

City of Santa Cruz 6-District Draft Maps

March 29, 2022

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Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From District” or “Residence” Districts
3. “By District”

The California Voting Rights Act was written to specifically encourage by-district elections.

Districting Process

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings Aug. 31 & Sept. 18	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
Census Data Release Aug. 12	Census Bureau releases official 2020 Census population data.
California Data Release Mid/Late Sept. 2021	California Statewide Database releases California's official 'prisoner-adjusted' 2020 redistricting data.
Release draft maps	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3 rd hearing.
Two hearings on draft maps March 29 and April 19, 2022	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Ballot Measure June 7	Voters decide between seven districts with a rotating Mayor or six districts with a citywide elected Mayor
First By-District Elections November 8	Initial districts hold their first by-district elections (the remaining districts will hold their first elections in November of 2024).

Number of Districts Question

- Currently the City has 7 Councilmembers and a rotating Mayor
 - ▣ Thus this initial discussion is on 7-district map options
- Council voted to place a measure on the June ballot to move to 6 Councilmembers plus a citywide-elected Mayor
 - ▣ A second agenda item will present 6-district options
- Tonight's discussion will have two parts: one on six districts, another on seven districts
 - ▣ This districting process aims to develop the best 6-district map **and** the best 7-district map.
 - ▣ The ballot measure debate later in the year will focus on **whether** six or seven is a better option for the city.

Redistricting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



2. California Criteria for Cities

1. **Geographically contiguous**
2. **Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest”**
(Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
3. **Easily identifiable boundaries**
4. **Compact**
(Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

Prohibited:

“Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party.”

3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles

Minimize voters shifted to different election years

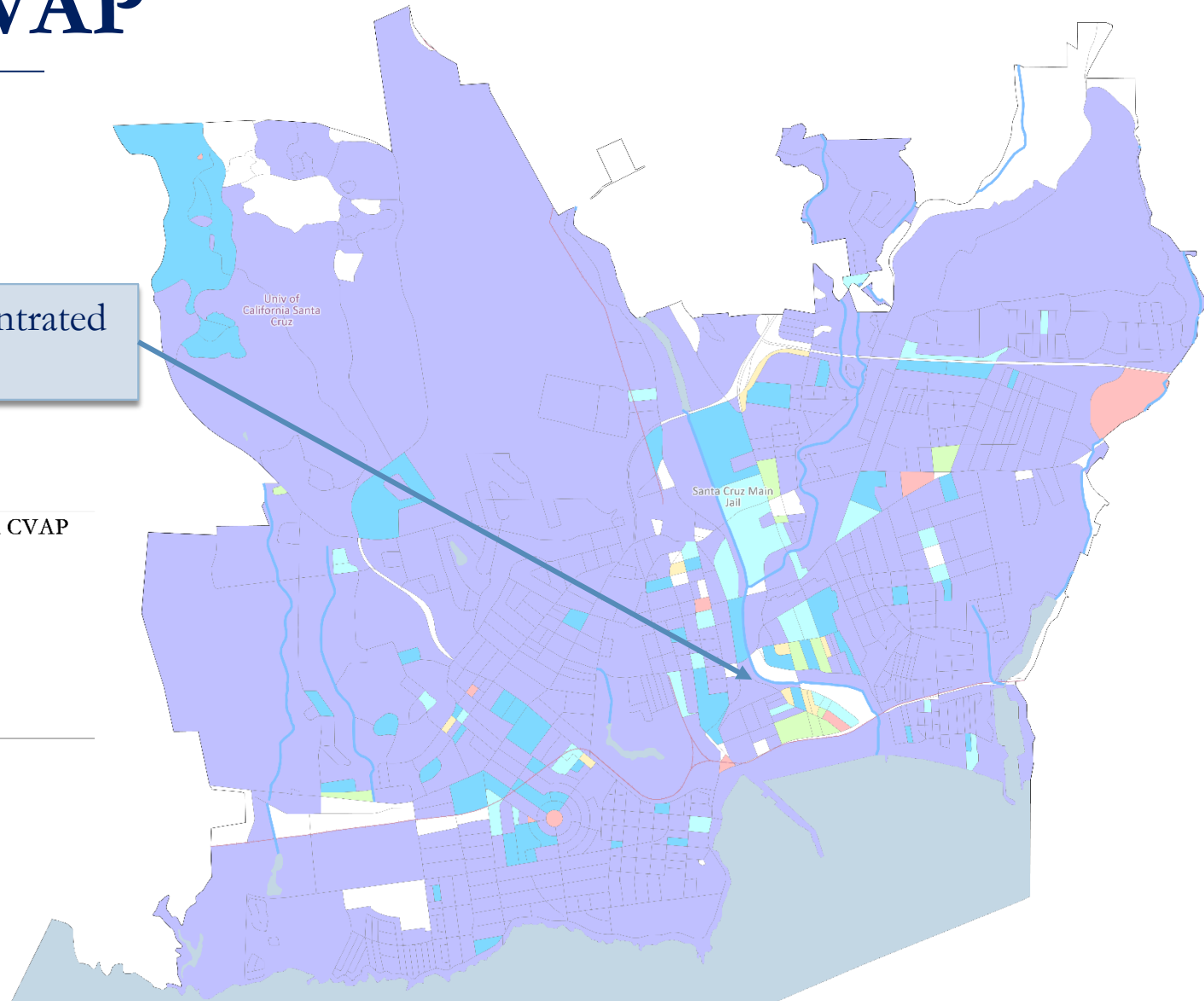
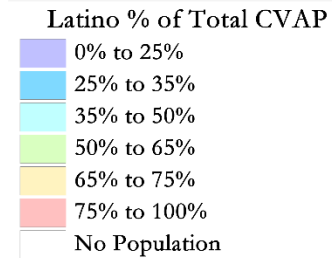
Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office

