



September 2, 2021

TO: LOCSO Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 2A- 09/02/2021 Board Meeting
2nd 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.losososcsd.org

DESCRIPTION

At the August 5, 2021 Board meeting, the first of a series of public hearings was held regarding transitioning to by-area elections by November 2022. At that meeting, the District's consultant, Cooperative Strategies, provided an overview of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and the legal requirements in the law. They also outlined the considerations the community should take into account when establishing the area boundaries. This is the second Public Hearing to inform the public about the area creation process and to hear from the community.

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

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 second Public Hearing. 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

- The District is scheduled to conduct Public Hearing #3 to seek public input on the draft voting area scenarios on October 7, 2021. This is contingent on the State certifying the 2020 Census.
- 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 on December 2, 2021 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.

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

SEPTEMBER 2, 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



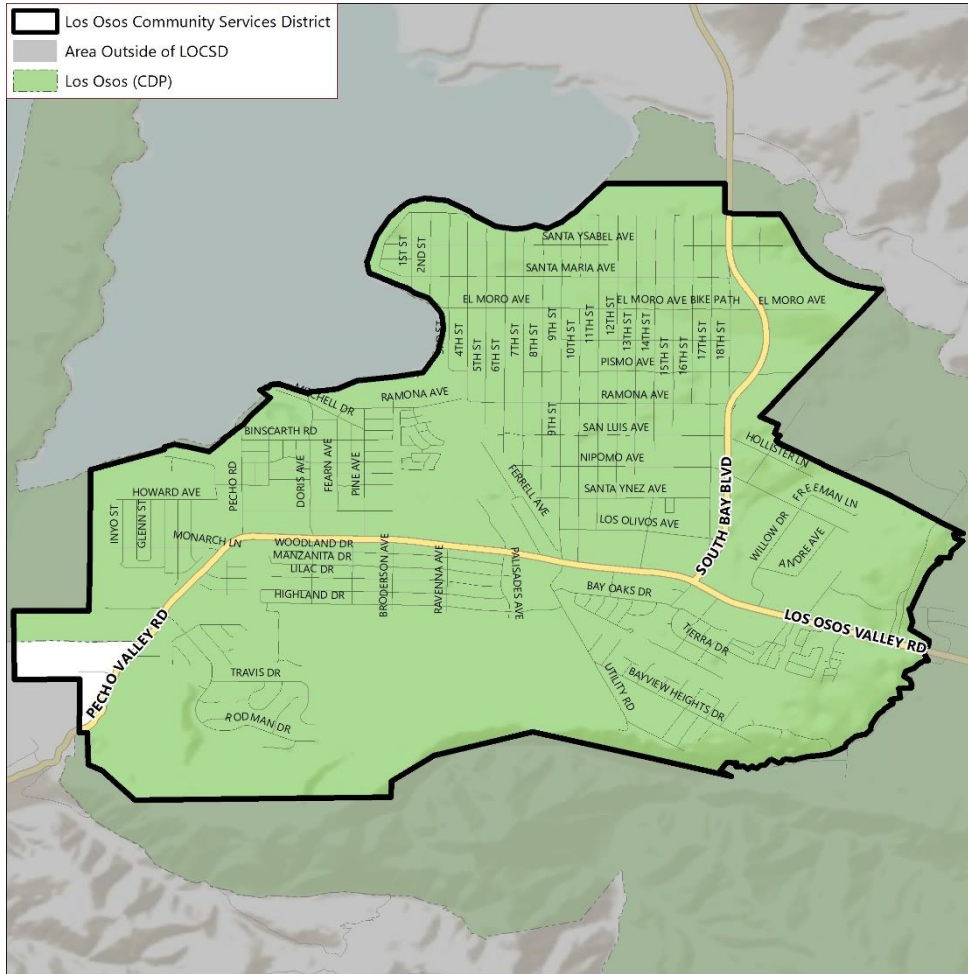
Other local considerations



Respect communities of interest, as much as possible

▶ DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

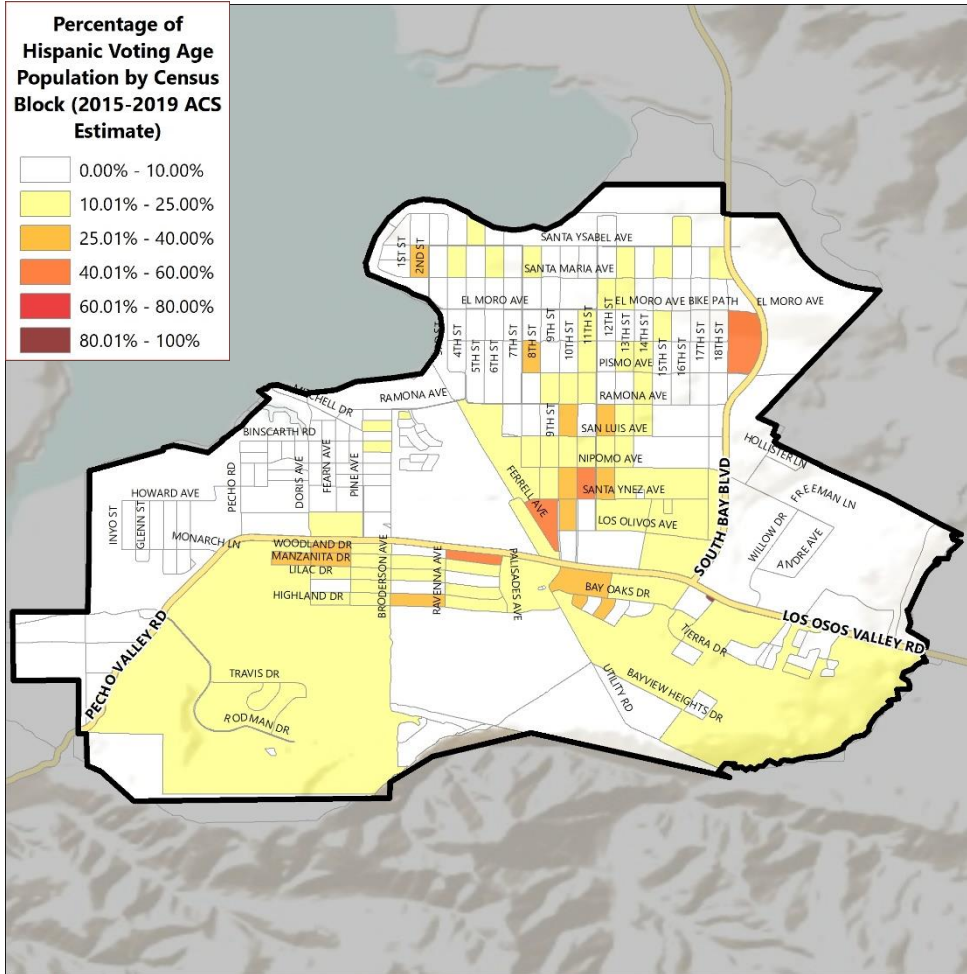
2010 CENSUS DATA



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%

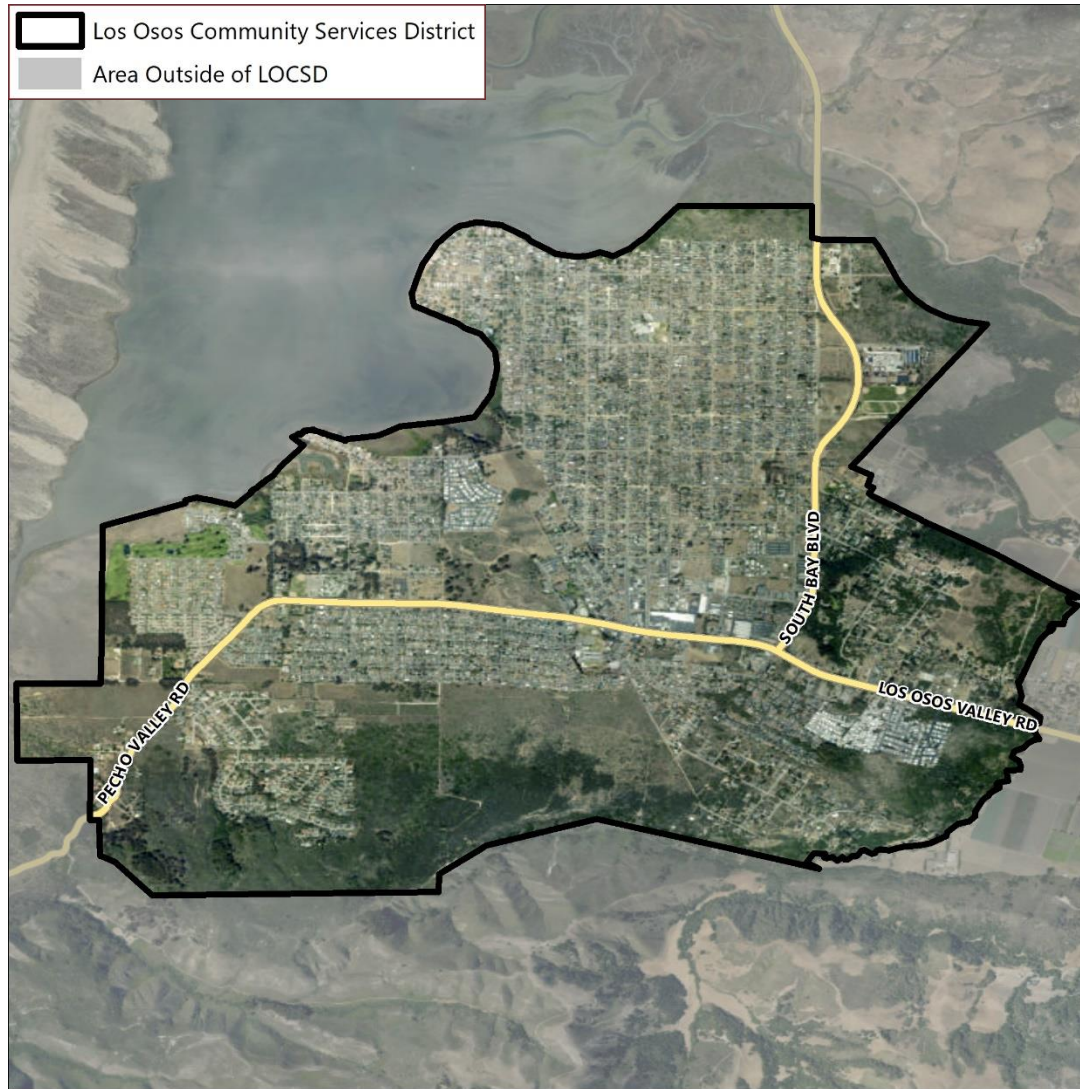
► DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

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