Antelope Valley Healthcare District Introduction to Districting

Ken Chawkins
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.

NDC

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 and dilution of the protected class's voting strength

NDC

CVRA Impact

- **Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:**
  - At least 337 school districts
  - 46 Community College Districts
  - 208 cities
  - 1 County Board of Supervisors
  - 76 special districts
- **Cases So Far:**
  - Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica went to trial on the merits. Palmdale and Santa Clara lost. Santa Monica is awaiting a decision. Burbank and Huntington Beach trials are scheduled to start in 2025.
  - Modesto and Palmdale each spent about $1.8 million on their defense (in addition to the attorney fee awards in those cases).
  - Santa Monica has spent an estimated $7 to $10 million so far. Plaintiffs in Santa Monica requested $22 million in legal fees after the original trial.

- **Sample settlements:**
  - Palmdale: $4.7 million
  - Santa Clara: $3.8 million
  - Modesto: $3 million
  - Highland: $1.3 million
  - Anaheim: $1.1 million
  - Whittier: $1 million
  - Santa Barbara: $600,000
  - Tulare Hospital: $500,000
  - Camarillo: $233,000
  - Compton Unified: $200,000
  - Madera Unified: about $170,000
  - Hanford Joint Union Schools: $118,000
  - Merced City: $42,000
- **An estimated $18 million in total settlements and court awards so far.**

NDC

Districting Process

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings Feb. 26 & March 26	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
Release draft maps April 23	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3rd hearing.
Two hearings on draft maps April 30 & May 28	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Map adoption May 28 or June 25	Map adopted via ordinance or resolution. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.

NDC

Districting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering

2. California Criteria

In prioritized order:

1. **Geographically contiguous**

2. **Avoid division of neighborhoods and "communities of interest"**
   (Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)

3. **Avoid division of Cities and Census Designated Places**

4. **Easily identifiable boundaries**

5. **Compact**
   (Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

2. California Prohibition

"Shall not adopt election district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party."