Future population growth

Preserving the core of existing districts

Latino CVAP

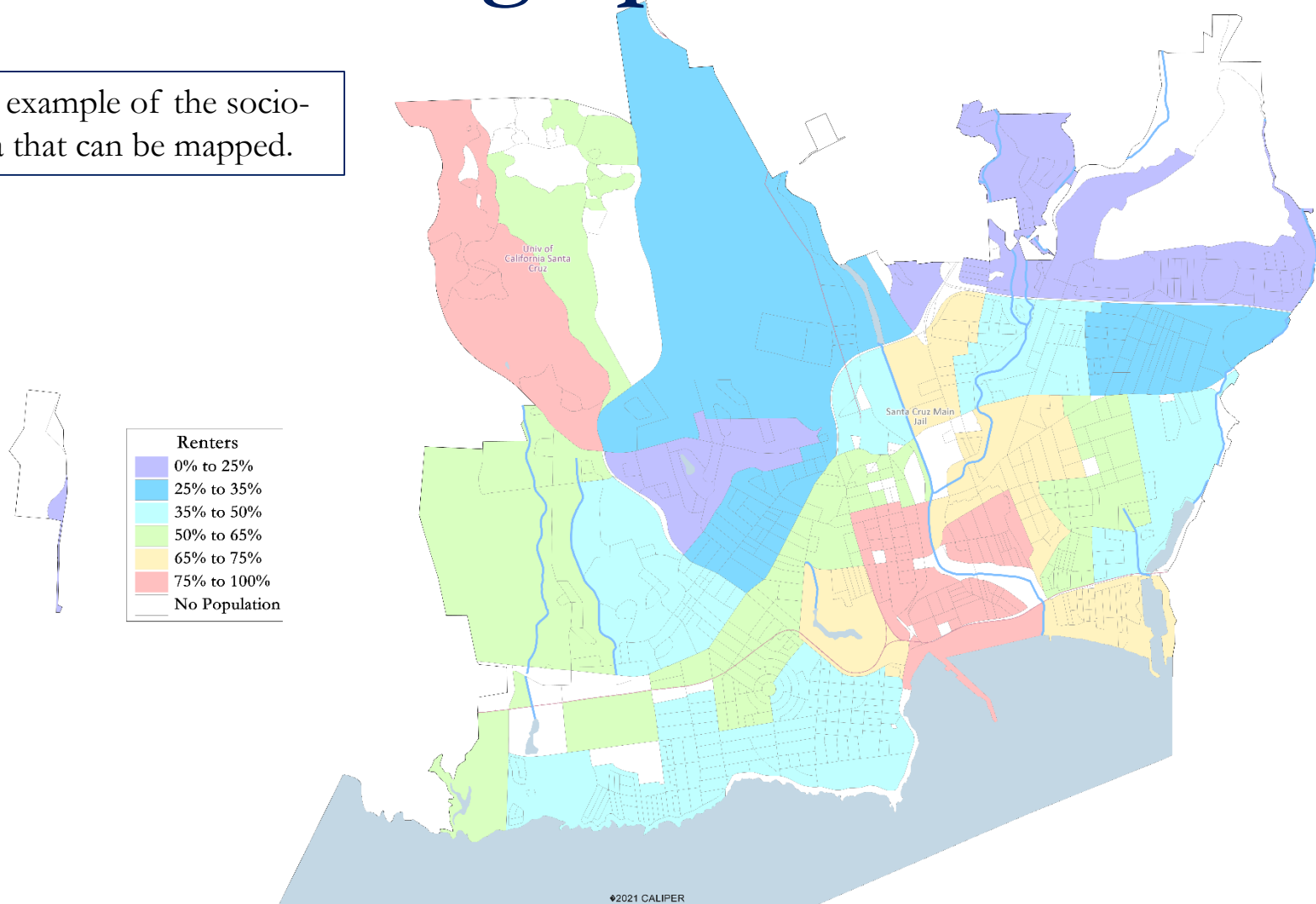
Latinos are more concentrated in the Beach Flats area.



