

**CITY OF SIMI VALLEY
MEMORANDUM**

December 20, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: Office of the City Clerk / Office of the City Attorney

SUBJECT: SECOND PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS, TO REVIEW SUBMITTED MAP AND RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC FOR THE REDRAWING OF ELECTION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND THE SELECTION OF A FINAL MAP

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council take the following actions:

1. Hold a public hearing to review submitted map and receive public input for the purpose of redrawing election district boundaries and the selection of a final map;
2. Receive a presentation from the City's demographic consulting firm, National Demographics Corporation (NDC); and
3. Close the public hearing and set the next public hearing for January 10, 2022.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

Every ten years, cities with by-district elections must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. The redistricting process for Simi Valley must be completed by April 17, 2022. As provided by law, there are multiple opportunities for the public to provide input into the redistricting process.

On September 27, 2021, the City Council conducted its first public hearing in a series of four, as required in the redistricting process set forth in the FAIR MAPS Act (Elections Code Sections 21607.1). At this hearing, the public was provided information on the criteria to be considered in the drawing of district maps, an overview of the process with a focus on receiving public comment and input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps. Following the first public hearing, the public was given an opportunity to submit their proposed draft maps for consideration by the City Council with a deadline of October 25, 2021. However, due to technical difficulties with the mapping tool program, the deadline was extended to December 6, 2021.

On Saturday, October 9, 2021, a Community Redistricting Workshop was held via Zoom to provide the public with another opportunity to participate, provide input, and learn how to use the mapping tools. This Workshop counts as one of the four required public hearings under the FAIR MAPS Act (Elections Code 21607.1(e)). At the Workshop following a presentation from staff and the City's demographer consultant, NDC, various participants provided feedback regarding current district boundaries and considerations that should be taken into account by the City. A video recording of the Workshop is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JChAU2U3U7Q>.

The second public hearing was previously scheduled for the City Council on November 8, 2021. Due to postponement of the deadline for community map submission, the hearing was continued to the December 20, 2021 City Council Meeting. The purpose of this public hearing is to review all of the feedback obtained during the process, including any draft maps received from the public, while prioritizing the criteria in the FAIR MAPS Act as set forth below, and possibly selecting a final map.

FINDINGS AND ALTERNATIVES

Since the City Council's transition to by-district elections in 2018, the State has enacted new laws governing the redistricting process, including the FAIR MAPS Act, which was adopted by the California legislature and took effect January 1, 2020. The FAIR MAPS Act contains specified criteria that must be considered in redrawing district boundaries.

Criteria to be Considered in the Drawing of District Maps

In accordance with the FAIR MAPS Act, the City Council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the listed order of priority (Elections Code 21601(b),(c):

1. Comply with the federal requirements of equal population and the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA)
2. Geographically contiguous
3. Undivided neighborhoods and "communities of interest" (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
4. Easily identifiable boundaries
5. Compact (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)
6. Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party

Once the prioritized criteria are met, other traditional districting principles can be considered, such as:

1. Minimize the number of voters delayed from voting in 2022 to 2024
2. Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
3. Future population growth

City of Simi Valley's Current Snapshot

On September 27, 2021, the State of California posted its adjusted 2020 U.S. Census data. For California cities, these figures are the final numbers that must be used to determine if district boundaries need to be adjusted. The official adjusted 2020 population for the City of Simi Valley is 126,360. NDC processed this population number for the current City's 4 election districts. NDC found that the City's current districts have a total population deviation – the difference between the most populous and least populous districts – of 3.76%. This value is well below the 10% threshold where a map is considered "presumptively constitutional," and thus the districts do not need to be redrawn to comply with the federal equal population requirement (*Harris v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, (2016) 136 S.Ct.1301).

While the current Simi Valley map (Attachment A) is considered balanced from an equal population standpoint, the City Council must review the FAIR MAPS criteria. The City's consultant, NDC will be available for any questions from the City Council regarding the criteria at this public hearing. If the City Council finds that the districts, as reflected in the current map, meet the requirements of the Act, then the election district lines may be adopted as the final map at the conclusion of the required public hearings and outreach.

