

# **THE AAPI & AMEMSA STATE REDISTRICTING COLLABORATIVE PROPOSED ASSEMBLY PLAN**

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# I. INTRODUCTION TO THE AAPI & AMEMSA STATE REDISTRICTING COLLABORATIVE

## **Background**

The AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative (AASRC) is a nonpartisan coalition working to uplift the voices of the Asian American, Pacific Islander, Arab, Middle Eastern, and Muslim communities in California's 2021 redistricting process. AASRC's approach has two main components. The first is to support community participation in redistricting by educating community members and leaders about redistricting, demystifying the process for them, and helping them provide communities of interest input to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. The second is to use the priorities and feedback identified by local residents and leaders to create assembly and congressional district map proposals that respect the integrity of and empower AAPI & AMEMSA communities.

AASRC is based on the prior work of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting, which carried out outreach and advocacy efforts with AAPI communities during the previous three redistricting cycles. Given the often overlapping interests between AAPI and AMEMSA communities, AASRC broadened its network to include AMEMSA organizations in this redistricting cycle.

## **Principles**

- I. District boundaries should comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minority populations have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice.
- II. Districts should respect the integrity of communities of interest and neighborhoods.
- III. Proposals should be created in collaboration with other stakeholders, such as Black, Latino, LGBTQ, and environmental communities, to find district line configurations that respect the integrity of other historically disenfranchised communities while also uplifting AAPI and AMEMSA communities.

## **Structure and Participants**

AASRC worked across six regions, with anchor partners based in each region driving the work forward among their communities by engaging local community groups and individuals. See the list of regions and anchor partners below.

- Sacramento - Hmong Innovating Politics, Jakara Movement, Council on American-Islamic Relations - Sacramento Valley/Central California
- San Francisco Bay Area - Asian Law Alliance, Council on American-Islamic Relations - SF Bay Area, Jakara Movement, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
- Central Valley - Hmong Innovating Politics, Jakara Movement, Council on American-Islamic Relations - Sacramento Valley/Central California
- Orange County - Orange County Civic Engagement Table (OCCET)
- San Diego - Asian Solidarity Collective

- Los Angeles - Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON), Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
- Statewide - AAPIs for Civic Empowerment - Education Fund (AAPI FORCE-EF), Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

### **Process and Activities**

AASRC held a total of 34 online workshops to educate local residents and leaders on redistricting concepts, explain California's process, highlight opportunities for engagement, and help people submit community of interest testimony. During these workshops, AASRC also identified community mapping priorities and shared mapping proposals for feedback. Our workshops were attended by local residents and community leaders, including members or staff of more than 100 different local community organizations such as community centers, worker centers, youth groups, cultural centers, and business associations. In many regions, AASRC held additional follow-up conversations with partners and/or additional local stakeholders to clarify how to balance competing priorities or to gather additional information about key communities of interest.

After the final set of workshops, AASRC brought its COIs, community priorities, and proposed assembly and congressional district lines to mapping discussions with leaders working to similarly engage other communities of color and underrepresented communities in California's redistricting process, including MALDEF, the Black Census and Redistricting Hub, and the IVE Redistricting Alliance. AASRC used input from these stakeholders to create a statewide mapping proposal that incorporates other communities' priorities while respecting the integrity of AAPI and AMEMSA communities.

AASRC also offered individual support to workshop participants testifying at the regional commission COI input hearings. This support included creating maps and pulling demographic information to provide additional context for their testimony.

### **About AASRC's Anchor Partners:**

**AAPIs For Civic Empowerment-Education Fund (AAPI FORCE-EF)** is an alliance of community organizations serving Asian American and Pacific Islanders across the state of California. AAPI FORCE-EF builds organizers, organizations, and networks to form a far-reaching, powerful AAPI political bloc.

**Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON)** is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander American (AAPI) Community in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low income, immigrant, refugee and other disadvantaged sectors of the population.

**Asian Law Alliance**, established in 1977, is a non-profit organization providing equal access to the justice system for Asian Pacific Islander and low-income populations in the Silicon Valley.

Our mission is through providing legal counseling, community education and community organizing, we promote self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and a better quality of life for all.

**Asian Solidarity Collective (ASC)** is a grassroots organization in San Diego whose mission is to activate Asian American social justice consciousness, condemn anti-Blackness, and build Asian solidarity intersectionally with Black, Brown and Indigenous folks, people with disabilities, queer and trans people of color, and all oppressed communities. Our work includes political education, community building, and collective action.

**The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), grassroots civil rights and advocacy group. CAIR is America's largest Islamic civil liberties group, with regional offices nationwide. The national headquarters is located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The California offices are located in San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego, and Greater Los Angeles. In the Sacramento and Central Valleys, CAIR's presence has been essential in ensuring that vulnerable immigrant, refugee and minority communities – Sacramento being home to some of the most diverse and dense in the nation – are equitably represented and served. Through providing civil rights and immigrant rights legal services, as well as the widespread community education and advocacy efforts, CAIR – Sacramento Valley / Central California is able to give a voice to the over 100,000 Muslims in the valley.

**Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)** was established in 2009 by a group of young Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (NHPI) leaders who recognized the urgency to address the growing needs of NHPI families. With experiences ranging from grassroots organizing to higher education administration, the founders prioritized building a strong and unified advocacy voice for Pacific Islanders. EPIC advances social justice by engaging Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders in culture-centered advocacy, leadership development, and research.

**Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP)** is a grassroots organization whose mission is to advance social justice and build power with Hmong youth and families through leadership development and multi-generational community organizing. HIP is based in Fresno and Sacramento, CA — home to two of the largest Hmong American populations in the state and nation. HIP continues to serve as the largest Southeast Asian American power building organization in the Central Valley.

**Jakara Movement** is a grassroots community-building organization working to empower, educate, and organize Punjabi Sikhs, and other marginalized communities in California. We strive to create a Gurmat-inspired community, rooted in the struggle of our foremothers and forefathers, to develop powerful, informed, and organized youth leadership, locally-rooted residential power, and community capacity that will be a key partner in building a better future for all. The Jakara Movement has offices and staff in Bakersfield, Fresno, Livingston, Turlock/Ceres, Tracy, Union City, Sacramento, and Yuba City, as well as have collegiate chapters on 25 UC, CSU, and community colleges to complement their 70+ clubs on high school campuses in 12 California counties.

**The Orange County Civic Engagement Table (OCCET)** is a progressive AAPI-Latinx-Labor-Environmental Justice Alliance that seeks to build progressive transformation of our region. The eight organizations that anchor OCCET serve the emerging majority of the county – low income immigrant Latinx and Asian American communities that work across issues of immigrant, economic, and racial justice across the county. Through this innovative partnership, OCCET is committed to increasing the quality, scale and effectiveness of civic participation in communities of color and among low-income populations in Orange County.

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice Background and Role:**

A joint team from Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus (Advancing Justice - ALC) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles (Advancing Justice - LA) facilitated the AASRC network. This role includes providing workshop facilitation, educational resources, and mapping support.

**Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus** - Founded in 1972, Advancing Justice - ALC is a nonprofit, public interest organization that promotes, advances, and represents the legal and civil rights of Asian Pacific American communities. Advancing Justice - ALC strives to create informed and educated communities empowered to assert their rights and participate actively in American society, through the provision of legal services, educational programs, community organizing, and advocacy. Advancing Justice - ALC also helps set local and state policies on voting rights, language access, and census taking.

**Advancing Justice - Los Angeles** - Since 1983, Advancing Justice - LA has been a leading legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). Today, Advancing Justice - LA serves more than 15,000 individuals and organizations in California every year. The mission of Advancing Justice - LA is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education, and build coalitions to positively influence and impact AAPIs and to create a more equitable and harmonious society. Pursuing that mission includes advocating on behalf of AAPIs and other underrepresented people for full and fair representation in all levels of the political process.

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice Affiliation (Advancing Justice)** is a national affiliation of five civil rights nonprofit organizations. Though independently led, operated and funded--we share a common mission to promote a fair and equitable society for all by working for civil and human rights that empower Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other underserved communities.

## **II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE AAPI & AMEMSA STATE REDISTRICTING COLLABORATIVE (AASRC) ASSEMBLY PLAN**

### **Highlights of AASRC's Assembly Plan**

The general themes of AASRC's Statewide Assembly plan are that the plan (1) respects the Voting Rights Act interests of AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) & AMEMSA (Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian), Black, and Latino communities, (2) respects communities of interest and neighborhoods, and (3) also respects other traditional redistricting criteria such as contiguity and respect for cities and counties.

AASRC's plan was drawn from the Commission's perspective, always keeping in mind the question of how proposed district lines are justified under and comport with the Voters First Act's ranked criteria.