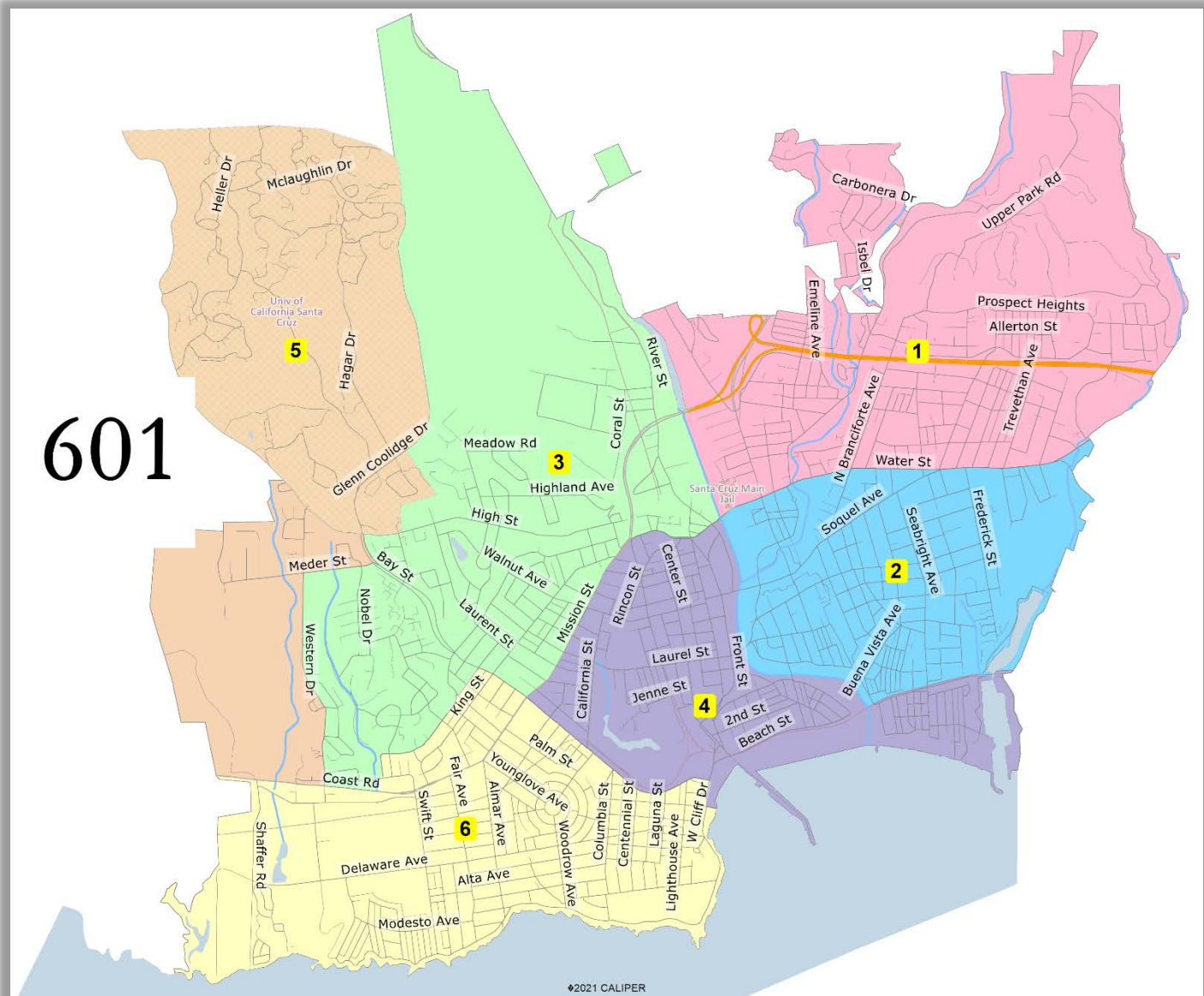
This is also a small concentration of African-Americans in the Beach Flats area, and Asian-Americans are slightly concentrated in the UCSC dorms.

