



August 5, 2021

TO: LOCSD Board of Directors

FROM: Ron Munds, General Manager
Laura Durban, Administrative Services Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7A- 08/05/2021 Board Meeting
Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community Regarding the
Creation of District Based Election System

President

Christine M. Womack

Vice President

Matthew D. Fourcroy

Directors

Charles L. Cesena
Troy C. Gatchell
Marshall E. Ochylski

General Manager

Ron Munds

District Accountant

Robert Stilts, CPA

Unit Chief

Eddy Moore

Battalion Chief

Paul Provence

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 6064
Los Osos, CA 93412

Offices:

2122 9th Street, Suite 110
Los Osos, CA 93402

Phone: 805/528-9370

FAX: 805/528-9377

www.losososcsl.org

DESCRIPTION

The Board adopted a resolution at the January 7, 2021 Board meeting declaring its intent to transition to by-area elections by November 2022. The District currently elects its Board through an at-large electoral system. The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) allows for legal challenges alleging that an at-large system has resulted in racially polarized voting within a jurisdiction and seeking a court order that a jurisdiction convert to a by-area election system. At the June 3, 2021 Board meeting, the Board approved the proposal from Cooperative Strategies to provide an analysis of the 2020 census data and mapping services in order for the District to be in full compliance with the CVRA. Two (2) "pre-map" Public Hearings are scheduled to discuss how the process works to draw the by-area map, gain input from the community on their expectations and details for the follow up meetings which are required by law. This is the first Public Hearing.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Board take the following actions:

1. Receive a report on the area creation process and permissible criteria to be considered to create voting area boundaries; and
2. Conduct a public hearing to receive public input on voting area boundaries; and
3. Approve the timeline for transition.

DISCUSSION

On January 7, 2021, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2021-01 declaring its intention to transition from at-large to division-based elections for the Board of Directors commencing with the General Election in November 2022. Elections Code Section 10010 provides that before any map or maps of the boundaries for the proposed areas are drawn, the District must conduct two (2) Public Hearings over a period of no more than thirty (30) days, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of said area boundaries.

This is the first Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was noticed in the Tribune, posted at the District Office, on the District Website, on the Districts Facebook page, and included in the Districts July ENews email update.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to inform the public about the area creation process and to hear from the community on what factors should be taken into consideration while creating area boundaries.

The public is requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting the maps. A *community of interest* is a neighborhood or group that would benefit from being in the same area because of shared interests, views, or characteristics. Considerations in establishing the voting areas are but not limited to:

- Each area shall contain nearly equal number of inhabitants
- Drawn to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act
- Compact and contiguous, as much as possible
- Respect communities of interest, as much as possible
- Follow man-made and natural geographic features, as much as possible
- Respect incumbency, if possible
- Any other local considerations

Next Steps

At the September 2, 2021 Board Meeting, the Board will conduct Public Hearing #2 to seek public input and provide direction on criteria to be considered while drafting area maps. Following that hearing, draft maps will be created once 2020 census data is available in late 2021, and in addition to the draft area maps, proposed election sequencing will be posted to the District Website and available at the District Office before March 2022.

The District is scheduled to conduct Public Hearing #3 to seek public input on the draft voting area scenarios on October 7, 2021.

The District is scheduled to conduct Public Hearing #4 to continue the public discussion of the draft voting area scenarios on November 4, 2021.

The District is scheduled to conduct the fifth and final Public Hearing to consider the change to the by-area election method and to select and adopt a preferred voting area map.

District staff and the demographer will then work with the County Elections Office to have the division maps integrated into the countywide voting system. The first by-division election will be held in November 2022.

Below is the project schedule:

DATE	ACTIVITY
August 5, 2021	Board Meeting: First Pre-Map Public Hearing and Presentation
September 2, 2021	Board Meeting: Second Pre-Map Public Hearing
October 7, 2021	Board Meeting: First Public Hearing on Voting Area Scenarios
November 4, 2021	Board Meeting: Second Public Hearing on Voting Area Scenarios
December 2, 2021	Board Meeting: Final Public Hearing on Voting Area Scenarios Board Selection of Voting Area Map Board Consideration of Change in Election Method
December 2021 – January 2022	Cooperative Strategies sends Final Voting Area Map to the County Registrar of Voters
November 8, 2022	First Election Held Utilizing Voting Areas

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact beyond the executed contract with Cooperative Strategies and the noticing cost for the Public Hearing associated with recommended action in this report.

