

2020 CRC Ready Reference

Updated 10/20/2021

Populations and Ideal District Sizes

California: **39,538,223**, an increase of 2,284,267 or 6.1% over 2010; the apportionment count included 38,534 U.S. military and federal civilian employees and any dependents living overseas, allocated to California as reported by the employing federal agencies, for an apportionment total of 39,576,757

Adjusted: **39,523,437** (less 14,786 federal incarcerated persons)

District Sizes (on adjusted total):

# of Districts	Plan	Ideal	-5%	+5%
80	Assembly	494,043	469,341	518,745
40	Senate	988,086	938,682	1,037,490
4	BOE	9,880,859	9,386,816	10,374,902
52	Congressional	760,066	-	-

Total: 176 districts

California Counties: 2020 Populations (PL94, Adjusted)

Alameda	1,683,468	Marin	258,555	San Mateo	765,417
Alpine.....	1,207	Mariposa	17,094	Santa Barbara	446,704
Amador	36,592	Mendocino	91,624	Santa Clara	1,94,0140
Butte	212,549	Merced	281,099	Santa Cruz	271,352
Calaveras	45,306	Modoc	8,673	Shasta	183,199
Colusa	21,898	Mono	13,217	Sierra	3,244
Contra Costa	1,168,069	Monterey	434,660	Siskiyou	44,207
Del Norte	25,140	Napa	138,298	Solano	447,857
El Dorado.....	191,457	Nevada.....	102,284	Sonoma	489,713
Fresno	1,008,526	Orange	3,193,010	Stanislaus.....	554,730
Glenn.....	28,916	Placer.....	405,307	Sutter.....	99,926
Humboldt	136,810	Plumas	19,839	Tehama	65,973
Imperial.....	173,626	Riverside	2,417,438	Trinity.....	16,101
Inyo.....	18,963	Sacramento.....	1,584,884	Tulare	475,056
Kern.....	892,674	San Benito	64,338	Tuolumne	53,008
Kings.....	140,322	San Bernard.....	2,180,152	Ventura.....	845,390
Lake.....	68,401	San Diego	3,302,262	Yolo	216,922
Lassen.....	25,286	San Francisco	874,993	Yuba	81,993
Los Angeles.....	10,047,926	San Joaquin	777,313		
Madera	151,113	San Luis Obis.....	279,216		

Largest: Los Angeles

Smallest: Alpine

California Cities and Towns: 2020 Populations (PL94, Adjusted)

