



City Council Redistricting

Council Study Session

January 12, 2021

District mapping, again?

- » Redistricting occurs every 10 years, after each Census
- » Sunnyvale's Council districts based on 2010 Census population data and must be updated



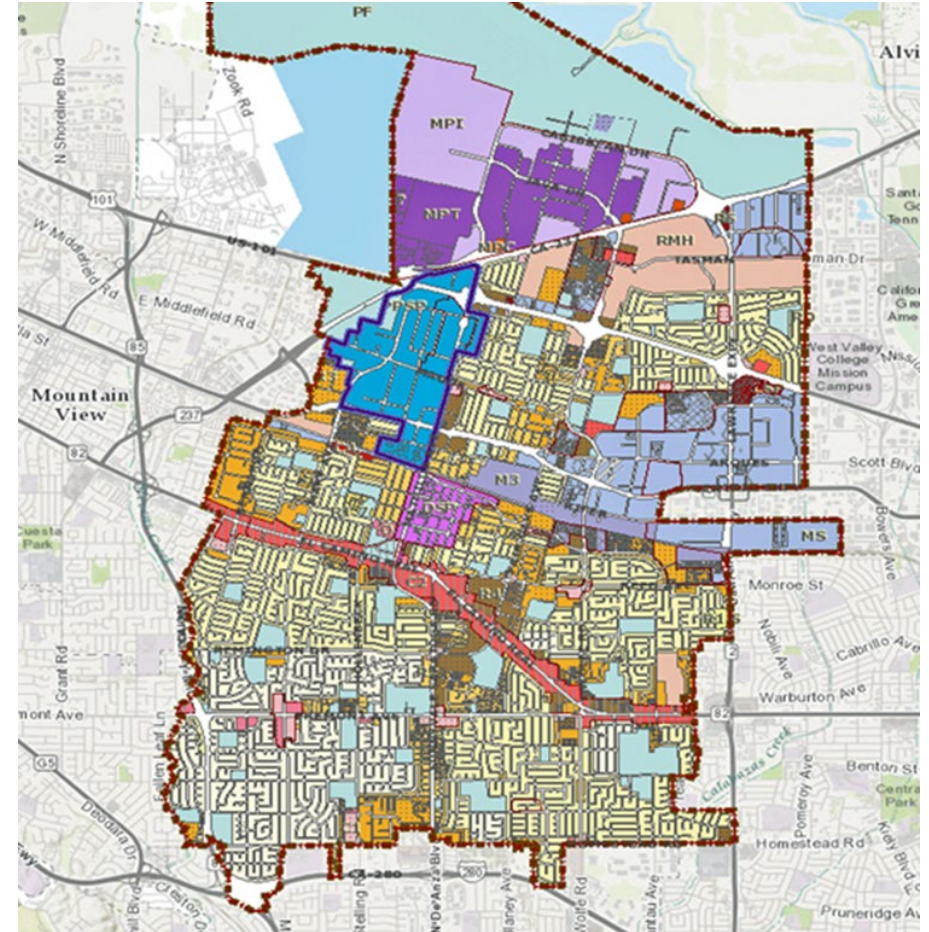
Redistricting Criteria

» Federal Criteria

- Population equality
- Federal Voting Rights Act
- No racial gerrymandering

» State Criteria

1. Geographic contiguity
2. Neighborhoods/communities of interest
3. Easily identifiable boundaries
4. Compactness
5. No favoring or discriminating against a political party



Redistricting: Public Process

Council must adopt an ordinance establishing a public process for redistricting

- » Authority rests with Council
- » Council can appoint Commission to assist

Redistricting Goals

Common Goals

- » District plan is legally sound and widely accepted
- » Fair and transparent process
- » Public participation
 - Opportunities for public engagement
 - Participation reflective of Sunnyvale's demographics
- » Efficiency

Commission Considerations

- » **Type**
- » **Size**
- » **Qualifications**
- » **Representation**
- » **Selection method**
- » **Directives**

Commission Type

» Advisory

- Draws maps and reviews map submissions
- Provides recommendations regarding map selection
- Council has authority to accept, modify or reject decisions

» Hybrid

- Makes District Plan recommendations to Council
- Council must choose one option presented by Commission

» Independent

- Has authority to adopt District Plan without Council input

» Other

- Charter city has discretion to design

Commission Size

» Smaller Commissions (7)

