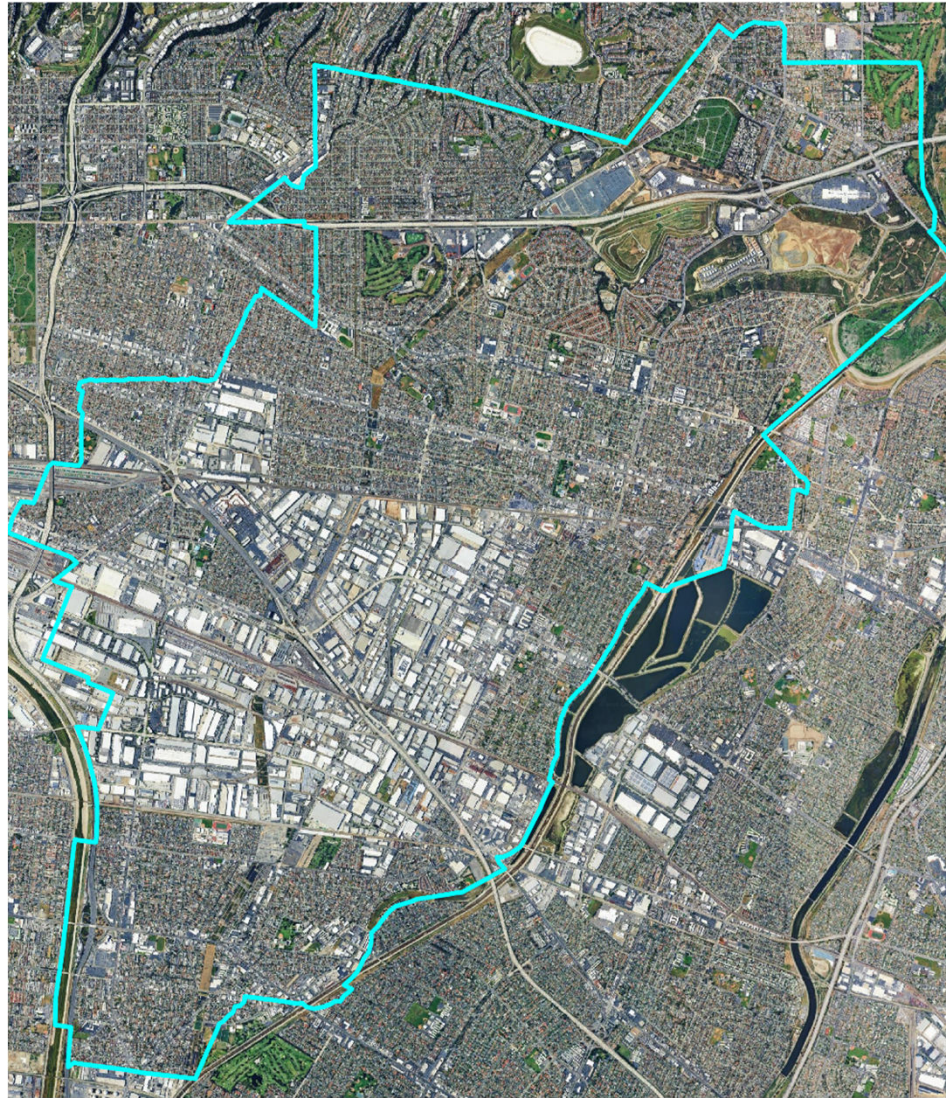




Montebello Unified School District Introduction to Districting

September 3, 2025

Dr. Justin Levitt, Vice-President
National Demographics Corporation

Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From Trustee Area” or “Residence” Areas
3. “By Trustee Area”

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

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

- ❑ Under the Federal Voting Rights Act (passed in 1965), a jurisdiction must fail 4 factual tests before it is in violation of the law.
- ❑ The California VRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems by eliminating two of the US Supreme Court Gingles tests:
 - ~~❑ Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~
 - ❑ Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
 - ❑ Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
 - ~~❑ Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?~~
- ❑ Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting and dilution of the protected class’s voting strength

CVRA Impact

❑ Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:

- ❑ At least 240 school districts
- ❑ 34 Community College Districts
- ❑ 160+ cities
- ❑ 1 County Board of Supervisors
- ❑ Over 50 special districts.