Adelanto	38,243	Calabasas	23,280	Davis	66,948
Agoura Hills	20,346	Calexico	38,693	Delano	43,637
Alameda	78,351	California City	12,971	Del Mar	3,966
Albany	20,275	Calimesa	10,057	Del Rey Oaks	1,596
Alhambra	83,108	Calipatria	3,618	Desert Hot Springs	32,747
Aliso Viejo	52,222	Calistoga	5,237	Diamond Bar	55,181
Alturas	2,735	Camarillo	70,850	Dinuba	24,688
Amador City	201	Campbell	44,027	Dixon	19,012
American Canyon	21,881	Canyon Lake	11,112	Dorris	866
Anaheim	347,753	Capitola	9,949	Dos Palos	5,832
Anderson	11,408	Carlsbad	114,952	Downey	114,712
Angels	3,670	Carmel-by-the-Sea	3,224	Duarte	21,798
Antioch	115,580	Carpinteria	13,293	Dublin	71,468
Apple Valley	76,063	Carson	95,994	Dunsmuir	1,713
Arcadia	56,780	Cathedral City	51,683	East Palo Alto	30,139
Arcata	18,898	Ceres	49,464	Eastvale	69,901
Arroyo Grande	18,469	Cerritos	49,697	El Cajon	106,585
Artesia	16,446	Chico	101,823	El Centro	44,438
Arvin	19,566	Chino	86,573	El Cerrito	26,000
Atascadero	29,857	Chino Hills	78,544	Elk Grove	176,561
Atherton	7,194	Chowchilla	13,426	El Monte	109,905
Atwater	32,085	Chula Vista	276,061	El Paso de Robles (Paso Robles)	31,565
Auburn	13,820	Citrus Heights	87,851	El Segundo	17,358
Avalon	3,467	Claremont	37,410	Emeryville	12,911
Avenal	9,496	Clayton	11,085	Encinitas	62,110
Azusa	50,204	Clearlake	16,817	Escalon	7,491
Bakersfield	405,161	Cloverdale	9,011	Escondido	151,516
Baldwin Park	72,490	Clovis	120,374	Etna	682
Banning	29,691	Coachella	42,129	Eureka	26,635
Barstow	25,595	Coalinga	14,479	Exeter	10,385
Beaumont	53,193	Colfax	2,000	Fairfax	7,608
Bell	33,701	Colma	1,510	Fairfield	120,178
Bellflower	79,560	Colton	54,129	Farmersville	10,455
Bell Gardens	39,701	Colusa	6,430	Ferndale	1,404
Belmont	28,360	Commerce	12,445	Fillmore	16,462
Belvedere	2,126	Compton	96,687	Firebaugh	8,128
Benicia	27,167	Concord	125,617	Folsom	75,038
Berkeley	124,433	Corcoran	13,646	Fontana	209,062
Beverly Hills	32,761	Corning	8,305	Fort Bragg	7,006
Big Bear Lake	5,061	Corona	157,679	Fort Jones	699
Biggs	1,970	Coronado	20,226	Fortuna	12,557
Bishop	3,831	Corte Madera	10,229	Foster City	33,842
Blue Lake	1,213	Costa Mesa	112,139	Fountain Valley	57,120
Blythe	12,406	Cotati	7,593	Fowler	6,723
Bradbury	925	Covina	51,444	Fremont	230,649
Brawley	26,482	Crescent City	4,038	Fresno	544,575
Brea	47,397	Cudahy	22,903	Fullerton	143,930
Brentwood	64,381	Culver City	40,892	Galt	25,473
Brisbane	4,858	Cupertino	60,446	Gardena	61,296
Buellton	5,174	Cypress	50,235	Garden Grove	172,346
Buena Park	84,187	Daly City	105,024	Gilroy	59,692
Burbank	107,613	Dana Point	33,144	Glendale	196,980
Burlingame	31,416	Danville	43,618	Glendora	52,726

