

How would you draw election district boundaries?

The city of Santa Maria is seeking the public's help in creating four City Council election districts. Once done, Santa Marians will elect their City Council representatives from within the districts.

At 5:30 p.m. March 30 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 313 W. Tunnell St., city leaders will hold a public hearing to gather the community's input on how the districts should be configured.

Use the map to draw your election district ideas.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Each district has to have an equal number of people in it — the city's population is at about 100,000;
- The districts cannot dilute the votes of ethnic minorities;
- They should be compact, and consider communities of interest.

Bring your map with you to Thursday's public hearing to share your ideas, and or share them with us by dropping them off at our office, 3200 Skyway Drive; or take a photo and share it with us on www.facebook.com/santamariatimes or Twitter @SantaMariaTimes, or you can email it to JAnderson@leecentralcoastnews.com

Learn more about the redistricting process by visiting the city's website, www.cityofsantamaria.org.

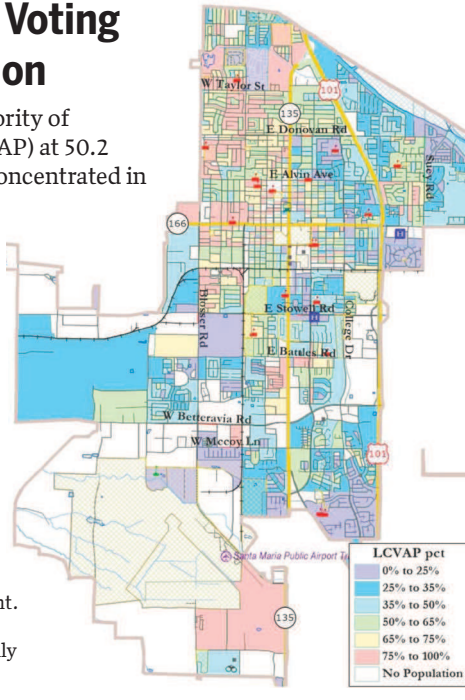
Latino Citizen of Voting Age Population

Latinos are a citywide slim majority of eligible voters (measured by CVAP) at 50.2 percent and are most heavily concentrated in the northwest part of the city.

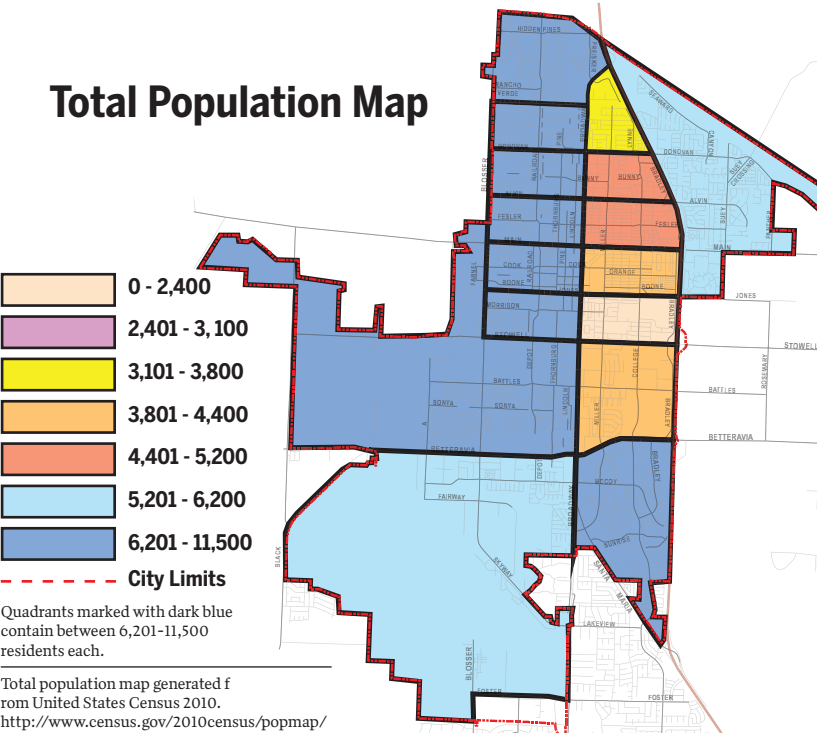
There are no neighborhoods with large and concentrated enough Asian-American populations to impact the drawing of district lines.

The same is true for African-Americans.

Be aware that geographically large census blocks on this map can be misleading. For example, the “75% to 100% Latino CVAP” red block at the south end of the city has only 1 resident. What drives determinations of legal districting maps are the smaller, heavily populated, census blocks.



Total Population Map



Draw your map here

