

Jennifer Yamaguma

From: John Schmitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 5:14 PM
To: Districts
Subject: Fwd: City of Santa Clara: Seeking Public Input on Preliminary Draft Plans for Council Districts

Hi,

I think it's a rather horrible idea, and have a counter proposal (top city-wide vote-getters are seated).

The last thing we need is for our currently very divided political landscape nationally, to have a system that incentivized divisions within such a small yet powerful city.

I don't want planning, parks funding, policing to be contests between neighborhoods. I want all of us to see ourselves as ONE city.

Our city is just roughly 100k residents, with 260k workers. The workers are more populous, and not represented. The workers provide tons of the tax revenue, but are not represented. If we see it as each council person's job to represent ONLY their district, we'll have a system incentivizing fights. Yes, some district candidates *might* see their role as serving ALL the city, but the system you propose would not reward such behavior. Candidates running as "serving all" will fail against opponents who say, "I'll fight for your specific issues in this specific district".

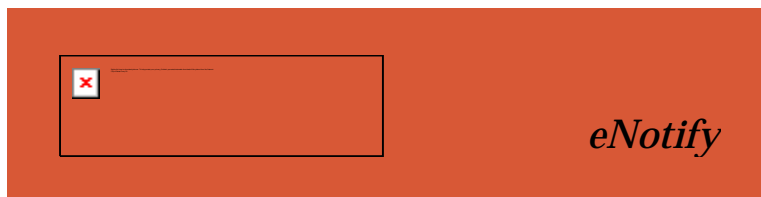
The current problem with a half-dozen seats has been, I see 2 fantastic candidates running for, say, "Seat 4", and they are both better than ANY candidate running for "Seat 5". We miss out on seating the better candidates under the current such system.

Why not just count the total votes per candidate, and then hand out the available seats to the top vote-getters?

Thanks for your consideration,
John Schmitt
[REDACTED] Santa Clara, 95051

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **City of Santa Clara** <webmanager@santaclaraca.gov>
Date: Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 3:03 PM
Subject: City of Santa Clara: Seeking Public Input on Preliminary Draft Plans for Council Districts
To: [REDACTED]



Seeking Public Input on Preliminary Draft Plans for Council Districts

8 Maps Available for Review

Post Date: 04/05/2018 2:00 PM

The Ad Hoc Advisory Districting Committee is currently taking public input on draft maps indicating two Council Districts prepared by a professional demographer. The maps must meet certain legal requirements. The two City Council Districts must be roughly equal in population (about 58,234 residents in each district) and should take the distribution of members of various communities of interest into account. A professional demographer has developed three draft maps, as well as five maps based on community feedback, for a total of eight draft maps, which will be considered at the final public hearing on April 12 at 6 pm at Central Park Library. To review the maps, please visit www.santaclaraca.gov/districtelections.

Send any comments and your map preference to districts@santaclaraca.gov or by calling (408) 615-2220. Thank you for your participation!

Background

On January 30, 2018, the City Council adopted a resolution to place a ballot measure on the June 5, 2018 Special Election for a charter amendment to change the way City Council members are elected by dividing the City into two City Council districts. An Ad Hoc Advisory Districting Committee was established to take public input and develop a recommendation to the City Council on a map indicating the two districts. This map will be presented to the Council in May 2018. If the District Election ballot measure passes in June 2018, Council members would begin to be elected by District beginning in November 2018.

More Information

For more background information on the proposed change to District Elections, please visit the City's website at www.santaclaraca.gov/districtelections

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Jennifer Yamaguma

From: Jenn Rodriguez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 11:43 AM
To: Districts
Subject: District Maps feedback

Hi City of Santa Clara,

I like the Hosam Haggag El Camino 1 map the best, it makes sense to me regarding the area of the city I identify most with. (I live near Pruneridge and Pomeroy)

The three City-provided choices seem to dissect neighborhoods, that's not a good idea. Neighborhoods should try to be cohesive, it's hard enough to keep a neighborhood feel in Silicon Valley with all the strange work schedules, we shouldn't make it worse.

Jenn Rodriguez

Jennifer Yamaguma

From: Jonathan Marinaro [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 1:22 PM
To: Districts
Subject: Recommendation for District Boundaries - Jon Marinaro

Hello there!

