



City of Grover Beach

Introduction to Districting

July 26, 2021

Dr. Daniel Phillips, Consultant
National Demographics Corporation

Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From District” or “Residence” Districts
3. “By District”

**The California Voting Rights Act
was written to specifically
encourage by-district elections**

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

- Under the Federal Voting Rights Act (passed in 1965), a jurisdiction must fail 4 factual tests before it is in violation of the law.
- The California VRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems by eliminating two of the US Supreme Court Gingles tests:
 - Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?
 - Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
 - Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
 - Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?
- Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting

Districting Process

Step	Description
Initial Pre-Draft Hearings: June 28 & July 26	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the communities in the City. Identify “neighborhoods,” “communities of interest,” and “secondary areas.”
Initial Deadline for Draft Maps: January 6	Deadline for the public to submit draft maps for inclusion in the next hearing packet and presentation
Release Draft Maps: January 17	Draft maps posted to project website
Two Hearings on Draft Maps: Jan. 24 & Feb. 28	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Map Adoption: March 14	Map adopted via ordinance/resolution. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.

Districting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



2. California Criteria for Cities

1. **Geographically contiguous**
2. **Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest”**
(Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
3. **Easily identifiable boundaries**
4. **Compact**
(Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

Prohibited:

“Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party.”

3. Other Traditional Districting Principles

Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office
Future population growth

Defining Neighborhoods

1st Question: what is your neighborhood?

2nd Question: what are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- Areas around parks or schools
- Other neighborhood landmarks

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.



Beyond Neighborhoods: Defining Communities of Interest

1st Question: what defines your community?

- Geographic Area, plus
- Shared issue or characteristic
 - Shared social or economic interest
 - Impacted by city policies
- Tell us “your community’s story”

2nd Question: Would this community benefit from being “included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation”?

- Or would it benefit more from having multiple representatives?

Definitions of Communities of Interest may not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Demographic Summary

Estimates using official 2020 demographic data and NDC's estimated total population figures.

Each of the 4 districts must contain about 3,400 people.

Check out the [Grover Beach Story Map](#) for maps of some of this demographic data.

Grover Beach							
Category	Field	Count	Pct	Category	Field	Count	Pct
	2020 Est. Tot. Pop.	13,520					
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	9,947		Age	age0-19	3,273	24%
	Hisp	2,046	21%		age20-60	7,205	53%
	NH White	6,993	70%		age60plus	3,041	22%
	NH Black	230	2%	Immigration	immigrants	1,177	9%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	535	5%		naturalized	626	53%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	8,218		Language spoken at home	english	9,799	80%
	Latino est.	1,728	21%		spanish	1,850	15%
	Spanish-Surnamed	1,553	19%		asian-lang	411	3%
	Asian-Surnamed	160	2%		other lang	167	1%
	Filipino-Surnamed	163	2%	Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	841	7%
	NH White est.	5,828	71%		Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	4,767
NH Black	168	2%	bachelor	1,914		21%	
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total	6,847		graduatedegree	992	11%	
	Latino est.	1,294	19%	Child in Household	child-under18	1,532	29%
	Spanish-Surnamed	1,162	17%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	7,124	66%
	Asian-Surnamed	143	2%		Household Income	income 0-25k	760
	Filipino-Surnamed	135	2%	income 25-50k		1,085	20%
	NH White est.	4,987	73%	income 50-75k		1,136	21%
NH Black	143	2%	income 75-200k	1,984		37%	
Voter Turnout (Nov 2018)	Total	4,788		income 200k-plus	333	6%	
	Latino est.	760	16%	Housing Stats	single family	4,288	72%
	Spanish-Surnamed	683	14%		multi-family	1,680	28%
	Asian-Surnamed	88	2%		rented	2,570	49%
	Filipino-Surnamed	81	2%		owned	2,727	51%
	NH White est.	3,754	78%				
NH Black est.	104	2%					

Surname-based Voter Registration and Turnout data from the California Statewide Database. Latino voter registration and turnout data are Spanish-surname counts adjusted using Census Population Department undercount estimates. NH White and NH Black registration and turnout counts estimated by NDC. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2015-2019 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data. 2020 Est. Tot. Pop calculated by NDC starting from 2010 Census counts and adding in ACS-identified population growth, then subtracting out state prison populations.

Public Mapping and Map Review Tools

- Different tools for different purposes
- Different tools for different levels of technical skill and interest, found at [GroverBeach.org/districting](https://www.groverbeach.org/districting)
 - Simple “learn about your community” [Story Map](#)
 - Simple “review draft maps” [interactive mapping tool](#)
 - [Paper-](#) and [Excel-](#)based simple “Draw a draft map” tools
 - Easy-to-use online “Draw your neighborhood” tool / “Draw a draft map” tool (coming soon)

Whether you use the powerful (but complicated) online mapping tool, Excel, the paper kit, or just draw on a napkin, we welcome your maps!

Public Hearing & Discussion

What are the neighborhoods of the City, and what are their boundaries?

What other notable areas are in the city, and what are their boundaries?

Any questions about the mapping tools?

Council Discussion, then Action:

- Vote on areas that meet each AB 849 definition:
 - “Neighborhoods”
 - “Communities of interest...that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.”