

Districting: Shafter Recreation and Park District

1

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Districting Kick-Off - Meeting 1 of 5

12/12/2023



Presentation Overview

2

- 1) Election Systems: What is an at-large versus by-district election system
- 2) Criteria and Data
- 3) The Districting Process and Timeline
- 4) Participation by the public

At-large versus By-district Elections

3

- **At-Large Elections (current)**
 - In an at-large electoral system, all voters in the jurisdiction elect all representatives
- **By-District Elections**
 - In a district-based electoral system, representatives are elected from districts (divisions), by the voters that live in each district or zone.
 - Candidates must reside in the division they represent.
 - Districting is the process of drawing the boundaries that divide the SRPD's population into five districts or divisions.

Criteria, Data & Process

4

- Districting Criteria
 - Constitution
 - Statute
 - “Traditional”
- Data to create Districts/Divisions
 - Census
 - American Community Survey
 - Public Input
- What will the districting process look like?

Districting Criteria

5

5 criteria are used for drawing districts

1. Equal Population
2. Compliance with Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA)
3. Contiguity (geographic/Code)
4. Compactness (geographic/Code)
5. Respect for Communities of Interest (traditional/Code)

Criterion 1 - Equal Population

6

- “One person, one vote”
 - U.S. Constitution requires districts have “reasonably equal” populations
- Population numbers are based on the most recent Census
- Divisions are built using the total population, not voters, citizens or other subgroups

Criterion 1 - Equal Population

7

- Ideal Population = Total population / Number of Divisions (Districts)
- Deviation = District Population - Ideal Population
 - Deviation % = Deviation / Ideal Population
 - Plan Deviation Range is the smallest district deviation to the largest deviation
 - For example, -3.5% to 4.5% is a range of 8.0%
 - A Plan Deviation Range should be less than 10%