Goleta	32,755	La Mirada	48,123	Monte Sereno	3,482
Gonzales	8,674	Lancaster	171,488	Moorpark	36,325
Grand Terrace	13,185	La Palma	15,597	Moraga	16,880
Grass Valley	14,043	La Puente	38,279	Moreno Valley	209,666
Greenfield	19,010	La Quinta	37,642	Morgan Hill	45,566
Gridley	7,451	Larkspur	13,072	Morro Bay	10,784
Grover Beach	12,739	Lathrop	28,765	Mountain View	82,486
Guadalupe	8,075	La Verne	31,426	Mount Shasta	3,237
Gustine	6,123	Lawndale	31,930	Murrieta	111,187
Half Moon Bay	11,814	Lemon Grove	27,743	Napa	79,413
Hanford	58,342	Lemoore	27,190	National City	56,373
Hawaiian Gardens	14,231	Lincoln	49,825	Needles	4,953
Hawthorne	88,502	Lindsay	12,732	Nevada City	3,160
Hayward	163,172	Live Oak	9,122	Newark	47,570
Healdsburg	11,360	Livermore	88,006	Newman	12,379
Hemet	90,349	Livingston	14,214	Newport Beach	85,338
Hercules	26,053	Lodi	66,569	Norco	22,406
Hermosa Beach	19,789	Loma Linda	24,855	Norwalk	103,180
Hesperia	100,166	Lomita	20,982	Novato	53,273
Hidden Hills	1,732	Lompoc	41,864	Oakdale	23,242
Highland	57,233	Long Beach	468,894	Oakland	441,891
Hillsborough	11,393	Loomis	6,846	Oakley	43,443
Hollister	41,771	Los Alamitos	11,795	Oceanside	174,578
Holtville	5,612	Los Altos	31,668	Ojai	7,653
Hughson	7,499	Los Altos Hills	8,500	Ontario	175,837
Huntington Beach	199,033	Los Angeles	3,912,115	Orange	140,191
Huntington Park	55,141	Los Banos	45,677	Orange Cove	9,689
Huron	6,230	Los Gatos	33,585	Orinda	19,529
Imperial	20,287	Loyalton	741	Orland	8,338
Imperial Beach	26,230	Lynwood	67,622	Oroville	20,191
Indian Wells	4,762	McFarland	13,818	Oxnard	202,614
Indio	89,518	Madera	66,591	Pacifica	38,674
Industry	276	Malibu	10,673	Pacific Grove	15,125
Inglewood	108,396	Mammoth Lakes	7,201	Palmdale	170,391
Ione	4,915	Manhattan Beach	35,669	Palm Desert	51,317
Irvine	307,958	Manteca	83,702	Palm Springs	44,786
Irwindale	1,483	Maricopa	1,031	Palo Alto	68,654
Isleton	802	Marina	22,422	Palos Verdes Estates	13,373
Jackson	5,037	Martinez	37,349	Paradise	4,816
Jurupa Valley	105,456	Marysville	12,939	Paramount	54,003
Kerman	16,058	Maywood	25,254	Parlier	14,648
King City	13,395	Mendota	12,639	Pasadena	139,254
Kingsburg	12,414	Menifee	102,795	<i>Paso Robles (see El Paso de Robles)</i>	
La Cañada Flintridge	20,602	Menlo Park	33,830	Patterson	23,840
Lafayette	25,413	Merced	86,681	Perris	79,092
Laguna Beach	23,061	Millbrae	23,228	Petaluma	59,846
Laguna Hills	31,399	Mill Valley	14,239	Pico Rivera	62,335
Laguna Niguel	64,417	Milpitas	80,393	Piedmont	11,274
Laguna Woods	17,658	Mission Viejo	93,760	Pinole	19,057
La Habra	63,234	Modesto	219,251	Pismo Beach	8,086
La Habra Heights	5,711	Monrovia	38,048	Pittsburg	76,657
Lake Elsinore	70,517	Montague	1,233	Placentia	51,925
Lake Forest	85,965	Montclair	37,989	Placerville	10,783
Lakeport	5,046	Montebello	62,879	Pleasant Hill	34,649
Lakewood	82,712	Monterey	30,290	Pleasanton	79,894
La Mesa	61,268	Monterey Park	61,255	Plymouth	1,082