3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles
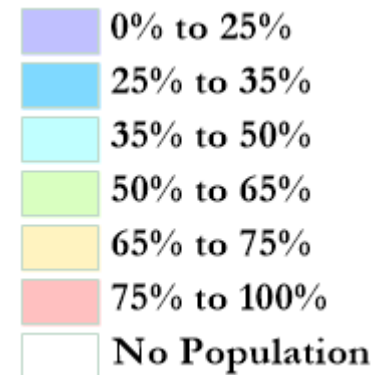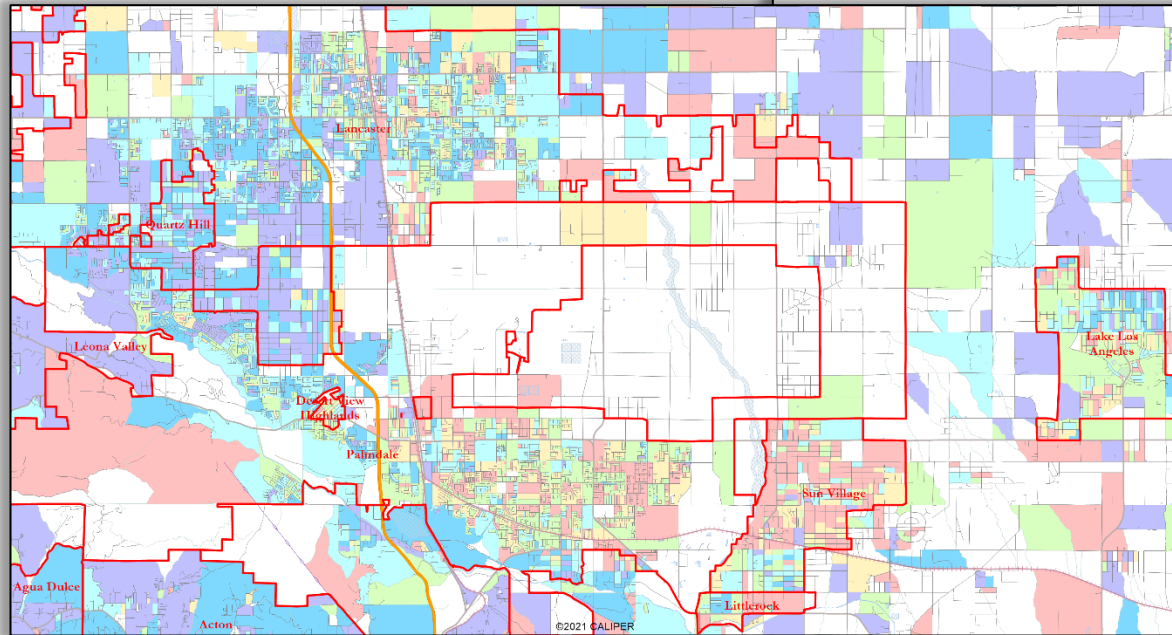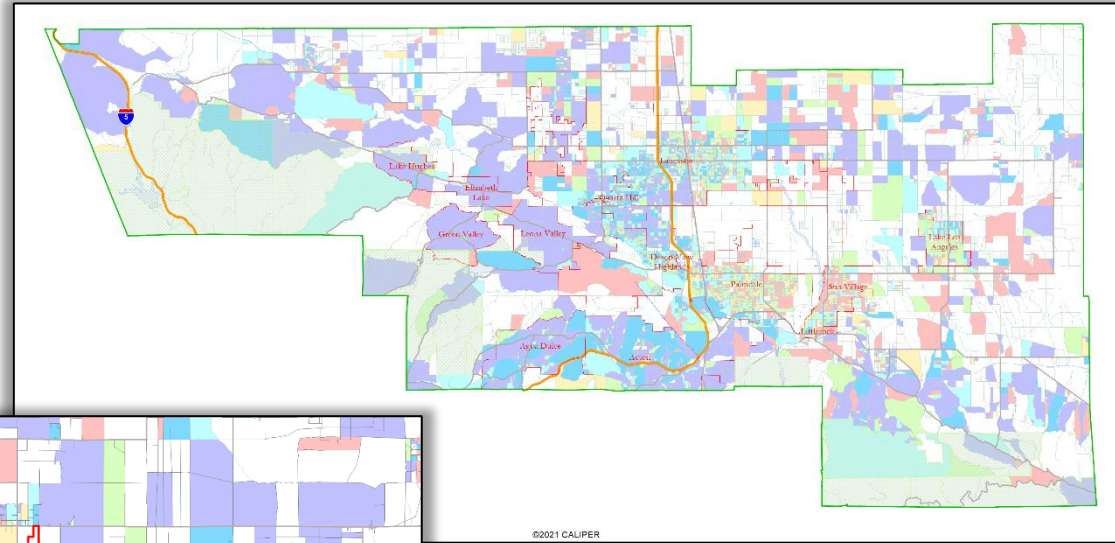
Future population growth

Demographic Summary

Each of the five divisions must contain about 83,953 people.

