



# Chico City Council Districting

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Chico City Council  
District Elections: Public Hearing #1

November 19, 2019

# Council Actions Requested

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Conduct first of two public hearings to receive input on the composition of voting districts before maps are drafted

Request any additional information needed from staff and/or the demographer before the next public hearing on December 10 to facilitate providing direction on creation of draft maps

# Timeline

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**Nov 12** Council adopted resolution to transition to district elections

**Nov 19** Public hearing 1- Receive public input

**Dec 10** Public hearing 2- Receive public input and provide direction on criteria for boundaries

**Dec 23** Draft maps published

**Jan 7** Public hearing 3- Public input on draft maps and provide direction on adjustments

**Jan 14** Revised maps published

**Jan 21** Public hearing 4- Public input on revised maps, and selection of map

**Feb 4** First Reading of Ordinance

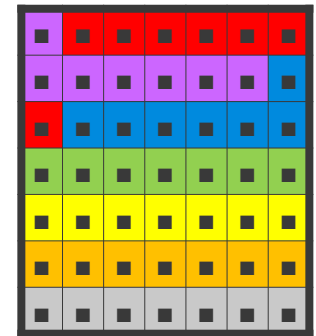
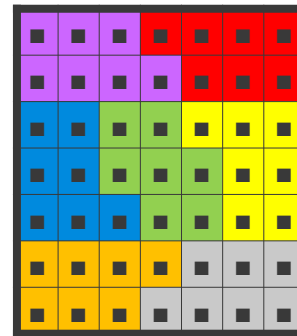
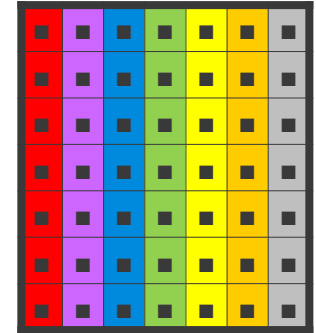
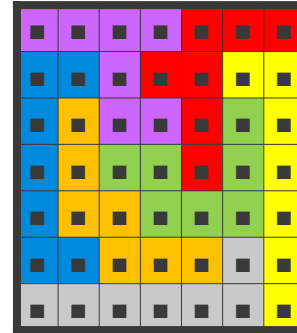
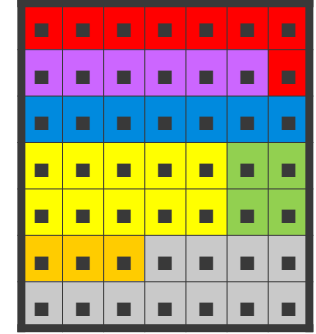
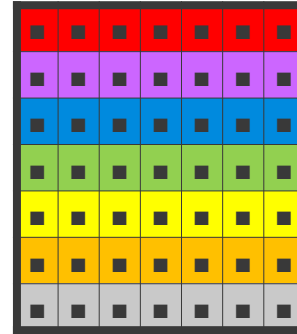
**Feb 11** Second Reading of Ordinance

# What is Districting?

As opposed to an at-large system, representatives are elected from districts

Districting is simply the process of drawing boundaries to divide a jurisdiction into those districts

How those lines are drawn affects how people are represented



# What is Districting?

<b>Chico*</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Asian<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>Black<sup>^</sup></b>
Population ('10) <sup>+</sup>	90,224	73.5%	15.6%	4.6%	1.9%
Voting Age Population ('10) <sup>+</sup>	72,518	77.0%	13.2%	4.2%	1.8%
Citizen Voting Age Population ('13-'17) <sup>~</sup>	72,184	76.7%	14.2%	4.8%	2.6%

\* Anticipated city boundaries as of 2020 election including Chapmantown and Mulberry annexes

<sup>^</sup> Does not include Latinos. Asian includes Asian or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander + 2010 Census Redistricting Data [P.L. 94-171] Summary File, U.S. Census Bureau.

Race/ethnicity alone

<sup>~</sup> Citizen Voting Age Population Special Tabulation from the 2013-2017 5-Year American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau. Calculated pursuant to OMB BULLETIN NO. 00-02.