Point Arena	461	San Juan Capistrano	35,271	Thousand Oaks	127,134
Pomona	152,555	San Leandro	91,103	Tiburon	9,150
Porterville	62,906	San Luis Obispo	47,159	Torrance	147,385
Port Hueneme	22,029	San Marcos	95,035	Tracy	93,226
Portola	2,113	San Marino	12,536	Trinidad	311
Portola Valley	4,457	San Mateo	105,804	Truckee	16,740
Poway	48,923	San Pablo	32,221	Tulare	69,200
Rancho Cordova	79,643	San Rafael	61,333	Tulelake	905
Rancho Cucamonga	174,810	San Ramon	84,682	Turlock	72,935
Rancho Mirage	17,049	Santa Ana	311,393	Tustin	80,412
Rancho Palos Verdes	42,358	Santa Barbara	88,930	Twentynine Palms	28,142
Rancho Santa Margarita	48,000	Santa Clara	127,854	Ukiah	16,650
Red Bluff	14,839	Santa Clarita	229,158	Union City	70,218
Redding	94,245	Santa Cruz	63,092	Upland	79,368
Redlands	73,386	Santa Fe Springs	19,236	Vacaville	95,941
Redondo Beach	71,748	Santa Maria	110,136	Vallejo	126,496
Redwood City	84,423	Santa Monica	93,291	Ventura (see San Buenaventura)	
Reedley	25,292	Santa Paula	30,772	Vernon	226
Rialto	104,458	Santa Rosa	178,515	Victorville	131,417
Richmond	116,791	Santee	60,173	Villa Park	5,850
Ridgecrest	28,057	Saratoga	31,079	Visalia	141,812
Rio Dell	3,397	Sausalito	7,272	Vista	98,710
Rio Vista	10,017	Scotts Valley	12,242	Walnut	28,488
Ripon	16,049	Seal Beach	25,283	Walnut Creek	70,199
Riverbank	24,933	Seaside	32,509	Wasco	22,800
Riverside	316,445	Sebastopol	7,533	Waterford	9,149
Rocklin	71,685	Selma	24,768	Watsonville	52,760
Rohnert Park	44,465	Shafter	19,469	Weed	2,873
Rolling Hills	1,742	Shasta Lake	10,452	West Covina	109,856
Rolling Hills Estates	8,298	Sierra Madre	11,302	West Hollywood	35,829
Rosemead	51,336	Signal Hill	11,911	Westlake Village	8,047
Roseville	147,969	Simi Valley	126,360	Westminster	91,083
Ross	2,339	Solana Beach	12,954	Westmorland	2,018
Sacramento	526,520	Soledad	19,093	West Sacramento	54,071
St. Helena	5,436	Solvang	6,135	Wheatland	3,724
Salinas	164,232	Sonoma	10,761	Whittier	87,592
San Anselmo	12,842	Sonora	5,046	Wildomar	36,998
San Bernardino	223,189	South El Monte	19,649	Williams	5,550
San Bruno	43,947	South Gate	93,114	Willits	5,011
San Buenaventura (Ventura)	111,009	South Lake Tahoe	21,393	Willows	6,309
San Carlos	30,748	South Pasadena	27,021	Windsor	26,378
San Clemente	64,384	South San Francisco	66,185	Winters	7,132
Sand City	327	Stanton	38,067	Woodlake	7,463
San Diego	1,389,874	Stockton	322,344	Woodland	61,233
San Dimas	35,018	Suisun City	29,590	Woodside	5,313
San Fernando	24,056	Sunnyvale	156,034	Yorba Linda	68,415
San Francisco (City&County)	874,993	Susanville	10,319	Yountville	3,442
San Gabriel	39,687	Sutter Creek	2,653	Yreka	7,856
Sanger	26,720	Taft	7,062	Yuba City	70,338
San Jacinto	54,192	Tehachapi	9,337	Yucaipa	54,670
San Joaquin	3,710	Tehama	439	Yucca Valley	21,814
San Jose	1,015,683	Temecula	110,240		
San Juan Bautista	2,092	Temple City	36,592		

Smallest: Amador City
Largest: Los Angeles

Total: 482 Cities and Towns, combined population 32,997,655

California's 58 Counties



KERN COUNTY

LANCASTER

PALMDALE

SANTA CLARITA

5

VENTURA COUNTY

AGOURA HILLS

CALABASAS

HIDDEN HILLS

MALIBU

3

LOS ANGELES

BURBANK

GLENDALE

PASADENA

MONROVIA

ARCADIA

AZUSA

IRVINDALE

BLANDORA

Covina

SAN DIMAS

POMONA

LA HABRA

CLAREMONT

1

LOS ANGELES

WEST WOOD

HOLLYWOOD

BEVERLY HILLS

LOS ANGELES

ALHAMBRA

EMERY CITY

EL MONTE

WATSONVILLE

WHITTIER

LA HABRA HEIGHTS

ORANGE COUNTY

4

INGLEWOOD

COMMERCE

PICO RIVERA

DOWNEY

NORWALK

LA MIRADA

LAKESIDE

LONG BEACH

CARSON

TORRANCE

REDONDO BEACH

MANHATTAN BEACH

HERMOSA BEACH

AVAILON

2

4

Pacific Ocean

Santa Catalina Island

San Clemente Island

NOTE: ISLANDS NOT SHOWN IN THEIR TRUE LOCATIONS

REV. 12/11 TA

SCALE IN MILES

0 2 4 6 8 10 12

INCORPORATED AREAS

UNINCORPORATED AREAS

SUPERVISORY DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

4,084 SQUARE MILES

REV. 12/11 TA

Census Terms and Racial Minority Groupings

Census Geography:

- State

- County

- County subdivision

- Place (or part)

- Census tract (or part)

- Block group (or part)

- Block

Block Equivalency File – Spreadsheet that correlates each and every census block to an election district

Census Designated Place – A populated, settled, unincorporated community named and geographically defined by the Census Bureau and state and local officials; California has just over 1,000 CDPs.