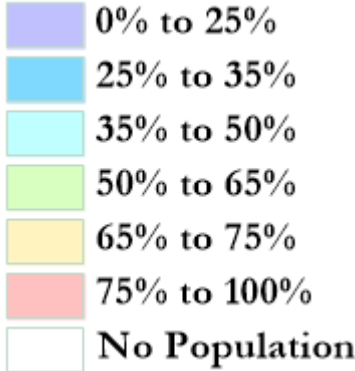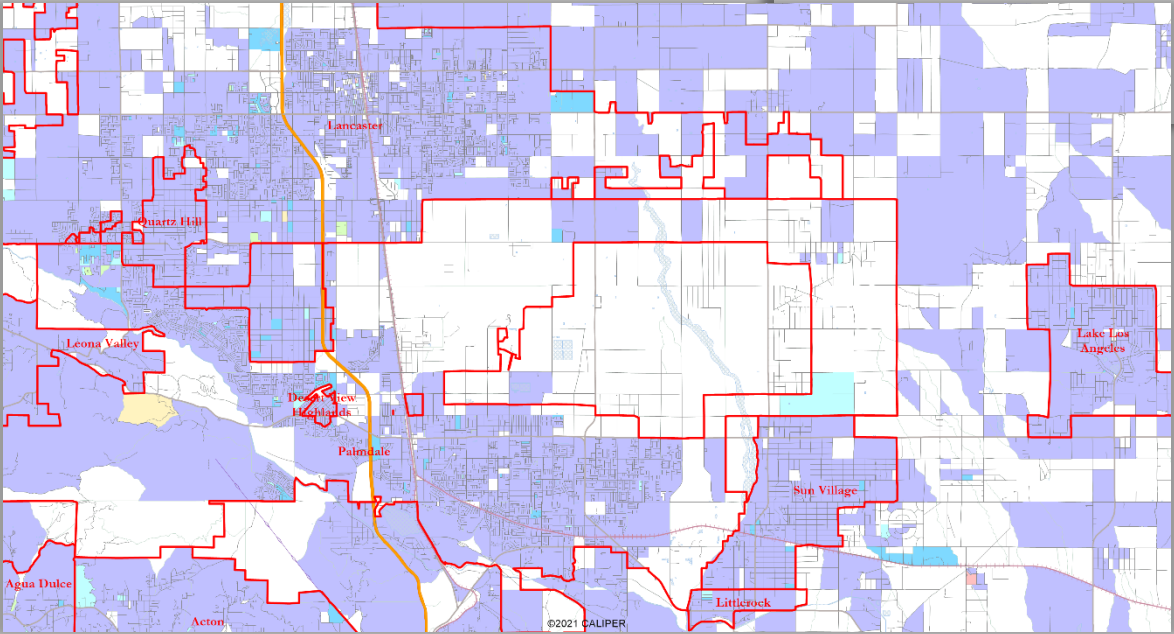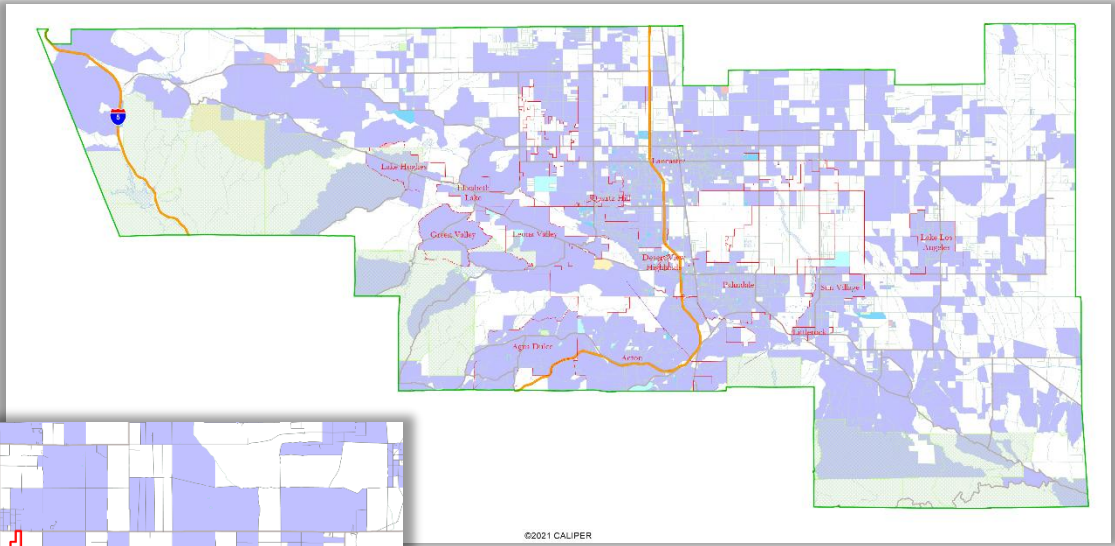| Category	Field	Total	Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	419,763		age0-19	30%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	52%	Age	age20-60	51%
	NH White	25%		age60plus	19%
	NH Black	15%	Immigration	immigrants	19%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	6%		naturalized	56%
	NH Native Amer.	1%	Language spoken at home	english	58%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	261,879		spanish	37%
	Hisp	46%		asian-lang	2%
	NH White	31%		other lang	2%
	NH Black	17%	Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	16%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	5%	Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	62%
	Native Amer.	1%		bachelor	12%
Voter Registration (Nov 2022)	Total	221,363		graduatedegree	6%
	Latino est.	42%	Child in Household	child-under18	40%
	Spanish-Surnamed	38%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	54%
	Asian-Surnamed	2%	Household Income	income 0-25k	15%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%		income 25-50k	17%
	NH White est.	38%		income 50-75k	16%
	NH Black	16%		income 75-200k	43%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2022)	Total	81,713		income 200k-plus	9%
	Latino est.	30%	Housing Stats	single family	84%
	Spanish-Surnamed	27%		multi-family	16%
	Asian-Surnamed	2%		rented	36%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%		owned	64%
	NH White est.	49%			
	NH Black	17%			
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total	157,854	Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2019-2023 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data. Turnout and Registration data from California Statewide Database. "Latino" figures calculated by NDC using Census Bureau's Latino undercount by surname estimate.		
	Latino est.	37%			
	Spanish-Surnamed	34%			
	Asian-Surnamed	2%			
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%			
	NH White est.	44%			
	NH Black est.	16%			