Public testimony received throughout the redistricting process and the first public hearing and Workshop include a clear interest in not changing the current boundaries. One map was received (Attachment B) for the City Council's consideration which will be presented by NDC in light of the FAIR MAPS Act requirements.

City of Simi Valley's Next Steps

The following is a schedule of the remaining redistricting process:

January 10, 2022	3 rd Public Hearing: Introduction and 1st reading of ordinance for final map
January 24, 2022	4 th Public Hearing: Second reading of ordinance and adoption of final map

The following alternatives are available to the City Council:

1. Hold a public hearing to review submitted map, receive input from the public for the purpose of redrawing election district boundaries and the selection of a final map;
2. Receive a presentation from the City's demographic consulting firm, National Demographics Corporation; and
3. Close the public hearing and set the next public hearing for January 10, 2022.
4. Provide staff with further direction.
5. Take no action.
6. Staff recommends Alternative Nos. 1 through 3.

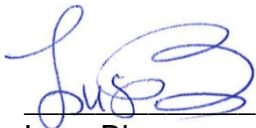
SUGGESTED CITY COUNCIL MOTION

I move to accept the public testimony received this evening; proceed with finalizing the current map without changes; and set the next public hearing for January 10, 2022 for introduction and first reading of the ordinance; or

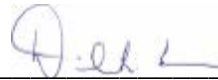
I move to _____.

SUMMARY

Since the City Council's transition to by-district elections in 2018, the State has enacted new laws governing the redistricting process, including the FAIR MAPS Act, which was adopted by the California legislature and took effect January 1, 2020. The FAIR MAPS Act contains specified criteria that must be considered in redrawing district boundaries, new requirements for public hearings, and new outreach requirements. This hearing is focused on receiving public comment including any proposed submitted maps. The City's demographer, NDC, will present the current map and any other submitted maps for the City Council's consideration. The redistricting process for Simi Valley must be completed by April 17, 2022.



Lucy Blanco
City Clerk



David L. Caceres
Interim City Attorney

Prepared by: Lucy Blanco, City Clerk / Sonia Hehir, Assistant City Attorney

INDEX

Page

Public Hearing Procedure.....	5
Attachment A – Current District Map (Map 404b).....	6
Attachment B – Resident Map Submittal.....	7

PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURE

HEARING DATE: December 20, 2021

1. MAYOR: This is the time and place set for a public hearing to consider the second public hearing on the redistricting process and to receive input from the public for the redrawing of election district boundaries.

2. MAYOR: May we have an oral report on this matter?

3. STAFF: (Report)

4. ANY COUNCIL MEMBER: (Questions of staff and staff response)

5. MAYOR: Is there anyone in the City Council Chamber wishing to be heard on this matter? Did we receive any requests for members of the public to make a public statement on zoom for this item and if so, please use the hand raise function on your computer or *9 on your phone, staff will un-mute you when it is your turn.