❑ Cases So Far:

- ❑ Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica went to trial on the merits. Palmdale and Santa Clara lost. Santa Monica is awaiting a decision.
- ❑ Modesto and Palmdale each spent about \$1.8 million on their defense (in addition to the attorney fee awards in those cases).
- ❑ Santa Monica has spent an estimated \$7 million so far. Plaintiffs in Santa Monica requested \$22 million in legal fees after the original trial.

❑ Sample settlements:

- ❑ Palmdale: \$4.7 million
- ❑ Modesto: \$3 million
- ❑ Highland: \$1.3 million
- ❑ Anaheim: \$1.1 million
- ❑ Whittier: \$1 million
- ❑ Santa Barbara: \$600,000
- ❑ Tulare Hospital: \$500,000
- ❑ Camarillo: \$233,000
- ❑ Compton Unified: \$200,000
- ❑ Madera Unified: about \$170,000
- ❑ Hanford Joint Union Schools: \$118,000
- ❑ Merced City: \$42,000

❑ An estimated \$16 million in total settlements and court awards so far.

Districting Process

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings August 20 & September 3, 2025	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
First Deadline for Community Maps September 5, 2025	Last day to receive maps for processing for the September 17 th Public Hearing
Release draft maps September 10, 2025	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3 rd hearing.
Two hearings on draft maps September 17 & October 1, 2025	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Final Deadline for Community Maps September 19, 2025	Last day to receive maps for processing for the October 1 st Public Hearing
Release revised maps September 24, 2025	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 4 th hearing.
Map adoption October 1, 2025	Map adopted via resolution. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.
County Committee Hearing Late 2025 or early 2026	The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization must hold a hearing within the district for final approval of the change to by-Trustee Area elections September 3, 2025

Districting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



2. California Criteria

In prioritized order:

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

2. California Prohibition

“Shall not adopt election district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.”

3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles

Future population growth

Key Demographics

Each of five Trustee Areas will contain about 32,163 people.

“Citizen Voting Age Population” data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey is considered the best available data on “eligible voters.”