# Districting

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Law and Criteria

Geography and Data

Next Steps

# Relevant Laws

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U.S. Constitution

Federal Voting Rights Act

Probably not an issue in Chico based on current case law

California Voting Rights Act

State Constitution and Code

Case Law

# Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

**Equal Population:** Districts must be substantially equal in population. i.e. “One-Person, One-Vote”

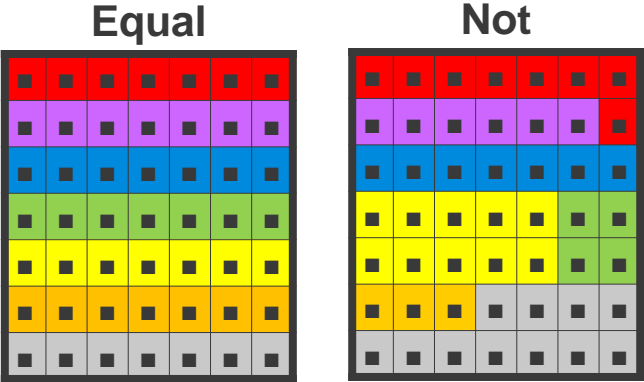
Exact equality not required. Good faith effort is

10% is no longer a clear “safe harbor.”  
Deviations should be justified

**Chico**  
90,224 people (2010)

Ideal district size: 12,889

**Deviation:** Percent difference between actual district size and ideal district size





# Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

**Race:** Must not be the “predominant” factor

Does not prohibit considering along with traditional, race-neutral, criteria

Traditional criteria must not be subordinate

# California Voting Rights Act

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Enacted to implement the equal protection and voting rights provisions of the California Constitution

Can require jurisdictions to transition to district elections

When jurisdictions do transition, provides guidance for sequencing of elections

# California Election Code 21601

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In establishing the boundaries of city council districts, “the council may give consideration to the following factors:

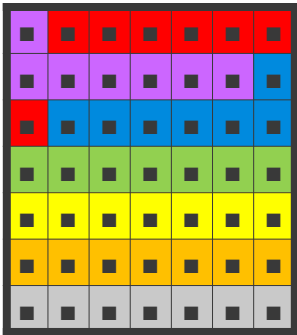
- (a) topography,
- (b) geography,
- (c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and
- (d) community of interests of the council districts.”

# California Election Code 21601

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**Contiguity:** All parts of the district should be connected

**Non-Contiguous**



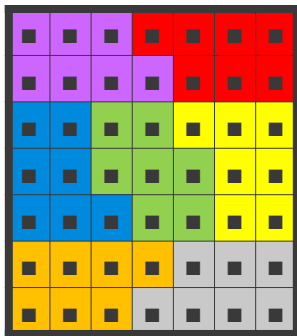
# California Election Code 21601

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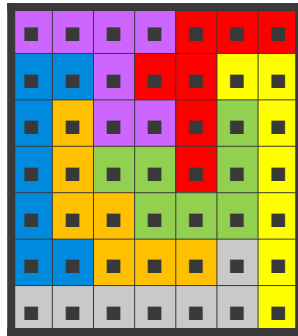
**Compactness:** Many technical measures

Be aware of shape and appearance

More Compact



Less Compact





# California Election Code 21601

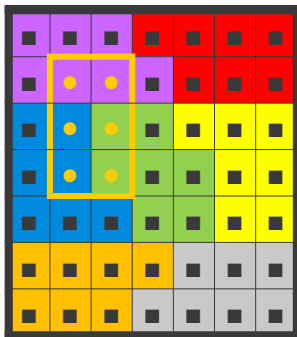
**Communities of Interest:** Sharing common interests. Bringing like people together for representation

Law does not limit the kinds of interests that may bind a community. Can represent current situation or common goals

Can consider existing city planning information such as boundaries of housing developments but there is no dataset that defines communities of interest

Examples include neighborhoods, common assets like schools and shopping areas, housing, culture and language, and employment