ACS	American Community Survey
CCD	Census County Division
CVAP	Citizen Voting Age Population
FIPS	Federal Information Processing System
PUMA	Public Use Microdata Areas
TIGER	Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing data
ZCTA	ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

See also: <https://www.census.gov/glossary/>

The 2020 Census recognized two ethnicities:

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

and five racial categories:

1. White or European American
2. Black or African American
3. Asian American
4. American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN)
5. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI)

An individual can be one race, any combination of more than one race, or “Some Other Race”

When doing CVAP analysis, individuals who identify as more than one race are counted once for each race, but counted only once for total population.

AMEMSA	Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian
AAPI	Asian American Pacific Islander
BIPOC	Black, Indigenous, People of Color
MENA	Middle Eastern North African
Latinx	A person of Latin American origin or descent, used as a gender-neutral or nonbinary alternative to Latino or Latina

Community Based Organization (CBO) Acronyms

AAJC	Asian Americans Advancing Justice / Asian Law Caucus
BCRH	Black Census and Redistricting Hub
CC	Common Cause
CHIRLA	Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
COFEM	El Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas (Council of Mexican Federations in N. America)
IVE	Integrated Voter Engagement Redistricting Alliance
MALDEF	Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
NALEO	National Association of Latino Elected Officials
LWV	League of Women Voters
PRA	People's Redistricting Alliance

Government and Administration Acronyms

BSA	Bureau of State Audits (now CSA)
COI	Community of Interest
CRC	Citizen Redistricting Commission
CSA	California State Auditor (currently Elaine Howle)
DGS	Department of General Services (state business manager)
IAA	Inter-Agency Agreement
NCSL	National Conference of State Legislatures (www.ncsl.org)
OLS	Office of Legal Services
RFI	Request for Information
RFP	Request for Proposals
SOQ	Statement of Qualifications
SOS	Secretary of State (currently Dr. Shirley N. Weber)
SOW	Statement of Work
TEC	Travel Expense Claim
VRA	Voting Rights Act

Gantt Chart – Project planning bar chart invented by American mechanical engineer and management consultant Henry Gantt (1861–1919).

Redistricting Terms

See also this glossary at “All About Redistricting” (Justin Levitt and Doug Spencer):
<https://redistricting.ils.edu/wp-content/uploads/Basics-English10.pdf>

Legislative Districts - state legislature districts taken together (in CA, Assembly and State Senate districts), in contrast to Congressional districts (–a bit confusing since Congress legislates too)

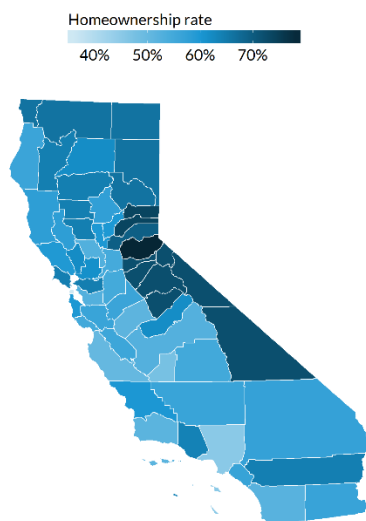
Deferral – In CA, state senators are elected in alternating odd and even districts for four-year terms. Voters in a given area might be switched from an odd to even district (or vice versa) and have their next, quadrennial state senatorial election deferred to the subsequent election cycle, thus six years after their most recent state senator election. (In 2013 the California Senate designated a “caretaker” senator to serve deferred populations that cycle.) Likewise, some areas may be “accelerated” by being in areas where a senatorial election will now occur only two years after their previous one.