6. AUDIENCE: (Comments)

7. MAYOR: The hearing is closed. Are there any comments or questions from members of the City Council?

8. ANY COUNCIL MEMBER: (Comments)

9. MAYOR: The Chair will now entertain a motion.

10. ANY COUNCIL MEMBER: City Council Actions (by motion of any Council Member):

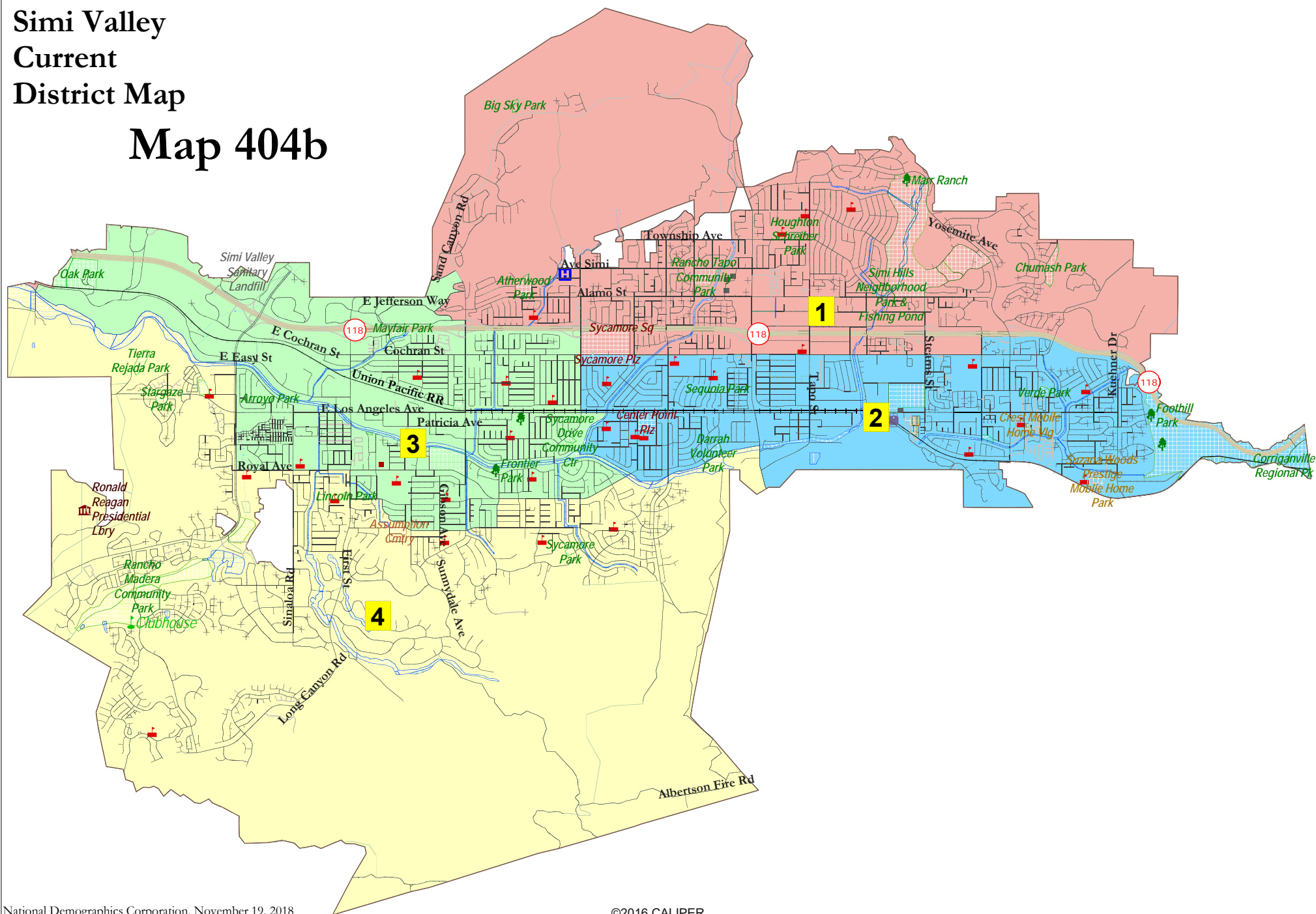
* Any action to refer the matter back to staff or to continue the matter requires a second and a vote.