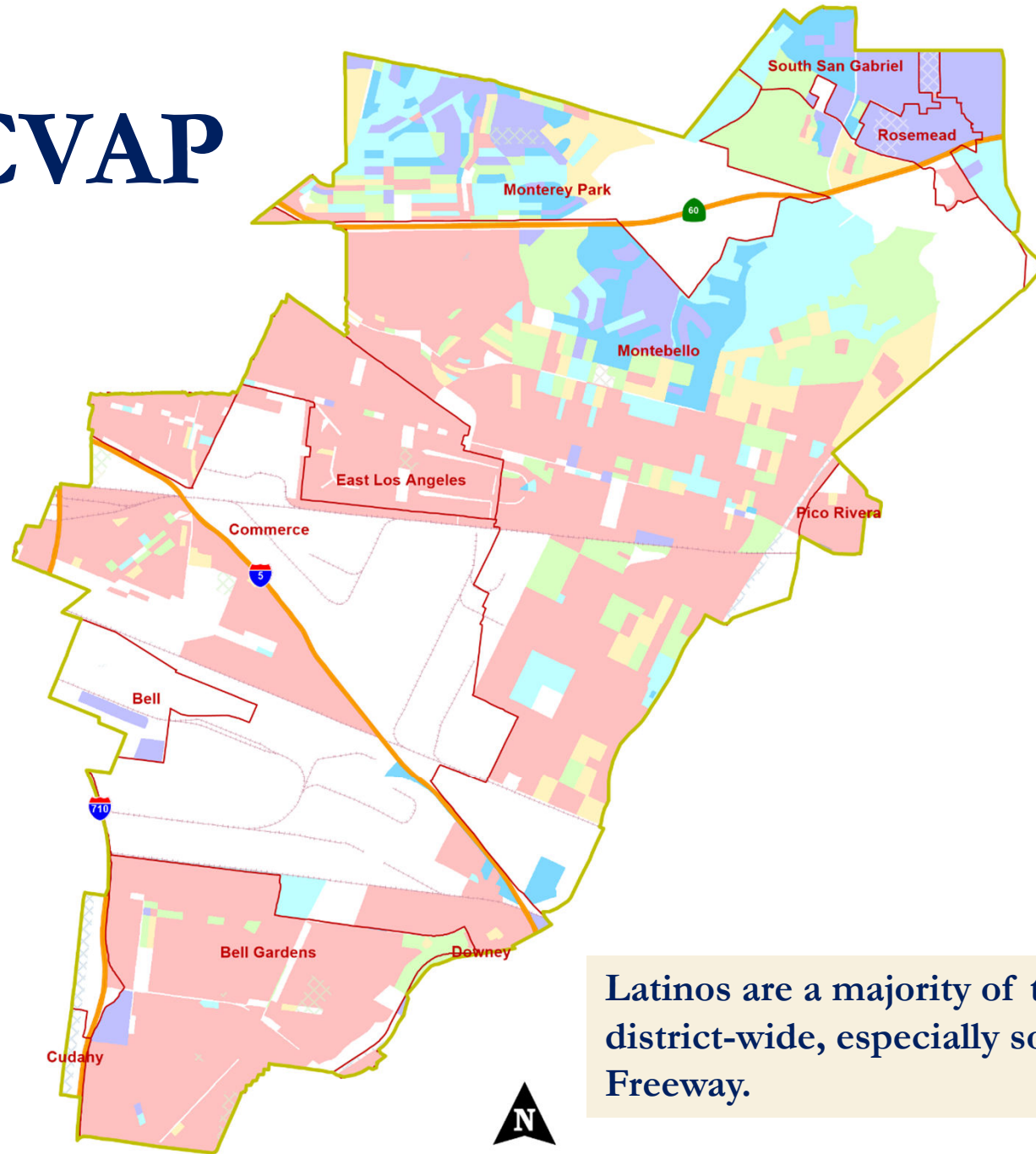
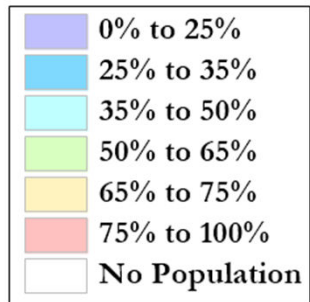
Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	160,817
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	83%
	NH White	4%
	NH Black	1%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	11%
	NH Native Amer.	0%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	90,970
	Hisp	77%
	NH White	6%
	NH Black	1%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	15%
	Native Amer.	0%

Demographic Summary

Each of five Trustee Areas will contain about 32,163 people.

<i>Montebello Unified School District</i>					
Category	Field	Total	Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	160,817	Age	age0-19	25%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	83%		age20-60	54%
	NH White	4%		age60plus	21%
	NH Black	1%	Immigration	immigrants	39%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	11%		naturalized	46%
	NH Native Amer.	0%	Language spoken at home	english	24%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	90,970		spanish	66%
	Hisp	77%		asian-lang	9%
	NH White	6%		other lang	2%
	NH Black	1%	Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	35%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	15%	Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	50%
Voter Registration (Nov 2022)	Native Amer.	0%		bachelor	13%
	Total	78,837		graduatedegree	5%
	Latino est.	80%	Child in Household	child-under18	37%
	Spanish-Surnamed	72%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	58%
	Asian-Surnamed	9%	Household Income	income 0-25k	15%
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%		income 25-50k	20%
	NH White est.	7%		income 50-75k	17%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2022)	NH Black	1%		income 75-200k	40%
	Total	26,125		income 200k-plus	8%
	Latino est.	76%	Housing Stats	single family	68%
	Spanish-Surnamed	69%		multi-family	32%
	Asian-Surnamed	11%		rented	57%
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%		owned	43%
	NH White est.	9%	Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2019-2023 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data. Turnout and Registration data from California Statewide Database. "Latino" figures calculated by NDC using Census Bureau's Latino undercount by surname estimate.		
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	NH Black	1%			
	Total	55,819			
	Latino est.	79%			
	Spanish-Surnamed	73%			
	Asian-Surnamed	9%			
	Filipino-Surnamed	2%			
	NH White est.	12%			
	NH Black est.	1%			