Attachment

Cooperative Strategies Presentation



▶ **VOTING AREA
PROCESS**

LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES
DISTRICT

AUGUST 5, 2021



**COOPERATIVE
STRATEGIES**
ASSESS • PLAN • FUND • BUILD

▶ BACKGROUND

WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT ("CVRA")?

- Took effect January 1, 2003.
- Prohibits the use of "at-large" elections when such an election system:
 - *"impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election..."*
 - -(Elections Code §14027.)
- The Board has taken action to adopt a resolution initiating the transition from at-large to by-area elections.

▶ VOTING AREA PROCESS

DATE	ACTIVITY
August 5, 2021	Board Meeting: First Pre-Map Public Hearing and Presentation
September 2, 2021	Board Meeting: Second Pre-Map Public Hearing
October 7, 2021	Board Meeting: First Public Hearing on Voting Area Scenarios
November 4, 2021	Board Meeting: Second Public Hearing on Voting Area Scenarios
December 2, 2021	Board Meeting: Final Public Hearing on Voting Area Scenarios Board Selection of Voting Area Map Board Consideration of Change in Election Method
December 2021 – January 2022	Cooperative Strategies sends Final Voting Area Map to the County Registrar of Voters
November 8, 2022	First Election Held Utilizing Voting Areas

