

# City of Foster City

Community Outreach  
Fall 2024



# Agenda

## Today's Goal:

- Empower the public to participate
  - Learn about the process
  - Draw your own map
  - Provide testimony on your community
  - Provide testimony on your preferred map

## Things we will cover:

- What is Districting
- What is the CVRA
- Public Hearing Schedule
- Traditional Districting/Redistricting Principles
- Communities of Interest
- How to Get Involved
- Foster City's population data

# What is Districting

## Definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries.

These boundaries determine:

- Eligibility to run for office – must live within boundaries to qualify for election.
- Who votes in the election – only residents within the election-district may vote for their board member.

# What is Districting

## Definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries. This does not impact services.

These boundaries do not determine:

- How the district decides to govern. The board of directors can still work to achieve goals that benefit the district as a whole rather than the interests of any single election-district area.
- How services or relationships between the district and the public are managed.

# What is the CVRA?

## Definition

The California Voting Rights Act is a state law that prohibits the use of *at-large* elections systems in local government if there is *racially polarized voting*.

“At Large” is defined as anything other than a system in which an elected official lives in a district, and is only elected by members of that district.

“Racially Polarized Voting” is defined as differences in voting patterns which can be shown to be correlated to race, religion, national origin, or membership in any other protected class.

# What is the CVRA?

## Definition

The California Voting Rights Act takes the principles of the Federal Voting Rights Act and expands it regarding districted elections in two key ways:

- While Federal law uses “majority minority” districts as a standard for vulnerability, the CVRA only requires “ability to influence.”
- The CVRA requires that plaintiffs get full reimbursement for legal fees associated with any successful challenge. *These can be lessened or eliminated if the district follows a strict and prompt process for districting, call “safe harbor provisions.”*

# What is the CVRA?

## Safe Harbor Provisions

The *safe harbor provisions* of the CVRA requires jurisdictions to follow a minimum of:

- Five public meetings
  - First two meetings are devoted to educating the public and gathering public testimony
- Must be completed within 90 days

# City of Foster City

First two public hearings devoted to community of interest testimony gathering and education on districting process

## Public Hearings and Workshops:

October 7, 2024	First public hearing
October 20, 2024	Community Workshop
October 21, 2024	Second public hearing
November 4, 2024	Third public hearing (first maps hearing)
November 13, 2024	Community Workshop (Post-Maps)
November 18, 2024	Fourth public hearing
POSSIBLE: Nov. 25, 2024	Extra meeting to discuss maps
December 2, 2024	Fifth public hearing (final vote)



# Hearing purposes

Public Hearing Structure	
Hearing #1	Public Hearing with information about the districting process, descriptions of the data and mapping tools, introduction of ways the community can provide input.
Hearing #2	Repeat of first hearing, with additional emphasis on receiving community of interest testimony for the purposes of driving map creation.
Hearing #3	Presentation of maps of new potential district boundaries produced by the demographer and <b>published seven days in advance</b> . These maps are expected to drive additional feedback from the public and Directors.
Hearing #4	Public Hearing with revised map(s). Additional public input regarding the revised map(s) and concluding with direction from the board on a final map.
Hearing #5	Public Hearing to adopt final map

# Required Districting Criteria

Traditional redistricting principles used throughout the country and written into state law

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

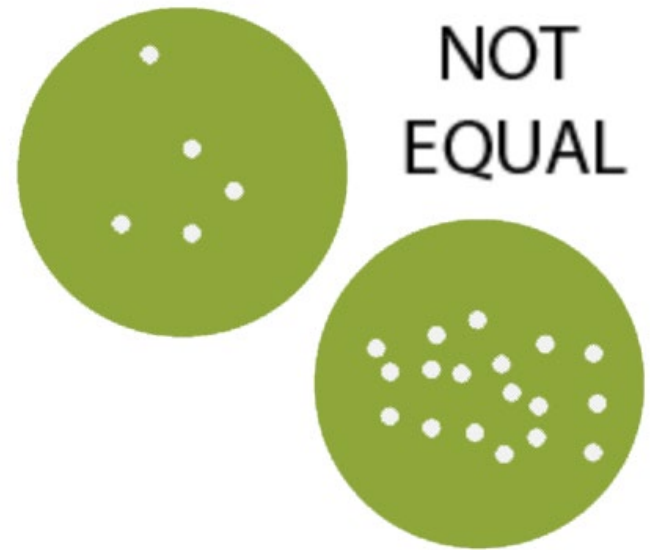
- **Relatively equal size - people, not citizens**
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following city, natural, and man-made boundaries
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

# Equal Population

Utilizing the US Census Decennial File

What is “equal” population has been a key subject in districting litigation.

- Population Equality is based on “People” not citizens or voters or other metrics.
- 10% deviation presumed equal. Other agencies / states have different plan deviation requirements.



# Required Districting Criteria

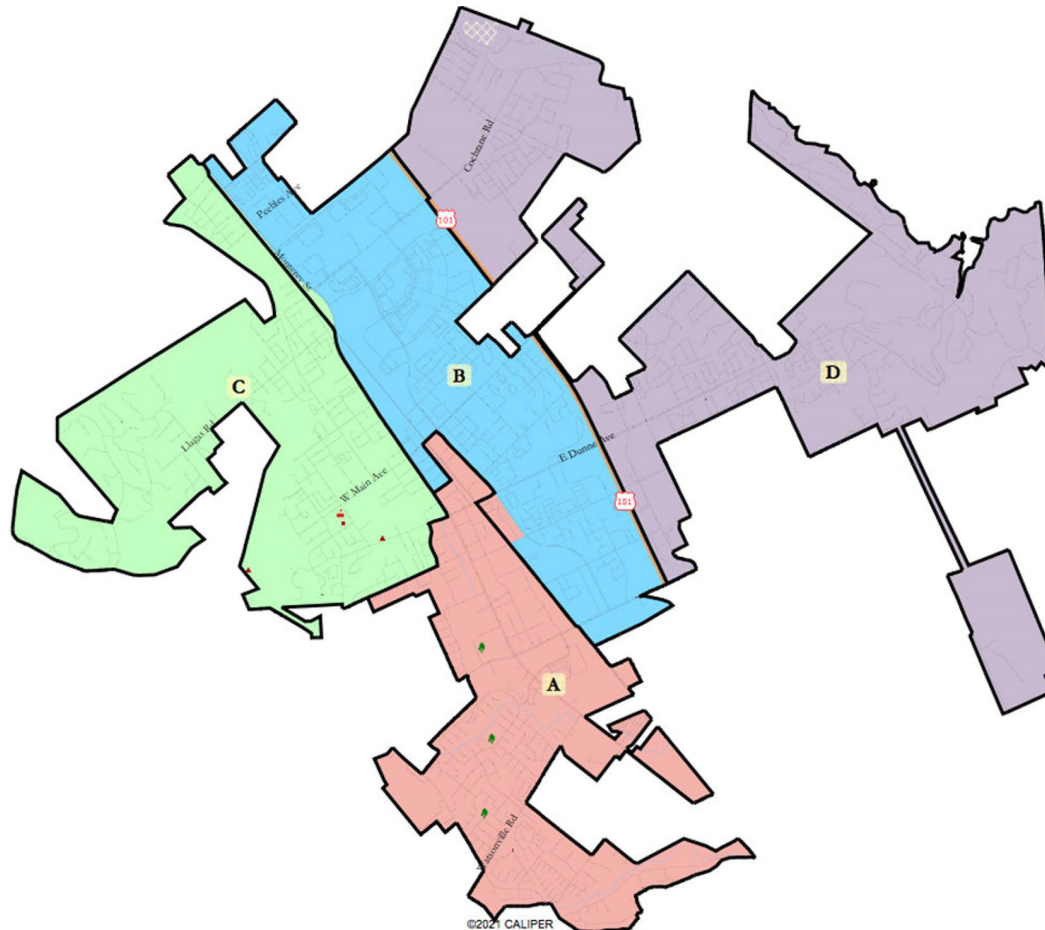
Traditional redistricting principles used throughout the country and written into state law

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- **Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump**
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following city, natural, and man-made boundaries
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