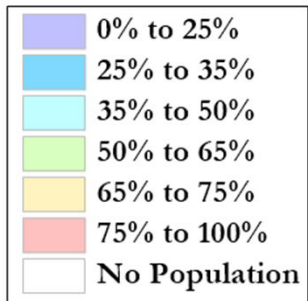
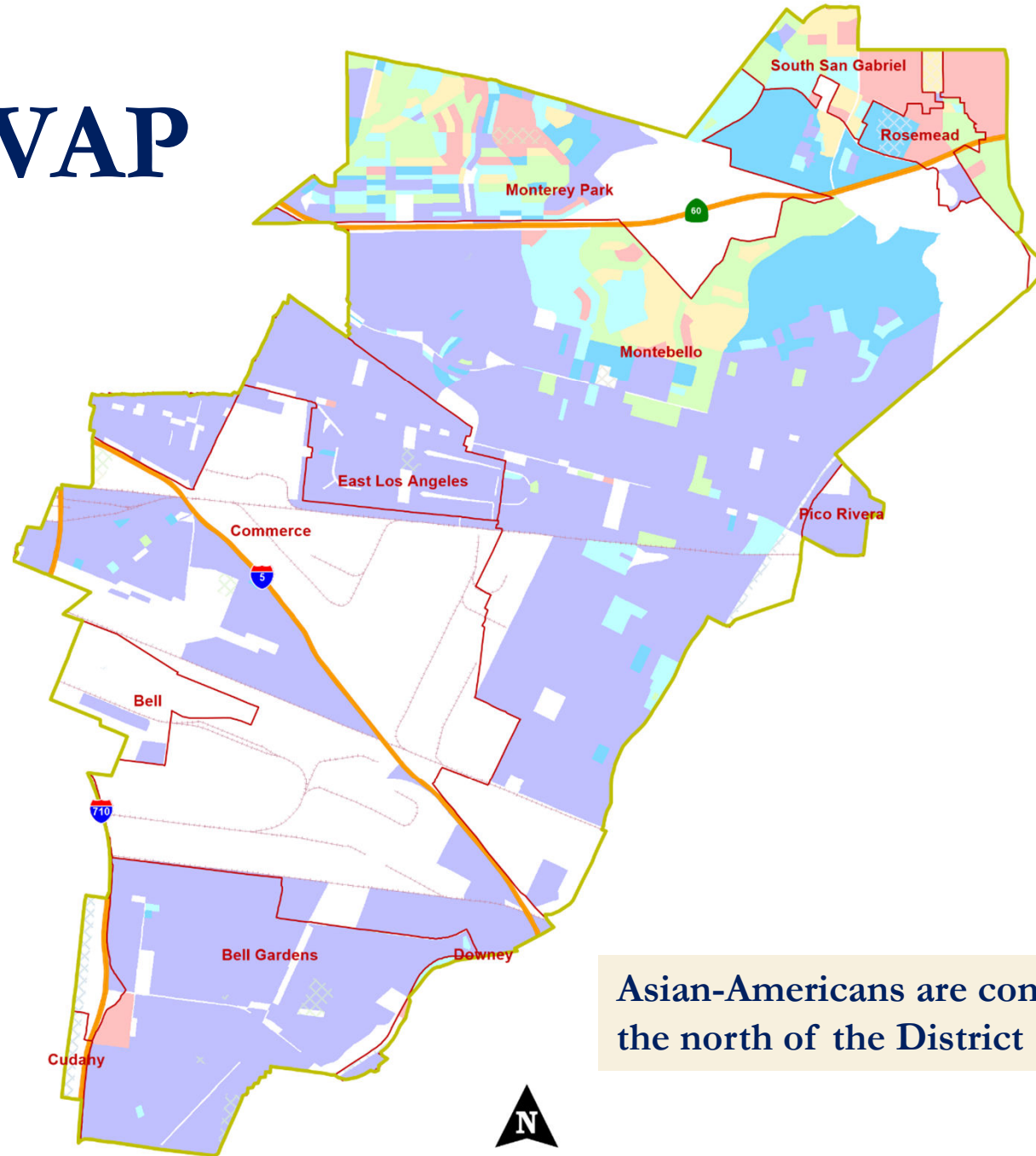
Latino CVAP