### **Respect for the Voting Rights Act**

AASRC's plan maintains or creates 23 districts in which Latinos make up 50+% of the citizen voting age population (CVAP), and 3 districts with 50+% Asian CVAP (ACVAP).

### **Respect for communities of interest**

AASRC has engaged local and statewide stakeholders from the AAPI and AMEMSA communities throughout California to understand how leaders and residents define their communities. After developing an understanding of their communities of interest (COIs) and district preferences, AASRC worked within the IVE Alliance to collaborate on mapping proposals. The IVE Alliance includes nonprofit organizations representing AAPI, Black, Latino, Native American, LGBTQ, and environmental communities. The proposal submitted by the AASRC is very similar to those submitted by other IVE Alliance members (such as the Black Census & Redistricting Hub and the People's Bloc) and is intended to amplify and generally balance the interests of these various communities. AASRC's Orange County districts are intended to be identical to the Orange County districts submitted by OCCET because OCCET is our regional lead partner in Orange County.

### **Respect for population equality**

Districts in AASRC's plan are drawn within 1.52% deviation from the ideal population of 494,043 persons per Assembly district.

### **Respects the requirement of contiguity**

All districts in AASRC's plan are contiguous except for three districts that include islands to which no means of transportation by land exist.

### Respects cities and counties

Districts drawn to keep together communities of interest are also drawn to avoid city and county splits to the extent possible. However, where strong communities of interest cross city or county boundaries, where portions of cities and/or counties are required for Voting Rights Act compliance, or where population equality is required, cities and counties have been split.

AASRC's Assembly plan splits 122 cities.

### **AASRC Priorities for Assembly Districts<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Sacramento**

- In AD 6, keep the Arden-Arcade and Carmichael neighborhoods whole and together in a district.
  - These areas are home to a high density of Afghan and Syrian refugees and the community is growing quickly as resettlements continue. Many of these families are of the Muslim faith, and share similar needs around accessibility to resources and services due to being recently arrived, low-income and having limited English proficiency. (Supporting testimony: Oussama Mokeddem)
- In AD 7, keep the Del Paso Heights and Lemon Hill neighborhoods whole and together in a district.
  - These two areas have a rich history of Hmong and other Southeast Asian communities and have similar interests when it comes to tenant protections, language needs, and access to safety net programs. This includes a need for culturally competent healthcare, particularly mental healthcare for refugee communities battling post-traumatic stress disorder and intergenerational trauma. According to recent ACS data almost half of the Asian Americans in Lemon Hill speak English less than very well, over half are foreign-born, and almost two-thirds are low-income. (Supporting testimony: Cha Vang, Dao Vang, June Lim)
- In AD 6, keep the City of Antelope whole and in a district with Roseville, but separate from Granite Bay.
  - The Punjabi Sikh community in this area exists in both cities and considers themselves a single, united community, with the Roseville Gurdwara on Main Street serving as an important gathering space. Community members share priorities like language accessibility, affordable housing, transportation and senior services. (Supporting testimony: Mandeep Singh)
- In AD 9, keep Elk Grove whole and in a district with southern Sacramento.
  - This area has many communities of color, including a Filipino American community that has been there for generations and a Punjabi Sikh community that is quickly growing. The communities in this area, many of whom are low income and/or immigrants, share common challenges like encountering hate crimes, housing affordability, and limited English proficiency, particularly among their elders. (Supporting testimony: Mandeep Singh, Lilia Rivera)

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<sup>1</sup> Supporting testimony can be found in Appendix B.

- In AD 9, keep Greenhaven whole and with Elk Grove.
  - In addition to being home to middle-class Asian American communities, these areas have a shared interest in infrastructure, as they are both very affected by the levee system in that area of the Sacramento River. (Supporting testimony: Brian Kohaya)

### **San Francisco and San Mateo**

- In AD 17, keep SF Chinatown whole.
  - As the oldest Chinatown in North America, San Francisco's Chinatown is a cultural center for Chinese Americans in San Francisco and is home to many senior, limited-English-proficient immigrants. Many residents of Chinatown are working class and are low-income tenants, including many single-room-occupancy residents, with shared policy needs including tenant protections, language assistance, and access to community services. (Supporting testimony: Chris Chin, Tiffany Ng, June Lim.)
- In AD 17, keep Japantown whole.
  - San Francisco's Japantown is one of the few remaining Japantowns in the United States and is the site of many Japanese cultural events and businesses. It has been the center of the Bay Area's Japanese American community for more than 100 years. Many seniors live in the area, which struggles with issues of affordable housing and displacement. (Supporting testimony: Steven Nakajo)
- In AD 19, keep Excelsior whole and with Oceanview, Merced & Ingleside Heights (OMI). Keep Portola, Visitacion Valley, and the Bayview whole, together, and in a district with Excelsior and OMI.
  - The Excelsior neighborhood has a significant number of low-income Chinese residents, many of whom have been displaced from other parts of San Francisco due to rising housing costs. OMI, similarly, is home to many immigrants, including families and monolingual Chinese seniors. Many residents in these neighborhoods face challenges with housing affordability, tenant protections, food security, and access to healthcare services. (Supporting testimony: Chris Chin, Tiffany Ng, June Lim.)
  - Portola, Visitacion Valley, and the Bayview are located east of Excelsior and should be kept whole, together, and with Excelsior. These are working class neighborhoods in which residents face similar economic challenges. They are also home to recent Asian immigrants with limited English proficiency. Excelsior, Portola, and Visitacion Valley are also home to high concentrations of Pacific Islander communities that have shared cultural interests. (Supporting testimony: June Lim. Also based on input from calls with local nonprofit staff and from a Pacific Islander community workshop.)
- Keep the Sunset and Richmond districts whole and together in AD 19.
  - Both the Richmond and Sunset neighborhoods in western San Francisco have sizable Chinese communities, are family-oriented, and have a long history of being home to immigrant communities. The Richmond district has many Chinese shops and businesses. The Sunset features many Chinese-owned small



businesses such as restaurants and laundromats. Both are known as relatively middle-class and residential parts of San Francisco, with shared interests around public safety, education, and transportation access. There are also many limited-English-proficient residents in the Sunset and Richmond districts. (Supporting testimony: Jessica Ho, June Lim. Also based on input from community workshops.)

- Keep Daly City whole and with nearby centers of the Filipino American community in Westborough and the Penn (Buri Buri) area.
  - Nearly 1 in 3 residents of Daly City are Filipino. Daly City and the nearby Penn (Buri Buri) and Westborough neighborhoods are home to many immigrants, who have concerns about language barriers and access to civic institutions. Catholic churches and community institutions in the area bring people together. Many Filipino Americans, including residents of Daly City and nearby areas, are essential workers and healthcare workers and have identified healthcare access, mental health services, and addressing racism as important concerns. Buri Buri is also home to Samoan communities with shared interests and multiple Samoan churches. (Supporting testimony: Rob Chua. Also based on input from a Pacific Islander community workshop.)
- Make AD 19, containing the Richmond District, Sunset, OMI, Excelsior, Portola, Visitacion Valley, the Bayview, Daly City, Westborough, and Penn a district with majority ACVAP.
  - Our proposed AD 19 has ACVAP of 51.43%. This will provide Asian American voters in San Francisco with continued opportunities to elect their candidates of choice.
- Keep Pacific Islander neighborhoods in San Mateo County whole and together.
  - There are significant clusters of Pacific Islander communities in San Mateo County, including Samoans, Tongans, and Micronesians, and their neighborhoods should be kept whole and together. As a community that has been historically underrepresented, Pacific Islanders face many systemic disparities in the areas of education, healthcare, employment, and housing. Neighborhoods with large Pacific Islander communities in and around Redwood City include Redwood Village, Palm Park and Roosevelt, the area west of El Camino Real near Mt. Carmel, as well as the Belle Haven triangle in Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks. The Pacific Islander communities in northern San Mateo County should also be kept whole and together: Lomita Park and the area north and west of Capuchino High School, residential areas between El Camino Real and the 101 near San Francisco International Airport, and Bayshore Heights. We recognize that it can be difficult to keep the Pacific Islander communities of interest all in one district for population-balancing, and if they need to be split we suggest they be clustered and kept with similar communities. For example, Redwood Village, North Fair Oaks, and Belle Haven can be kept together and with East Palo Alto, since these areas have working class and lower-income communities. (Supporting Testimony: 'Alisi Tulua. Also based on input from a Northern California Pacific Islander community workshop.)

