

REDISTRICTING LAW, CRITERIA & STRATEGIES

Lessons from the Los Angeles Experience

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Redistricting Laws (non CVRA)

- Equal Population Principle
- Traditional Redistricting Criteria
- U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection Clause
- Federal Voting Rights Act

Equal Population Principle

- City Council Districts must be substantially equal in population (Equal Protection Clause and “One-Person, One-Vote” Jurisprudence (e.g., *Reynolds v. Sims*))
- Make good faith effort to draw equipopulous districts
- Exact equality not required for local districts if deviation is justified by legitimate state purposes
- <10% Population Deviation – presumptively valid, but should be explained based on traditional redistricting criteria

Traditional Redistricting Criteria

- Contiguity
- Compactness
- Existing boundaries
- Communities of Interest
 - Income level
 - Educational background
 - Housing patterns (urban, rural, suburban, industrial)
 - Cultural and Language characteristics
 - Employment and Economic patterns (transportation, work)
 - Health and Environmental conditions
 - Crime, schools, other common issues

Equal Protection Clause

- Prohibits the use of race as the predominant factor
- Does not, however, prohibit all consideration of race
- May consider race as a factor along with traditional race-neutral redistricting criteria
- Consideration of traditional criteria must not be subordinated to consideration of race
- Evidence of race as predominant factor:
 - Direct testimony
 - Circumstantial evidence (demographics, shape, changes, process, record re use of traditional redistricting criteria)