Latinos are a majority of the population district-wide, especially south of the 60 Freeway.

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Asian CVAP



Asian-Americans are concentrated in the north of the District

Defining Neighborhoods

1st Question: How do you describe or name the area where you live?

2nd Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

What other neighborhoods are there?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- Areas around parks or schools
- Other neighborhood landmarks



Defining Communities of Interest

California Elections Code Section 21130(c)(2):

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

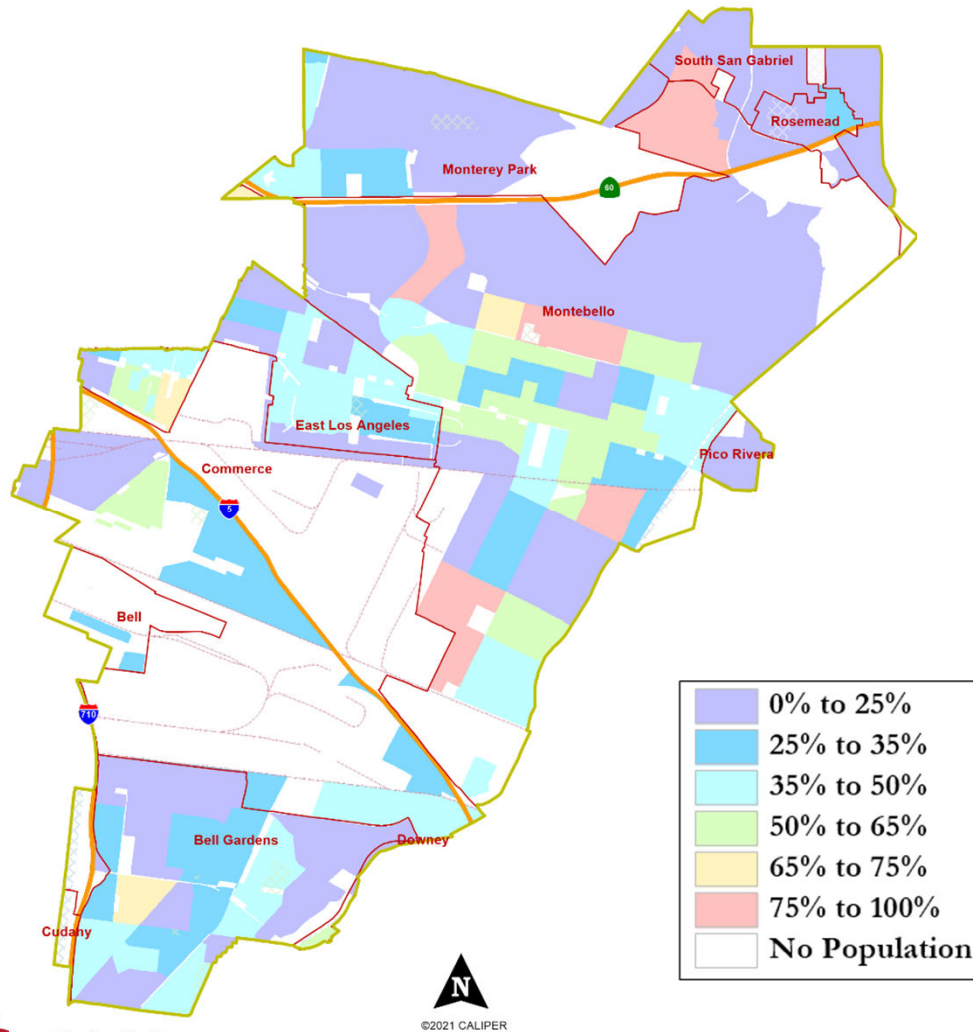
The shared interests may include (but are not limited to):

- ❑ Shared public policy concerns such as education, public safety, public health, environment, housing, transportation, and access to social services. cultural districts;
- ❑ Shared socioeconomic characteristics;
- ❑ Similar voter registration rates and participation rates; and /or
- ❑ Shared histories.

