

Tiffany Saathoff:

Open session. The board would like to remind the public that this meeting is being audio and video recorded. The Rocklin Unified School District is committed to ensuring transparency and accessibility to all educational partners. Due to unforeseen technical issues, tonight's RUSD Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting will not be available via livestream. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Following the conclusion of tonight's meeting, the recording will be promptly uploaded to Rocklin Unified's website.

Rocklin Unified understands the importance of keeping our community informed. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we resolve these technical difficulties. We would also like to remind everyone to please enter and exit through the lobby this evening. Having no action taken in closed session, please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Speaker 2:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all.

Tiffany Saathoff:

At this time, we will now go to item 5.1. I would like to call Dr. Justin Levitt from National Demographics Corporation to present on the transition to by trustee area elections.

Justin Levitt:

All right. Thank you President Saathoff, members of the board and members of the community who are watching this as well as here tonight. My name is Dr. Justin Levitt with National Demographics and welcome to our second pre-mapping hearing. Tonight I'm going to be reviewing essentially what we talked about last time and then following that up with a little bit of a demonstration of the tools and the website and basically walking you and the community through the resources we have available.

So the presentation itself will be a little bit abbreviated compared to what we had last time, so please review that if you want to see more detail on for example, any of the things we talk about tonight.

So first of all, I want to just go through the basics of what the district is doing and why the district is doing it. The district is moving from an at-large system of elections in which all voters throughout the community vote for all members of the board and board members can reside anywhere within the community to a by district or for school districts, a by trustee area election system where the district will be broken up into five trustee areas.

One trustee area will reside in each trustee area and the residents within that trustee area will have the opportunity to elect for that particular position. The reason why the district is looking at making this change is because of a state law called the California Voting Rights Act. This is a law that dates back now about 20 years, but has been used throughout the state to force jurisdictions, cities, school districts, special districts, community college districts that go list all the different kinds of districts that have been affected, but it's been used to force jurisdictions to make the change from at-large to district elections or trustee area elections.

To date, there have been over 500 jurisdictions including 200 cities, 250 school districts, and over 50 other special districts that have made this transition throughout the state, literally from the north into the south end of the state. And to date, not a single jurisdiction has won a case on the California Voting Rights Act.

And given that litigation history, some of these settlements have been in the six or seven figures, and those are in jurisdictions that didn't go to court to an actual trial. Most jurisdictions have, and the state has actually created a process through which jurisdictions can make this transition in response to a demand letter or somewhat voluntarily avoiding some of this costly litigation. In fact, the amount the district owes is capped if it makes the transition this way.

Now the state actually does lay out a very extensive process on how to make this transition as well. We have to hold two public hearings prior to the creation of any draft maps. This is the second of those two public hearings. The purpose of these hearings is to begin to inform the community about the process, to learn about the tools, the requirements, and all of that.

Following this meeting, there'll be an opportunity for members of the community to submit maps for our third public hearing on April 17th. Those maps for the community members are due on April 5th. I know that's a short timeframe, but the state requires we post those maps at least seven days prior to that public hearing. So we're really working back from that hearing on the 17th to when the maps will be published on April 10th and to make sure we have time to draw anything in and to make sure that we have time to verify the legality of any of those maps, we're asking for members of the community to submit for the 5th for that hearing on the 17th.

That's [inaudible 00:07:12] 17th will be the first hearing with draft map options. Generally, in addition to any community submissions, there'll be three to four maps drawn by us, your demographers, and following that hearing, there'll be another opportunity for both members of the community to submit for board to request any changes to those maps. And with that direction we'll come out with new maps or revised maps, and that'll be on April 24th.

For our May 1st public hearing, at that 4th public hearing, the board can narrow the maps down. They can select one or more maps as their preferred focus maps, and then following that, there's a hearing on May 15th, the 5th and final hearing to adopt that final map.

Once that map is adopted, it has to be submitted to the county committee on school district organization. They have to approve this change from at-large to trustee area elections. That means they have to come to the district, they have to hold a hearing, hear it probably right here in your boardroom, and that will be in early June of 2024. This is a timeframe based around finishing the process for the November 2024 election.

The same number of trustee areas will be up for office as the number of positions you would've had up in your at-large election. And the other remaining seats will first hold their election in 2026. So think of this as a rollout over the next two years.

And just as a reminder, this only affects the means of election. This doesn't affect where kids go to school. This doesn't affect any of the borders of the attendance areas or any of the other governance issues affecting the board. In fact, the board still has responsibility to all the students, all the parents, all the residents of the district, regardless of whether or not they're in their trustee area or not.

So to begin to walk through the criteria, what factors do we have to consider when looking at the draft maps? I'm going to give you these three view because these are the factors that we're going to use to analyze the maps as well.

First and foremost, districts or trustee areas have to have equal population. This is the one-person one-vote principle. We are required to use the latest census results, so we'll be using the 2020 Census to determine this equal population count. It does include everyone, so it includes children, it includes non-citizens, everybody who's counted as part of that total count in the census.

In addition, Supreme Court and federal courts require we respect the Voting Rights Act of 1965, while race and ethnicity cannot be the only factor or the predominant factor in the creation of a trustee area, it is part of our analysis. It is something we have to pay attention to. And where we have protected class communities, groups that have historically faced discrimination, we have to make sure that their opportunity to elect their voting rights are respected.