Latino CVAP

Latinos live in all parts of the District but are particularly concentrated east of Highway 14 in Lancaster, Palmdale, and Sun Village/Littlerock.
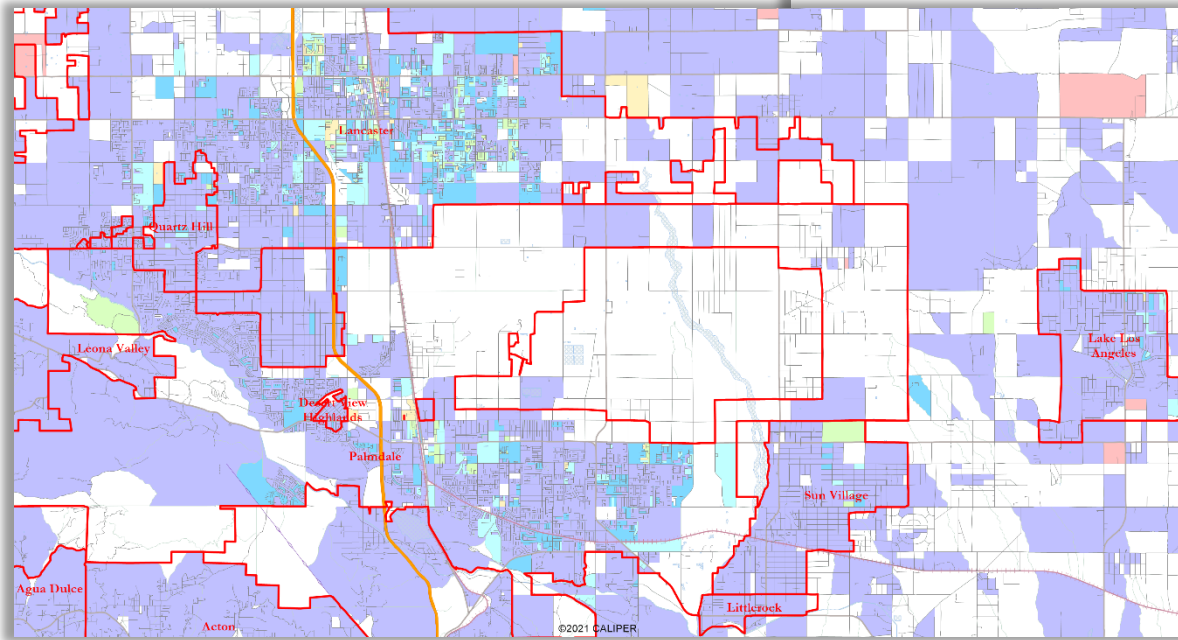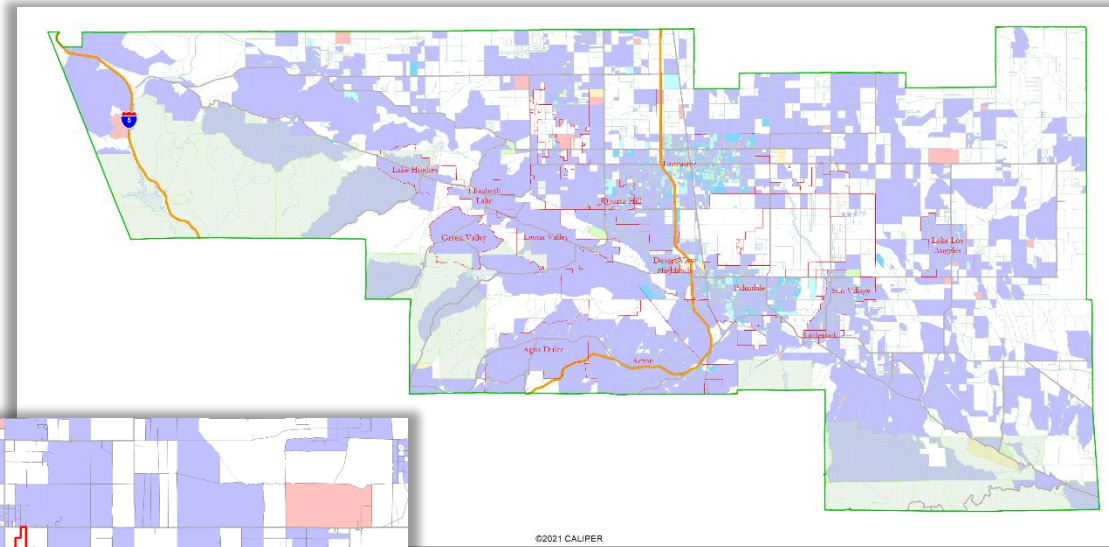