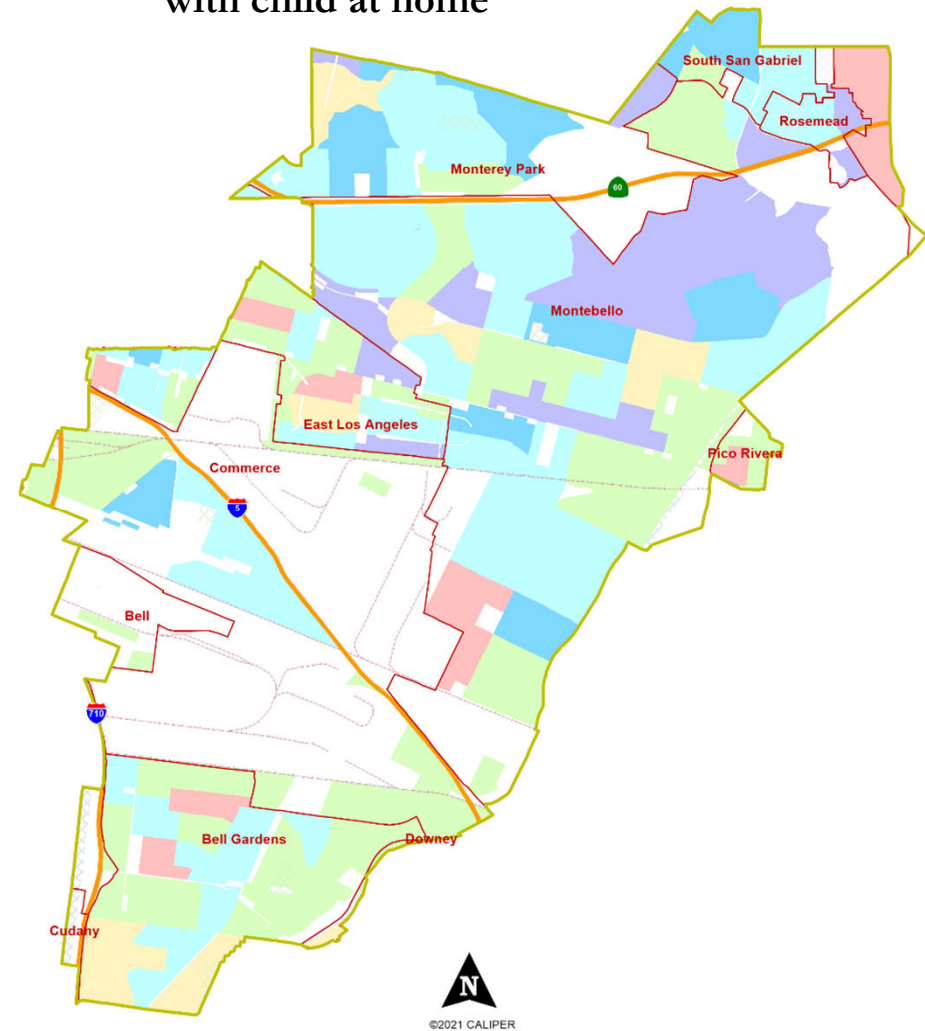
Definitions of Communities of Interest may not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Other Socio-Economic Demographics