Criterion 1 - Equal Population

8

Shafter Recreation and Park District

Total Population = 20,330

of Districts = 5

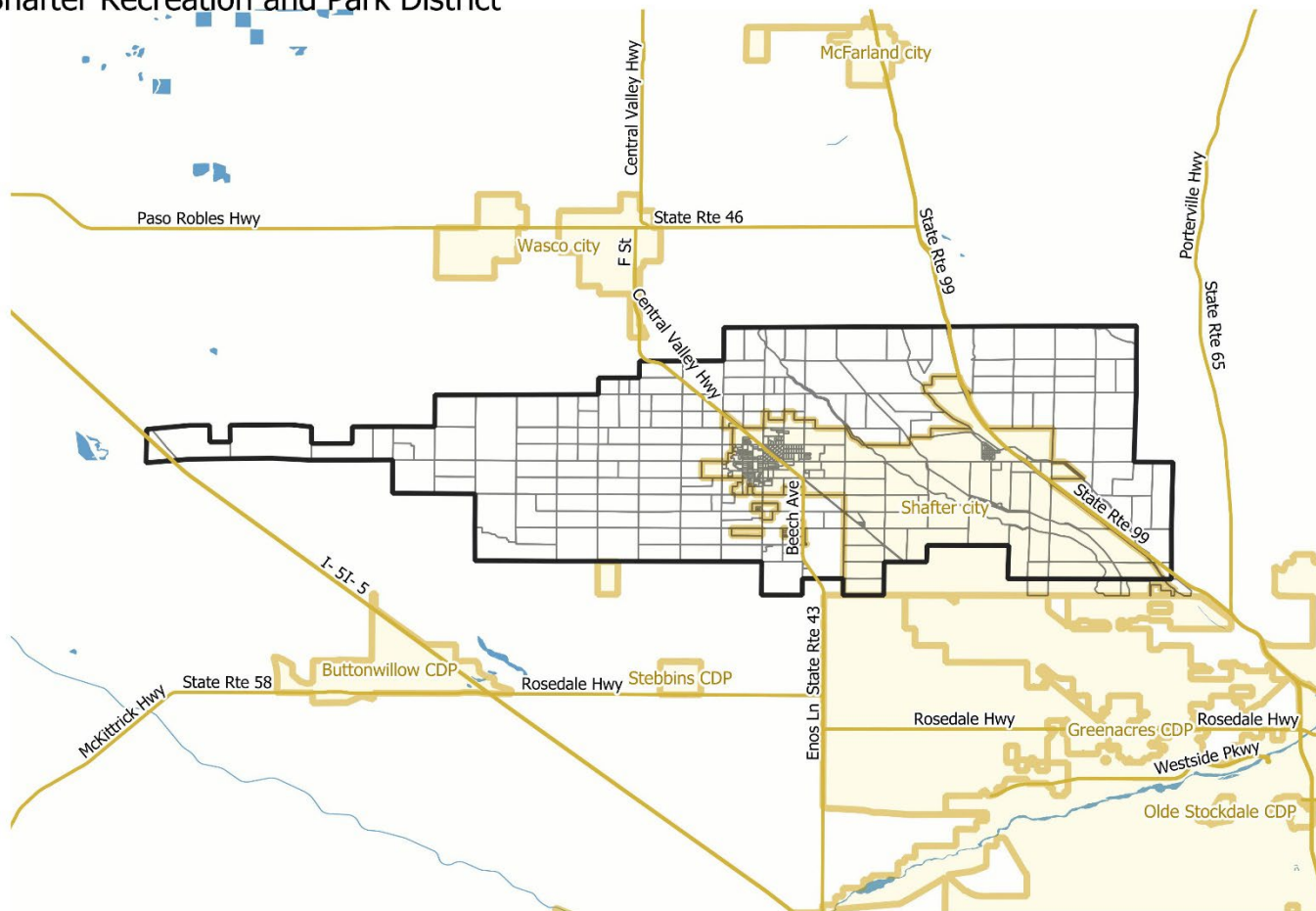
Ideal District Population = 4,066

Approx. Allowable District Deviation = +/- 203

Map: Shafter Recreation and Park District

9

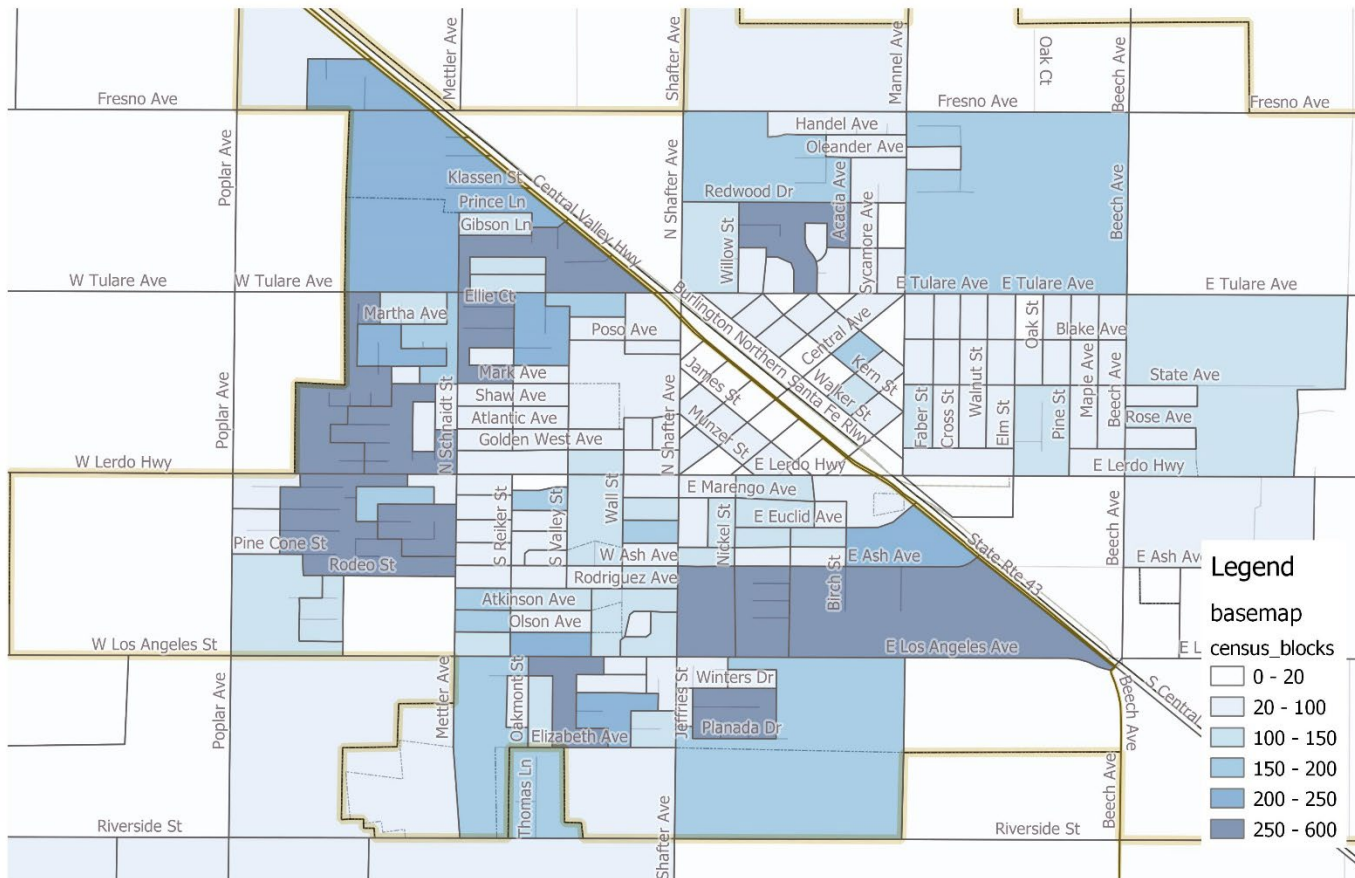
Shafter Recreation and Park District



Map: Shafter Recreation and Park District - Detail w/Total Population

10

Shafter Recreation and Park District - Shafter Detail with Total Population by Census Block (2020 Census)



Criterion 2 - Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA)

11

- Prohibits the denial or abridgement of voting rights on the basis of *race or language minority status*.
 - FVRA defines Language minority as Asian, Native American, Alaskan Native, or Spanish heritage
- Prohibits practices that have the purpose or effect of discriminating on the basis of race or language minority status.
- Applies nationwide to all jurisdictions that conduct elections.

FVRA and Districting: Vote Dilution

12

- Electoral systems can limit the “ability to elect a candidate of choice” by a protected class of voters in various ways:
 - Example: at-large election systems can make it impossible for even a large minority group to elect a candidate of choice, when the majority votes against them.
 - Example: single-member districts can be drawn in ways that minimize voters’ ability to elect a candidate of choice.