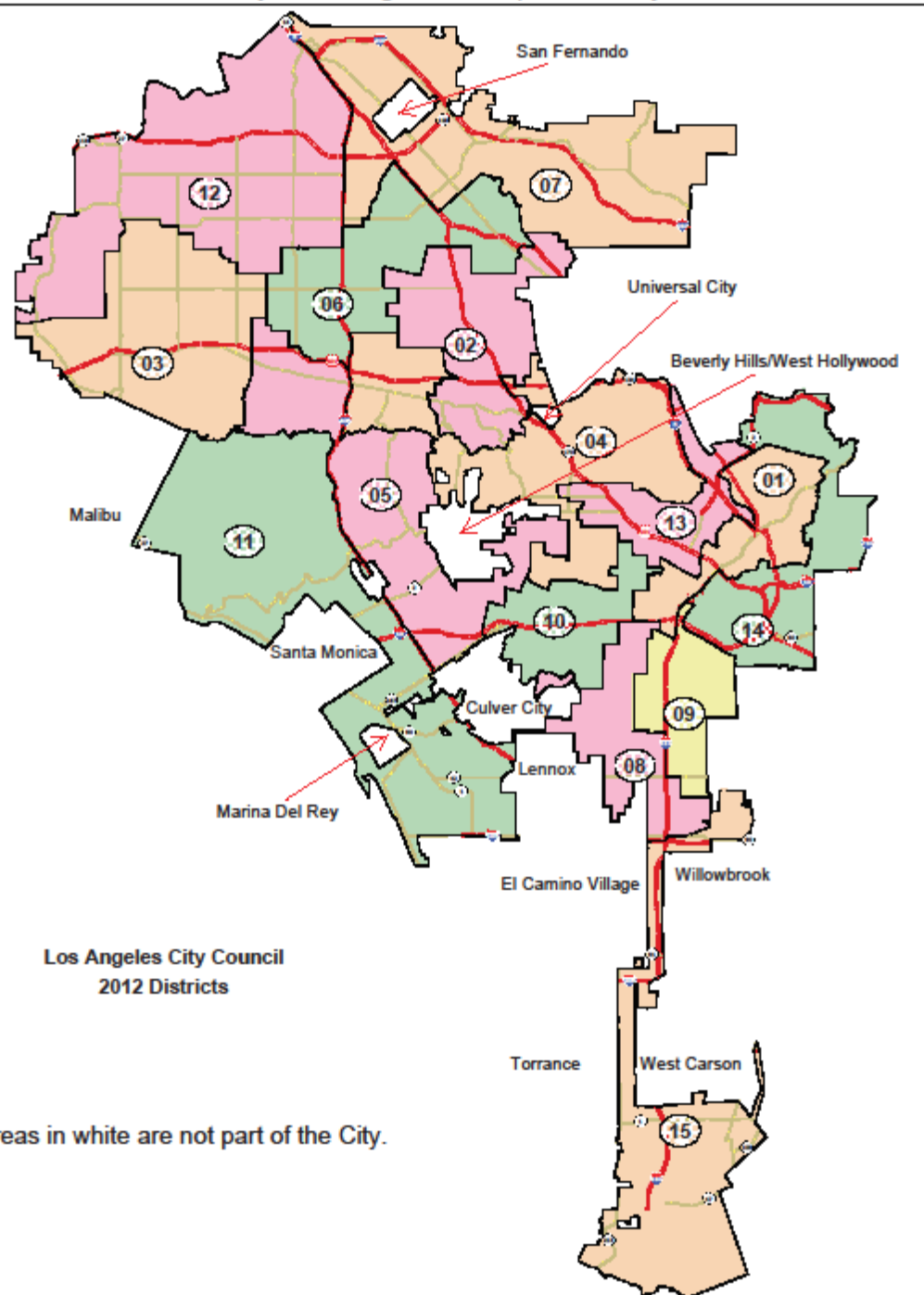
Federal Voting Rights Act

- Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 applies to prohibit redistricting plans that result in “vote dilution” by depriving minority voters of an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice
- Must not unlawfully minimize or cancel minority voting strength
- Discriminatory effect sufficient, discriminatory intent not required
- Examples of “Vote Dilution” in District-Based Systems
 - Fracturing – dispersing minority voters into several different districts such that a bloc-voting majority can routinely outvote them
 - Packing – concentrating minority voters into a small number of districts and thereby minimizing their influence in other districts

The Los Angeles Redistricting System

- City Charter re Redistricting (Charter § 204)
 - Charter creates a 21 member Citizens Redistricting Commission appointed by City elected officials
 - Commission must obtain public input, prepare a redistricting proposal and present it to the City Council
 - Commission must equalize total population across districts as nearly as practicable, draw lines that conform with state and federal law, and to the extent feasible keep neighborhoods and communities intact and adhere to other traditional redistricting criteria
 - Charter provides the City Council with the ultimate authority to adopt a redistricting plan

City of Los Angeles Municipal Boundary



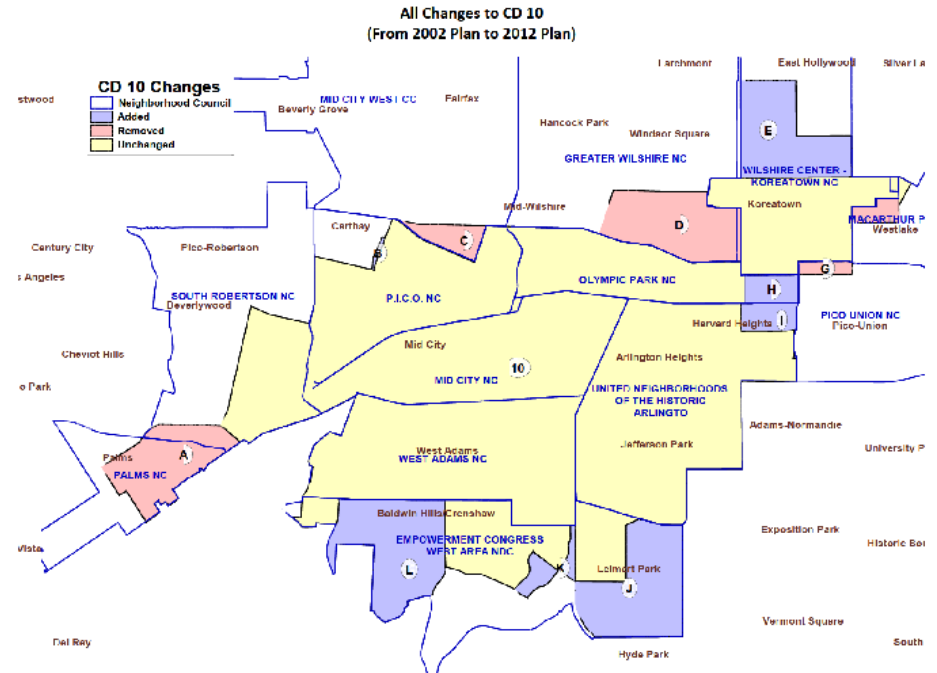
Strategies and Best Practices

- Hire Professional Staff
- Conduct Extensive Public Outreach & Engagement
- Set Standards Early and Publicly
- Work at Public Meetings as much as feasible
- Explain changes contemporaneously using traditional redistricting criteria
- Make a Record; Write a Detailed Report – Show your Work!

**Summary of All Changes Made to
CD 10 in 2012 Final Redistricting Plan**

Change	Affected Population	Percent of Adopted CD 10	Effect of Change
A	13,862	5.4%	Makes Palms Neighborhood Council (NC) whole (previously split in three districts)
B	464	0.2%	Makes official City renaming policy neighborhood of Little Ethiopia whole
C	2,125	0.8%	Reduces Mid-City West NC split from three to two
D	12,389	4.8%	Reduces Greater-Wilshire NC split from three to two
E	31,417	12.2%	Reduces Wilshire Center-Koreatown NC split from three to two (unifies 70% in one district); makes official City renaming policy neighborhoods of Koreatown and Little Bangladesh whole.
F	5,023	1.9%	Makes MacArthur Park NC whole
G	1,448	0.6%	Makes Pico Union NC whole
H	3,823	1.5%	Makes Olympic Park NC whole
I	3,147	1.2%	Makes United Neighborhoods of the Historic Arlington NC whole
J	8,305	3.2%	Unifies Leimert Park neighborhood
K & L	4,203	1.6%	Unifies Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw neighborhood (except Dons neighborhood)

ADDENDUM 6



ADDENDUM 7