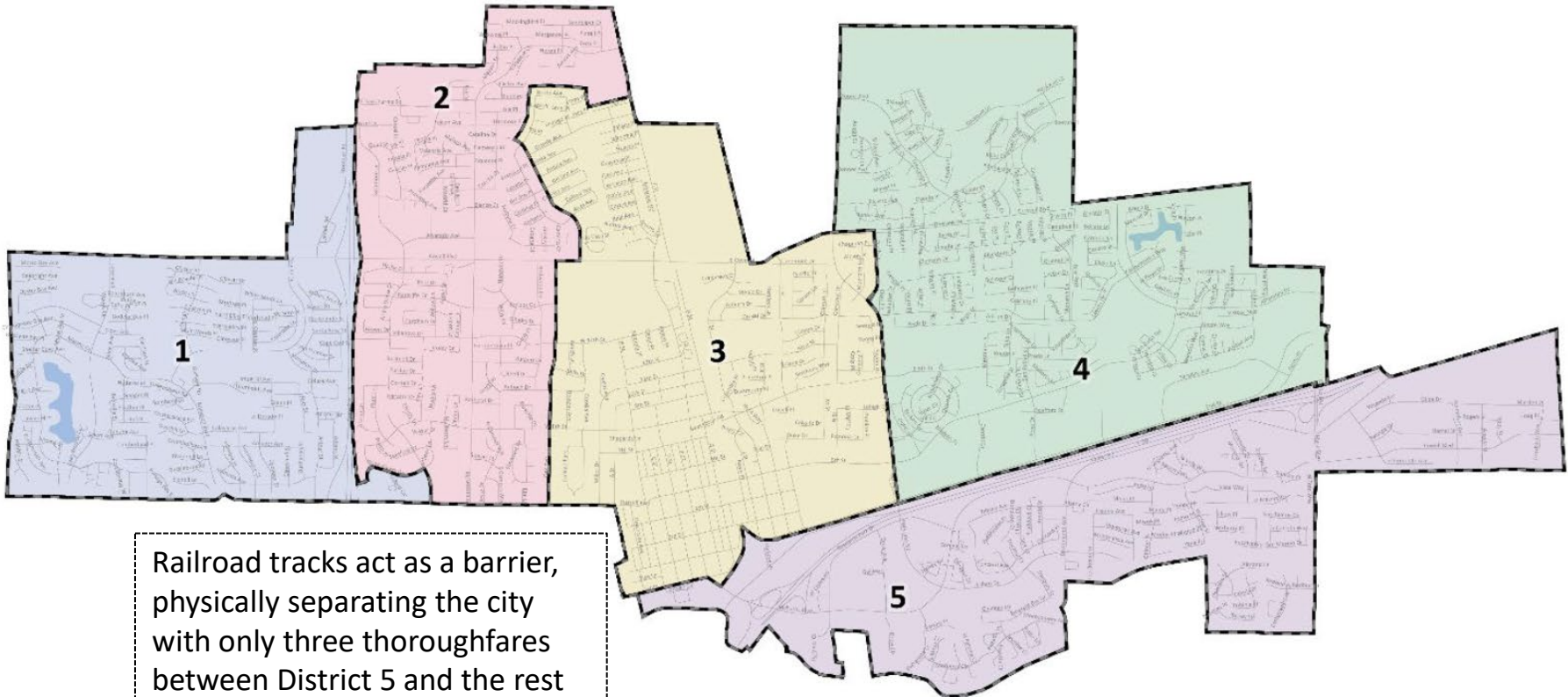
# Contiguity

Determining what is “contiguous”



# Contiguity

Determining what is “contiguity”



Railroad tracks act as a barrier, physically separating the city with only three thoroughfares between District 5 and the rest of the city.

# Required Districting Criteria

Traditional redistricting principles used throughout the country and written into state law

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- **Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following city, natural, and man-made boundaries**
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

# Required Districting Criteria

Traditional redistricting principles used throughout the country and written into state law

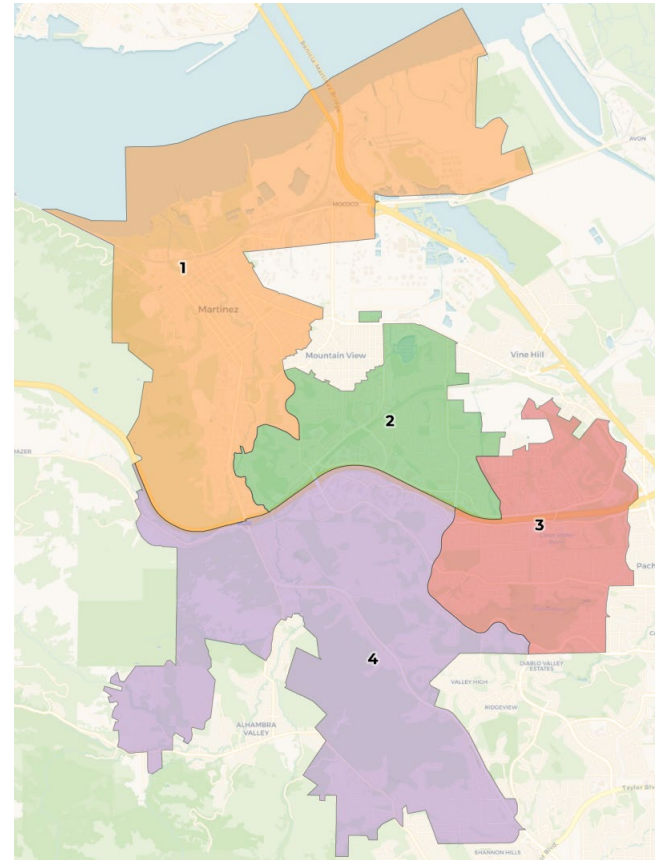
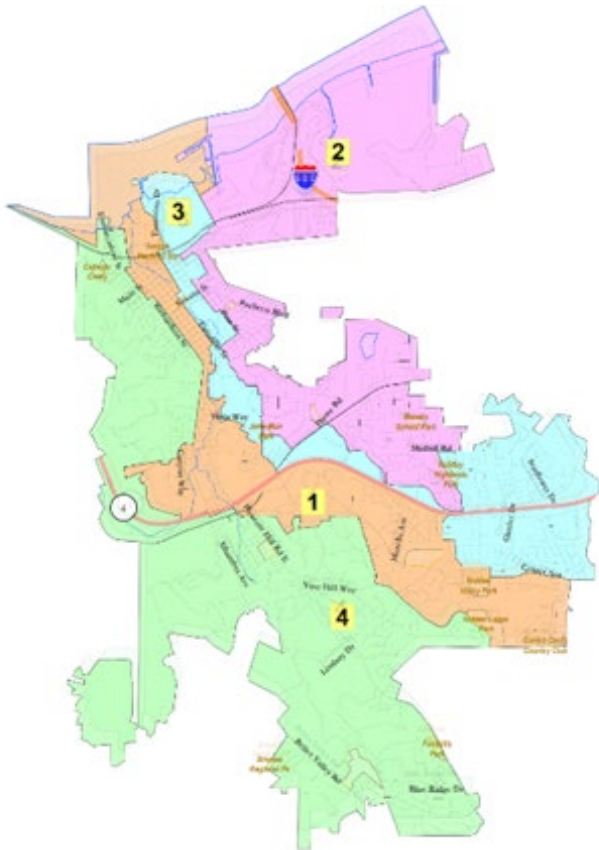
There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following city, natural, and man-made boundaries
- **Keep districts compact – appearance/function**



# Compactness

Determining what is “compact”



# Required Districting Criteria

Traditional redistricting principles used throughout the country and written into state law

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- **Maintain “*communities of interest*”**
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following city, natural, and man-made boundaries
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

# Communities of Interest

As defined by the FAIR MAPS Act

A “**community of interest**” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single election district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

Characteristics include:

- shared public policy concerns
- public safety
- public health
- environment
- housing
- transportation
- cultural districts
- shared socioeconomic characteristics
- shared histories

# Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

Communities of interest are the building blocks of districts.

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Subjective
- Open-ended to be as inclusive as possible

Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act

- Latinos
- Asians
- African Americans

**While communities of interest may include race, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing district boundaries.**

# What is NOT a Community of Interest

## Preventing a Districting from Becoming a Gerrymander

The FAIR MAPS Act explicitly prohibits these groups from being considered as communities of interest

- Political party affiliation
- Incumbents
- Political candidates

It also is hard, in districting to truly consider:

- *Groups of similarly minded people who do not share a similar geographic location.*
- *Communities of Interest that are districtwide.*

# Communities of Interest

## Three Critical Questions in Defining YOUR Community

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped?
- How would you describe the community's relationship with the jurisdiction, and how is your community affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials?

# How to Get Involved

## Submitting Your COI Form

Input can be provided in public hearings or using our “Community of Interest Survey Form” on the City’s website.



Tell us about your community of interest!

The City Council wants to hear from you on how these boundaries should be drawn, and keeping communities of interest together is a valued criteria in the districting process. ***Click the button below to learn why sharing your community of interest is so important, and to submit a form.***

Fill out a community of interest form

# How to Get Involved

The City is looking for two different types of maps from the public.

Maps from the public	
<b>Community of Interest</b>	<b>Districted Plans Based on 2020 Data</b>
Draw and document your community.	Draw your preferred districted map.
Let us know where your community is by using specific street boundaries so we can avoid splitting it.	You can draw 1-5 election districts in accordance with how you think best represents the City.
Communities are better able to advocate and vote for their best interests when they remain together.	Maps drawn by the public often reflect logical boundaries based on the community, and many cities and districts prefer selecting a public map.



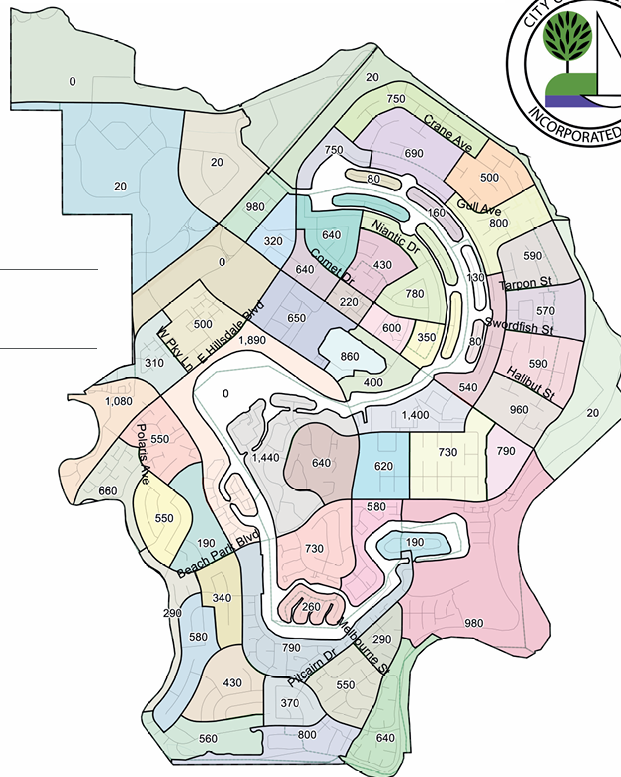
# How to Get Involved

## Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

There will also be paper maps for the public to use to draw their own community of interest and/or districted map.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



## CITY OF FOSTER CITY MAPPING TOOL

### THE RULES

- Create a single council district or a full five-district plan.
- Each council district should have a population of around 6,400 - 7,100
- The largest district should be no more than ~675 people greater than the smallest district.

### ABOUT THE BLOCKS

Each of these blocks is drawn within the city's census blocks and block groups, following major roads and boundaries of homeowner associations when available. The numbers are a rounded calculation based on the final census data adjusted by the State of California.

### SUBMIT YOUR PLAN

Send to: [districtelections@fostercity.org](mailto:districtelections@fostercity.org)  
Or drop off at a public hearing

Hearing Dates can be viewed on the City's website.