## East Bay Area

- In AD 18, keep Oakland Chinatown, Eastlake / Little Saigon, and San Antonio neighborhoods whole and together.
  - Oakland Chinatown, in downtown Oakland, is a business, residential, and social service center for Asian American communities in Oakland. Chinatown residents face pressures of gentrification and displacement. Many Asian American communities have also moved into the San Antonio neighborhood, the Eastlake / Little Saigon neighborhood, and residential areas southeast of Lake Merritt. Refugees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam have settled in these areas and have shared needs around language access, culturally-tailored services, and affordability for low-income families. Downtown Oakland, Eastlake, and San Antonio are very diverse areas, and many residents across racial groups share economic concerns, as these neighborhoods have a high percentage of low-income residents and are undergoing gentrification. There are also more than 10 senior housing complexes in downtown Oakland and on the eastside of Lake Merritt that serve Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese senior residents. (Supporting testimony: Rhummanee Hang, Yeri Shon.)
- Keep Oakland's Koreatown Northgate (KONO) district whole and with Temescal.
  - Oakland's KONO district and commercial area running up into Temescal are home to many Korean restaurants and businesses. Communities in KONO have shared interests in small business support, language access, and neighborhood safety. KONO is a diverse area with small businesses serving many immigrant communities in addition to Korean Americans, and includes Ethiopian and Middle Eastern stores. There is also a concentration of Yemeni communities in the area and multiple mosques that serve as community gathering places for Muslim communities. (Supporting testimony: Yeri Shon, Aliza Kazmi.)
- In AD 20, keep Union City whole and with Hayward and San Leandro.
  - Union City has a large Filipino community with shared interests around immigration, employment, and education. Union City should be kept with Hayward, as they both have numerous Filipino and South Asian immigrants, as well as with San Leandro. All three cities have many working-class Asian communities. This major corridor houses many ethnic businesses, community-based organizations, churches, and educational institutions. (Supporting testimony: Daisy Maixon. Also based on calls with local nonprofit staff and input from community workshops.)
  - We recognize that San Leandro or Hayward might need to be cut for population balancing purposes. We request that the Commission prioritize keeping Union City whole because of the significant Filipino community of interest there.
- Keep the Centerville neighborhood in Fremont whole.
  - This area is home to many Afghani Americans and contains a core residential and business district known as Little Kabul. Immigrant families make up a large proportion of residents. Centerville is also home to social services utilized by Afghan communities, and residents have shared interests around immigration, access to language services, and access to culturally-specific social services.

Residents also have shared interests in education, parks, and community spaces. (Supporting testimony: Aliza Kazmi, Gabriela Garzón Gupta, June Lim.)

- Keep the Irvington neighborhood in Fremont whole and with Milpitas, Berryessa, and Santa Clara in AD 25.
  - Irvington is home to many South Asian and Muslim communities and contains key mosques and muslim-owned businesses. According to census estimates, more than half of Irvington residents are immigrants. Residents come together on a range of issues, including immigration, ensuring economic opportunities, and education. Muslim communities in the area also have shared concerns about profiling and surveillance of Arab, Middle-Eastern, South Asian, and Black communities. (Supporting testimony: Aliza Kazmi, June Lim.)
  - Keep Irvington with nearby areas of Fremont, Milpitas, Berryessa, and Santa Clara because of shared interests. The Asian and Muslim communities in Irvington, along with the Chinese and South Asian communities in nearby Fremont neighborhoods of Warm Springs and Mission San Jose, share concerns about language services, immigration, and economic opportunity with other Asian American communities in Berryessa, Milpitas, and Santa Clara. Many also work in tech-related jobs. (Supporting testimony: Gabriela Garzón Gupta. Also based on input from community workshops.)

### **South Bay Area**

- Keep Berryessa whole.
  - Berryessa is home to many Asian American communities and should be kept whole. There is a large concentration of Chinese residents in Berryessa, many of whom work in tech-related jobs, are immigrants, and have shared cultural, language, and religious interests. Berryessa is also home to many Punjabi Sikhs and Filipino Americans. (Supporting testimony: Richard Konda, Gabriela Gupta, Angelica Cortez, Jugraj Shoker, June Lim.)
- In AD 25, keep Berryessa with Milpitas, Santa Clara, and the southern half of Fremont.
  - Many Asian ethnic and religious groups and Muslims have multiple COI concentrations in these cities and would benefit from being kept together in a district.
    - For example, Muslim and South Asian communities are sizable in both Fremont and Santa Clara and have shared interests as described above. Community gathering spaces such as mosques in these two cities draw residents from around the region. (Supporting testimony: Aliza Kazmi.)
    - Punjabi-Sikh communities are concentrated in Berryessa and in Santa Clara and have shared interests around language access, racism and prejudice, access to senior services, transportation, and housing affordability. (Supporting testimony: Jugraj Shoker.)
    - Filipino business districts that serve as community gathering places span Berryessa and Milpitas, and Filipino residents in these areas have shared concerns about public health, housing, community spaces, education,

racism and prejudice, and protections for frontline workers. (Supporting testimony: Angelica Cortez.)

- There are also significant economic connections between Fremont, Santa Clara, and North San Jose. Many Fremont residents who work in the tech industry drive into Santa Clara and North San Jose for work and have shared economic and transportation-related interests
- Make AD 25, containing part of Fremont, Milpitas, Berryessa, and Santa Clara, a district with majority Asian American Citizen Voting Age Population.
  - Our proposed AD 25 has ACVAP of 51.47%. This will provide Asian American voters in the South Bay with continued opportunities to elect their candidates of choice.
- In AD 27, keep the Alum Rock neighborhood with East Side San Jose.
  - There are significant concentrations of Filipino Americans in East Side San Jose, especially in Alum Rock, where churches, schools, and parks serve as community gathering spaces that bring the Filipino community together. Many Filipinos in East Side San Jose work in healthcare, teaching, and other essential services. Filipino Americans in Alum Rock and East Side San Jose share many socio-economic interests with the Latino communities and other Asian American communities that also live in these areas, as they tend to have lower incomes than communities in Berryessa and other parts of North San Jose. Alum Rock should be kept with nearby lower-income areas, including a low-income and heavily-immigrant Vietnamese community bounded by Story Road, Senter Road, and Capitol Expressway. (Supporting testimony: Angelica Cortez, June Lim. Also based on oral testimony provided by Tam Nguyen of VIVO.)
- Keep Evergreen and Silver Creek neighborhoods in San Jose whole and together in AD 27.
  - There are high concentrations of Punjabi, Vietnamese, and Filipino communities in the Evergreen area and high concentrations of Punjabi communities in the Silver Creek area. These are mostly residential areas where people are brought together through schools and places of worship. Filipino communities congregate at churches and schools in the Evergreen area. Punjabi communities live near the Sikh Gurdwara of San Jose, also located in the Evergreen area, and have shared educational and cultural interests as well as a need for language assistance. There are many immigrant Vietnamese families in Evergreen as well, having similar language access needs. With strong cultural communities as well as shared interests in education and language access, the neighborhoods of Evergreen and Silver Creek should be kept whole and together. (Supporting testimony: Angelica Cortez, Jugraj Shoker, June Lim. Also based on input from calls with local nonprofit staff.)
- Try to minimize splits in the City of Santa Clara.
  - There are sizable Asian American communities in Santa Clara. These communities have shared interests with Berryessa and Milpitas, with similar socioeconomic conditions and shared transportation corridors. There are large South Asian and Muslim communities in Santa Clara with shared interests

around education and employment. There is also a Korean business district along El Camino Real which serves nearby residential communities in Santa Clara and Sunnyvale. (Supporting testimony: Aliza Kazmi, Jugraj Shoker, June Lim.)

### **Fresno County**

- In AD 31, keep the communities of interest around Masjid Badr and Masjid Fresno in Fresno whole and in the same district.
  - The Arabic-speaking Muslim communities in both areas have shared priorities, driven by their common language and cultural backgrounds. These include a focus on education for families with young children, language access within county and city resources, and issues of immigration, particularly those that concern refugee populations. These interests are very different from those prioritized by other wealthier communities in North Fresno. (Supporting testimony: Sukaina Hussain, Zena Chafi)
- In AD 31, keep the Punjabi Sikh community along the West Fresno 99 corridor whole.
  - Many families in this community rely on Highway 99 due to employment in the trucking industry or a commute to jobs in processing plants as part of the agricultural industry. They have shared priorities when it comes to the local school districts, the need for more language access, environmental and health issues caused by pollution from Highway 99, and a desire for more recreational activities and access to parks. (Supporting testimony: Deep Singh, Kamaljit Kaur)
- In ADs 31 and 23, keep as much of the Hmong/Southeast Asian community in the Fresno area together as possible, including those in and west of the Sanger area.
  - Fresno is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in the country and is a crucial cultural hub for this diasporic community. While this population has spread to multiple pockets throughout the City of Fresno, they share common traits and concerns that unify them. Over 40% of Hmong residents in Fresno speak English less than very well and 70% are low-income. Their shared priorities include a need for culturally competent school programming and language access within government programs and services. The community also shares common interests with regard to affordable housing, health care, and mental health services. There is also a significant population of Southeast Asian farmers in the Sunnyside area of Fresno that is expanding east toward the Southeast Asian farmers in and around Sanger. The Southeast farmers are very aligned with the Hmong/Southeast Asian community at large given their shared history as refugees and their rate of limited English proficiency and low-income. (Supporting testimony: Tammy Vang, June Lim, Lilian Thaoxaochay)