Other Socio-Economic Demographics

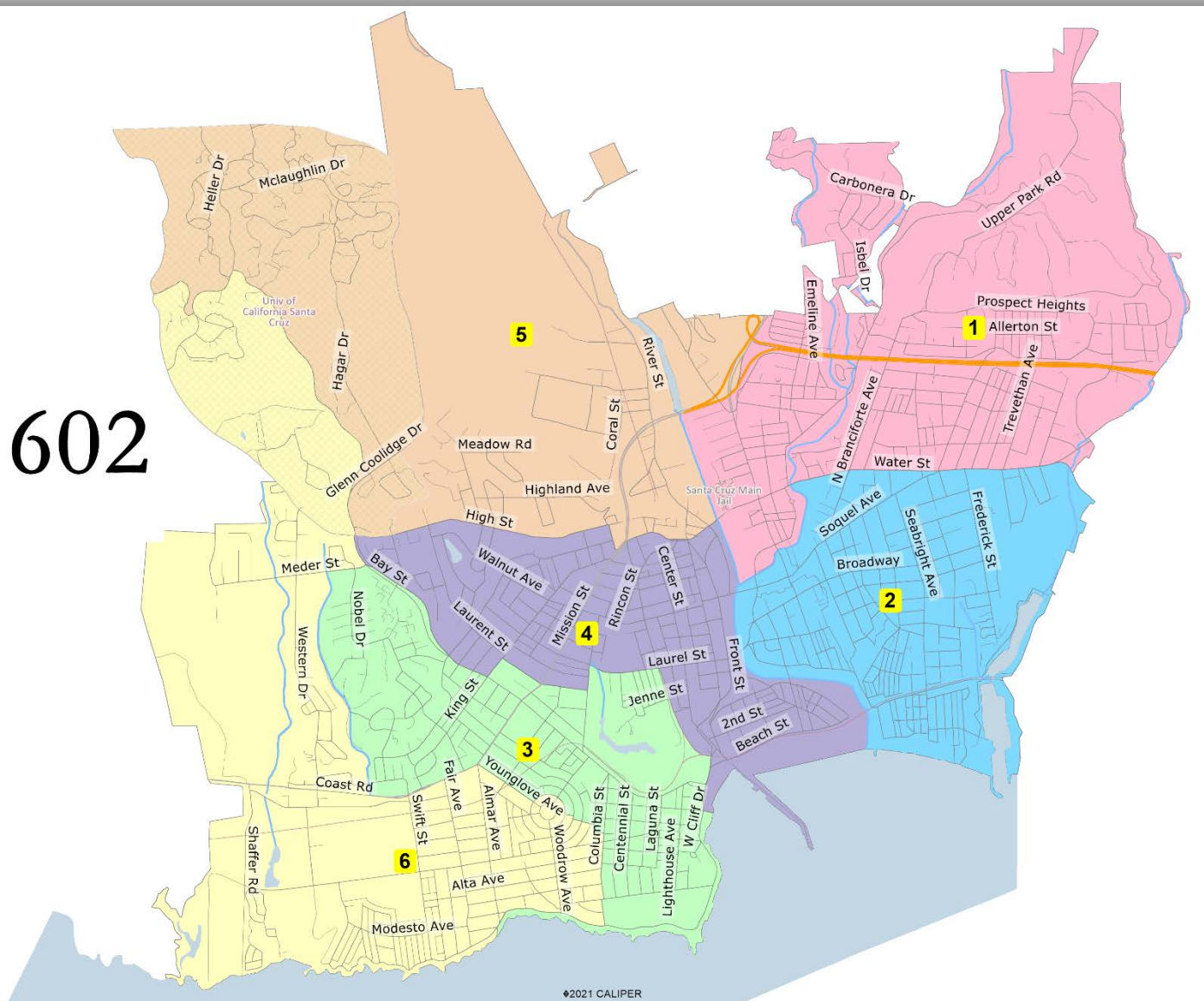
This is just one example of the socio-economic data that can be mapped.