▦	0% to 25%
▦	25% to 35%
▦	35% to 50%
▦	50% to 65%
▦	65% to 75%
▦	75% to 100%
▢	No Population

Asian-American CVAP

Asian-Americans live in all parts of the District and are not geographically concentrated in any one area.

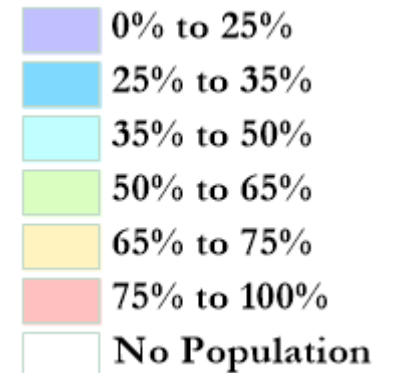|	
![0-25]	0% to 25%
![25-35]	25% to 35%
![35-50]	35% to 50%
![50-65]	50% to 65%
![65-75]	65% to 75%
![75-100]	75% to 100%
	No Population

African-American CVAP

African-Americans live in all parts of the District but are particularly concentrated in Lancaster east of Highway 14.

0% to 25%	
25% to 35%	
35% to 50%	
50% to 65%	
65% to 75%	
75% to 100%	
No Population	

Defining Neighborhoods

1ˢᵗ Question: How do you describe or name the area where you live?

2ⁿᵈ Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

What other neighborhoods are there?

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

Defining Communities of Interest

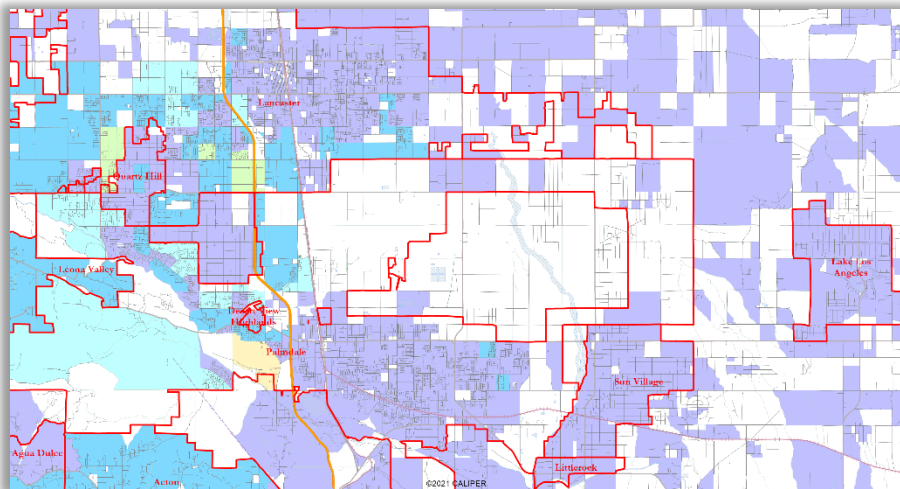California Elections Code Section 21130(c)(2):