More information on districting in Foster City:  
<https://www.fostercity.org/community/page/transition-district-elections>

Write in the population estimates for each of your drawn districts.  
- 6,750 target population per council district

DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT 2

DISTRICT 3

DISTRICT 4

DISTRICT 5

# How to Get Involved

## Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

Foster City is setting up a Districtr page for the public to draw maps using an online option. Expected to be finished by this month.

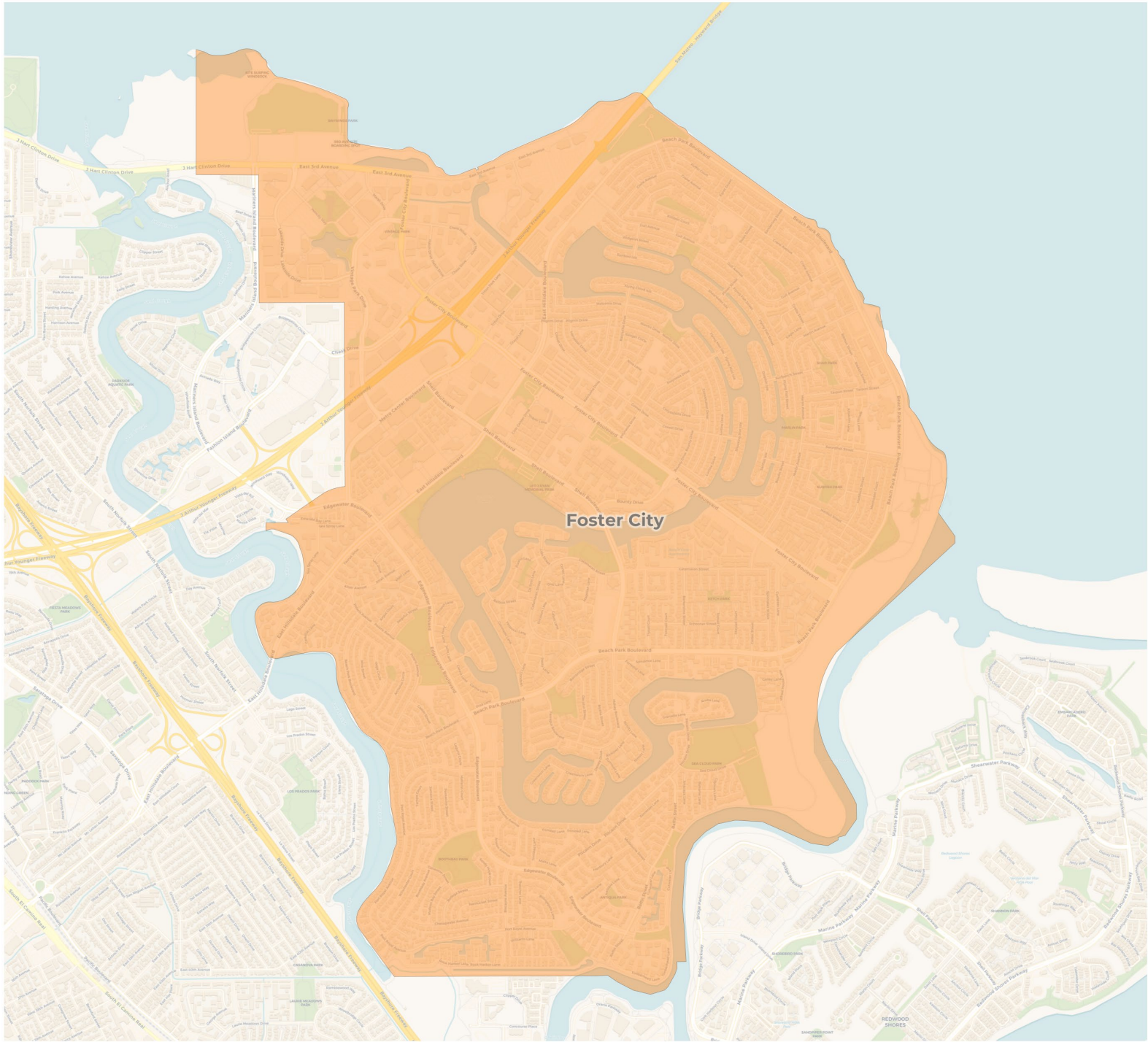


*You draw the lines.*

[https://districtr.org/tag/foster\\_city](https://districtr.org/tag/foster_city)

**REDISTRICTING  
PARTNERS**

**City of Foster City**  
At-Large



## 2020 Census

	Foster City
Population	33,842
Deviation	0
Deviation %	0.0%
Other	12,923
Other %	38.2%
Latino	2,438
Latino %	7.2%
Asian	17,992
Asian %	53.2%
Black	489
Black %	1.4%

## Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

	Foster City
Total CVAP	18,488
Other CVAP	9,080
Other CVAP %	49.1%
Latino CVAP	1,423
Latino CVAP %	7.7%
Asian CVAP	7,417
Asian CVAP %	40.1%
Black CVAP	568
Black CVAP %	3.1%

## 2020 Census

	Foster City
Population	33,842
Deviation	0
Deviation %	0.0%
Other	12,923
Other %	38.2%
Latino	2,438
Latino %	7.2%
Asian	17,992
Asian %	53.2%
Black	489
Black %	1.4%

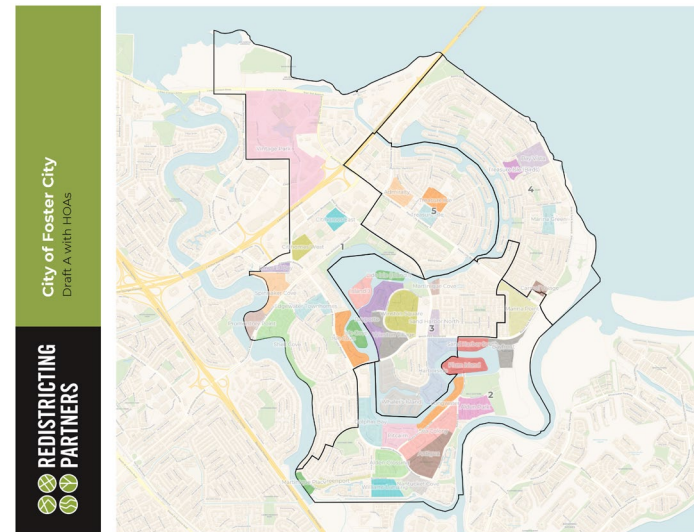
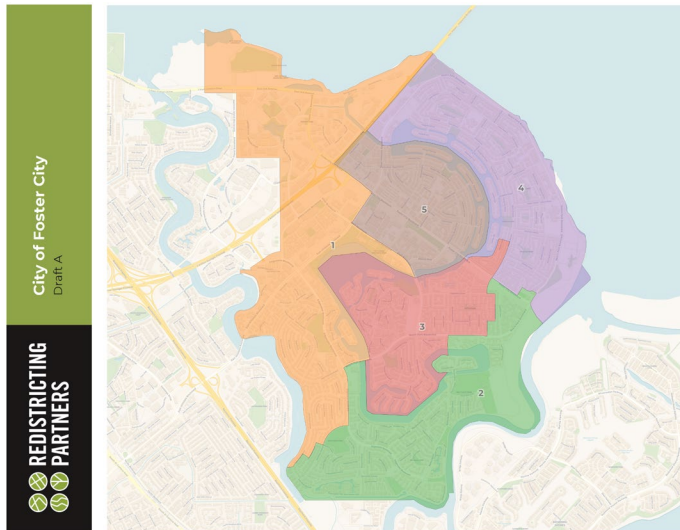
Ideal Population Size for Each  
Election-District: 6,768

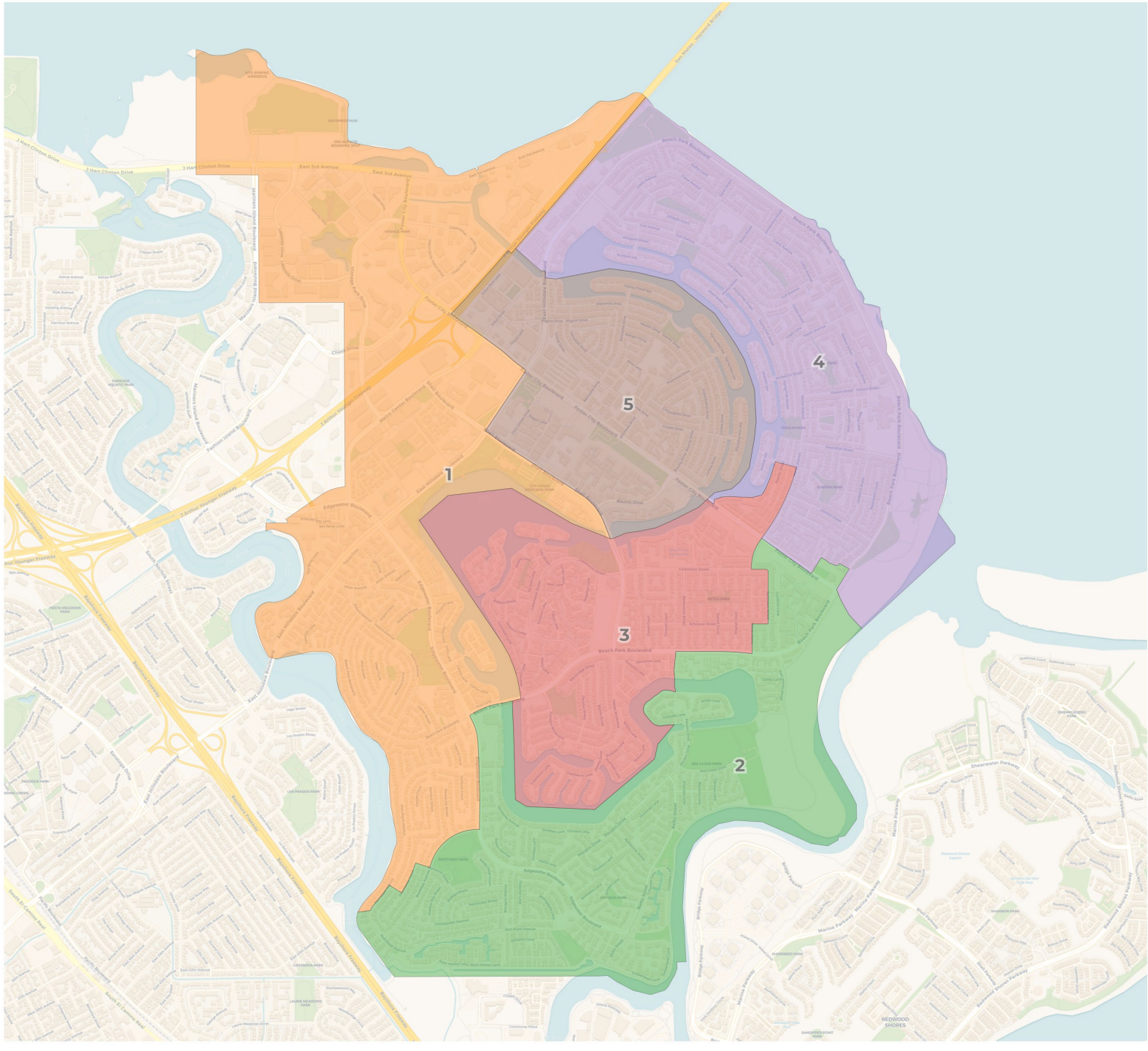
## Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

