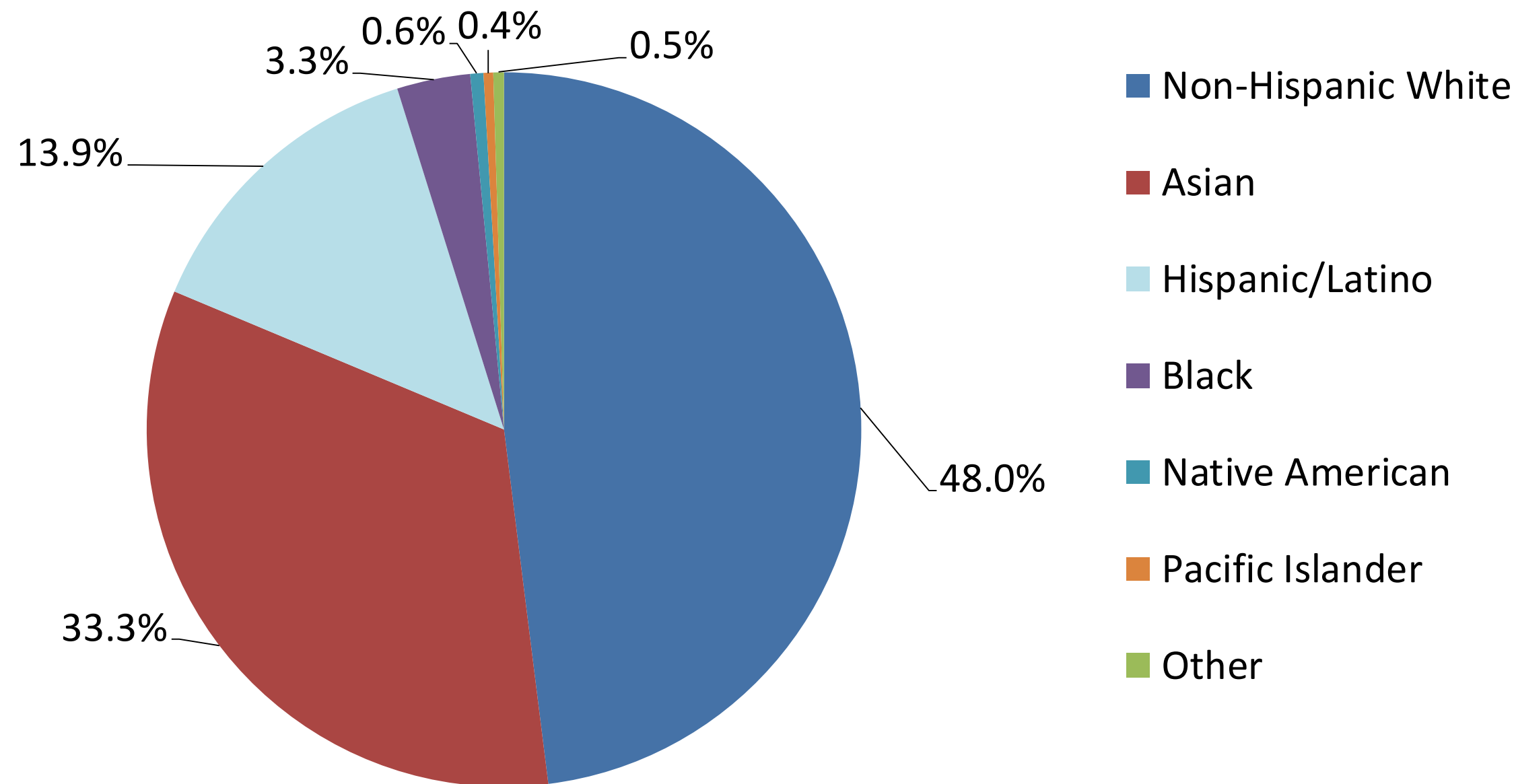
# CVRA Overview

- » Need only prove there is “racially polarized voting”
- » CVRA violations can occur regardless of whether:
  - Protected class forms the majority of eligible voters
  - No proof of intent to discriminate
  - No history of discrimination
- » Since 2002, at least 60 Cities have changed from at-large to district-based election systems



# Sunnyvale Demographics

Sunnyvale Citizen Voting Age Population 2016





# Project Process

## » Phase 1: February through June 2019

- Educate community about the project:
  - CVRA and potential remedies
  - Existing demographics
- Seek input on:
  - Potential remedies
  - Timing of next election