▶ CONSIDERATIONS IN VOTING AREAS



Each area shall contain nearly equal number of inhabitants



Follow man-made and natural geographic features, as much as possible



Drawn to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act



Respect incumbency, if possible



Compact and contiguous, as much as possible



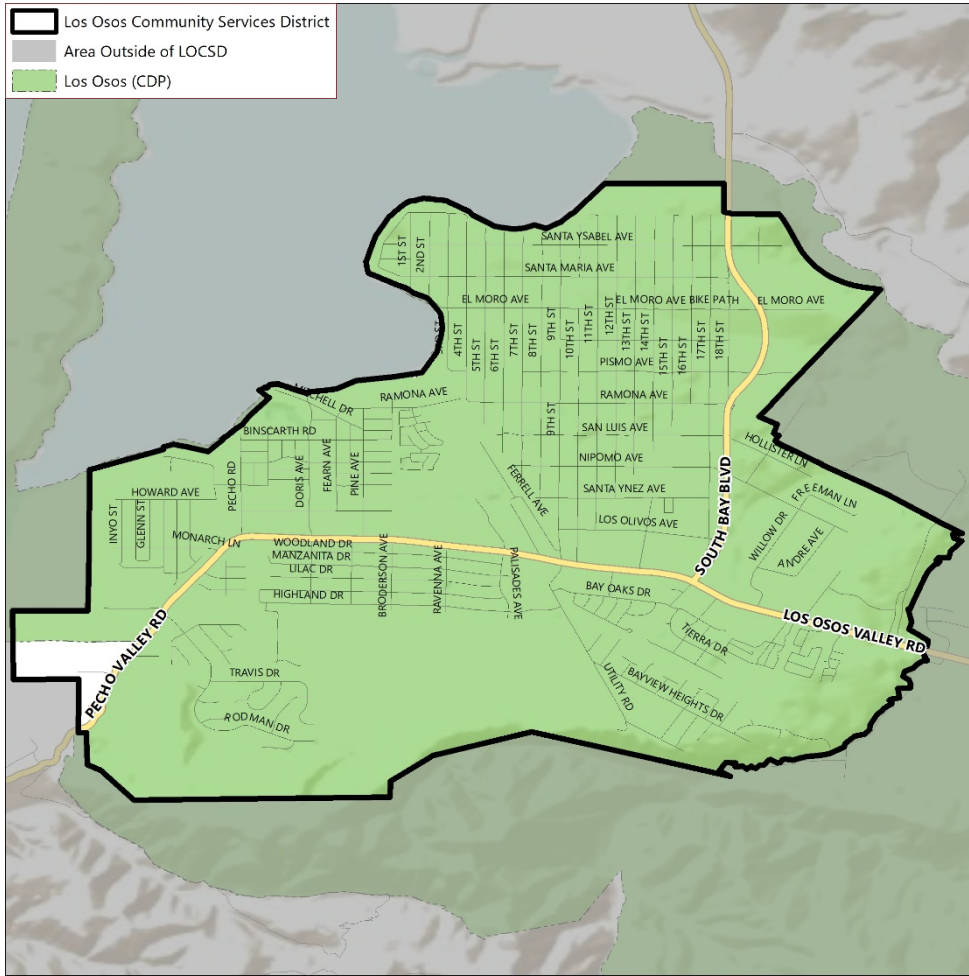
Other local considerations



Respect communities of interest, as much as possible

▶ DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

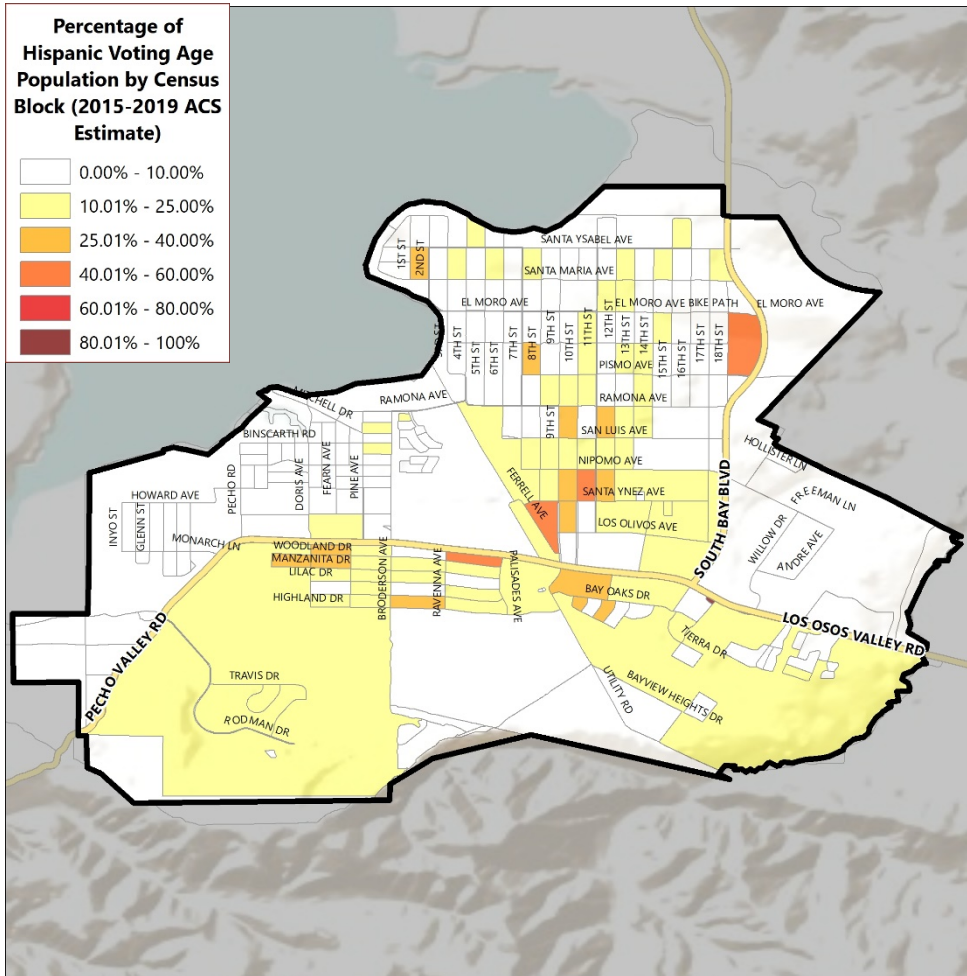
2010 CENSUS DATA



Population	Total Population		Age 18 and over	
	Total	%	Total	%
Hispanic/Latino	1,908	13.74%	1,285	11.27%
White	10,810	77.84%	9,224	80.88%
Black / African American	64	0.46%	51	0.45%
American Indian / Alaska Native	50	0.36%	40	0.35%
Asian	696	5.01%	560	4.91%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	16	0.12%	11	0.10%
Other	322	2.32%	219	1.92%
Two or More Races	22	0.16%	15	0.13%
Total	13,888	100.00%	11,405	100.00%