In the middle column, the California Criteria. This is actually a brand new set of criteria the legislature passed last year and was first implemented as the Fair Maps Act of 2023. Previously it applied to counties and cities but not school districts. So now they extended this to school districts.

First districts have to be geographically contiguous. That's a fancy way of saying they can only have one outside border. You can't have a little bit of a district in one part of a trustee area and one part of the district and another part of the trustee area somewhere else that are not physically linked or connected to each other.

Second, you have to avoid division of neighborhoods and communities of interest. This is really the most objective part of this conversation. It's the reason we come out with many draft maps, because the districting process really asks us to look at what are the neighborhoods and communities that need to be kept together in order to make sure that they have the best representation. For example, making sure that we respect possibly the attendance areas to make sure parents who send their kids to a particular school have a representative on the board.

Now the way the law defines it, socioeconomic and geographic areas that should be kept together for the purpose of their effective and fair representation. That is a little bit tricky. It's not a specific criteria that we can just say, "Look at this number and that's it." And so part of our process, we'll be looking at different options, maps, and seeing which one does the best. As terms of what communities of interest and neighborhoods can be generally understood as, think of issues or problems that people share because of their proximity to each other.

I used the attendance areas earlier, but it could be something like parents who have their kids cross a particular street that has a lot of issues with respect to traffic or busing. It could be something like the geographic difficulty in neighborhood or one area of your district in getting to their local school.

In one district I'm working with, for example, students are being bused from literally one end of the district to the other because of their attendance areas and school closures. That's the kind of issue that might create a community of interest, particularly for a school district. And I really do encourage us to think about specifically the challenges, issues, concerns here in the school district rather than say generic ones.

Third, avoiding division of cities and census designated places. This is not going to be so much of a concern here. There's a couple of unpopulated parts of other cities with zero people in them, but most of the district is within the city of Rocklin. But if there are those little pockets, we would have to keep them together.

Fourth, easily identifiable boundaries. To the extent we can, we should follow major roads, other natural and manmade boundaries. If we have property division lines, things like that, like let's say we have an apartment complex and a single family home neighborhood and there's a property line division, we can use. Things that would make sense to people on the ground, not cutting through so buildings A through F of the apartment building are in one area while G through H or in another.

And fifth compactness. The law simply says, do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people. This is really aimed at hooks and fingers and really odd lines that look like they're designed to grab a particular block or new house even sometimes.

And keep in mind these are rank ordered. So if for example, there's a lot of issues along a particular road corridor and we've tried to keep that road corridor together, even though it's long and narrow, that could still potentially be a community of interest, which takes priority over compactness.

Lastly, the law also includes a prohibition that boundaries should not favor or discriminate against incumbents, political candidates or political parties. And so to that extent, we draw these blind to the partisan registration numbers to where board members live. In fact, we draw the lines and then we send it to the attorneys to actually put the election timing years, the sequence of elections which trustee areas hold election when in order to make sure we're not violating this prohibition.

And lastly, we have other districting principles like future population growth. Once we've satisfied all the federal and state criteria, we can also look to other principles that the district identifies as sort of tiebreakers between maps. For example, putting all of a new particular development in a particular trustee area in order to make sure it's clear who represents that area in the future. That is something we can do once we've satisfied all of the federal and state requirements.

So looking at these in slightly more detail, I want to go through a couple of numbers and then we're going to go into the maps or the tools, I should say. The census counted a total population of 69,641 dividing by five, each trustee area will contain approximately 13,928 residents.

Now we don't have to get perfect on that number. The requirement for equal population allows us some leeway, they call it deviation. And when we say a maximum deviation, the biggest difference in population needs to stay under 10%, and that means that the difference between the largest and smallest, and I'm not talking about each one, I'm talking about combined if we subtract the population of the smallest from the largest, that number's going to have to stay below 1392.

If you want to think about this on an individual district basis, each trustee area could be about four, 600 or so above or below and stay under that 10% deviation. Now the law actually expects that we don't get to perfect equality because everything else we have to do, following major roads, keeping communities together, we might get some deviation or difference from that ideal number in order to do that.

In addition to that total population, or actually one more thing about that. This is also the trigger following every census to look at these boundaries and see if they need to be redrawn. So in 2031, we'll take a look at that total population number and the trustee area population counts to see if they're still under that 10% maximum, and particularly if it's over a 10% deviation, which it could be because of growth or population change, that would be a trigger for having to adjust those boundaries following the next census.

Now in addition to total population, those numbers also give us some information on that protected class or criteria that I mentioned with the Federal Voting Rights Act. Here we look at citizen voting age population. That's the population over 18 with US citizenship. The courts often call this the Eligible Voter Count. And we can see here that there are differences between that total population and citizen voting age population figures.

This is something we're going to look at in a couple of slides on the map, but we can see that there may be higher, for example, higher Latino percentage or Asian percentage by total population than by eligible voters. In addition to those race and ethnic demographics, online, we do have this presentation available with a full set of demographic data. In fact, I'll show you the interactive web viewer where you can view all of these fields that look at the socioeconomics, the demographics of the community, everything from age and language spoken at home to education, where we see single and multifamily housing, where we see properties that are rented and owned.

These numbers never substitute for local understanding of your own community, but they can help support or can add to some of the issues that we might want to take into consideration as communities

of interest. But we do have to look at the race and ethnic numbers, the protected class communities as part of our voting rights analysis. As you can see here, the areas in purple are under 25% Latino on the left, Asian on the right. The areas in blue were under 50% and we can see here there's a couple of areas in green on the Asian map that are just over 50% Asian American.