## » Phase 2: July through December 2019

- Develop district maps



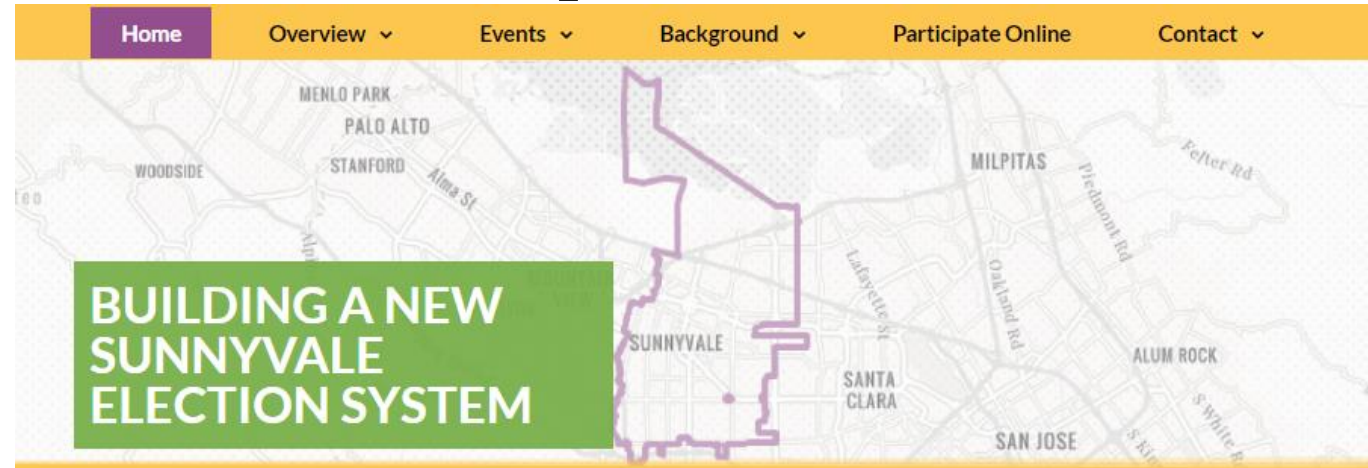


# Engaging All Demographics

- » Spread meetings throughout city
- » Outreach at places of worship, low income neighborhoods, and ethnic events
- » Advertise in ethnic media
- » Provide translation and interpretation
- » Offer childcare and food at meetings



# www.SunnyvaleElections.org



## 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.](#)

## STAY UP-TO-DATE

For the latest project updates, sign up for our mailing list.

Sign up



Sunnyvale

CAC Meeting



# Open House Survey

## Sunnyvale City Council Election System Changes Open House Survey

Q1: How did you hear about this open house?

- ☐ NextDoor
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Other Social Media (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Newspaper (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ City Email
- ☐ Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

Q2: Switching to district-based elections will require a majority vote of the Sunnyvale electorate. When would you prefer the vote to occur?

- ☐ **March 2020.** If voters approve the Charter amendment ballot measure, City Councilmembers would be elected by-district in November 2020.
- ☐ **November 2020.** If voters approve the Charter amendment ballot measure in November 2020, City Councilmembers would be elected by-district in November 2022.

### Demographic Survey

The City of Sunnyvale is committed to involving broad sectors of the public in the Sunnyvale City Council Election System Changes public engagement process. In order to assess success in this regard, please consider answering the following **voluntary** demographic questions.

Q3: How old are you?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 19 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-29 years old  | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-69 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 years old  | <input type="checkbox"/> 70-79 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 years old  | <input type="checkbox"/> 80+ years old   |

Q4: How would you identify your race/ethnicity?

- ☐ Non-Hispanic White
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Two or more races/Other

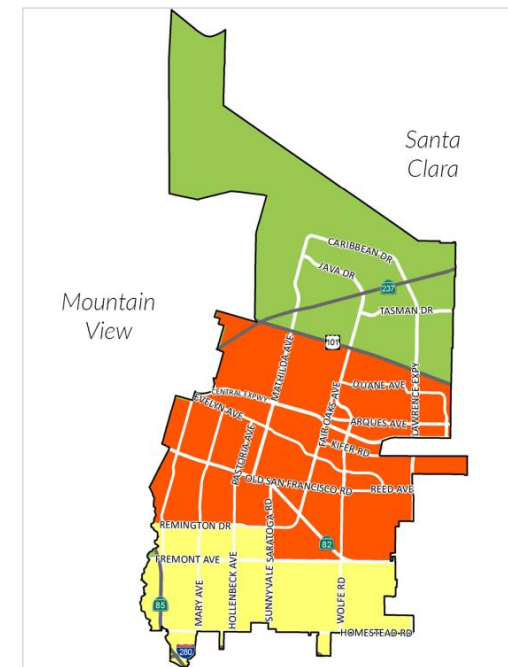
Q5: What is your family or household income?

- ☐ Less than \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 to \$199,999
- ☐ More than \$200,000

Q6: If you would like to join the project mailing list, please provide your email address:

Q7: What part of Sunnyvale do you live in?

- ☐ I am a resident of Sunnyvale (indicate the proximity of where you live with an "X" on the map below).
- ☐ I am not a resident of Sunnyvale.



# Citizens Advisory Committee

## » Plays an advisory to:

- Provide feedback on outreach plans
- Communicate potential changes to the electoral system
- Serve as project ambassadors

## » CAC to represent the City's geographic, ethnic, and social diversity