Point Contiguity – A district in which one part is contiguous with another part at only via a single point, as with two corners touching

Total Population Deviation – $TPD = (\text{largest district} - \text{smallest district}) / \text{ideal district}$. So, if the largest district population is 10,000 more than the smallest, and the ideal district size is 400,000, the $TPD = 10,000/400,000 = 2.5\%$

Traditional Districting Criteria – First referred to as such in *Shaw v. Reno* (1993) to include very widely accepted criteria such as equal population, contiguity, compactness, and respect for political subdivisions; but also including a range of other criteria used historically in different places, and variously specified by some state constitutions. “Traditional” here primarily means “has been used historically in particular places” and does not necessarily mean “widely and unanimously approved.” The CRC’s six statutory criteria are (now) California’s traditional districting criteria.

Choropleth Map - a type of thematic map in which a set of pre-defined areas is colored or patterned in proportion to a statistical variable that represents an aggregate summary of a geographic characteristic within each area, e.g.:



Voting Rights Act (VRA) Terms (see also “Federal Voting Rights Act Basics” below)

Coalition District – A district in which two or more racial/ethnic minority communities vote cohesively to elect candidates of their choice

Crossover District (sometimes “Opportunity District”) – A district in which a racial/ethnic minority community is able to elect candidates of its choice because of white voters voting with that racial/ethnic minority; often especially relevant in the remedial phase for drawing minority opportunity districts

(Minority) Opportunity District – A district in which a racial/ethnic minority community is able, by itself or with coalition and/or crossover votes, to elect candidates of its choice (note that here and above, a candidate of choice can be of any race)

Influence District – A district with a racial/ethnic minority population that is less than a majority and cannot reliably elect candidates of its choice, but in which that minority population has a substantial influence on the election and on its elected representatives

Retrogression – The diminishment of a racial/ethnic minority community’s ability to elect candidates of its choice; usually measured by comparing the number of minority opportunity districts in previous districting plan with its proposed replacement; percentages of votes beyond 50%+1 may or may not be germane (e.g., a change from 62% to 57% prevailing vote may or may not signal retrogression)

VRA Section 5 Districts

In 2011, there were four regions in California subject to Section 5 preclearance, all counties:

Monterey and **Yuba** (based on low voter participation rates in 1968)

Kings and **Merced** (based on low voter participation rates in 1972; in 2012 Merced successfully “bailed out” of Section 5 coverage)

Since the 2013 *Shelby* decision, Section 5 preclearance is no longer required.

Liability and Remedial Phases – The liability phase establishes the requirement to draw VRA districts via the Gingles tests + totality of circumstances. The remedial phase draws minority opportunity districts (where there is an effective opportunity to elect candidates of choice of whatever race). Drawing an opportunity district requires a consideration of 1. CVAP level, 2. RPV degree, 3. Voter registration rates, 4. Voter turnout rates, and 5. Crossover voting rates, since electing candidates of choice depends on all five. Note that CVAP is always larger than actual voting population (since not all citizens register and vote) and the actual voting population is always larger than a winning vote (since votes are never 100% cohesive; though it can be offset by crossover votes). One consequence is that an area may qualify for a VRA district and still be difficult to draw as an effective opportunity district (e.g., if voter registration rates are low).

Racially Polarized Voting (RPV) Terms

RPV analysis is needed to ascertain whether Gingles #2 and #3 apply—does a minority population vote cohesively and does the surrounding majority population vote cohesively in opposition?

Ecological Inference – Statistical techniques for using aggregate (= “ecological”) data to estimate individual behavior; in RPV analysis, it combines aggregate votes and aggregate racial population data to estimate votes-by-race in a given area. Various techniques such as EI, Iterative EI, and EI RxC have differing strengths in analyzing differing political (only two choices, or more?) and racial (only two races, or more?) situations.

BISG - Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding, a statistical technique for estimating voter racial identity by combining an analysis of Census surnames (which do not include voter registration status) with geocoded voter registrations (which do not include racial/ethnic identity).