If we don't really see any concentrations or neighborhoods that rise to the level of needing to be kept together for the Latino community. For the Asian community, we do see kind of in the southwestern part of the district, a small area. It's not going to be an entire trustee area, but at least a small neighborhood that probably should be kept together, if we can.

I'll say this also, if there are other additional neighborhoods or communities that we know of, we can identify them as part of that community's of interest criteria rather than simply looking at this for the Federal Voting Rights Act. And I'll say size can be misleading here too. That large green block along the freeway actually has very few people in it. I believe it has seven people residing in it. It's mostly in commercial block, but it's very large geographically, and I think four of the seven are Asian American, and so therefore it is technically about 55% Asian American. So this just shows percentage. It's not colored by weight.

And this is online as we'll look at in a second on our interactive review map. Now I just want to preview these two tools. We're going to look at them in more detail here in a second, but we do have two really great web resources to analyze and then draw your own map. And the first we call the interactive review map. This is a viewer. This lets you view, first of all, all the demographic data that we've talked about in this presentation and when we get the draft maps, they will also be put up in the interactive review map where you'll be able to view them, overlay one on top of another to see where the differences are, zoom in, actually can search for addresses and all sorts of really great features like that on those maps.

In addition to that, we have a tool that allows you to draw your own map, and so that's the one I'm going to be demoing after we finish the slide. Basically, this tool allows you to go block by block and really into the detail if you want to draw or test anything as you go through the process.

So let me walk you through a little bit of this and I'm going to switch over to the website. Let our tech team know so they know what I'm doing here. On our district website, we have a page that's dedicated to the districting process, and under that we have some of these drop down menus that give you information about the process. One of them is for the mapping tool. We have also one for the interactive review map.

Clicking on the interactive review map just to, because this will be the short one, takes you to our map itself. We have the district's outline in black here and the cities, we can see the city boundaries underneath it. We see that there's little two tiny bits of Loomis that actually go right into the district, but they don't really have any people in them.

What we see on the right is all of our layers. These are the demographics that I talked about in the presentation. So let's say we wanted to look at some more information on, I don't know, percent of people who rent. We just click on that check.

Speaker 4:

Excuse me. We're not able to see what you're doing.

Justin Levitt:

Okay.

Speaker 4:

[inaudible 00:22:57], can you assist in... Thank you.

Justin Levitt:

[inaudible 00:23:02] duplicate. Duplicate.

Speaker 5:

[inaudible 00:23:12] the slide.

Speaker 4:

We need to get out of the presentation and into the web. Yeah.

Justin Levitt:

This is fine. This works.

Speaker 6:

Where's the other one? This one?

Justin Levitt:

Yeah. That's fine. We're good. So as I mentioned, we have the website and on the website we have information about the districting process and we have these drop-down menus where we can get more information on the tool and the review map. If we go into the review map, just seeing we have the city itself, or I'm sorry, the district itself in black, the cities below that are in purple, and we have some, as we zoom in a little bit, we see that the layers on the right-hand side become visible or at least we can check them and when we check a layer, it will display that information on the map.

So this is our review map. So it doesn't give us the ability to draw anything, but we can look and we can zoom in and out and see some information. We can even select these areas and it gives us a little bit of information about the population of these areas.

Speaker 7:

[inaudible 00:24:37]

Justin Levitt:

Yes. And I believe, yeah, you see if you go... Here, we have the layers on this little, it looks like a stack of American cheese squares. Next to that we have this little looks like a list of things. That's our legend and we give our legend, tells you percent renters and the coloring scheme is identical throughout.

So red is over 75%, orange 65 to 75, and so on, all the way down to purple, less than 25%. And so this is going to give you a lot of that demographic information. If I go back to our list of layers, we certainly have most of the fields in there. If there is something that we don't have in here that you would like to see, let us know and we can see about adding it.

So this is the interactive web viewer. This is where the district maps will go, the trustee area maps will go when they're ready. The other tool we have is this mapping tool, and we have a lot here because we understand this is not the easiest tool to use, but it is one of the best available or probably is the best

available today now that we're past the 2021 redistricting and some of those other tools are no longer supported.

We also, on this here, we have a guide, a PDF guide that walks you step-by-step through the basics of the process. We also have underneath that two videos, a four-minute tutorial and a 15-minute longer, extended look at how to use it as well. We also have some quick instructions. I think the most important thing here is that once you've drawn your map and you want to submit it, we do have an email districting at rocklinusd.org where we ask you to send your link to that map so that we can view it, we can download it, and we can process it.

If you don't, if just have it in the computer or in the program, we don't see it. It's still private until you share it with us. So when you're testing things, when you're doing things on your own, know that you have full privacy, full control, that I'm not going to be able, and nobody is going to be able to go in and say, "Oh, no, you can't do that before you draw your map." Whatever you submit to us will be exactly what you intended to submit.

Now if we go to the website itself, I think the place that trips a lot of people up is just where to get started. We link you to the basic map of the city or map of the district. Sorry. But you really can't do much here. Notice it says view only right here.

In order to make sure that we can actually manipulate it, we can do things with it. We first have to make sure we have an account. And so the first thing to do is to set up an account. I've set one up already, but it's really easy on the base website. If you don't have an account, there'll be a box right here on the left-hand side below this, pick a state, learn more, supporters. That asks you to log in, and if you don't have one, it says, here's where you can go to create an account.