## Los Angeles County - Metro

- In ADs 51 and 53, keep whole the five Asian American ethnic neighborhoods in metro Los Angeles.
  - In AD 53, keep Chinatown whole.
    - Chinatown is a neighborhood recognized by the City of Los Angeles (<https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/overlays/chinatown>) and previously by the White House Preserve America program ([https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25729](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25729)). Chinatown is a community of predominantly working class elderly immigrants. The vast majority of residents are low-income renters who are in a precarious situation due to gentrification in and around the neighborhood. For the community's definition of Chinatown see Ivy Hong's testimony. (Supporting testimony: Ivy Hong and June Lim).
  - In AD 53, keep Historic Filipinotown whole.
    - Historic Filipinotown has been and continues to be a gateway community for Filipino immigrants living in Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles designated the neighborhood in 2002. (<https://www.achp.gov/preserve-america/community/los-angeles-historic-filipinotown-california>). It is home to many community based organizations and businesses servicing the Filipino American community. The residents throughout Historic Filipinotown share many similar needs, in part, due to the high rate of limited English proficiency in the neighborhood. For the community's definition of the boundaries, see the testimony of Aquilina Soriano Versoza. (Supporting testimony: Aquilina Soriano Versoza and June Lim).
  - In AD 53, keep Koreatown whole.
    - Koreatown is a vibrant, immigrant-rich community in Los Angeles with many shared needs due to the high limited English proficiency among the residents. The White House designated Koreatown as a Preserve America Community in 2009 (<https://www.achp.gov/preserve-america/community/los-angeles-koreatown-california>) and the City of Los Angeles officially recognized the neighborhood a year later. The community's definition expands on the government boundaries. See the shapefile submitted by Eunice Song. (Supporting testimony: Eunice Song and June Lim).
  - In AD 53, keep Little Tokyo whole.
    - Little Tokyo is a 135 year old ethnic neighborhood and one of the oldest in Los Angeles. The community has fought hard to preserve the cultural, historic, and economic resources of the neighborhood over the decades. The City of Los Angeles has recognized it as a neighborhood (<https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/overlays/little-tokyo>), and the White House designated it as a Preserve America community in 2008. ([https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25729](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25729)). The residents are primarily low-income and are fighting gentrification. See Grant Sunoo's testimony

- for the community's boundaries of Little Tokyo. (Supporting testimony: Grant Sunoo and June Lim (written)).
  - In AD 51, keep Thai Town whole.
    - Thai Town has its own district identity and character and has a high rate of poverty and correspondingly a high need for affordable housing and access to jobs. In 2008, Thai CDC successfully obtained the designation of Thai Town as a Preserve America community by the White House. [https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25729](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25729) although it has been recognized by the City of Los Angeles since 1999 (<https://www.achp.gov/preserve-america/community/los-angeles-thai-town-california>). For the community's definition of the boundaries, see testimony of Matthew Lum. (Supporting testimony: Matthew Lum and June Lim).
- Keep the five metro Asian American ethnic neighborhoods together in two districts (ADs 51 and 53).
  - All five Asian American neighborhoods have been recognized by the City of Los Angeles and have strong historic preservation goals of protecting and celebrating AAPI culture and heritage. The five neighborhoods are in close proximity to downtown Los Angeles and share similar social and economic characteristics. Because of characteristics and policy concerns, the advocates in the five neighborhoods often work together on policy matters and would benefit from being able to work together on state issues by being together in one district. <http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/list-of-members/>. However, in order to respect potential Latino Voting Rights Act districts, we recognize the potential need to split the five neighborhoods between two districts.
  - Little Tokyo and Chinatown are close to each other and should be together in one district since they share common traits in that they are both densely populated with low-income and limited-English proficient renters who are at risk of displacement due to gentrification. (Supporting testimony: Grant Sunoo, Ivy Hong, and June Lim).

## **Los Angeles County - San Gabriel Valley**

- West San Gabriel Valley
  - In AD 49, keep whole the community of interest in the west San Gabriel Valley, including the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Temple City.
    - Nearly all of these cities are majority-AAPI and a large proportion are immigrants and limited English proficient residents, creating specific policy needs. Recently, the pandemic has increased food insecurity, risk of evictions, risk of family business shutdowns in west San Gabriel. The pandemic has also resulted in physical assaults driven by anti-Asian sentiment in the area leading to demonstrations to address rising anti-Asian harassment and violence. Both the economic and sociopolitical policy interests warrant pairings with other working class cities in a way

that also respects the potential Latino VRA districts in the surrounding area. (Supporting testimony: Michelle Freridge. Also based on input from AASRC workshop participants).

- Keep AD 49 above 50% ACVAP.
  - Ten years ago, AD 49 was the first assembly district in California where a majority of the citizen age population was Asian American. Since that time, the Asian American community has grown larger and has been able to elect their candidate of choice.
- East San Gabriel Valley
  - In AD 57, keep whole the community of interest in the east San Gabriel Valley, consisting of Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, Diamond Bar, Walnut.
    - The core of the Asian American community in east San Gabriel Valley reside in Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, Diamond Bar, and Walnut. These cities are either majority or near majority Asian American and share common interests due to their high number of residents who are foreign born and have high levels of limited English proficiency. (Supporting testimony: Sara Rohani and June Lim).

#### **Los Angeles County - South Bay and Westside**

- In AD 66, keep Torrance whole and with much of Gardena.
  - The South Bay is home to the largest concentration of Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants in the mainland U.S. The first Japanese immigrants established many of the institutions in Gardena, which still exist today. While many of the older generation still live in Gardena, their children and grandchildren live in Torrance and other parts of the South Bay area. Similar to the Japanese American community, Korean Americans likewise initially moved into Gardena and the next generation has moved south to Torrance. Many of the HUD-subsidized senior apartments in the area are filled with immigrants from Asia who need linguistic and/or cultural support when seeking social services. Gardena and Torrance also share an Asian American business corridor that runs north to south along Western Avenue and is a hub of activity for the community. (Supporting testimony: Grant Sunoo).
- In AD 62, keep West Carson whole and with Carson.
  - Carson in particular is one of the major cities in Los Angeles County with a large Filipino American population. The City holds many Filipino American educational programs and festivities, and in 2021, the City unveiled a monument to Jose Rizal, a Philippine national hero. With the growing Filipino population, the community is moving west to West Carson. Both are home to low-income, immigrant renters. Carson (as well as Long Beach) are also home to a Samoan community and many Samoan institutions, particularly the Samoan churches. Any split of Carson should be as far north as possible in order to keep the small city of West Carson whole and with the adjacent areas of Carson. (Supporting testimony: Roselyn Ibanez, Romeo Hebron, and June Pouesi).



- In AD 62, keep Hawthorne, Inglewood, and Lennox whole and together.
  - Many of the Tongan community members have been living in the Lennox, Hawthorne, and Inglewood area since the 1970s. The largest concentration of Tongan churches, which are gathering places for the community, is in these three cities. (Supporting testimony: Mele Raiva Manu-Blagojevich).
- Keep the Cambodian COI in Long Beach and Signal Hill whole if possible. If not possible cut them at the Signal Hill boundary and keep the southwest portion of the COI in a Latino Voting Rights Act district (AD 63).
  - Long Beach is a gateway community for Cambodian immigrants. It has the largest Cambodian American population in the U.S., and the City of Long Beach has designated Cambodia Town to recognize and celebrate the community. <https://www.visitlongbeach.com/neighborhoods/eastside/cambodia-town/>. The Cambodian residents live north of Cambodia Town between Willow St and 19th St and Long Beach Blvd and Redondo Ave. The COI shares common interest as a low-income immigrant/refugee community. The southwest portion of the COI should be drawn into an Lation VRA district because they share high rates of limited English proficiency. (Based on email discussions with staff from Khmer Girls in Action. See the heatmap submitted for rates of poverty rate and limited English proficiency).
- Keep whole the two Japanese American enclaves in west Los Angeles.
  - In AD 54, keep Sawtelle Japantown whole.
    - The Sawtelle Japantown neighborhood in AD 54 is often called Little Osaka While many Japanese restaurants and cultural stores can be found on Sawtelle Blvd, Japanese American residents and culturally sensitive institutions such as the West LA Japanese American Community Center and Japanese churches have expanded to the neighborhood primarily west of Sawtelle. (Based on email discussions with staff at Little Tokyo Service Center. See submitted shapefile)
  - In AD 46, keep the Venice-Culver City COI whole.
    - Venice is home to the Venice Japanese Community Center and various Japanese religious institutions. The Community Center was founded almost 100 years ago and is a magnate of activity for the Japanese American community who live in the surrounding area. (Based on email discussions with staff at Little Tokyo Service Center. See submitted shapefile)