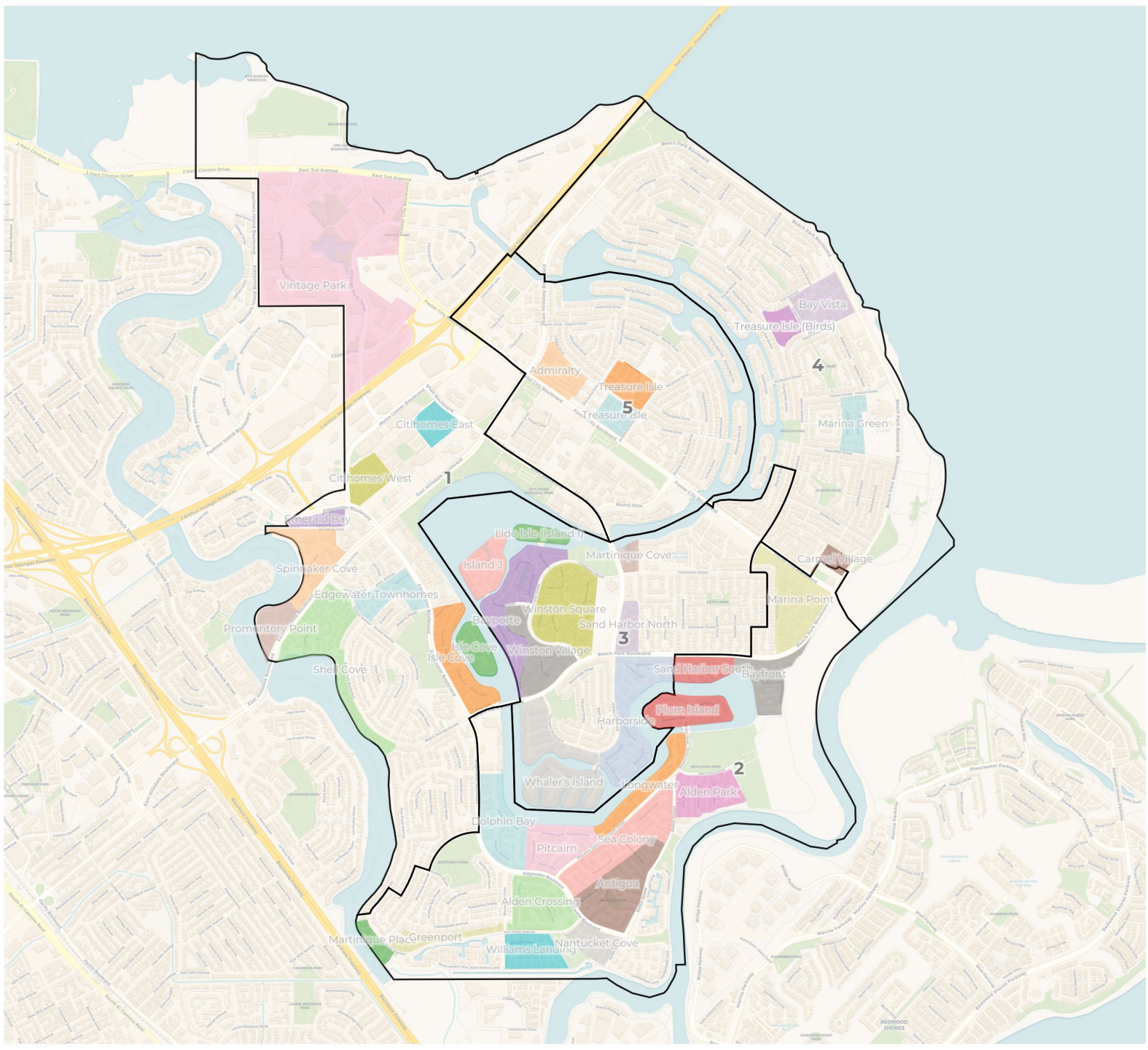
	Foster City
Total CVAP	18,488
Other CVAP	9,080
Other CVAP %	49.1%
Latino CVAP	1,423
Latino CVAP %	7.7%
Asian CVAP	7,417
Asian CVAP %	40.1%
Black CVAP	568
Black CVAP %	3.1%

# Draft Maps: Draft A

- Total Population Deviation: 3.3%
- Draft Map A was drawn to ensure HOAs and elementary school areas were kept intact as much as possible.
- Maintains a central and eastern district









**2020 Census**

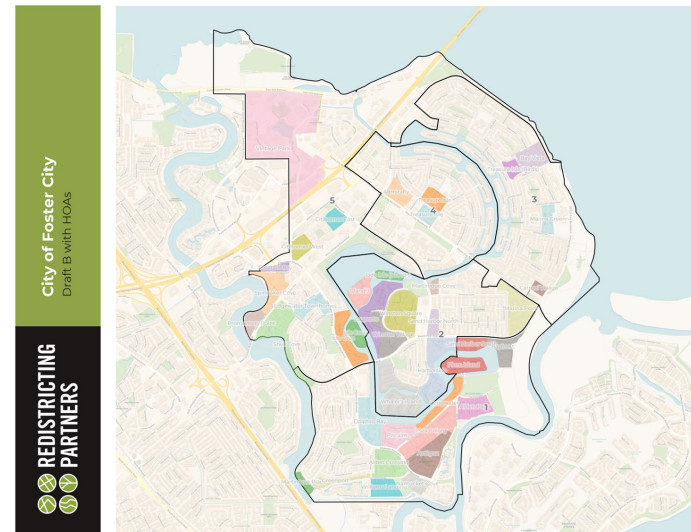
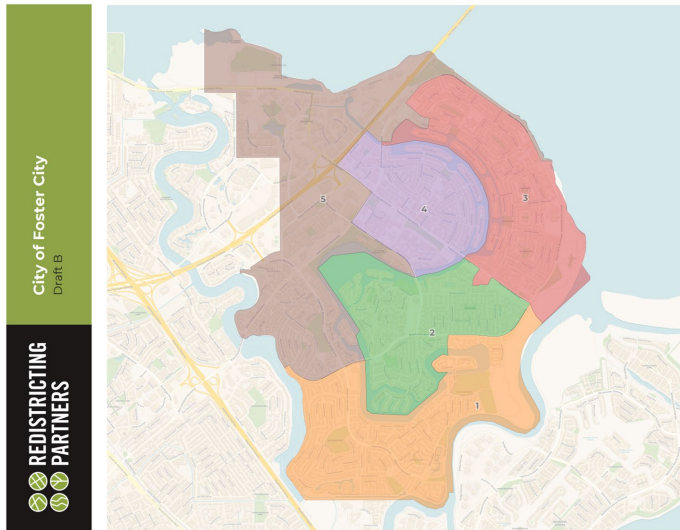
	1	2	3	4	5
Population	6,802	6,738	6,627	6,827	6,848
Deviation	34	-30	-141	59	80
Deviation %	0.5%	-0.4%	-2.1%	0.9%	1.2%
Other	2,538	2,621	2,581	2,665	2,518
Other %	37.3%	38.9%	38.9%	39.0%	36.8%
Latino	405	479	412	545	597
Latino %	6.0%	7.1%	6.2%	8.0%	8.7%
Asian	3,780	3,541	3,558	3,513	3,600
Asian %	55.6%	52.6%	53.7%	51.5%	52.6%
Black	79	97	76	104	133
Black %	1.2%	1.4%	1.1%	1.5%	1.9%