Endogenous and Exogenous Elections – In analyzing past elections (to assess polarization and cohesion) these two terms distinguish elections involving only the district in question (e.g., examining an assemblymember election in analyzing that assembly district, which would be endogenous) vs. elections involving either smaller or larger elections (e.g., examining a gubernatorial or assembly election in analyzing a state senate district, which would be exogenous).

Data Set	Particularly Has	Particularly Lacks
<u>Decennial Census</u> (PL94), released Aug.-Sept. 2021	Actual official current count, down to block level, on 2020 geography Ethnicity and Race	Citizenship
<u>CVAP Special Tabulation</u> (first issued 2002 then annually since 2011; are estimates based on 5- year ACS sampling data; Feb 2021 release based on 2015-2019 ACS)	Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) by ethnicity and race, down to block group level, on 2010 geography	Block level data, 2020 geography; but SWDB processed and reissued these data on 2020 census block geography
<u>CVAP Post-2020 Census Special Tabulation</u> (cancelled Jan. 2021)	<i>CVAP down to block level, from admini- strative records, on 2020 geography (but plans never finished)</i>	<i>Implementation (cancelled in development phase)</i>
<u>Voter Registration Lists</u> (in California, available to candidates, parties, ballot measure committees, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State)	Names, addresses, political party affiliation, on precinct level	Ethnicity and Race (estimate via BISG, which analyzes surnames and geocoded addresses)
<u>Statements of Registration & Vote</u>	Votes, registration rate, turnout; processed and reissued by SWDB on 2020 census blocks	Names Ethnicity and Race (estimate via ecological inference)

***All the above descriptions and definitions are general guides
and are not intended to be legally precise.***

Trivia

- California state senators represent the largest populations of any U.S. state legislative house members
- California's Board of Equalization is the only publicly elected tax commission in the U.S.
- Only ten states have full-time state legislators with full staffs: CA, MA, NY, PA, MI, IL, OH, WI, AK, HI

Federal Voting Rights Act Basics

U.S. Title 52, §10301 et seq.

The goal of VRA compliance is to prevent **minority vote dilution**. Presently, only **Section 2** of the VRA is operative. Note that the VRA is explicitly not a guarantee of racially **proportional representation**.

To establish a violation of Section 2, a plaintiff must prove, “based on the **totality of circumstances**,” that the State’s “political processes” are “not equally open to participation by members” of a protected class, “in that its members have **less opportunity** than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.”

A “**protected class**” is a group defined by (any) race, color, or membership in a language minority (“language minority” = “American Indian, Asian American, Alaskan Natives or of Spanish heritage”).

A Section 2 plaintiff must first prove the **Gingles** [“JING gulls”] preconditions apply, and only then build a case using the **Senate Factors** + any other considerations that inform the “totality of circumstances.”

Gingles Preconditions (1986):

1. Minority population sufficiently large and compact enough to form a single district
2. Minority group politically cohesive (via RPV analysis)
3. Majority group politically cohesive (via RPV analysis) and regularly opposes the minority vote; the majority group need not be any particular race or only a single race as long as it votes as a bloc

Gingles #1 is measured using Citizens of Voting Age Population (CVAP). “**Large**” means over 50% of the CVAP. “**Compact**” can include non-contiguous areas if they are in reasonable proximity and share similar interests. Note that Gingles #1 cannot be met via a **crossover district**, with minority + part of majority voting as a bloc [but what about 2/+ minority groups aggregated in a coalition?—“yes” in some U.S. Circuit Court decisions but not yet fully settled by the SCOTUS].

Senate Factors (1982) – a non-exhaustive list to help evaluate the “totality of circumstances” that demonstrate “less opportunity” in actual effect, regardless of intent:

1. The history of official discrimination in the jurisdiction that affects the right to vote;
2. The degree to which voting in the jurisdiction is racially polarized;
3. The extent of the jurisdiction's use of majority vote requirements, unusually large electoral districts, prohibitions on bullet voting, and other devices that tend to enhance the opportunity for voting discrimination;
4. Whether minority candidates are denied access to the jurisdiction's candidate slating processes, if any;
5. The extent to which the jurisdiction's minorities are discriminated against in socioeconomic areas, such as education, employment, and health;
6. Whether overt or subtle racial appeals in campaigns exist;
7. The extent to which minority candidates have won elections;
8. The degree that elected officials are unresponsive to the concerns of the minority group; and
9. Whether the policy justification for the challenged law is tenuous.

