

League of Women Voters Observer Corp.  
District Workshops for City of Santa Maria District Maps  
May 2, 2017 - Minami Center  
Virginia Souza Observer

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National Demographics, NDC is hired demographer. Mr. Johnson from NDC was present.

7:15 PM Hearing begins. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> public hearing. 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing where maps are presented for review.

Review of Fed Voting Act requirements and Considerations. The City council was heavy on "considerations" particularly "continuity of government" so their seats were not to be in contention.

A chart showing the election cycles was presented with Map H, J, and N as vertical columns. Map J contained two match ups. Boysen, Moats and Waterfield, Cordero.

Written communication: MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund) is an organization which represents Latinos. They opposed map H.

One writer liked map J and one liked N.

Of the 17 verbal comments. 100% voted for Map J. Some of the comments were: "a little scared about the outcome", Map H and Map N are gerrymandered, public meetings are an illusion if other than map J is chosen, put your faith in the citizens of Santa Maria, you would not put one foot in boiling water and one in cold water to define best average temperature for the desired result, your community is watching, maps went from names to letters to numbers (confusing), what voters want is a fair map representing each district fairly, no more appointments to vacant seats on the City Council, always have voters elect.

Council then deliberated.

Waterfield had a question regarding renters and their rights. She pointed out that Map J had the highest percentage of renters at over 74% in District 3.

Boysen: Consideration for no head to head contest is included in Federal and State guidelines.

Moats: New maps after next census in 2020. Correct? Yes.

Cordero: Map J does not follow City Council "requirements" on head to head elections.

Moats: Excruciating dwelling on "head to head". Waterfield 2018 election Cordero 2020. No head to head. H is bad. Map N stretches from Orcutt north too far and splits communities of interest. Latinos are in 3 districts instead of 2. Highest white people in N. Strongly favors Map J.

Waterfield: Map N best.

Boysen: What have we done wrong? City is fiscally well run??....He also wants to avoid head to head. Map N. best.

Vote: Map N adopted with Moats dissenting. Waterfield moved, Boysen second.

May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting 6Pm in City council chambers, NOT in Maldonado Center as previously announced.