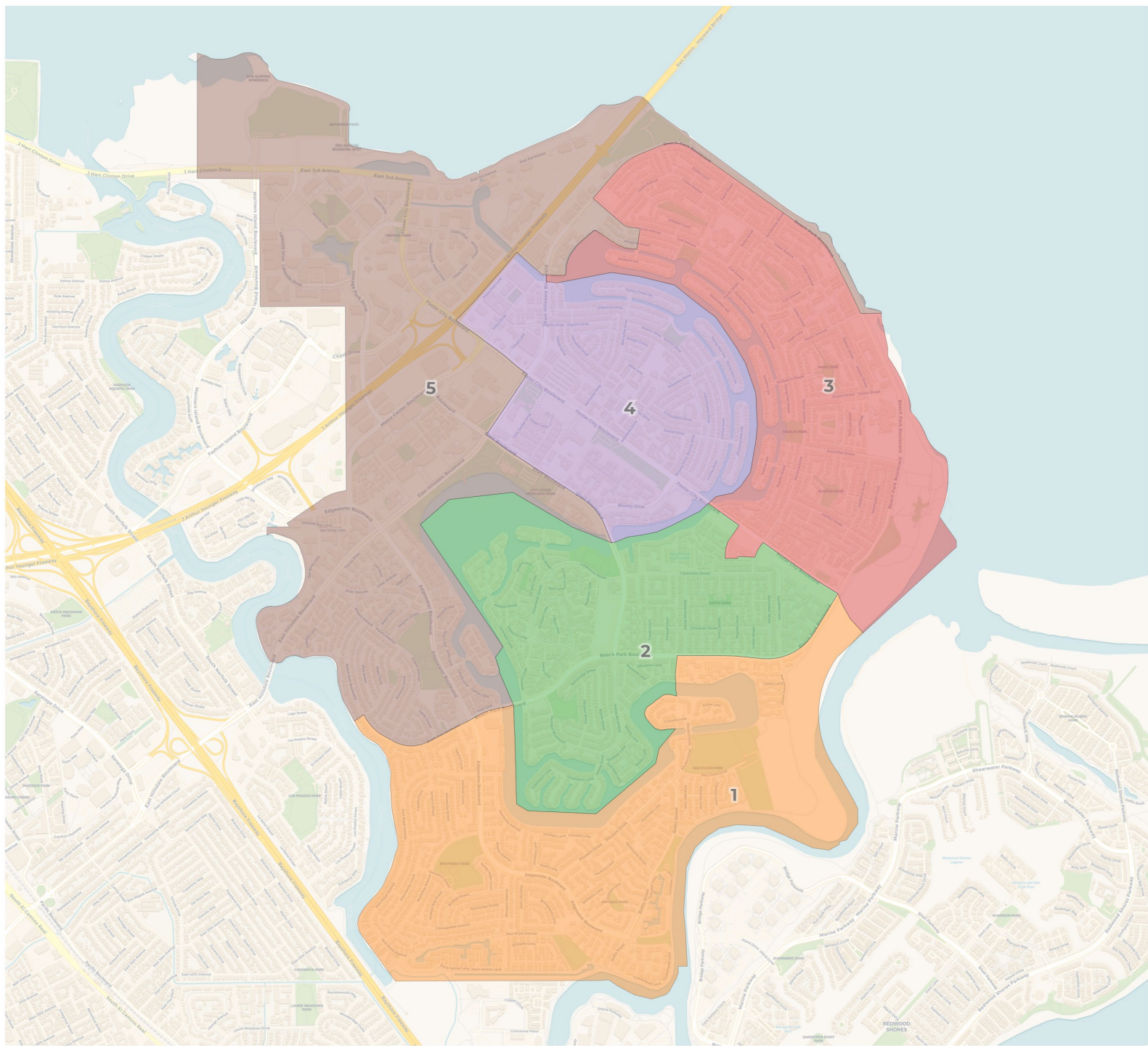
**Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)**

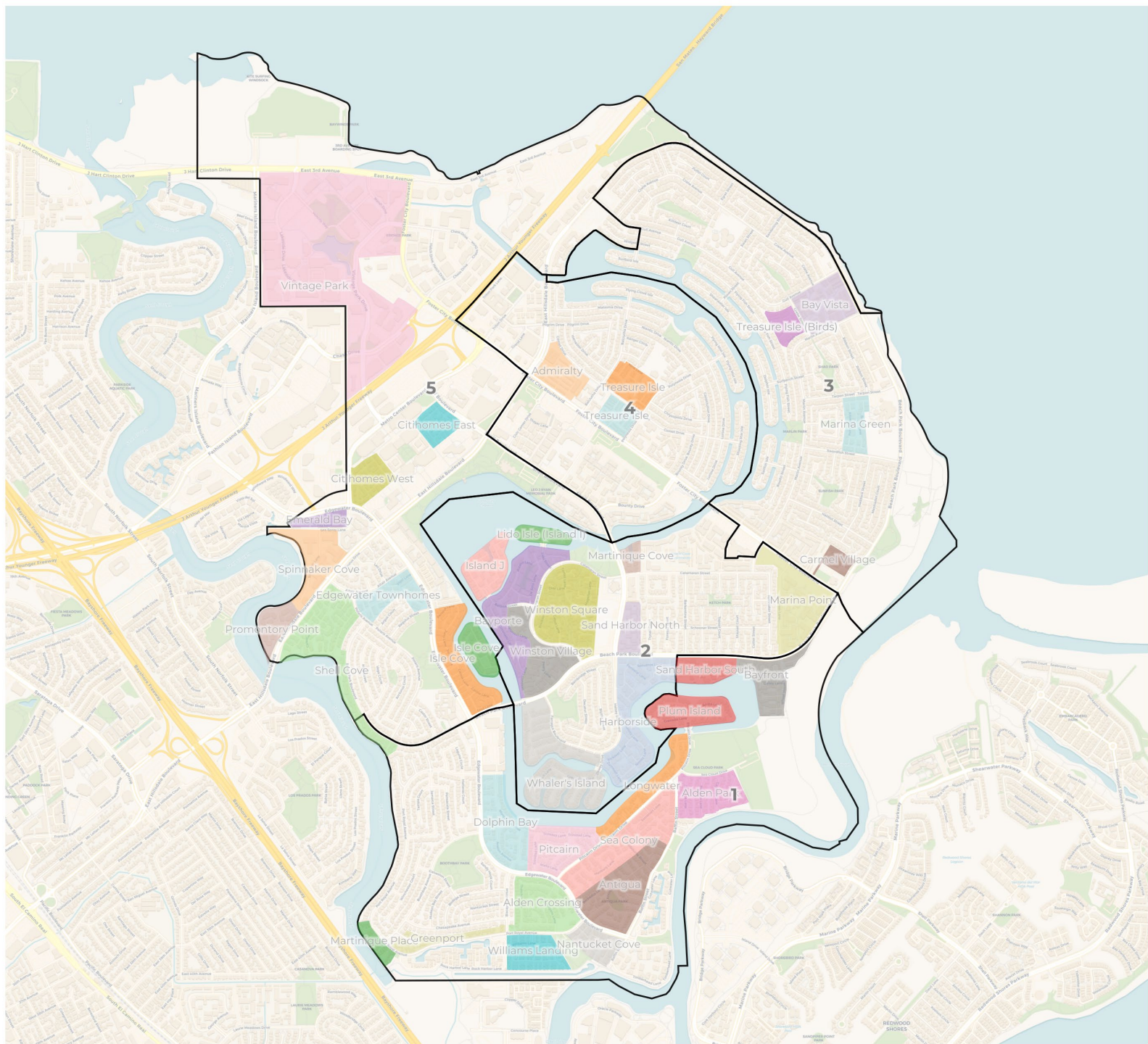
	1	2	3	4	5
Total CVAP	3,271	3,653	3,714	4,244	4,145
Other CVAP	1,642	1,668	1,961	1,840	1,983
Other CVAP %	50.2%	45.7%	52.8%	43.4%	47.8%
Latino CVAP	159	250	328	473	347
Latino CVAP %	4.9%	6.8%	8.8%	11.1%	8.4%
Asian CVAP	1,452	1,646	1,392	1,833	1,557
Asian CVAP %	44.4%	45.1%	37.5%	43.2%	37.6%
Black CVAP	18	89	33	98	258
Black CVAP %	0.6%	2.4%	0.9%	2.3%	6.2%

# Draft Maps: Draft B

- Total Population Deviation: 7.3%
- Inspired by Public Map 1 and drawn in a way that balanced that public map while maintaining HOAs, when possible.
  - Shell Cove is the only HOA split
- Maintains a central and eastern district.







**2020 Census**

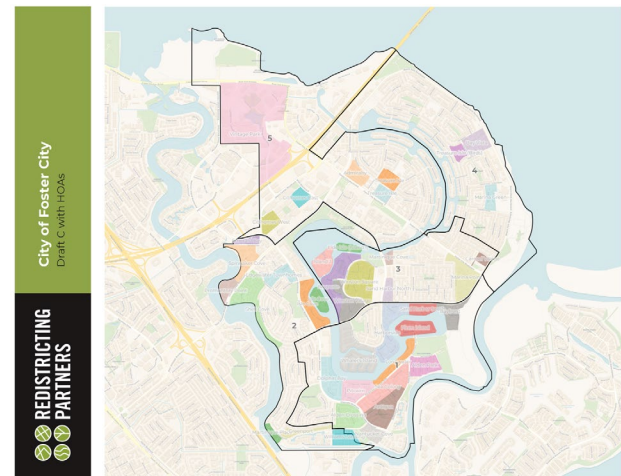
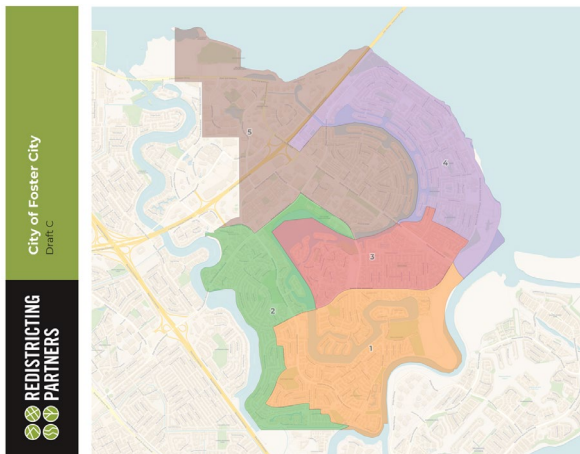
	1	2	3	4	5
Population	6,808	6,619	7,029	6,848	6,538
Deviation	40	-149	261	80	-230
Deviation %	0.6%	-2.2%	3.9%	1.2%	-3.4%
Other	2,609	2,724	2,626	2,518	2,446
Other %	38.3%	41.2%	37.4%	36.8%	37.4%
Latino	453	400	552	597	436
Latino %	6.7%	6.0%	7.9%	8.7%	6.7%
Asian	3,654	3,423	3,742	3,600	3,573
Asian %	53.7%	51.7%	53.2%	52.6%	54.6%
Black	92	72	109	133	83
Black %	1.4%	1.1%	1.6%	1.9%	1.3%

