

League of Women Voters Observer Corps

District Workshops for City of Santa Maria District Maps

April 20th Meeting: Karen Mayes and Virginia Souza

Notes and ending with commentary:

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

City of Santa Maria is the 1st jurisdiction to proceed under threat of law suit under the California Fair Voting Act.

November 2018 and 2020 are the election cycles for next City Council election.

Map Requirements: Equal population, no racial gerrymandering, follow Federal Voting Rights Act.

Map Considerations: Communities of interest, Compactness, Contiguous, Respect voters rights, Visible Boundaries

2020 Census will redraw population lines in 2021 perhaps.

Neighborhoods: "packed"? That means are all the people of color packed into the same district to blunt their voice? "Gerrymander"? That means drawing lines with specific seats in mind to eliminate or include.

NDC went over the proposed maps. The maps were given new alpha titles and were not called by "name" of person who drew them. New maps were also presented giving many alpha titled maps.

There were maps for 5 districts (2) and maps for 4 districts.

24 persons wanted to speak. Mayor Patino asked if the speakers could be limited to 2 minutes instead of 3 minutes. Council person Boysen stated that there were more than 24 at the last meeting and it went very fast, so all were given the 3 minutes.

Glen Morris with Chamber wanted each district to contain a piece of the Down town Specific Plan.

Majority of speakers wanted Broadway and Main Street to be the cross section boundaries.

Laura Hendersen, Parks Commissioner, voiced support for CAUSE map and Main and Broadway sections.

Hazel Davalos, CAUSE, again reiterated Main and Broadway.

Jenn Zarnow has lived in all 4 quadrants and thought Maps G and I were the best as did most of the speakers.

Robert Dickerson from Planning Commission had long strips across the city as quadrants running north to south.

Some speakers felt the City was listening but not doing what citizens wanted anyway.

Hector Sanchez, the candidate that brought the lawsuit, supported G and I maps and asked the Council to use common sense.

Kate Adams teaches at AHC and complemented the audience and liked Main and Broadway.

High school student liked Main and Broadway.

NAACP person was unhappy that the input from the last district meeting was not reflected in the new maps.

Public comment closed and Council deliberated.

Council woman Waterfield was most concerned about not having more than one current council person in each district (continuity of government). Maps G and I had 4 council persons in one district and were thrown out.

Cordero talked about difficulties of district elections and listening to all the constituents of the entire city.

Boysen asked demographer if Main and Broadway could be the lines drawn and the population be adjusted at the periphery?

Map H looked "gerrymandered". Maps A,B,C,E,F will be excluded which do not meet population requirements. 5 Districts were decided against eliminating Q and P. Downtown was not included in all in Maps D, L, and M and were excluded.

Leaving N, J and H.

Next Meeting will be May 2nd at Minami Center.

Sequencing of elections will come up. Looks like Waterfield and Boysen are running in 2018.

Look at City of Santa Maria website for maps and information.