Creating an account is really simple, not even verification, you just choose your username and password and then you can log in. Once you log in, you can go back to our map itself, and next to this view only, we have this button. It looks like a little paper with the paper fold to the corner folded over. This is make an editable copy. You'll see that on the view over text. We want to make a copy of the map. We duplicate it. Yes.

And basically this makes an editable version that you can use to do whatever you want with. The first thing I like to do when I do this is you'll see it your list on my maps. You can rename it. You can open it. You can share it from that menu. We'll go back to that menu in a second, but once you click on it, now this version, notice how there's no more view only button. Now we have our paint brush and an eraser tool instead.

Well, what we can do is we can click the paint brush. If we want to start drawing, we click the paint brush and we can basically just click on an area we want to move into a particular trustee area. As I'm moving it over everything in, this district one details box is adding those population to the district. As I'm doing it, I'm also getting information on the right-hand side that tells you what I'm moving in.

So I'm moving 2439 residents by moving this particular precinct into trustee area one. And now that's added to that trustee area. If I want to erase something, I can just hit the eraser, and again, I can erase and it automatically subtracts those populations. But you might notice it's kind of a void in the background. It's very white. There's nothing to see. That's because I need to go to this overlays box on the left and select the map. Putting on the map adds the streets, it adds the major names of places. As you zoom in, you'll also see it adds the names of communities or of shopping centers.

As I zoom in and out, you can see things come up and get taken out and leave the map. I can also add on things like city boundaries as we go along as well. Now let's say I want to go into more detail. I want to move part of this area into area one, part of this block. What I need to do is make sure that I'm selecting the right level. So by default, it loads precinct because precincts are units, as we can see about 2400

people, good size for big districts, for drawing large areas we want to move all at once, but [inaudible 00:31:34] we want to move blocks.

We select blocks from this menu on top, and then we select the area, the precinct we want to divide and it will subdivide it into the blocks within that area. So these blocks, yes, these are the smallest units the census uses to count the population. At the lowest level, they try to follow streets because obviously in a big city, go to downtown Sacramento, everything's on a grid. This makes perfect sense.

Obviously as we move away from the gridded streets, for example, here at the golf club, we can see that there's one that follows Clubhouse Drive West, but then all of the golf club facing properties, they're all in the same census block, and that's going to be something we run into where we have cul-de-sacs, where we have canyons, where we have natural features that don't lend themselves to easy square blocks.

You'll also find that there are a lot of zero population blocks. For example, sometimes where we have two districts that are... Here's a little tiny portion of the city of Loomis that's in the district, that gets its own census block, because the census is trying to make sure that no, no, no, this area has a unique combination of city, school district, county, or so on.

Sometimes major roads, especially if they have a median will have their own census blocks. That's a legacy thing the census has been trying to eliminate for 30 years, and they keep adding more of them as new developments coming are built out. So when we hover over each block, we can see how many people are in it. So this block, for example, has 567 residents in it. This little tiny block just north of it has 20. And we can kind of see that, if we zoom in a little bit, we can see that there's a handful of homes that have been caught in it, probably these two that are just along the street there.

And then we just drag, we click down and we can drag our paintbrush to paint those areas or erase them if we want to erase them. That's the main thing that, this is the way this tool works. We go to block, we click an area, divide it into the census blocks, and then we paint the areas we want and then we go to another area and paint the areas we want out of that.

Notice that it will automatically do all the calculations for you. So you can see on the left your totals as you build your district, and on the right you can see the totals for either the precinct or the block as you're thinking about moving an area in or out.

So you can also add, and this is a little advanced, but I thought we should talk about this. If you click labels next to the precinct lines, you can add on total populations to the map. So as you zoom in, if you're more visual like I am and don't like looking at the right hand of the screen, this will put those total population counts right there for you. You can see there's zero people here. There's 41 people in these two blocks next to it, for example.

So this is the basics on how to use it, how to use this tool. Once you're finished with a district, or even if you're not, maybe you want to go back and forth, you can just select another district and start coloring in that area. One thing that I really like is this little lock. When you hit the lock button, it prevents that district from being modified so you don't accidentally move some blocks in.

I'm drawing a non-contiguous map here on purpose. It's never going to be adopted, but just to show you how it works, I move those small little sections in without moving anything out of district one. You can always just hit it again, unlock it. And as you see here, this little summary gives you that deviation and the populations as you go through the process.

This hand tool always come back to that one if you want to just move the map around with without affecting the map itself. So once you're done with your map, you can go back to your maps list. You want to select the map, and what you want to do is share. So when you share, you'll see, you get this



link here and you don't want to allow editing, please don't, but you want to share copy this link and this is what you're emailing to districting at rocklinusd.org. And in that email you can put it as much as you want about why you drew the map you did, what it keeps together.

Maybe let us know, I really cared about trustee area one and I've spent a lot of time on it. I don't really know the rest of the district that well, so I just kind of filled the rest of it in. That happens a lot where we get people who really have a community they care about, but once you get started, it's kind of hard to stop without balancing all the other trustee areas.

So just share the link with us, tell us what you're doing and we will process the map. We process every community map we receive, whether it is just a single trustee area or a full five trustee area map, and all of that gets published along with the consultant drafts for your next hearing, for April 17th.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Dr. Levitt, is there a minimum requirement to include first and last name or address of, is this open to anyone? Is it only residents?