- Systems that limit ability to elect in this way are said to “dilute” minority voting strength.

FVRA and Districting: Methods of Vote Dilution

13

- A districting plan can dilute minority voting strength through two main ways:
- “Cracking”
 - Dividing up a politically viable population concentration so it doesn’t constitute a majority in any district.
- “Packing”
 - Drawing high proportion minority population into one district when it could be politically viable in more than one district

FVRA and Districting: Demographics of Shafter Recreation and Parks District

14

	Population <i>Census 2020</i>		Voting Age Population (VAP) <i>Census 2020</i>		Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) <i>ACS 2017-2021</i>	
Total	20,330		13,533		9,845	
Latino	16,847	82.9%	10,842	80.1%	7,354	74.7%
NL White Alone	2,810	13.8%	2,245	16.6%	2,185	22.2%
DOJ NL Black	142	0.7%	110	0.8%	128	1.3%
DOJ NL Native American	132	0.6%	100	0.7%	62	0.6%
DOJ NL Asian	186	0.9%	125	0.9%	29	0.3%
DOJ NL Hawaiian or Other Pacific Is.	4	0.0%	4	0.0%	n/a	
DOJ NL Other Race	162	0.8%	81	0.6%	n/a	
DOJ NL Mixed Race	47	0.2%	26	0.2%	n/a	

Race and Districting

15

- Supreme Court opinions have limited the role that race can play in districting
- Race cannot be the predominant criterion in line drawing
- Race should not subjugate “traditional districting principles” (Compactness, Contiguity, Communities of Interest)
- District appearance has been important in some cases.