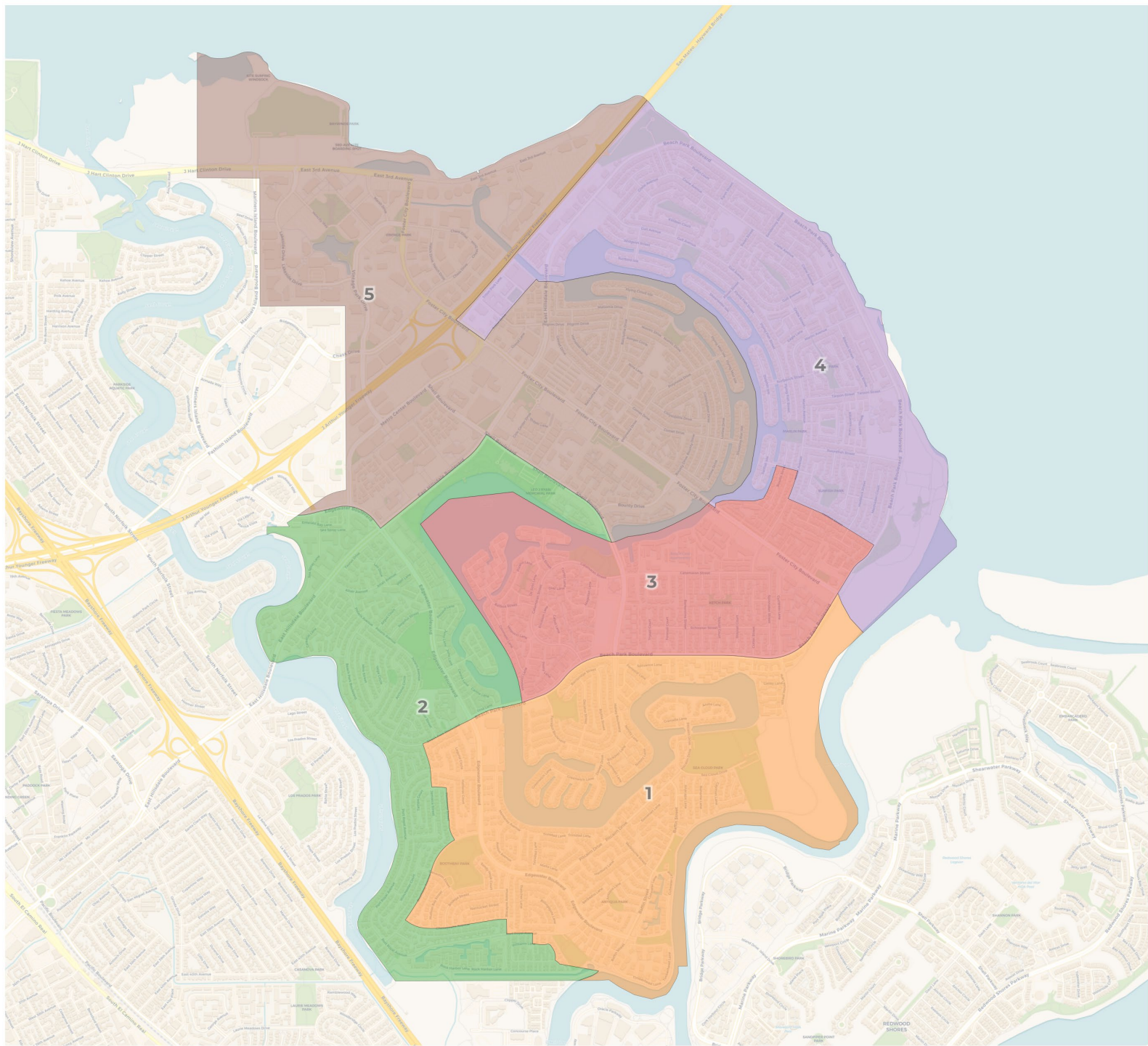
**Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)**

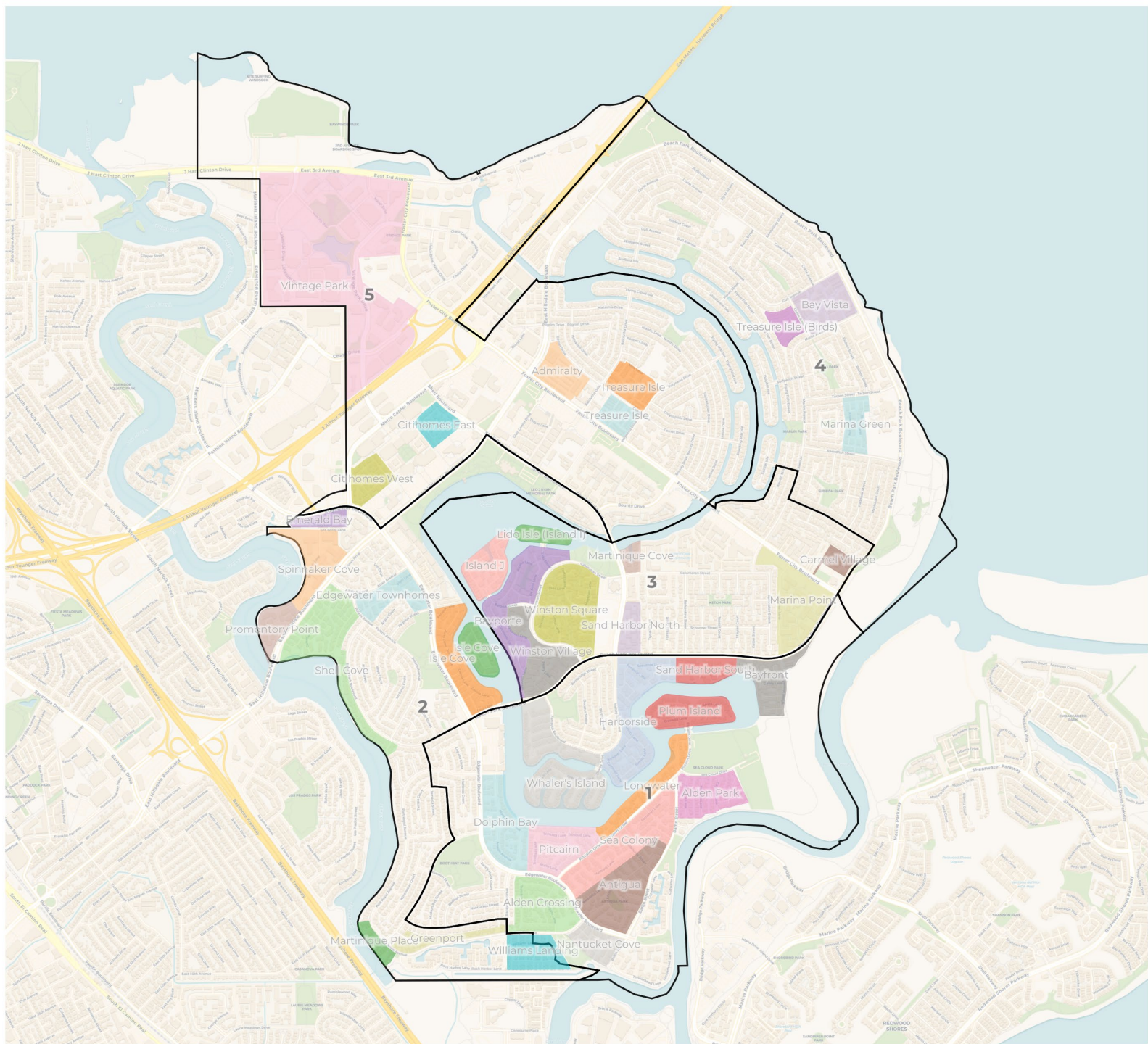
	1	2	3	4	5
Total CVAP	3,768	3,781	4,273	4,145	3,060
Other CVAP	1,574	2,109	1,811	1,983	1,617
Other CVAP %	41.8%	55.8%	42.4%	47.8%	52.8%
Latino CVAP	232	349	441	347	188
Latino CVAP %	6.2%	9.2%	10.3%	8.4%	6.1%
Asian CVAP	1,870	1,309	1,920	1,557	1,224
Asian CVAP %	49.6%	34.6%	44.9%	37.6%	40.0%
Black CVAP	92	14	101	258	31
Black CVAP %	2.4%	0.4%	2.4%	6.2%	1.0%

# Draft Maps: Draft C

- Total Population Deviation: 7.9%
- Maintains a central and eastern district.
- Provides a different ration of the splits on the western portion of the city while maintaining HOAs and using main roads.
  - Uses Beach Park Blvd as a divider