Justin Levitt:

Sure. The board can certainly request that people share information and we'd want to make that clear on the website what information we'd like people to submit alongside the map. In theory, it certainly is possible for anyone to submit anything to that email. That doesn't mean the board has to seriously consider it if you don't want to consider things without a name attached, for example. The advantage of doing it this way is we do have an email, so if we do need to reach out to ask somebody, we can always follow up.

So is it common to receive anonymous maps? Yes. It is less uncommon to receive group maps. So if an organization wants to submit a map, whether it's a homeowners association or we don't really see this in school districts, but sometimes a group like the NAACP will submit a map and that's why we don't have that hard restriction on you have to reside within the district because the group that's submitting it may have a representative who lives outside that's submitting the map on their behalf.

Tiffany Saathoff:

When you say maps are processed, what does that mean?

Justin Levitt:

So we take every map we receive, including all the community drafts, and what we do is we analyze them as part of our analysis for this, which involves a more thorough check. We want to make sure that the map is contiguous. We want to make sure that the map meets other criteria or if there's anything potentially challengeable about the map, we want to be able to note that for you at the hearing.

Tiffany Saathoff:

So if a well-meaning citizen presented a map that was almost great, but had some flaws, would you send it back to them for correction or would you just not present that?

Justin Levitt:

So for example, if it's a zero population area, like they were painting the whole city but they didn't move a block that's literally a street, happens a lot especially because when you're visually doing this, we will

go ahead and fix those kinds of errors, zero population errors like that, we will go ahead and fix. If there is an issue where we think a map is not... we will do our best to reach out to the individual. If they submitted something that they either acknowledge is not meet the criteria or for example, is a one trustee area or maybe they drew three trustee areas but didn't do a full map, we don't reach out on that. That would be something we can just present that as is.

Tiffany Saathoff:

To us?

Justin Levitt:

Yes. And then-

Tiffany Saathoff:

Every map is presented?

Justin Levitt:

Everything we receive is presented and that's one of the requirements in law.

Speaker 8:

And we can choose to take a map and do some editing. So on those examples, if they send in three and we like those three, we could edit the additional two. It doesn't have to be yes or no for each map?

Justin Levitt:

Absolutely.

Speaker 8:

Okay.

Justin Levitt:

And in fact, we'll talk more about this next time, but we'll encourage you to look at specific things you like or dislike about each map as it comes in, in order to create the best map at the end of the day. It might be that we like the north half of one map and the south half of another and we can fit them together.

Speaker 8:

So a couple things with the second deadline for maps, that 4/19 deadline. Does that also include new maps being submitted by the public or are those just revisions of what we already received?

Justin Levitt:

It potentially does include new maps, particularly from the community. Typically, at that point we might get someone who came to the third board hearing without coming to the first two and didn't know this was going on, but sees an idea they would like to share.

Speaker 8:

Okay. Another thing, so on the redistricting page, there's this analyze button and it gives this green triangle. Is that something that members of the public would want? Should they be trying to address any potential flaws with their map using some of these tools or are those things that you would handle?

Justin Levitt:

So some of it is very useful. So for example, if it's not contiguous and it has a little red X here, we know that that area wasn't contiguous, but you can see it here and so you can go back and fix it. And actually there are some advanced ways here. If you go to tools, for example, you can reassign stray precincts. So all those blocks that are green that were surrounded by blue, they can be automatically reassigned and then you get to recheck your population and all that.

There actually is a lot more power than I've just demoed in this very brief demonstration here, but that is certainly useful. I would encourage people not to over value some, like for example, under analysis, if it's like there's going to be some things here that are meant for state or federal redistricting that are more not useful. For example, all the partisan stuff. Partisanship is just baked into a lot of the analysis that we do for federal and state elections. It's not an issue here for local elections, so we're not going to be paying attention to that.

Speaker 8:

And then with the population kind of variance, that 13-ish figure, 13,000, and you had mentioned that you can take future development into consideration, but how would an individual who's trying to put a map together kind of account for, I don't know, I guess do you have to know when that's going to be developed and how many new individuals that would bring in to try to not exceed that 10% or how do you recommend that?

Justin Levitt:

So the truth is we are actually allowed to consider it because it is so uncertain. If it were more certain, we knew exactly when things were going to be built in the next 10 years, then the courts would say, "You need to do a new census or not consider it at all." And it's exactly what they tell jurisdictions that are drawing trustee areas for the first time, say in 2019 for the 2020 election, and are still using 2010 census data, and they're not allowed to consider development in the last eight years, which is it sounds so strange, but the courts have said, because it's guessing, whether or not these are going to be built, when they're going to be built, how many people going to move in? That's why we're allowed to consider that.

I know it doesn't make a lot of sense, but the courts have ruled.

Speaker 9:

That essentially helps you out with the plus or minus 10%, right?

Justin Levitt:

Yeah. You have to stay-

Speaker 9:

You might be a few percentage higher in this area and a few percentage lower, but we assume this lower one's going to come up due to growth.

Justin Levitt:

It's sort of the guessing game. Yeah.

Speaker 9:

[inaudible 00:45:44] trying to help you out but-

Justin Levitt:

So that area may be within the 10% bounds. So 4% under an area that we think is going to get a new development, 5% over in an area, it's already built out. That's a total of a 9% deviation.

Speaker 8:

And so then I guess a question too, because I don't remember who asked it, about the information that we receive about who's submitting the maps, is that something that we need to talk about more now or kind of when... Yeah.