### **Orange County**

- In AD 72, keep the AMEMSA COI that crosses the LA-OC county line whole.
  - Orange County is home to large and growing AMEMSA communities. These populations are particularly prominent along the border of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, where the cities of Buena Park, La Palma, Cypress, Cerritos, and Artesia come together across county lines. In Buena Park, AMEMSA communities are located primarily south of the 5 freeway, where important religious centers such as the Gurdwara Singh Saba and Gurdwara Buena Park

are also located. Together, Buena Park, Cypress, Cerritos, and Artesia share more in common with other communities in Orange County than they do with Los Angeles County and should be drawn into Orange County-based districts where possible. As part of their daily lives, AMEMSA communities in Orange County cross into Los Angeles County to shop in ethnic markets, dine in restaurants, worship, and access social services in Artesia and Cerritos. Institutions in Cerritos and Artesia like the Islamic Center of Cerritos, Baitul Mukarram, Al Burooj Academy, and the headquarters of Islamic Relief are particularly important to Orange County residents. (Supporting testimony: Hina Ahmad and Fayaz Nawabi)

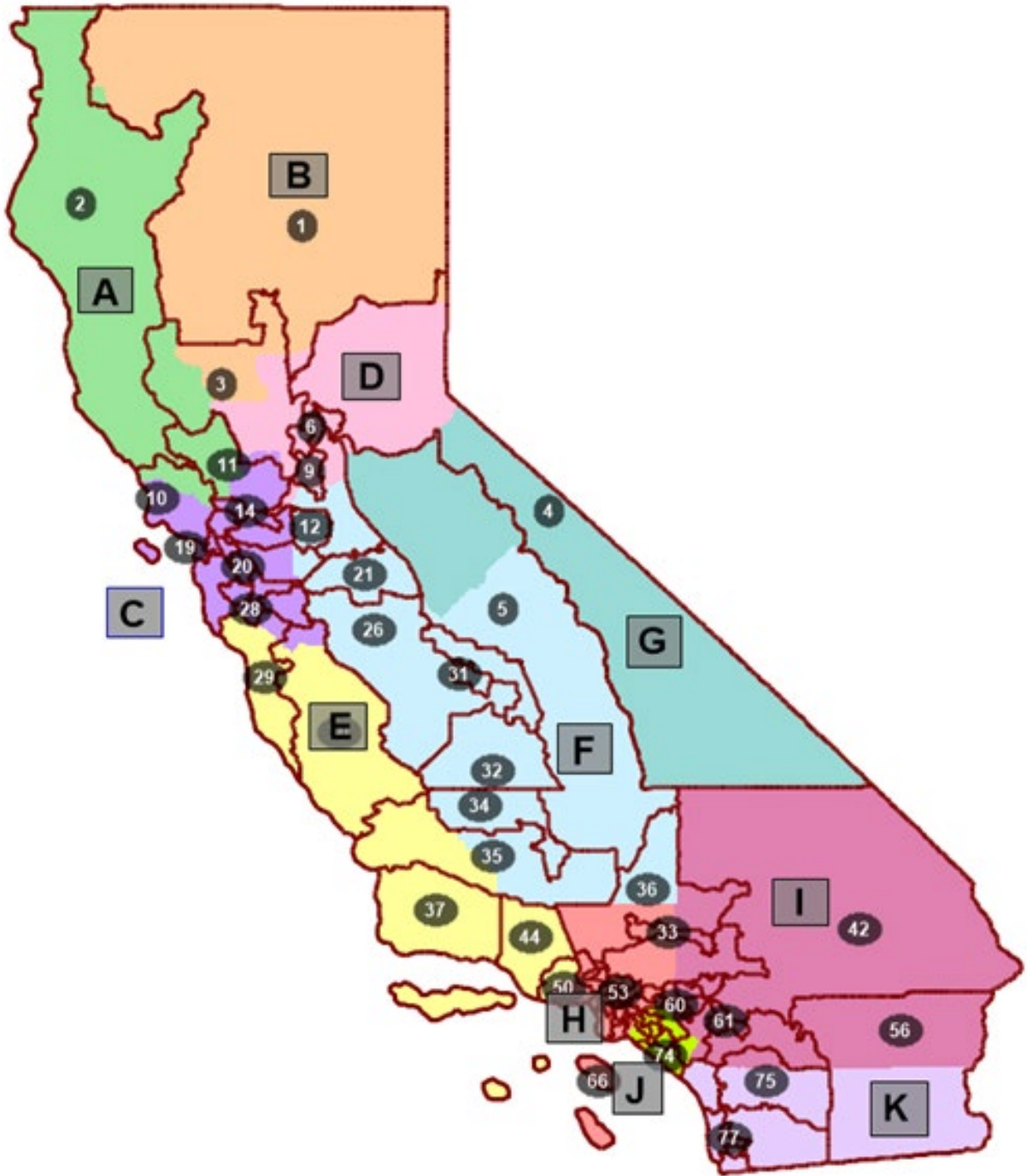
- In AD 72, keep Little Saigon whole.
  - Garden Grove and Westminster are home to some of the nation's largest Vietnamese American communities, as well as notable Korean American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations. Established after the fall of Saigon in 1975, Little Saigon has grown to encompass large portions of both cities, as well as Santa Ana west of Harbor Blvd and Fountain Valley north of the 405 freeway. Communities in these parts of Orange County are disproportionately low-income and share both common refugee experiences and the need for social services and affordable housing. (Supporting testimony: Caroline Nguyen, Charlene Kazner, and Vincent Tran)
- In AD 68, keep Irvine and Costa Mesa whole, drawn together with parts of Tustin, and apart from more affluent coastal communities like Newport Beach and Laguna Beach.
  - Irvine is one of the fastest growing cities in the state. Between 2010 and 2020, Irvine added over 95,000 new residents; among cities statewide with at least 100,000 people, none grew faster over the past decade. This dramatic increase has been fueled by ongoing growth in immigrant communities. With growing numbers of AAPI and AMEMSA residents, the city is also home to an emerging low-income population with needs similar to those of Latino communities in Costa Mesa. Recognizing common needs related to affordable housing, language access, and other concerns, public programs providing rental assistance and workforce development target communities in both Irvine and Costa Mesa. These needs are much different than those of affluent coastal communities like Newport Beach and Laguna Beach. (Supporting testimony: Mary Anne Foo)

## **San Diego**

- In AD 79, keep the broader City Heights refugee community whole.
  - The City Heights neighborhood has spilled beyond its historic boundaries, extending east all the way to La Mesa and overlapping with the Oak Park neighborhood. This neighborhood has long been home to refugee communities arriving into the San Diego area, with the Burmese community being one of the newest. The shared challenges and priorities of this community include high levels of limited English proficiency, extremely low income, and the need to access culturally competent, in-language supportive services. (Supporting testimony: Kristina Mananquil, Nao Kabashima)

- In AD 79, keep the northeastern section of National City with the Paradise Hills neighborhood in southeastern San Diego.
  - The AAPI community in the northeastern corner of National City, bounded by D Avenue and 16th Street, is strongly connected to the community in the Paradise Hills neighborhood. In addition to having similar income levels in both areas, they share common businesses, community centers, and schools. (Supporting testimony: Kristina Mananquil, Mark Leo, June Lim)
- In AD 77, respect the integrity of the Convoy District within the larger Kearny Mesa neighborhood and keep it in a district with Clairemont, Linda Vista, and Mira Mesa.
  - The Convoy district is a crucial business and cultural center for the AAPI community in San Diego, and is home to many small businesses and community centers. (Supporting testimony: Kristina Mananquil, Lauren Garces)