> **A "community of interest" is a population that shares common social or economic interests <u>that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation</u>.**

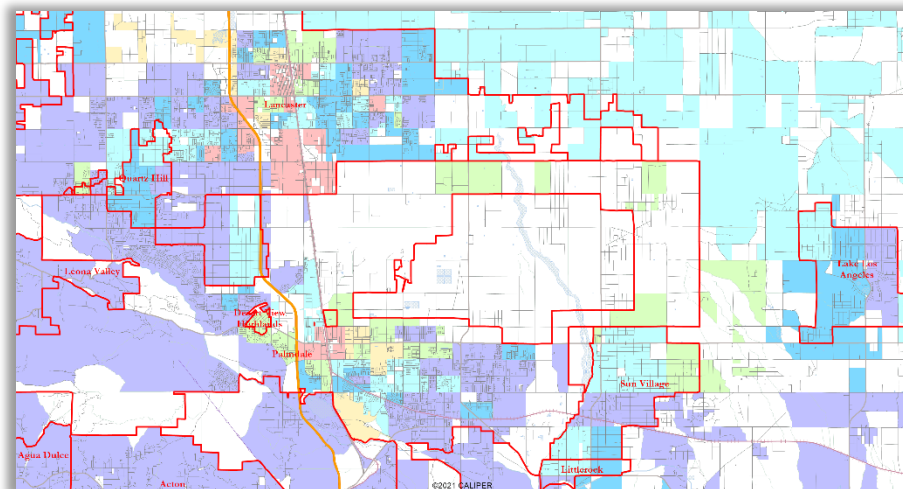The shared interests may include (but are not limited to):

- ▫ Shared public policy concerns such as education, public safety, public health, environment, housing, transportation, and access to social services. cultural districts;

- ▫ Shared socioeconomic characteristics;

- ▫ Similar voter registration rates and participation rates; and /or

- ▫ Shared histories.

Definitions of Communities of Interest may <u>not</u> include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
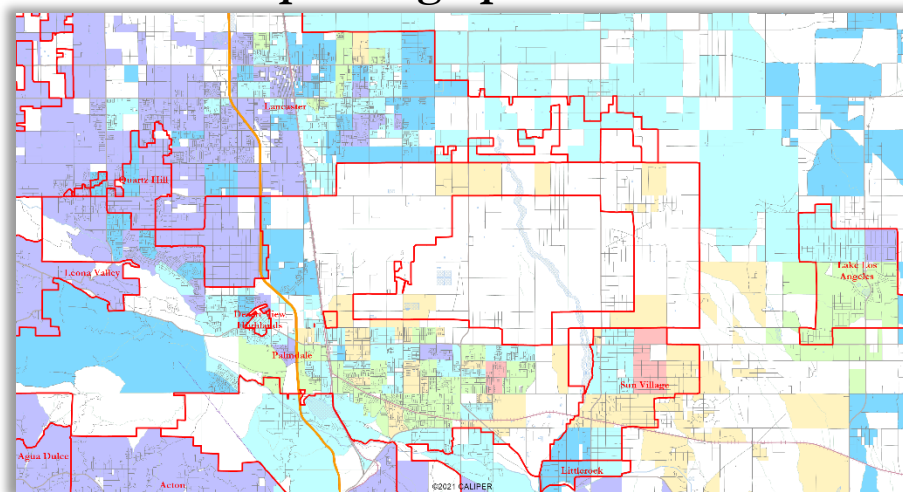
Other Socio-Economic Demographics

% with college degree

% renters

% speaking Spanish at home

A wide variety of other socio-economic data are available that may be useful to identifying neighborhoods or geographic communities of interest, in addition to identifiers such as cities and school districts.

Your Turn:

1. **What area do you consider your neighborhood?**

2. **What are your "communities of interest"?**

For each answer, please provide:

☐ **Geographic boundaries**

☐ **The history or defining shared characteristic of the area**

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

1. **Any other questions about the process, criteria, maps, or any other part of this process?**

Share Your Thoughts

Website

https://www.avmc.org/about-us/board-of-directors/

Phone

(661) 949-5508

Email

District.Board@avmc.org