Justin Levitt:

So we can certainly put on the website or request that when people submit their maps, they include their name and address. Now we obviously will receive whatever we receive, but we can certainly provide that information. That's all part of the public record as part of this process. And that could be a part of your deliberation process in trying to weed out the serious maps from residents of the district, from anonymous people who just happened to stumble upon this online.

Speaker 10:

What is the legal requirement that they include?

Justin Levitt:

So the legal requirement is that the district accept whatever it receives, and that's part of the binder of a public record for this process or the packet you get for all the participation. Now we can certainly put up a request and say that the board will only be considering or will only prefer to consider maps that have that information, but we don't need any board action on that. We can just put that up.

Tiffany Saathoff:

A valid point was mentioned, if we're asking them to list their address and yet it becomes a public record, is that a little bit of a privacy issue for people not wanting maybe their home address is known? I mean how do people feel about if it's a first and last name and then are you a resident? I mean I understand somebody could not tell the truth on that, but I wonder it might-

Speaker 9:

[inaudible 00:47:54]

Tiffany Saathoff:

Right? It might feel a little odd for a community member to say, I have to give my home address and it become public to everybody in the VIP are.

Speaker 8:

And we wouldn't want to discourage people from submitting because of that.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Yeah. But I do think it's beneficial to ask. I mean I think it's beneficial to say, "Are you a resident?" Yes or no.

Justin Levitt:

We can certainly do-

Tiffany Saathoff:

In the school district boundary lines.

Stock:

Right. Yeah. Resident of the district, not the city because-

Tiffany Saathoff:

Yeah. And first and last name. I think that's beneficial.

Justin Levitt:

We can certainly do name and resident of the district. Yeah.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Would you put on their first and last name, just because sometimes people... Thank you.

Justin Levitt:

Of course. And of course we will also have their email address because they're required to email it into us. So if we don't have that information, we can certainly work with the staff in following up with those individuals if we receive anything from outside the district.

Speaker 10:

You also mentioned that there was some leeway in the layers, so how did you come up with the layers that you've got listed and is there some that you think that we should add or take away?

Justin Levitt:

So in the viewer, these are all just standard, nothing unique or special. I want to emphasize that these are the kinds of things that come up frequently. So we have our racial ones that are, of course, required under the Voting Rights Act, but beyond that, we have people who speak languages at home because that's something that often is a really good permanent of... especially for communities that don't speak Spanish, but maybe are other language minorities in some cases like Armenian or Arabic or other languages.

Income, education, those are very standard measures. Families with children, especially in school districts often is a really interesting look. And then just renters and owners, multi and single-family

housing, again, standard things that we really look at. All of this list is very basic that we would use in any project.

Speaker 10:

Thank you.

Justin Levitt:

And then community resilience is a new one we've added in response to some people who have asked us to put some sort of equity factor on here. It's a new one we've added this year. We haven't really used it specifically in a project, but it's sort of a measure of poverty.

Speaker 10:

Is it expected or normal or accepted for each of us to try and do a map or is it we are just stand back and let everyone else do the maps?

Justin Levitt:

It's an important question and certainly anybody can submit a map. We will identify which ones are submitted by the demographer or by our firm, by community members, and all that's part of the public record, but it really will be your decision on whether or not you want to submit it. It will be a part of the public record though, if you do.

Tiffany Saathoff:

As far as the maps you'll be submitting as the demographer, what are you taking into consideration for your specific maps?

Justin Levitt:

Sure. The first thing, obviously, we do want to make sure we follow all of the criteria to the extent possible. So we are going to be, of course, if people have mentioned or if we receive feedback on any specific neighborhoods, communities, we want to incorporate that. We are going to be looking at the demographic data that we have here to be able to see what patterns or trends might suggest different areas or boundaries.

We also look, of course, at where your homeowners associations and other planned communities are, because those are often standard communities of interest. Beyond that, it really comes down to the feedback that we receive, especially going into revisions, because we're just using our best knowledge of what we can gather from the city's website, from your own website, the attendance areas. I should have added those as well, but if there are specific concerns, we definitely want to hear about them so we can incorporate them.

Speaker 10:

Is attendance areas the same as school boundaries?

Justin Levitt:

I believe so. I believe it's just different terminology used in different places.

This transcript was exported on Apr 22, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Speaker 10:

Because a question for my colleagues, is that a layer that we would like to see added?

Tiffany Saathoff:

Good point.

Speaker 10:

Can you describe to us what attendance area means?

Justin Levitt:

Sure. It's just the map of which children are assigned to go to which school.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Which homes would go to-

Justin Levitt:

Yeah. Which address is... Yeah.

Speaker 9:

[inaudible 00:52:54] map, right?

Justin Levitt:

So I mean I know you have it on your website. It's not on this viewer, but we can work with the district in getting that information onto the viewer.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Could you make it a layer?

Justin Levitt:

Yes.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Okay. Thank you.

Justin Levitt:

You already have it available in a format we can put on here and we'll work with the district on getting-

Tiffany Saathoff:

Perfect. Thank you.

Speaker 9:

I guess the other one, and it's I guess more city than our area. Do you have the CFD maps as a layer?

Justin Levitt:

Like the city's district maps or-

Stock:

No. Our CFD areas for Mello-Roos taxation.

Justin Levitt:

Okay. I don't have that now, but we can certainly look into it.

Stock:

We have three CFD districts just for reference.