Criterion 3 - Contiguity

16

- A geographic Criterion
- Definition: A contiguous district is one in which all parts are connected to each other

In other words:

- A district in which one may travel from any location to any other location without crossing the district boundary

Criterion 4 - Compactness

17

- Addresses the geography of the district
- Many different ways to measure
- Assumed to “guard against all types of gerrymandering”
“drastic departures from compactness are a signal that something may be amiss”
- Most common complaints come from appearances:
 - Does a district look funny?
 - “eyeball approach” “appearances do matter”

Criterion 5 - Communities of Interest

18

- A Community of Interest (COI) generally refers to a contiguous population that shares social or economic interests
 - Examples
 - Schools, culture, transportation, parks
 - Shared goals of improving parks, safety, historic resources
 - Employment or lack of thereof and economic opportunities
 - Neighborhoods may be Communities of Interest
 - Law does not limit the kinds of interests that may bind a community
- Communities of Interest are not Districts:
 - Frequently smaller; may be used as building blocks to construct districts
- No datasets available: defined by public input - YOU!

Shafter City - Select Socio-Economic Data

19

Total Population	19,953	Education Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older)	
		No HS Diploma	32.2%
Foreign Born Population	25.5%	High school or equivalent degree	29.2%
<i>Naturalized U.S. citizen</i>	25.4%	Some college, no degree	20.7%
<i>Not a U.S. citizen</i>	74.6%	Associate's degree	6.8%
		Bachelor's degree	7.4%
Types of Language Spoken at Home		Graduate or professional degree	3.7%
English only	37.4%	Median Household Income	\$66,418
Spanish	60.1%	Poverty	22.7%
Other Indo-European languages	0.2%		
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	0.3%	<i>Poverty by Age</i>	
Other languages	2.0%	<i>Under 18 years</i>	28.4%
		<i>18 to 64 years</i>	18.8%
		<i>65 years and over</i>	27.1%

Questions on Districting Criteria?

20

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Process overview

21

- Initial Hearings
 - 2 Hearings before line drawing begins
 - Collection of public input
- Construction of Map(s)
- Publicizing the Draft Map
- Feedback Hearings
 - 2 Hearings to collect feedback on a draft map
 - Hearing to adopt the ordinance

Outreach - Collaboration - Participation

Timeline: Dec. 2023 - Feb. 2024

22

December 12, 2023, 6:00pm	Meeting 1: Regular Board Meeting	Overview and training on the process and criteria. Receive public and Board comment and input on mapping and Communities of Interest.
January 9, 2024, 6:00pm	Meeting 2: Regular Board Meeting	Receive public input and Board direction on map creation.
January 16, 2024, 6:00pm	Draft map(s) posted online for public comment	
January 30, 2024, 6:00pm	Meeting 3: Special Board Meeting	Present Draft map(s) and receive feedback and requested changes
February 13, 2024, 6:00pm	Meeting 4: Regular Board Meeting	Present updated Draft map(s) and receive feedback. Minor adjustments to the map(s) may be made live. Finalize the map(s)
February 27, 2024, 6:00pm	Meeting 5: Regular Board Meeting	Board votes on the final map.

Why and How to participate

23

Why?

- To make sure we know about Communities of Interest.
- To give communities a voice and make sure they have equal access to the political process.
- To help shape a districting plan that provides communities a meaningful opportunity to elect candidates who represent their interests on issues that are important to their lives.

How?

- Testify, submit written testimony, send supporting information to the district

Stay informed - Our Website:

<https://www.shafterrecreation.com/districting>

Do you have more questions?

24

We are available to answer them!

Here is how to contact us:

- You can attend the Board hearings
 - All meetings will start at 6pm at the Walker Center, 505 Sunset Ave., Shafter, CA 93263
- Or email your questions to: district@shafterrec.com
- Or call us: 1-661-746-3303
- Or send mail to: SHAFTER RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT; 700 E. Tulare Ave. Shafter, CA.