**VIEW OF STATEWIDE MAP BY REGIONS**



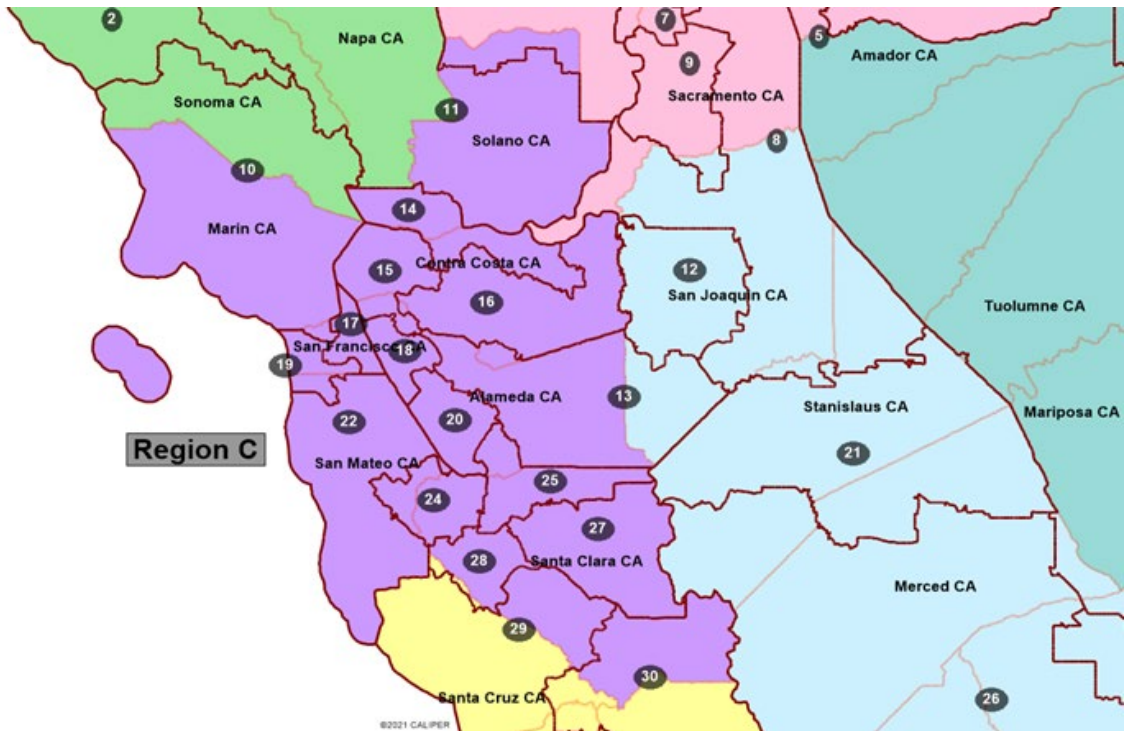
View of Assembly Districts in Region A



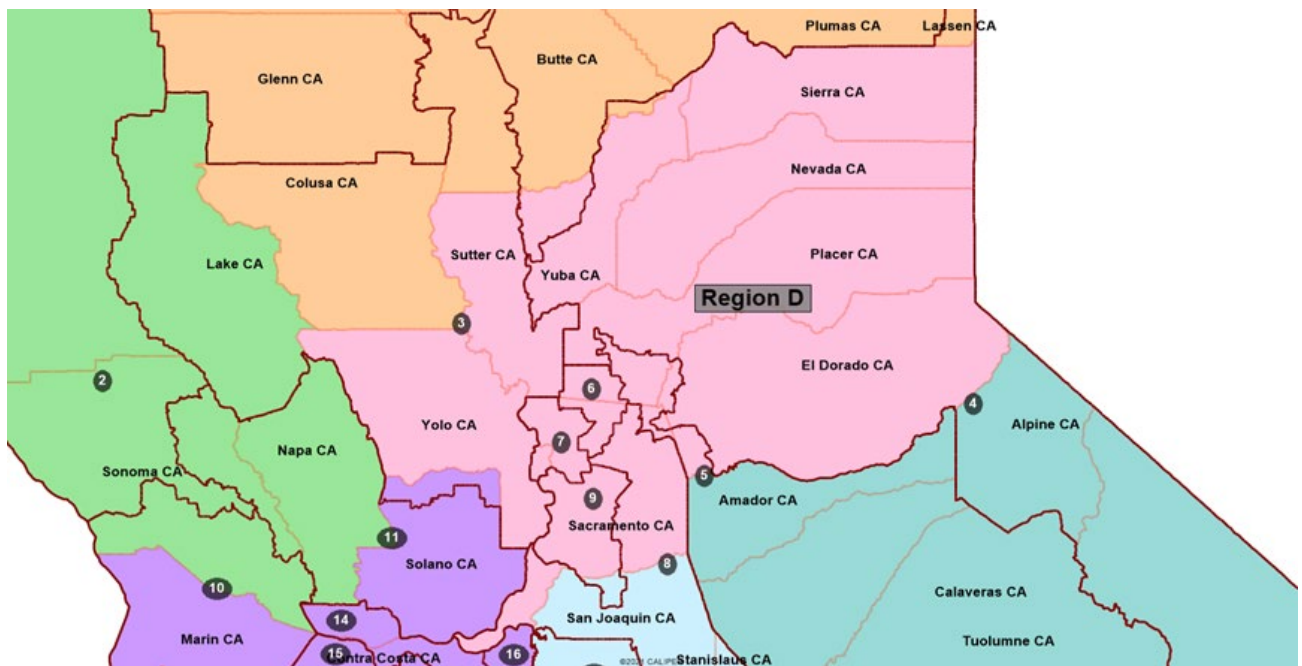
View of Assembly Districts in Region B



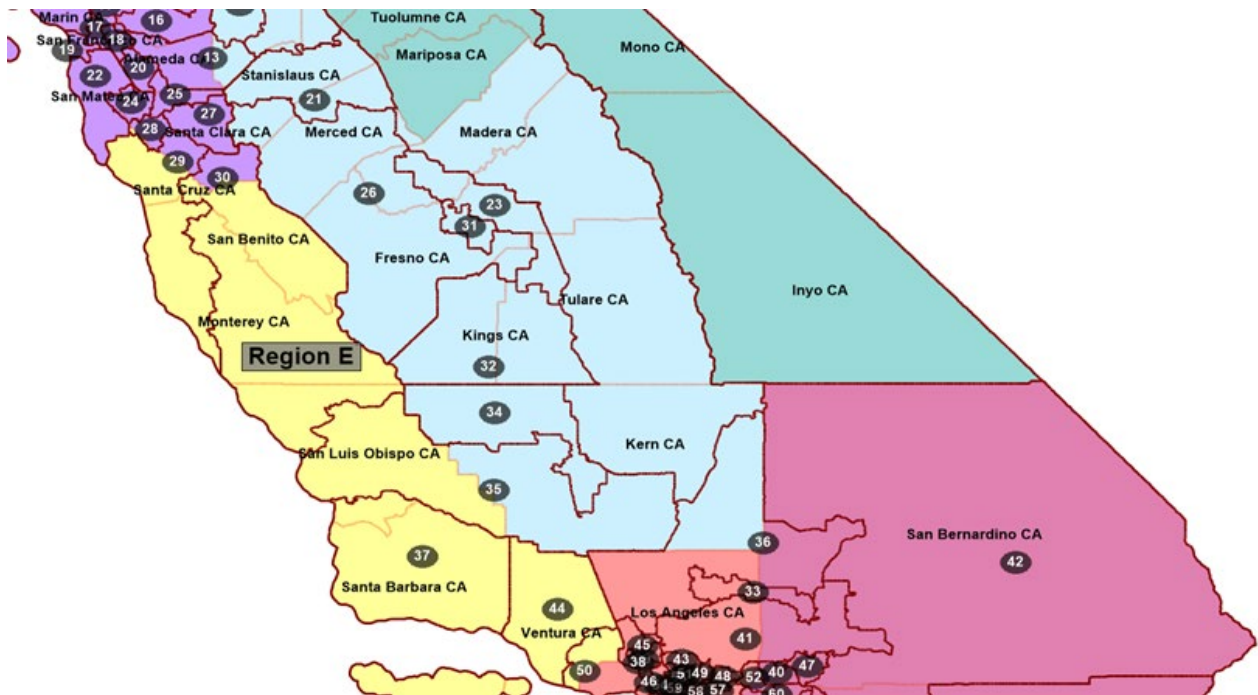
View of Assembly Districts in Region C



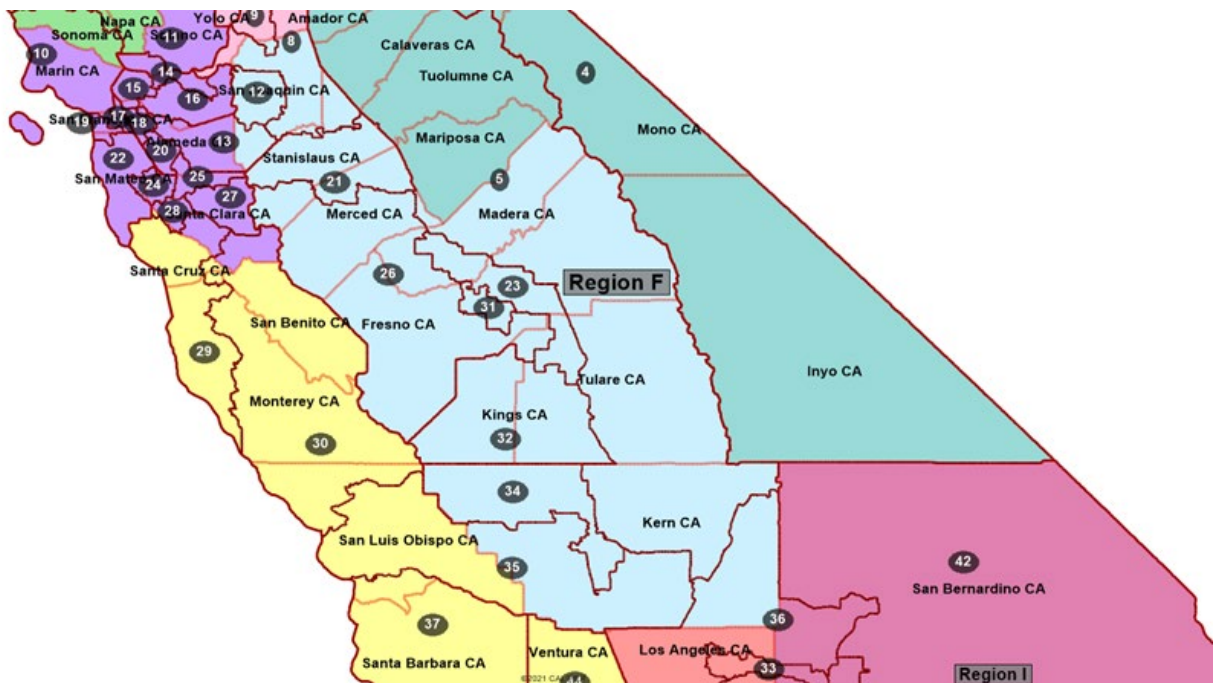
View of Assembly Districts in Region D



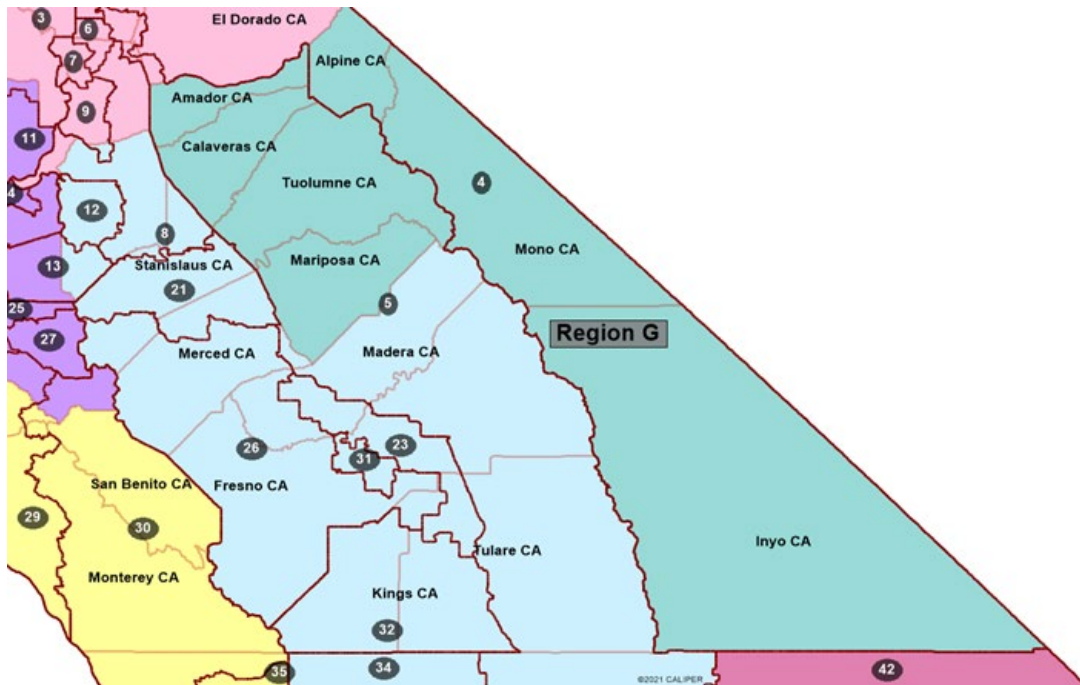
View of Assembly Districts in Region E



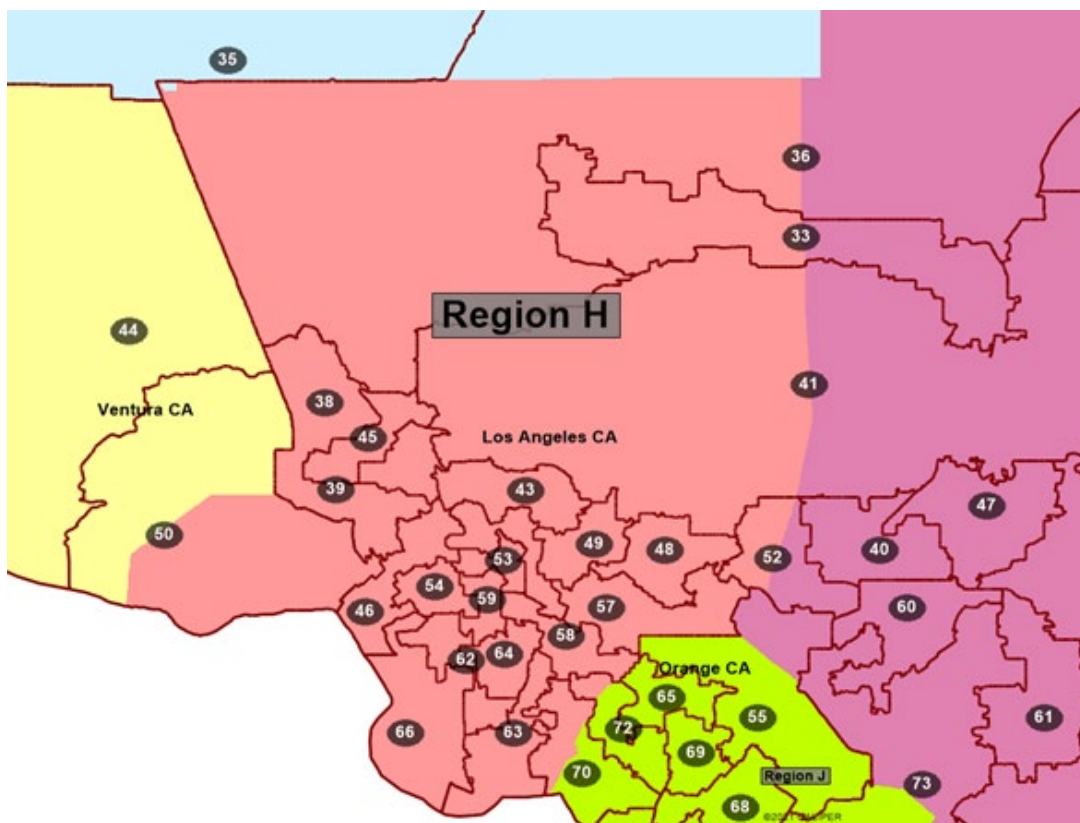
View of Assembly Districts in Region F



View of Assembly Districts in Region G

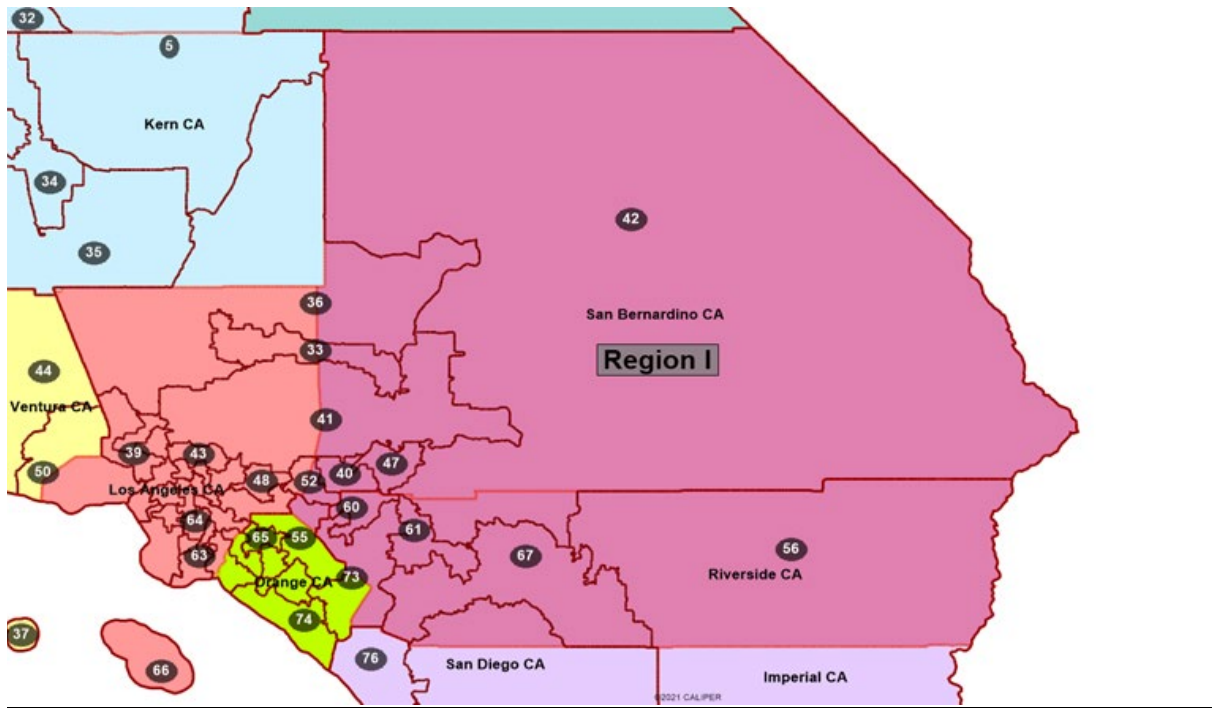


View of Assembly Districts in Region H

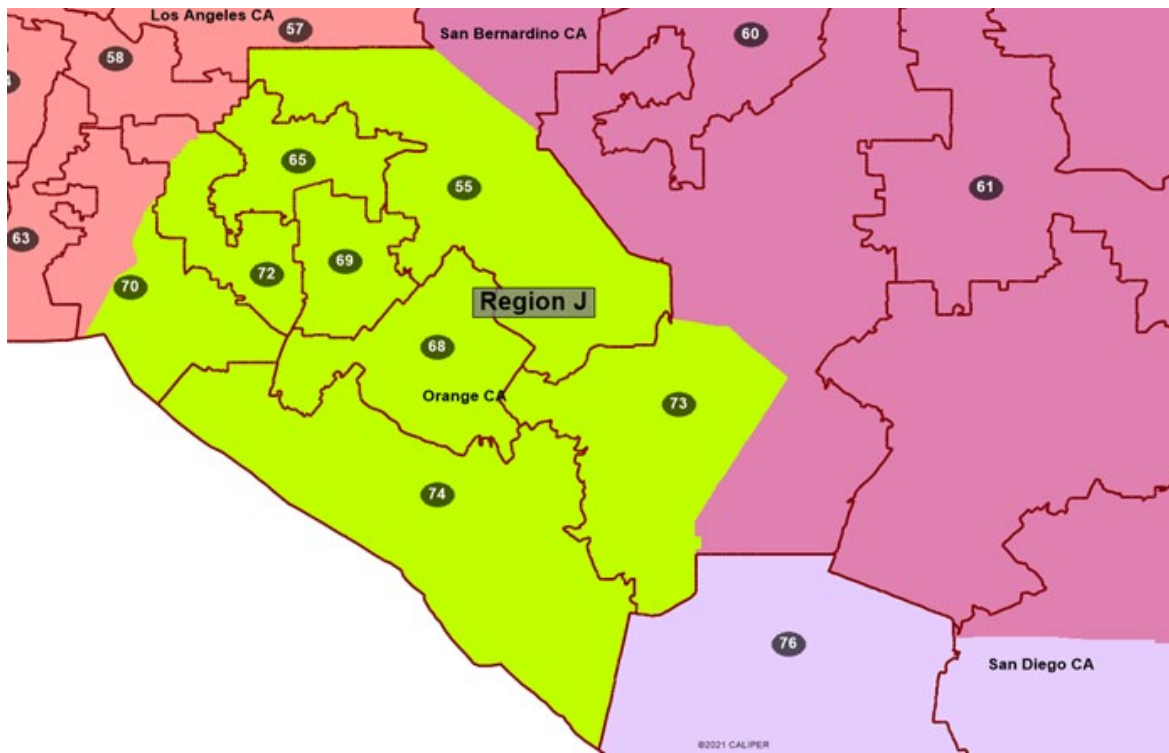




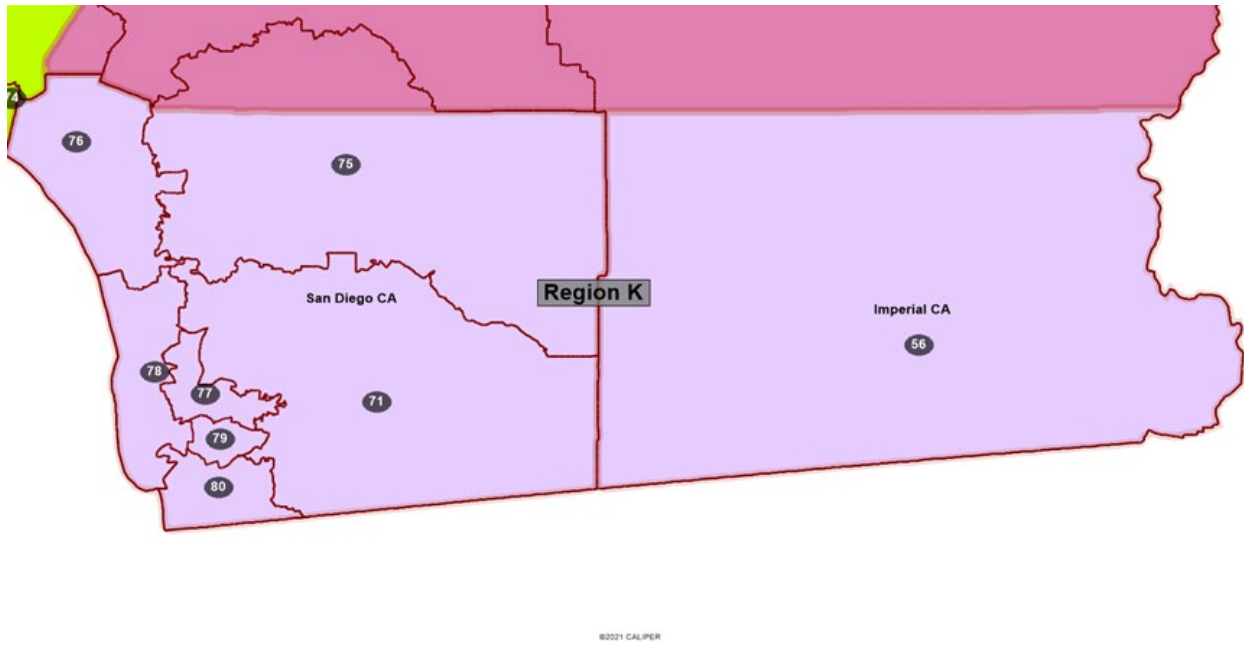
View of Assembly Districts in Region I



View of Assembly Districts in Region J



View of Assembly Districts in Region K



**AASRC Assembly Plan – Population Equality**

All districts, including Section 2 Voting Rights Act districts, are within 1.52% of the ideal population size for Assembly districts. Assembly District 32 is the least populated district, 1.51% less than ideal population (486,605 total population) and Assembly District 66 is the largest district, 1.52% from ideal population (501,569 total population).