Speaker 10:

Superintendent Stock, we've got some areas with a lot of younger families where our [inaudible 00:53:57] population is really exploding. Do you feel like that would be worth including?

Stock:

I don't know if we can get to how granular we can get to age of students, I see we can get to under 18, but I'm not sure does the-

Speaker 10:

There you go.

Justin Levitt:

And I would say if there is a particular community name or names that you want to mention, that would be the kind of thing that we would want to look at. Like, oh, yeah, the Stonecrest development is very new and lots of young families in there.

Speaker 10:

Okay. Lots of young families. Okay. So not necessarily a layer, just something that we would know as community members?

Justin Levitt:

Right. That would be the kind of thing that we can, one would say, yeah, okay, we found where the HOA boundary for that area is and we've kept that together.

Stock:

In Lincoln they have Sun City, that would be... you may want to note that, that's a community that's all over 55-

Justin Levitt:

Exactly. And we don't have age on here, but it is in our data set so we can look for those 50 and older, 16 and older communities.



Speaker 12:

Would that be taken into consideration with the final numbers? Like you have 13,000 here and 13,000 here, but this 13,000 is 50% over 50, and this 13,000 is all under, all young families.

Justin Levitt:

Yeah. So the answer is that those numbers do count toward the total population, and that's why that [inaudible 00:55:25] trick in law is about really what the communities of interest are for this district. I know of many school districts with retirement communities that they've not identified them as a community of interest for the purpose of the law, so that it's not like one district is entirely within a retirement community and has no children sending to the schools, which is-

Tiffany Saathoff:

[inaudible 00:55:52]

Justin Levitt:

So we may say we don't believe that meets the criteria for school district for what a community of interest is.

Speaker 9:

Again, just to confirm, I can do the math. The 13,900 that we're talking about [inaudible 00:56:08], we're always looking at total population, not voting.

Justin Levitt:

That's right. That's the total population.

Speaker 12:

Well, how close does it have to be as far as the numbers go? I mean what if one had 12,000 and the other one had 14,000? Is that too big of a spread?

Speaker 9:

I think the magic numbers [inaudible 00:56:40]

Justin Levitt:

Yeah. So we're going to be looking at, I believe around... Yeah. I know I gave you the actual numbers, but think about it like that 13,900 number, maybe 600 over or under so 2000 is a little bit outside that range.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Okay. Thank you, Dr. Levitt for the presentation. That was incredibly helpful. We will now officially open the public hearing to hear comments on this item. I now open the second public hearing regarding demographic process to draw trustee area boundaries. Second public hearing to gather community input regarding the composition of trustee area boundaries pursuant to elections code section 10010A1.

Okay. We do have public comment cards. We just have a few important reminders for public comment on this item. This agenda item is to give anyone in attendance and opportunity to address the board

within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board on this agenda item. The board respects each individual's rights to express varied ideas and opinions and expect speakers to refrain from personal attacks based on protected categories under state and federal law, including race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, et cetera.

Please be mindful that students may be watching. Please fill out a green public comment card complete with all information and turn it in prior to this agenda item being closed. I will call your name and invite you to the podium and will state who is on deck. When you approach the podium, please restate your name, the city you live in, and the school your children attend.

You'll have two minutes to address the board. All comments must be respectful. Please no profanity. Okay. Okay. So far we have four. So first up, we'll have Rand Crabden, and on deck will be Price Johnson.

Rand Crabden:

Good evening, board. So I have a prepared message and I'll get back to that momentarily, but first, something that came to my attention during the presentation. Right now we have less than two days for the public to create maps. I urge the board to find a solution that will allow at least seven to 10 days for the public to create a map for the first map hearing.

Okay. Now my brief prepared message. The task of map creation and approval of new districts is a very important task. I hope that as we proceed, the board will reflect often and act with integrity at every step along the way. I look forward to this process being thoughtful and unbiased with the only motivation being to better represent the voices in our community. Happy map making and thank you for your time.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Superintendent Stock, could you give clarification on the days for the maps? I know that was something I requested additional information on too.

Stock:

Yes. What we did in creating the process is the district is under a strict timeline to complete the process of 90 days. So once we received the demand letter, we had 45 days to make the determination if we would move to district voting. That board made that decision in March 6th, and from then we had 90 days to complete the entire process, including approval by the county committee.

So the timeframe is very compacted. The board also, and so we work to create a schedule that would allow all the five, and I'm looking to our demographer to make sure I got this right, our five required public hearings within that 90 day timeline and to still complete the process and be able to turn the maps over to the county committee.

And then looking at that, then the next layer we did in creating the schedule, the fall within that was to use as many current board meetings we had to hold the public hearings because we knew that these were notice meetings to our community well in advance. So if people were planning to attend a public hearing, a board meeting that it was available to do so.

And so then we had to then work within the schedule of the hearings. And then as our demographer shared earlier that we are required, correct me if I'm wrong, before a hearing on a maps, we have to post them seven days prior for the community to consider them. And then our demographer, when we made the schedule, we worked with him to see how much time he needed for the analysis so they could be posted. So the schedule that we created was in conjunction to meet all those requirements.

Hence, the schedule that we've created is contained in this PowerPoint and on our website that the maps to be considered for April 17th need to be submitted by this Friday, April 5th. However, that is not the only opportunity to submit maps to be considered. There's a further opportunity to have maps considered on the May 1st board meeting, and that deadline for submission of those maps, I believe is April 19th.