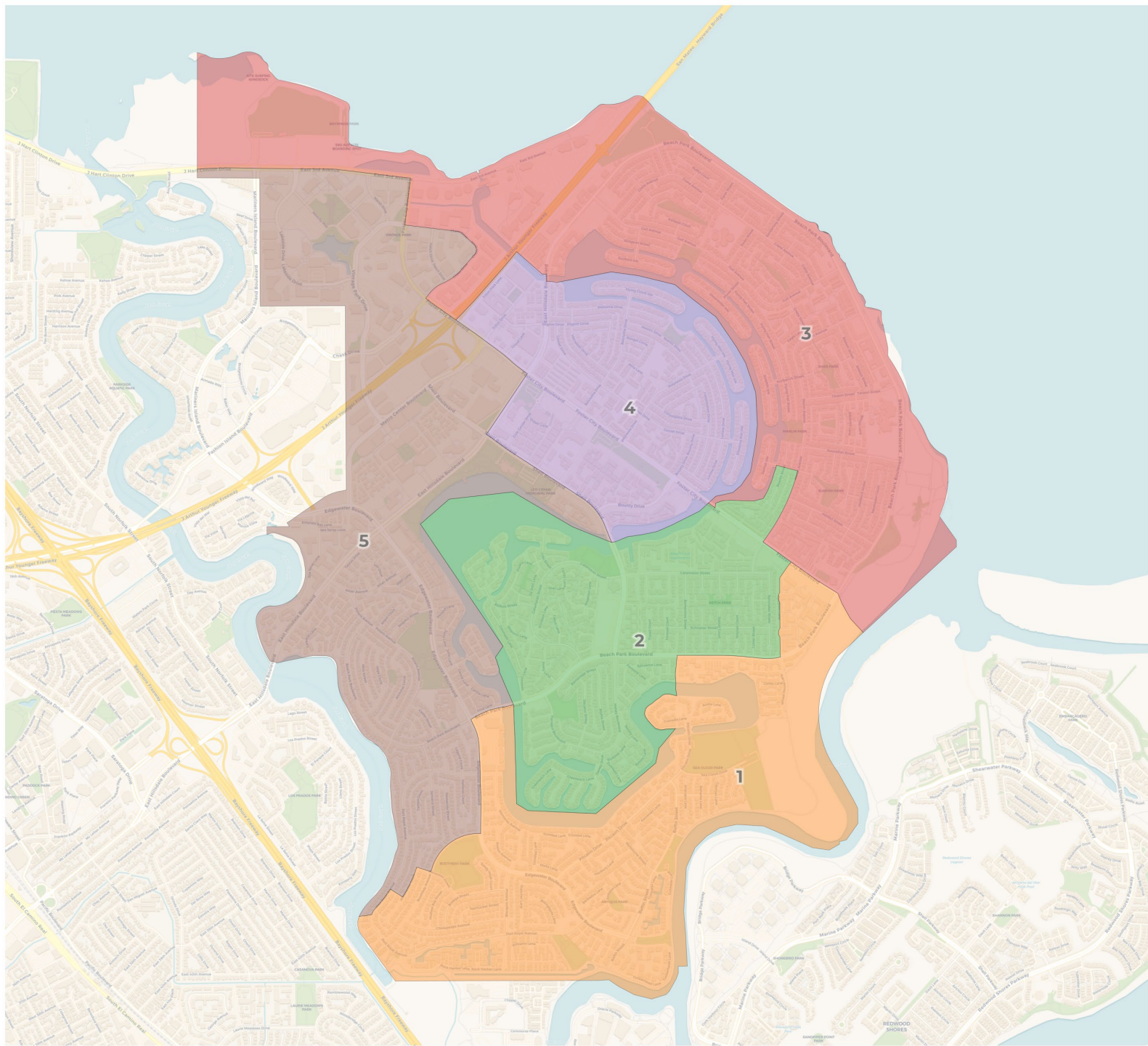


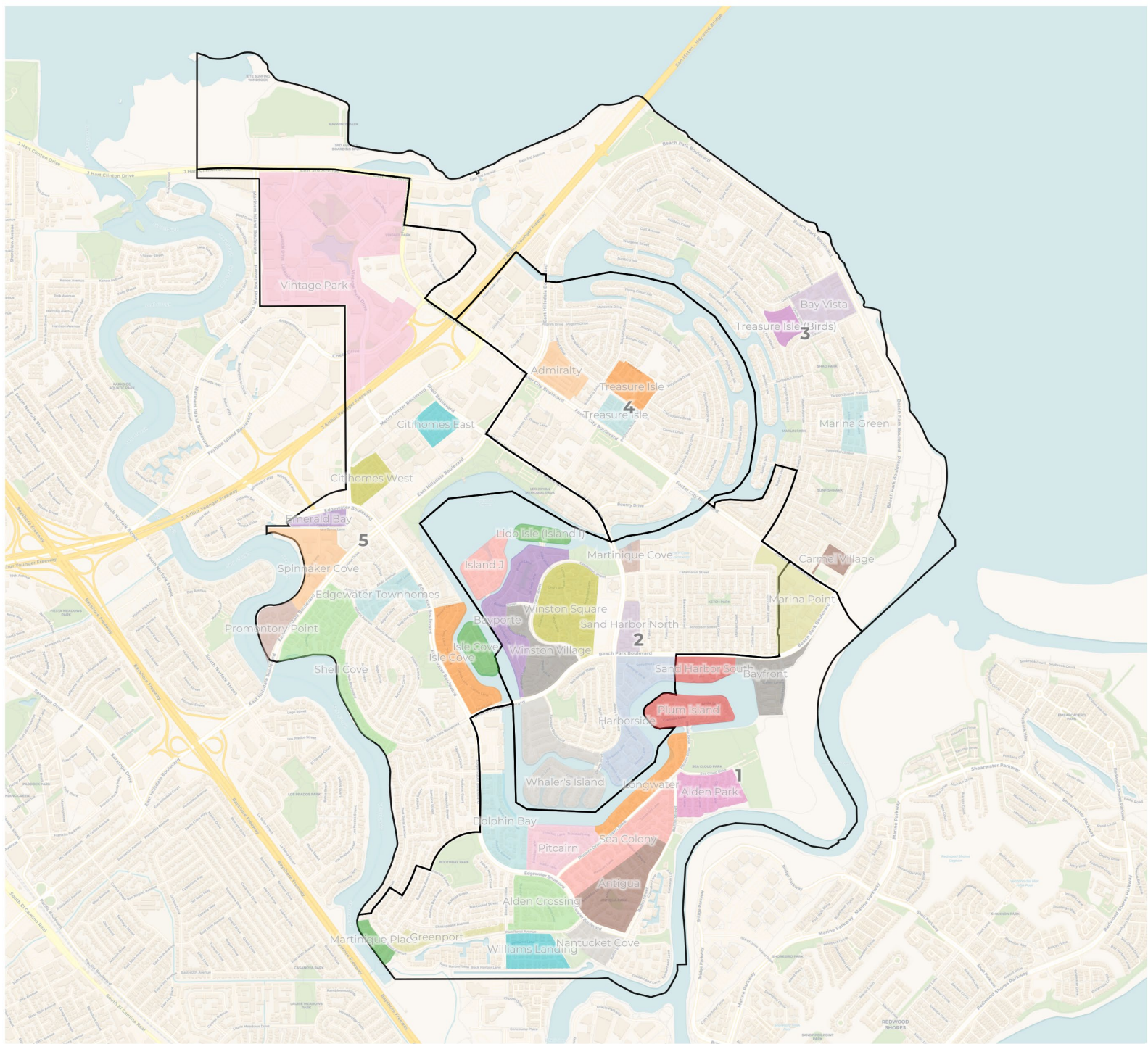
**2020 Census**

	1	2	3	4	5
Population	6,425	6,873	6,957	6,867	6,720
Deviation	-343	105	189	99	-48
Deviation %	-5.1%	1.6%	2.8%	1.5%	-0.7%
Other	2,651	2,557	2,571	2,612	2,532
Other %	41.3%	37.2%	37.0%	38.0%	37.7%
Latino	402	445	507	526	558
Latino %	6.3%	6.5%	7.3%	7.7%	8.3%
Asian	3,293	3,790	3,777	3,624	3,508
Asian %	51.3%	55.1%	54.3%	52.8%	52.2%
Black	79	81	102	105	122
Black %	1.2%	1.2%	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%

**Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)**

	1	2	3	4	5
Total CVAP	3,676	3,242	3,752	4,276	4,081
Other CVAP	1,439	1,707	2,174	1,801	1,973
Other CVAP %	39.1%	52.7%	57.9%	42.1%	48.3%
Latino CVAP	267	187	298	466	339
Latino CVAP %	7.3%	5.8%	7.9%	10.9%	8.3%
Asian CVAP	1,901	1,309	1,248	1,911	1,511
Asian CVAP %	51.7%	40.4%	33.3%	44.7%	37.0%
Black CVAP	69	39	32	98	258
Black CVAP %	1.9%	1.2%	0.9%	2.3%	6.3%