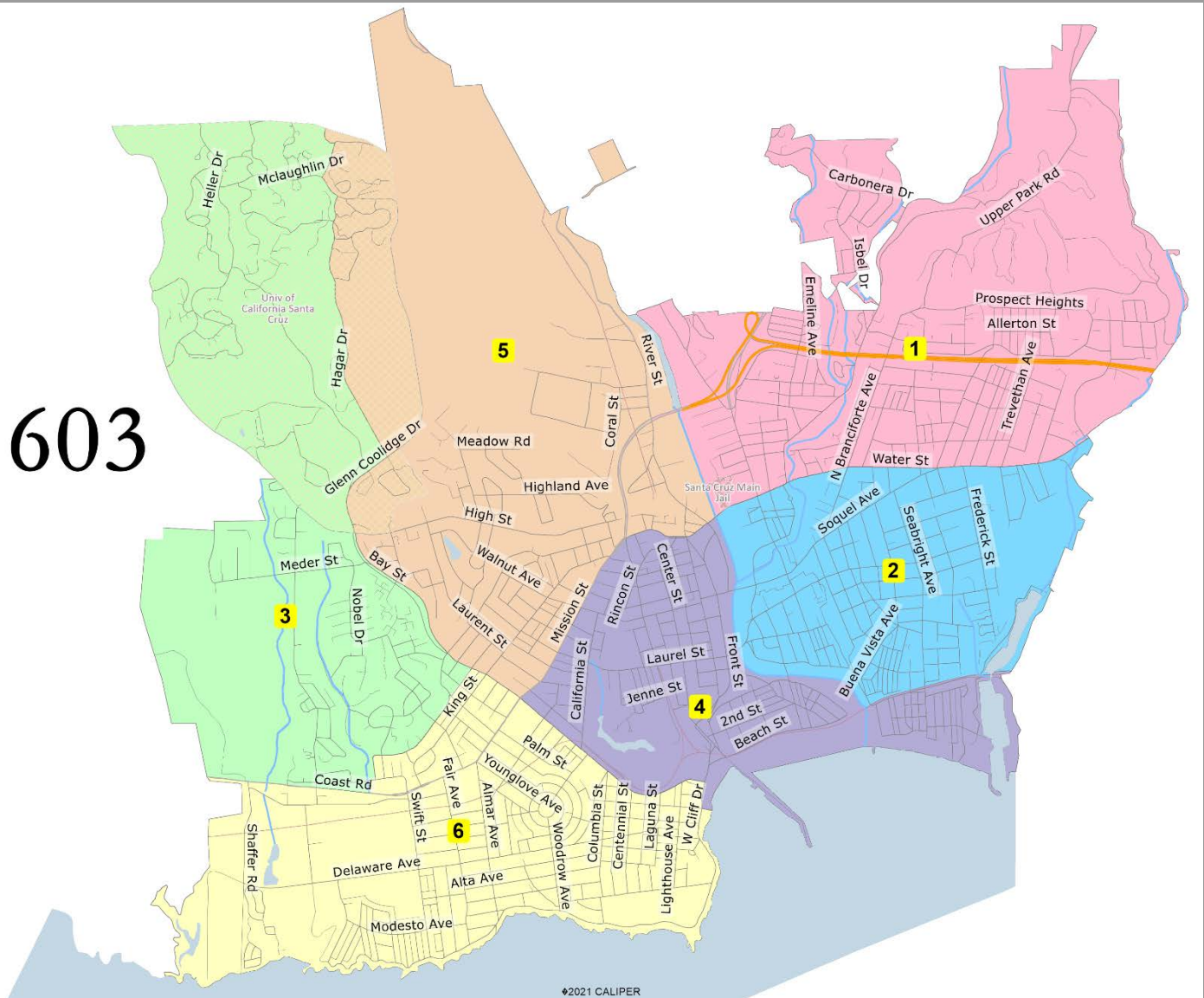
6-District Draft Map



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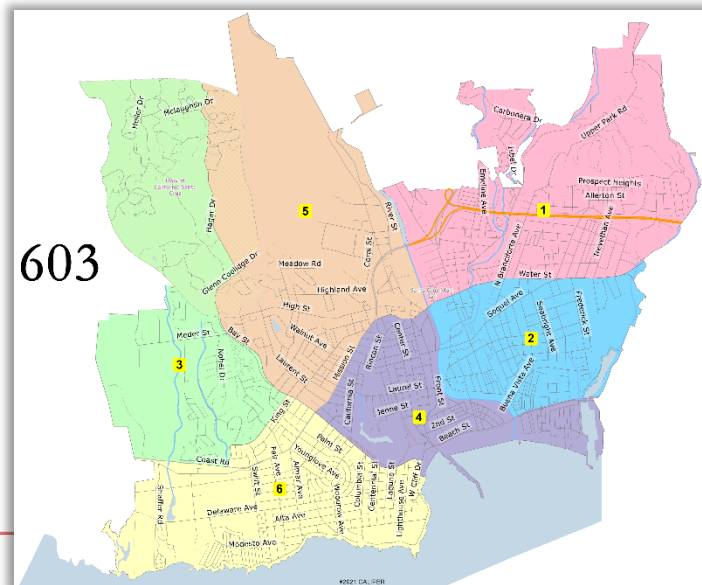
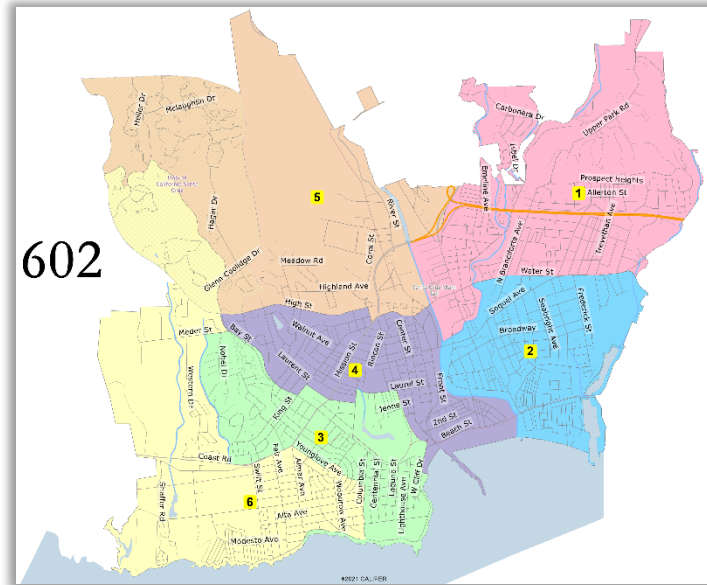
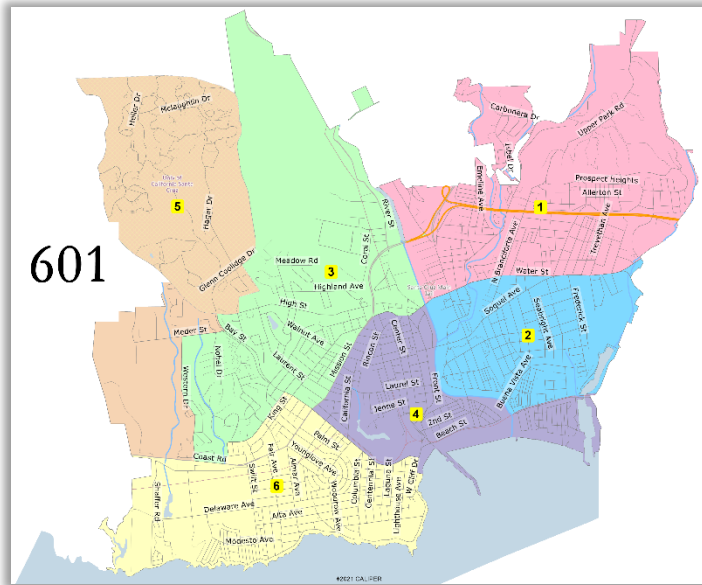
Election Sequencing

- Definition: Which districts are up in 2022 and which in 2024?
- State law requires that each draft map include a “proposed election sequence,” which is available on the PDF maps posted to the website
- Where Councilmembers on different election terms are paired, an “alternative election sequence” is also provided
- Sequencing can get very complicated, so traditionally consideration of it is left until a final map or two final maps are decided upon

Public Hearing & Discussion

- ❑ Which of the six-district plan(s) do you prefer?
- ❑ Do you have any suggestions on how to improve your preferred plans?

All six-district maps on one slide



[Interactive review map](#)

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