The HH1 prelim draft plan matches my recommendation in the initial round and remains the best option in my opinion as the natural demarcation line of El Camino splits voters up equally (with a small deviation to the train tracks on the east end of town) while also splitting up the demographics of the two halves of Santa Clara between old-town to the western end's Koreatown and the north side's more development focused 101 and Central Expressway corridors.

Compare this to a north/south split or a diagonal split that may have some consistencies with regards to the shopping/dining area of Koreatown and the mixed residential around City Hall, but effectively creates a more confusing and random boundary as neighborhoods are split down side streets versus the thoroughfare of El Camino Real.

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Jonathan Marinaro
Writer, Evangelist & Technical Specialist

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[REDACTED]

Jennifer Yamaguma

From: Mohsin Mirza [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 1:47 PM
To: Districts
Cc: Nadine Nader; Clerk; City Attorney
Subject: Letter for Ad-Hoc Districting Commission
Attachments: 2018 04 11 Letter to Santa Clara Ad-Hoc Committee.pdf

Dear Chair Ikezi and Committee Members Estrada and Ricossa,

Attached is a letter from Asian Law Caucus concerning the upcoming vote on district elections.

Best,

-Mohsin

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Mohsin Mirza
Program Coordinator, Voting Rights

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus

[REDACTED]
www.advancingjustice-alc.org



Mohsin Mirza
Voting Rights Program Coordinator
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus
55 Columbus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94111

April 11, 2018

Ad-hoc Advisory Districting Committee
City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

RE: Feedback on Draft District Maps Posted March 19th, 2018

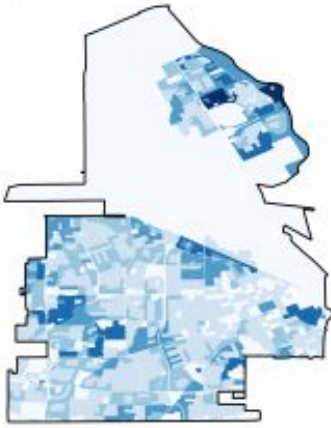
Dear Chair Ikezi and Committee Members Estrada and Ricossa,

We write to offer our comments and feedback on the City of Santa Clara’s recently released draft district maps for the City’s new election system.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus is the nation’s oldest Asian American civil rights organization. Based out of San Francisco, we aim to create a democratic society where race, immigration status, and class are not barriers to full and equal participation in American life. Our holistic approach to social change advocacy integrates grassroots legal services and community empowerment with impact work including policy advocacy, litigation, and strategic communications.

Our Voting Rights Program seeks to provide California’s immigrant communities, limited-English speaking populations, and communities of color with increased access to and opportunities for participation in the democratic systems that govern them. We have previously brought California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) claims and helped jurisdictions manage transitions to new elections systems following CVRA claims brought by others. We want to emphasize that we are not parties to the current litigation ongoing against the City of Santa Clara. We view community outreach as our primary role in this case.

Upon review of the recently released maps, several gave us cause for concern. The most significant density of Santa Clara’s Asian American population lives in the north-west corner of the city. Any boundary line that divides the northern population center of the city will likely also divide many of the city’s diverse Asian American Communities.



	North Santa Clara	South Santa Clara	Entire city
Total population (Census)	23,354	93,114	116,468
% API population (Census)	57%	33%	38%
CVAP (ACS)	12,385	58,912	71,297
% API in CVAP (ACS)	47%	27%	31%

(Source: Study of voting systems for Santa Clara, CA, Metric Geometry and

Gerrymandering Group, Tufts University, February 2018. Available upon request.)

When communities are divided up in the districting process, it dilutes the influence they have over the elected officials that represent them. This so-called “cracking” of minority communities is one of the foremost mechanisms of reducing the electoral power of minority groups and is a primary target of the federal Voting Rights Act.

We urge you to prevent cracking from happening in the City of Santa Clara. We urge you to choose a map that keeps the Asian American community in North Santa Clara together and maximizes API CVAP to the greatest extent feasible.

Please reach out at the contact information below at any time if you have questions. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Mohsin Mirza

Voting Rights Program Coordinator
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus
 415-848-7715, mohsinm@advancingjustice-alc.org

Cc
 City Attorney Brian Doyle
 Assistant City Manager Nadine Nader
 Acting City Clerk Jennifer Yamaguma