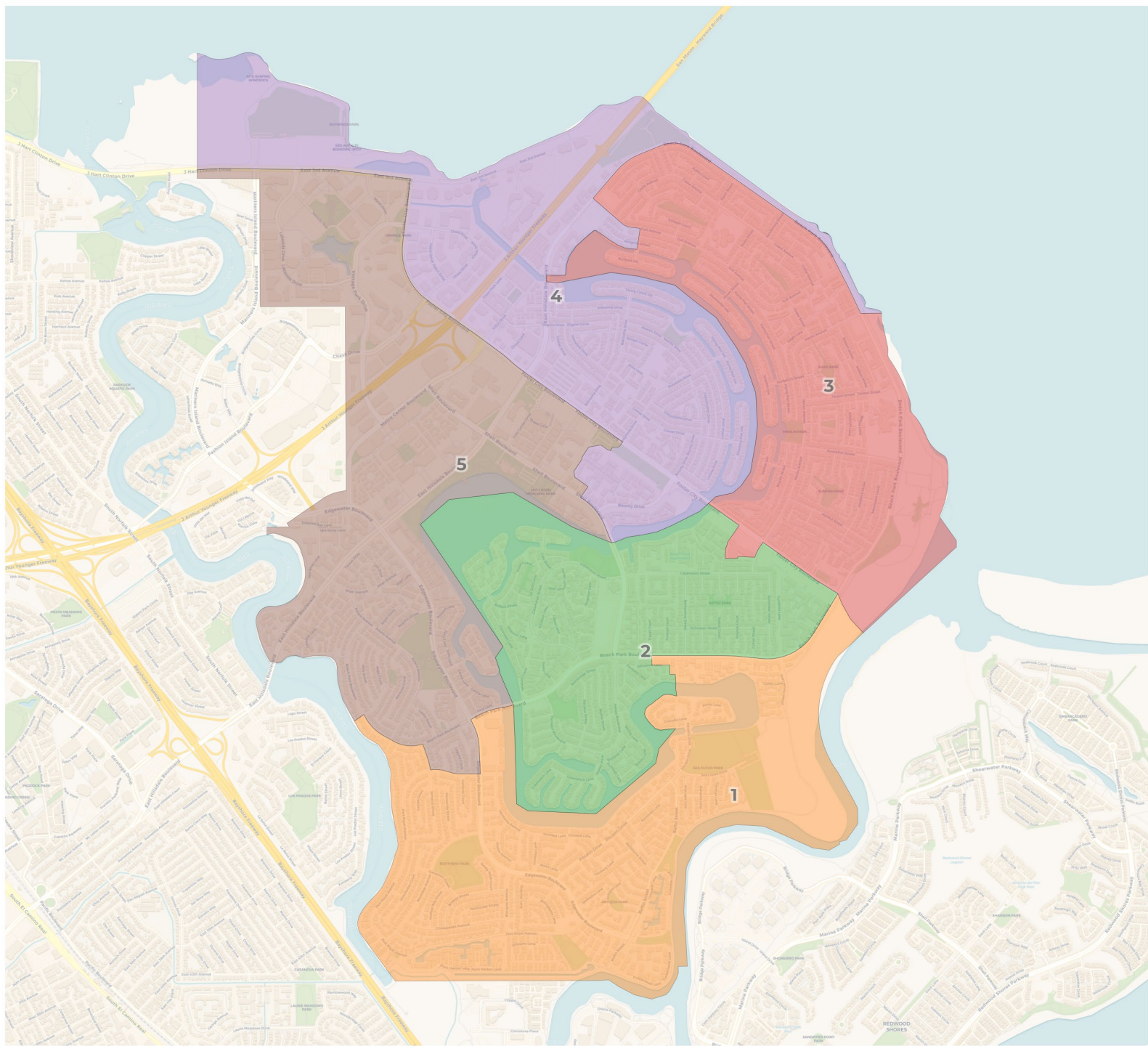


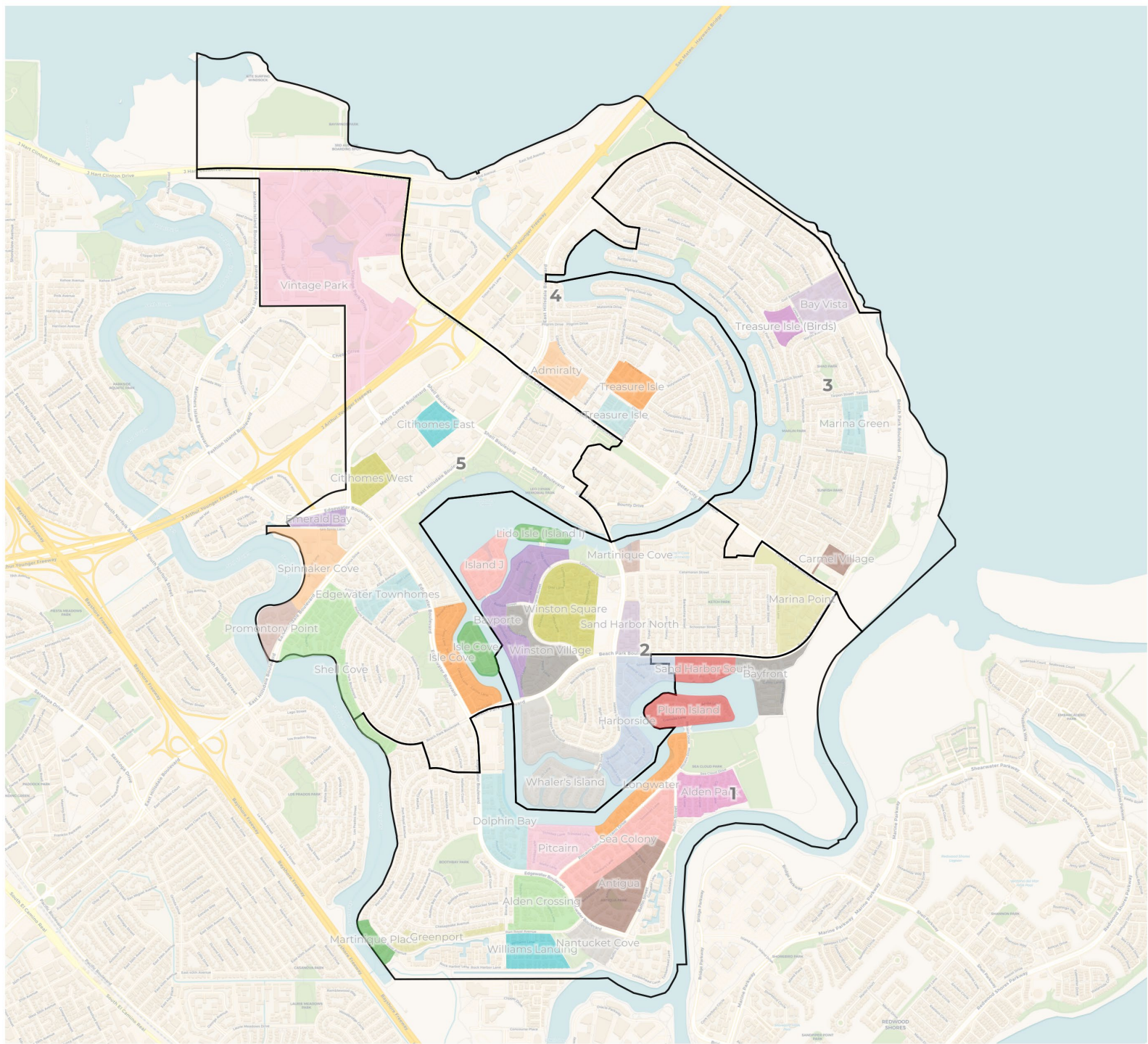
## 2020 Census

	1	2	3	4	5
Population	6,566	6,777	6,868	6,848	6,783
Deviation	-202	9	100	80	15
Deviation %	-3.0%	0.1%	1.5%	1.2%	0.2%
Other	2,556	2,638	2,683	2,518	2,528
Other %	38.9%	38.9%	39.1%	36.8%	37.3%
Latino	449	434	557	597	401
Latino %	6.8%	6.4%	8.1%	8.7%	5.9%
Asian	3,473	3,620	3,524	3,600	3,775
Asian %	52.9%	53.4%	51.3%	52.6%	55.7%
Black	88	85	104	133	79
Black %	1.3%	1.3%	1.5%	1.9%	1.2%

## Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

	1	2	3	4	5
Total CVAP	3,552	3,805	4,263	4,145	3,262
Other CVAP	1,613	2,011	1,851	1,983	1,636
Other CVAP %	45.4%	52.9%	43.4%	47.8%	50.2%
Latino CVAP	229	347	476	347	158
Latino CVAP %	6.4%	9.1%	11.2%	8.4%	4.8%
Asian CVAP	1,621	1,414	1,838	1,557	1,450
Asian CVAP %	45.6%	37.2%	43.1%	37.6%	44.5%
Black CVAP	89	33	98	258	18
Black CVAP %	2.5%	0.9%	2.3%	6.2%	0.6%





**2020 Census**

	1	2	3	4	5
Population	6,688	6,577	7,029	6,992	6,556
Deviation	-80	-191	261	224	-212
Deviation %	-1.2%	-2.8%	3.9%	3.3%	-3.1%
Other	2,529	2,723	2,626	2,559	2,486
Other %	37.8%	41.4%	37.4%	36.6%	37.9%
Latino	456	392	552	630	408
Latino %	6.8%	6.0%	7.9%	9.0%	6.2%
Asian	3,616	3,390	3,742	3,672	3,572
Asian %	54.1%	51.5%	53.2%	52.5%	54.5%
Black	87	72	109	131	90
Black %	1.3%	1.1%	1.6%	1.9%	1.4%

**Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)**

	1	2	3	4	5
Total CVAP	3,684	3,755	4,273	4,198	3,117
Other CVAP	1,517	2,109	1,811	1,960	1,697
Other CVAP %	41.2%	56.2%	42.4%	46.7%	54.4%
Latino CVAP	230	346	441	379	161
Latino CVAP %	6.2%	9.2%	10.3%	9.0%	5.2%
Asian CVAP	1,846	1,286	1,920	1,604	1,224
Asian CVAP %	50.1%	34.2%	44.9%	38.2%	39.3%
Black CVAP	91	14	101	255	35
Black CVAP %	2.5%	0.4%	2.4%	6.1%	1.1%

Animals and Pets

CERT

Canada Goose  
Population  
Management

Community Annual  
Report

Community Calendar

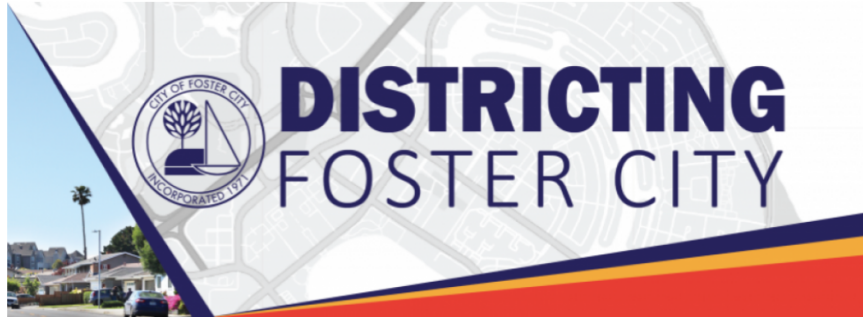
Culture and Recreation

Foster City Access

Foster City E-Newsletter  
Sign-Up

Foster City Library

+ Foster City Television  
FCTV



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Question, comment or  
feedback? Email

[districtelections@fostercity.org](mailto:districtelections@fostercity.org)

## Transition to District Elections

### Background

At a meeting on August 19, 2024, the City Council discussed a letter received from a potential plaintiffs' attorney, Shenkman & Hughes PC, on July 22, 2024, alleging a violation of the California Voting Rights Act (the "CVRA") and threatening litigation if the City declines to voluntarily change to a district-based election system for electing Councilmembers. A majority of the Council gave direction to staff to proceed with agendizing the resolution of intent in order to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of Elections Code section 10010 and avoid costly litigation. At the meeting on September 3, 2024, the City Council approved City Resolution No. 2024-91 declaring Foster City's intent to initiate procedures to transition from at-large election to district-based elections.

To stay up-to-date on the process, visit the City's website.

Website: <https://www.fostercity.org/community/page/transition-district-elections>

Email: [districtelections@fostercity.org](mailto:districtelections@fostercity.org)





**REDISTRICTING  
PARTNERS**