And so what we do have is we do acknowledge that the timing is quick, but there are multiple opportunities for maps to be submitted and considered. And, sir, did I miss anything in that recitation?

Justin Levitt:

No. I just wanted to make sure that we had the week to have the maps for review because that adds additional weeks to our timeline where we have to have the maps posted, but we can't post anything new. It also prevents us from having the public hearings three, four, and five any closer together really without being able to bring new maps to those meetings.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Thank you for the clarification. I know I was concerned about a two-day timeline myself, but thank you that we will have the opportunity to still have new maps submitted up through April 19th. Thank you. It was a good question. Okay. Next up we have Price Johnson, on deck, Millie Ann.

Speaker 8:

Can I ask one? Sorry. Just on that piece. Sorry. I apologize. I just was looking at the timeline as you were discussing that, and it does also even look as though there's a third opportunity if new maps are drawn after May 1st meeting last day to publish those maps prior to May 15th would be May 8th. So is there actually three windows?

Justin Levitt:

Technically there is a window before the 5th, especially if the board has not made a selection or come down to one focus map on the 4th public hearing.

Speaker 8:

But probably the consideration given to very late maps would maybe not-

Justin Levitt:

It gets harder but we can certainly have another turnaround for that last 5th public hearing.

Speaker 8:

I see.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Because that'll be the final vote night, correct?

Speaker 8:

On the 15th. Yeah. So it would be very down to the wire. Okay.

Tiffany Saathoff:

So strong encouragement by April 19th.

Speaker 8:

Yeah. The earlier the better. Okay. Thank you.

Tiffany Saathoff:

But just because you don't get it in by April 5th doesn't mean the map is penalized in any way, correct? Okay. Great. Apologies, Price Johnson.

Price Johnson:

All right. First of all, I just want to say thank you to Dr. Levitt for all of his time guiding us through this process, and I want to thank every member of the board for voting last session to move forward with this process. I think it's clear to the community how important this is, how much this is going to save us in funds, a 10th of what it would cost in litigation to not move forward. So just wanted to offer that thanks and appreciation.

Secondly, I just wanted to bring to the attention of the board that there has been some online community discourse just around dual roles that President Tiffany Saathoff holds both on this board as well as the county committee. Now there's been some speculation about is this a conflict of interest or what role will she serve either or is there an intent to recuse or something of that nature?

I don't know the process. I don't know if that's something that can be clarified. In my participation in those conversations, I've actually taken sort of an opposite approach, one of more of an optimistic one in that Ms. Saathoff, you're actually a champion, you're our insider in this process, right? You know what's going on in these meetings between now and June better than anyone else on that committee will.

So I guess it would be my hope and the reassurance I've been giving folks is that we have somebody to go to bat with the committee, keep them educated between now and June, make sure we are scheduling timely votes with the county committee to move forward. And so that would be my hope, that would be my appeal. That's my operating assumption of how this is going to move forward. But I think the community would certainly be reassured just to understand how this process works with that very unique of a situation. And certainly I appreciate your service on both committees, so I'm sure that's a lot of time out of your week. Thank you. That was really it.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Thank you, Price. Next up, Millie Anne on deck. Oh, Shannon Cantonella. Sorry. It was first name, last name, swapped.

Millie Anne:

Good evening. Millie Anne Rocklin resident with Quarry Trail students. I just want to note that Roseville recently completed a process for their districting, and there was a major holdup at the county committee level in getting the map approved. And so since Minister Saathoff, you are on both committees, I would like to encourage you to maybe identify what the holdups were in the process and if they're preventable, make sure to minimize the chances of holdups in the process since I think we have legal deadlines to comply with.

And also, just since you're on both committees, maintain close communication so that the two bodies are collaborating and working in conjunction with each other so that there are no delays. Thank you.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Thank you, Millie Anne. Next up, Shannon Cantonella.

Shannon Cantonella:

Hi. Good evening. Shannon Cantonella. Rocklin Unified parent. I'm glad to see you have a no profanity rule up there. It wasn't up there last time. Maybe also lewd conversations since we're talking about kids, otherwise it's just adults listening to this stuff.

Following up on what Millie was speaking to, I wasn't expecting her to say that, but I do know that Tiffany Saathoff, Pete Constant and Jessica Spade were all on the PCOE process and attempted to derail it. For the Roseville City redistricting, I do know that it actually won eventually seven versus those three.

So I am concerned about anybody floating maps from this specific district and coming into conflict with whatever Tiffany Saathoff has in play with her preferences. I am concerned about the knowledge that organizations can submit maps. So even though people don't necessarily live here, but they may attend congregation or church at Destiny or some other organization or some of the other churches and have an opportunity to vote as part of that greater organization, that's concerning, because we all respect the difference of the separation of church and state.

I also am concerned about William Jessup's interference. My understanding is that at the last minute, they have been known on several occasions to submit over 20 submissions. So I greatly encourage the community to look at this program, learn it. We have 48 hours and/or April 19th, not sure, but I believe it's been clarified that it's April 19th.

I do also recognize that this is a self-elected deadline. We could have taken this on like we took everything else on legally and just added to our legal costs because the district is also on a timeline from the state to adhere to state law with regards to its misguided-

Tiffany Saathoff:

Thank you, Shannon. I'm not seeing any other comment cards. Are there any other comments for the public hearing? I now close the second public hearing regarding our demographic process to draw trustee area boundaries. Trustees, do we have a need to go into closed session or do we adjourn? Okay. Then the meeting is now officially adjourned.