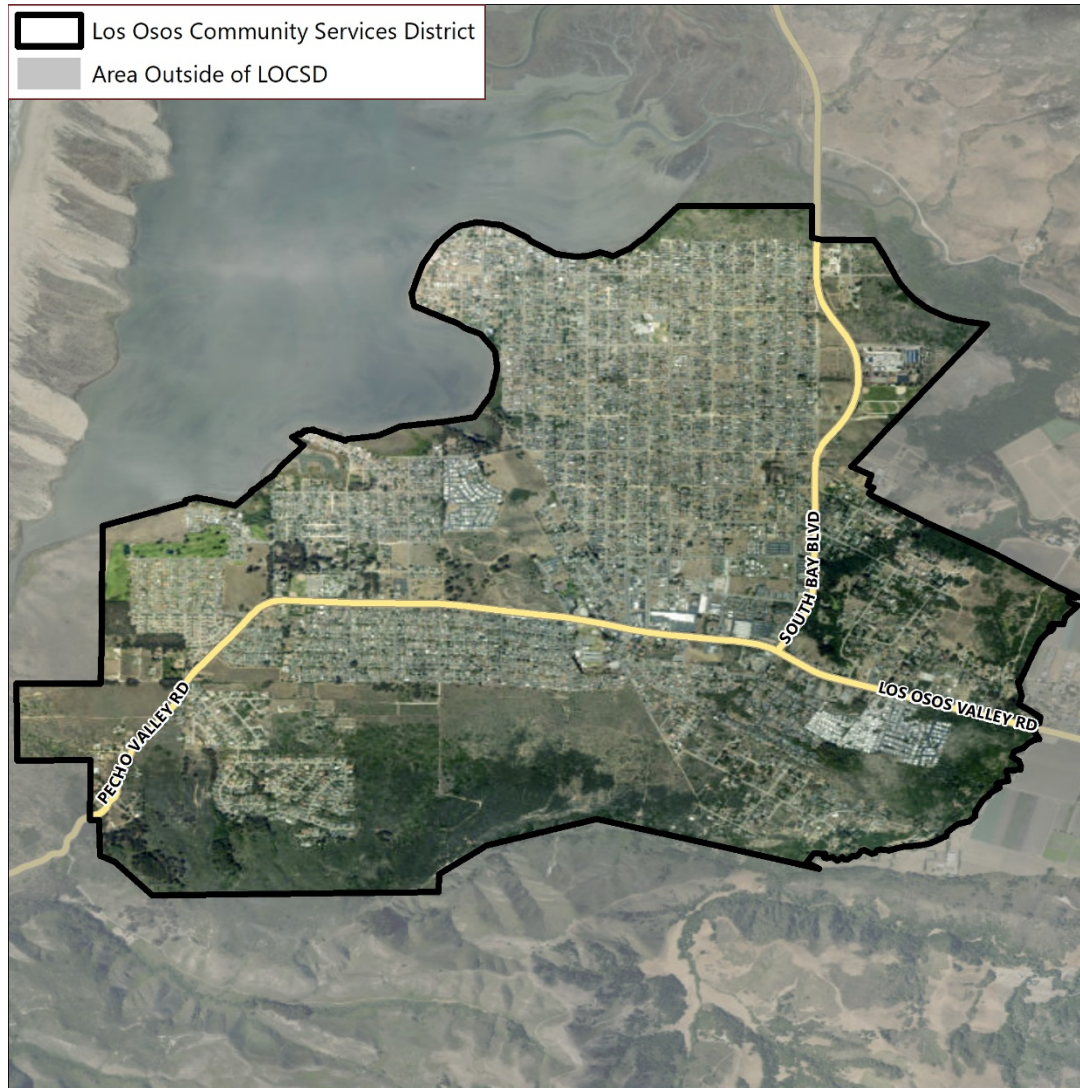
► DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

HISPANIC CITIZEN VOTING AGE POPULATION ESTIMATES



Population	2015-2019 CVAP	
	Total	%
Hispanic/Latino	1,298	10.62%
White	10,010	81.91%
Black / African American	30	0.25%
American Indian / Alaska Native	115	0.94%
Asian	497	4.07%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	10	0.08%
Two or More Races	260	2.13%
Total	12,220	100.00%

▶ HOW SHOULD LINES BE DRAWN?



▶ PRE-MAP PUBLIC HEARING
EXAMPLES OF FEEDBACK FOR MAPPING PROCESS

“I would like to keep Neighborhood X and Neighborhood Y in the same voting area...”

▶ PRE-MAP PUBLIC HEARING
EXAMPLES OF FEEDBACK FOR MAPPING PROCESS

I think:

- ***South Bay Boulevard***
- ***Pecho Valley Road***
- ***Los Osos Valley Road***

... may make sense as a voting area boundary because ...

- **It keeps communities together**
- **It provides good representation**



QUESTIONS