**More Compact, But...**



**Need Public Testimony!**

# Districting

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# Census Geography and Data

## Census Block

Smallest unit of analysis. 2010 census data on population used to determine if populations are equal

## Census Block Group

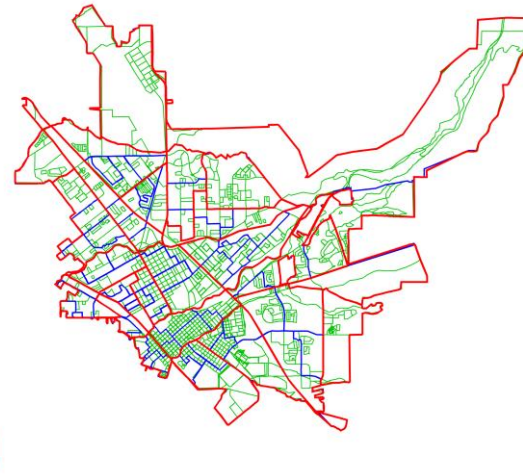
Next smallest unit of analysis. Smallest unit for American Community Survey demographic information

Including CVAP data used for compliance with federal Voting Rights Act

## Census Tract

Still larger unit of analysis. Some ACS data is only available at this size

## Chico



1377 blocks averaging 66 persons each

86 block groups averaging 1,049 persons each

25 tracts averaging 3,609 persons each

\* Including geographies split and only partially within the city.

# Census Geography and Data

## Slices

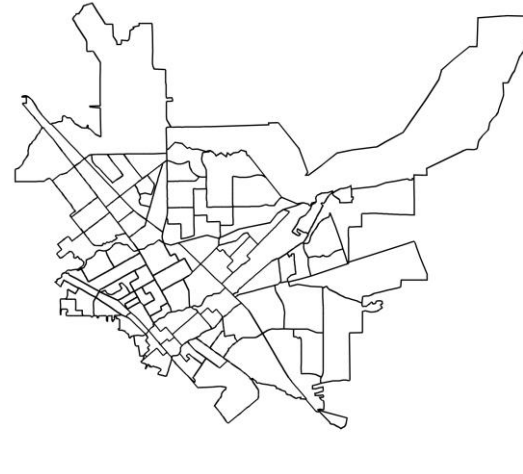
Based primarily on census block groups

Adjusted to account for the fact census block groups do not always align well with city boundaries

And split up some larger census block groups

Used to facilitate public input and submission of redistricting plans

## Chico



89 slices averaging 1,014 persons each

# Electoral Geography and Data

## Precincts

Smallest unit of analysis for electoral data

May change with each election and do not always line up with census geography

Includes information on who is registered, who voted, and results for state contests

## Other

Assembly, Senate, Congressional, Supervisorial, Board of Equalization, Community College, School...

## Chico



103 registration precincts in 2018  
averaging 876 persons each

# Things to Remember

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**Strive for population equality.** Be prepared to justify any deviations

**Focus on traditional redistricting criteria.** Draw contiguous, compact districts when possible while respecting existing boundaries and communities of interest

**Do not use race as the predominant factor.** Only consider as one of many factors.

**Be aware of timeline.** Absent extension 90 days for entire process.

# Districting

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# Phases

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## **Phase I: Gather Information & Establish Priorities**

- Next public hearing: December 10, 2019
- Website: <http://www.chico.ca.us>
- Email: [DistrictElections@chico.ca.gov](mailto:DistrictElections@chico.ca.gov)

## **Phase 2: Confront Tradeoffs and Refine**

- Maps published by December 23 and January 14
- Hearings on January 7 and January 21

## **Phase 3: Adoption**

- Ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> Reading on February 4
- Ordinance 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on February 11

# Phase I: Gather Information & Establish Priorities

## **Gather Information**

Communities of interest:

Where is it located?

What is the mutual interest of the community?

Why should it be kept together?

## **Establish Priorities**

Prioritize among traditional redistricting criteria

Identify key communities to keep whole, including their boundaries

# Questions

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