- Easier to manage
- Allows for more in-depth deliberation

» Larger Commission (11-15)

- Increases ability to reflect City's diversity
- Could increase collective knowledge of City's communities of interest
- Difficult to manage logistically

Commissioner Qualifications

» Requirements:

- Age (over 18)
- Residency
- Voting participation

» Prohibitions

- Limits on political activity

» Selection Criteria Preferences

- Analytical skills
- Knowledge of communities of interest
- Impartiality

Representation of Commission Members

» Diversity

- Geographic
- Ethnic
- Socio-economic
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Party affiliation

» Other communities of Interest

- Mobile home parks
- Renters/Owners

Selection Methods

» Political Appointment

- Council directly appoints (only for Advisory Commissions)

» Committee Appointment

- Council delegates appointment to a committee

» Random Draw

- Selection body creates a subpool of the most qualified candidates
- Qualified candidates selected at random

» Retired Judges

- Panel of retired judges selected at random

Commission Directives

» Requirements

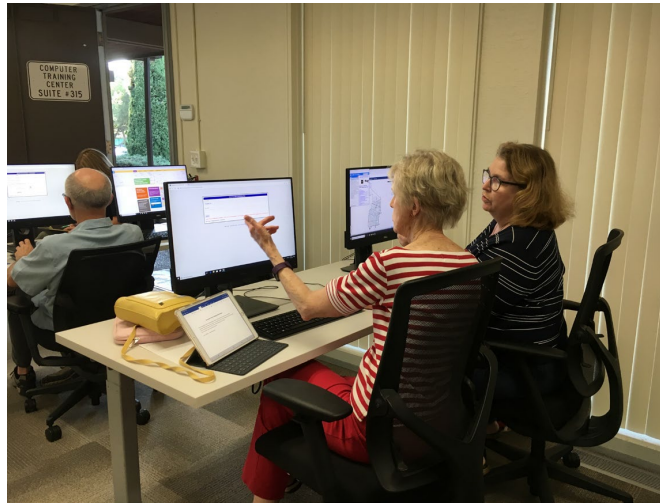
- Hearings, notices, and public comment

» Preferences

- Robust public outreach
- Community-driven map making
- Reduce disenfranchisement
- Representative districts

Timeline

- » **Phase 1 (January –March):** Adoption of public process for redistricting
- » **Phase 2 (March-May):** Commission selection and onboarding (if applicable)
- » **Phase 3 (May-November):** Community map drawing and adoption of district plan
 - 2020 Census data expected no earlier than May 2021
 - December 2021 ROV deadline



Budget

» **Estimated cost: \$150,000**

- Demographer
- Community engagement support
- Social media and graphic design support

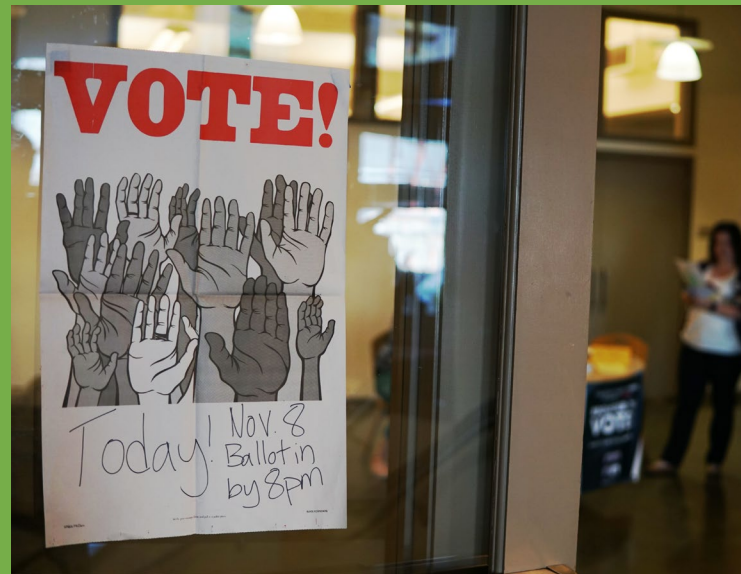
» **Budget available: \$90,000 (CVRA carryover)**

Next Steps

- » Provide staff direction on public process for redistricting
- » Direct staff to prepare a draft ordinance

Key Questions

- » What are Council's goals for redistricting?
- » Will a commission help meet Council's redistricting goals?
- » What would help you make an informed decision about the public redistricting process?



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