**AASRC Assembly Plan – Compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act**

This plan contains 26 potential Voting Rights Act Districts: 23 districts are drawn to protect Latino voters and 3 districts are drawn to protect Asian American voters. Below is a chart listing the districts by covered group.

VRA District and Covered Group

VRA District	Covered Group
19	Asian American
25	Asian American
26	Latino
30	Latino
31	Latino
33	Latino
34	Latino

39	Latino
40	Latino
45	Latino
47	Latino
48	Latino
49	Asian American
51	Latino
52	Latino
53	Latino
56	Latino
57	Latino
58	Latino
59	Latino
60	Latino
61	Latino
63	Latino
64	Latino
69	Latino
80	Latino

Individual district summaries include information on the racial composition of districts drawn from Census 2020 and citizen voting-age population information drawn from the University of California, Berkeley's Statewide Database. All race groups are not included in the table, therefore totals for race groups will not sum to 100%.

**AASRC Assembly Plan – Contiguity**

All districts in plan are contiguous under the Commission's definition of contiguity except for Assembly Districts 19, 37, and 66, each of which contain islands to which there is no means of transportation by land. Other than the non-contiguous islands, the districts are contiguous.

### **AASRC Assembly Plan – Cities, Counties, Communities of Interest and Neighborhoods**

Cities are defined to include both incorporated cities and unincorporated areas (census designated places). This proposal splits 161 out of 1587 census places, only 10% of all census places in the state. Of those that were split, most census places were split in 2, however 37 cities were split multiple times, due to the size of many cities and, in many cases, Voting Rights Act district compliance. Census places include cities and census designated places. Appendix A identifies each city or census designated place (unincorporated areas) that are whole or split in each proposed district.

This proposal also keeps over 46.5% of counties whole (27 out of 58).

As described in the AASRC Priorities section above, the proposal keeps together numerous communities of interest and neighborhoods. See Appendix B for detailed community of interest testimony from AASRC participants.