Percent multi-family housing



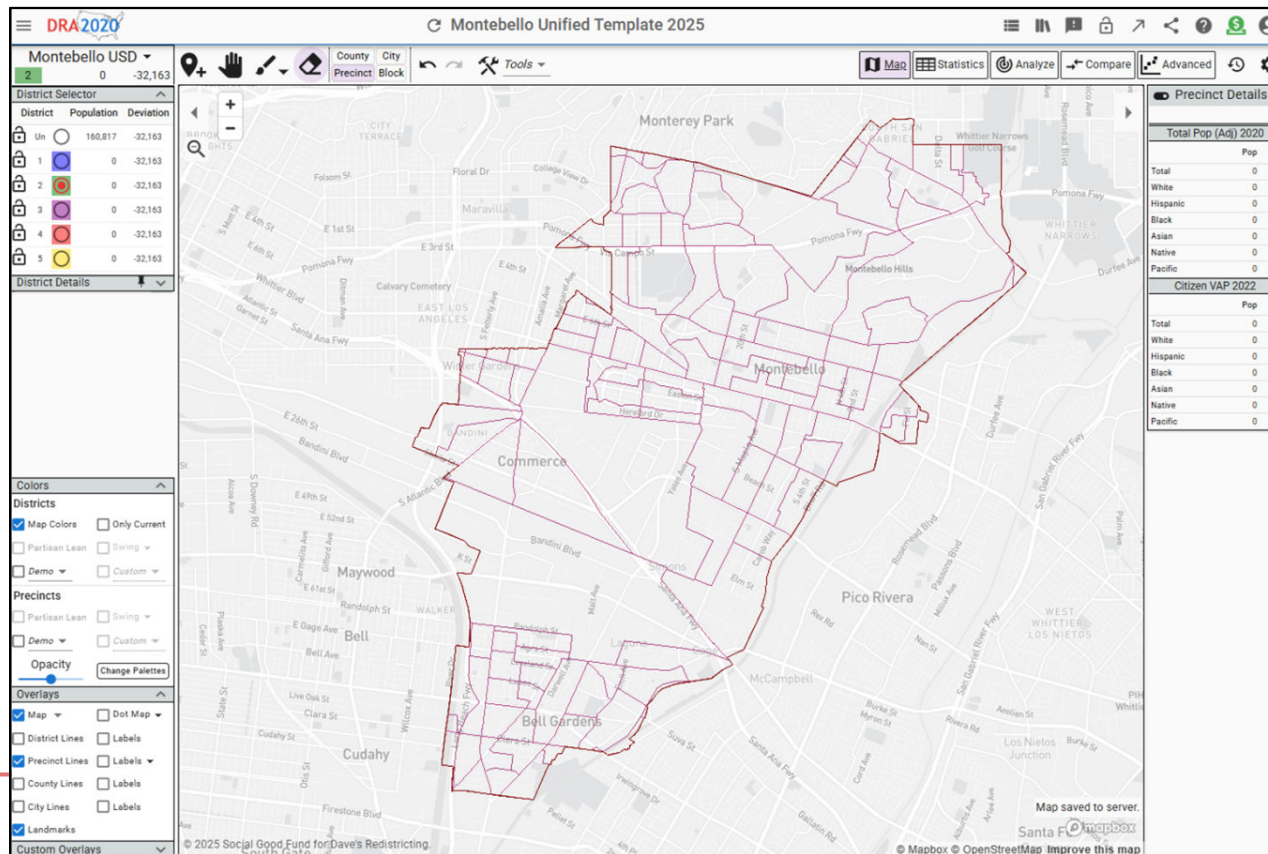
Percent of families with child at home



Online Map Drawing Tool

Simple “paintbrush & eraser” tool. A 4-minute “how-to” video is on the website.

- Full demographic data available
- Create, collaborate and share your map
- Remember: you must send in the link to your map to districting@montebello.k12.ca.us or the District has no way to know you drew a map.



Your Turn:

1. What area do you consider your neighborhood?
2. What are your “communities of interest”?

For each answer, please provide:

- ☐ Geographic boundaries
- ☐ The history or defining shared characteristic of the area

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.

1. Any other questions about the process, criteria, maps, tools or any other part of this process?



Share Your Thoughts

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<https://drawmontebello.org/>

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