11. ANY COUNCIL MEMBER: Second

12. MAYOR: (Call for vote)

13. MAYOR: Proceed to the next item.

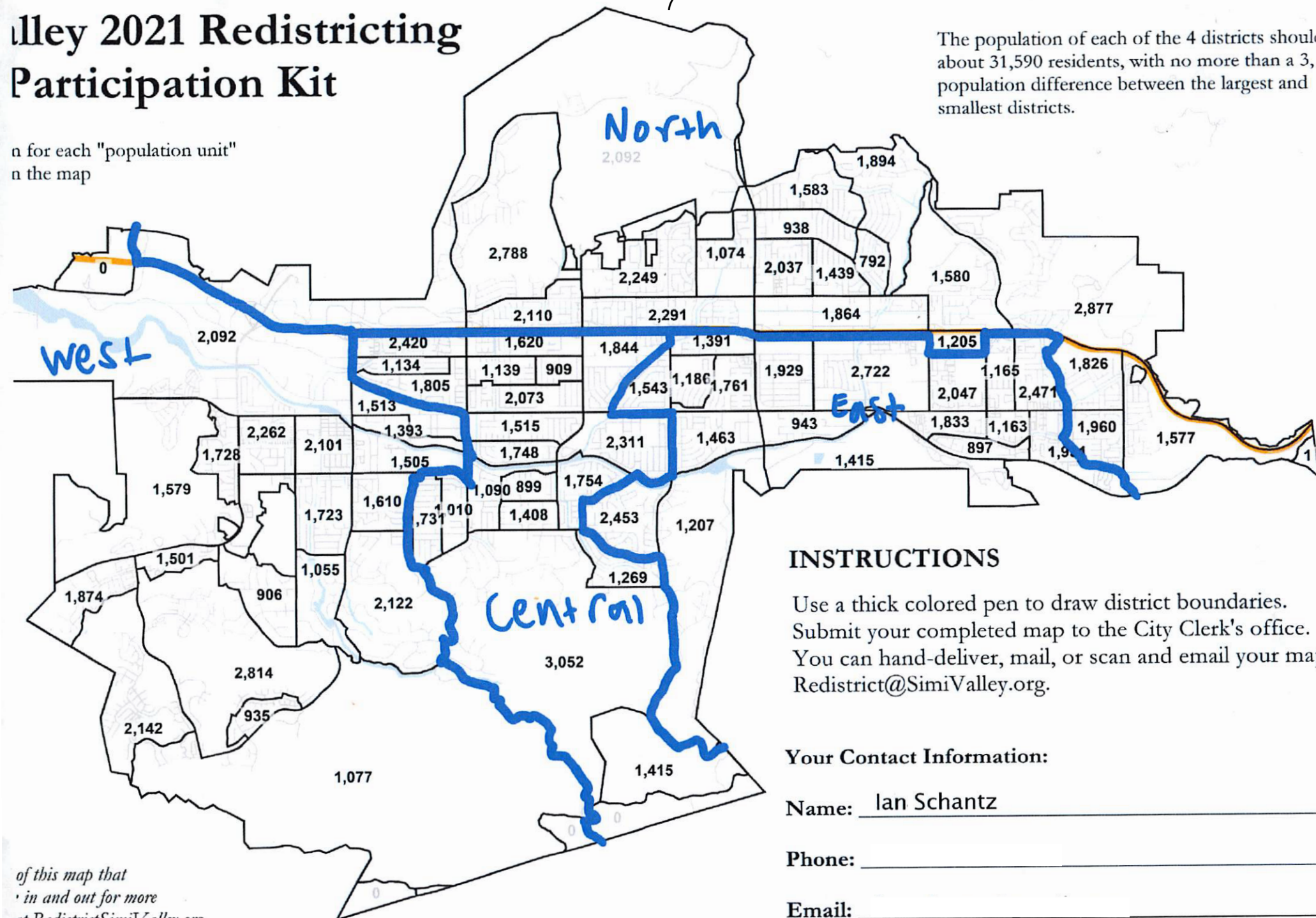
Simi Valley Current District Map



Valley 2021 Redistricting Participation Kit

n for each "population unit"
n the map

The population of each of the 4 districts should be about 31,590 residents, with no more than a 3% population difference between the largest and smallest districts.



INSTRUCTIONS

Use a thick colored pen to draw district boundaries. Submit your completed map to the City Clerk's office. You can hand-deliver, mail, or scan and email your map to Redistrict@SimiValley.org.

Your Contact Information:

Name: Ian Schantz

Phone: _____

Email: _____

of this map that
in and out for more
at RedistrictSimiValley.org