To strengthen a VRA case, plaintiffs may go beyond Section 2 effects tests and demonstrate discriminatory **intent** as well. This can be done by considering the **Arlington Heights Factors**:

Arlington Heights Factors

1. “The impact of the official action,” especially “whether it bears more heavily on one race than another,” however, “impact alone is not determinative”
2. “The historical background of the decision, particularly if it reveals a series of official actions taken for invidious purposes”
3. “The specific sequence of events leading up the challenged decision”
4. “Departures from the normal procedural sequence” or “[s]ubstantive departures”
5. “The legislative or administrative history . . . especially where there are contemporary statements by members of the decision-making body, minutes of its meetings, or reports”

VRA compliance is the only allowable reason for race to predominate in redistricting. Such compliance must meet “**strict scrutiny**”—using “narrowly tailored” and “least restrictive means” to achieve a “compelling state interest” (*Shaw v. Reno*, 1993). Where the VRA does not apply, race may still be considered but cannot be a predominating factor.

In its 2013 **Shelby** decision, the U.S. Supreme Court disabled the triggers for Section 5 of the VRA, and so lifted the requirement for preclearance of changes to voting procedures and processes in historically discriminatory regions. Restrictive voting measures may still be challenged after being implemented, but this will be much more difficult, time-consuming, and expensive compared to the former Section 5 preclearance process.

In its 2021 **Brnovich** decision, the U.S. Supreme Court declared various voting restrictions in Arizona were not violations of Section 2.

Note that **vote dilution** (the diminishment of the power or weight of some votes) is not the same **voter suppression** (the hinderance and prevention of some votes being cast at all). Vote dilution is a VRA matter while voter suppression is a Fifteenth and Twenty-fourth Amendments matter.

Summary by Russell Yee

This summary of the VRA is a general description and is not intended to be legally precise.

2020 CRC Map Requirements

1. First Preliminary Maps must be displayed no later than November 15, 2021.
2. Public comment shall be taken for at least 14 days from the date of public display of the first preliminary statewide maps of the Congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts.
3. The Commission shall not display any other map for public comment during the 14-day period.
4. Public comment shall be taken for at least seven days from the date of public display of any subsequent preliminary statewide maps.
5. Public comment shall be taken for at least three days from the date of public display of any final statewide maps.
6. Final Maps must be certified to the Secretary of State by December 27, 2021. Because of #5, final maps will need to be displayed by December 23, 2021.
7. With each of the four final maps, the Commission must issue a report that explains why its decisions in achieving compliance with the various criteria listed in subdivision (d) and must include definitions of the terms and standards used in drawing each final map.
8. The four final redistricting maps must be approved by at least nine affirmative votes which must include at least three votes of members registered from each of the two largest political parties in California based on registration and three votes from members who are not registered with either of these two political parties.
9. "Day" means a calendar day, except that if the final day of a period within which an act is to be performed is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the period is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.
10. Nine or more affirmative votes shall be required for any official action; Nine members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.
11. Notice for meetings, the purpose of which is to seek public input must be agendized for at least fourteen calendar days. Meetings for which public input is not the purpose, must be agendized for at least ten calendar days. For the final fifteen days prior the finalization of maps, public meetings require only three days' notice.

Handy Websites

General

U.S. Census Data Portal:

<https://data.census.gov/>

U.S. Census Academy (free training):

www.census.gov/data/academy.html

FiveThirtyEight's Gerrymandering Project, including its Atlas of Redistricting:

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/tag/the-gerrymandering-project/>

The Rose Institute of State and Local Government (Claremont McKenna College):

<https://roseinstitute.org/redistricting/>

All About Redistricting (Loyola Law School)

<https://redistricting.lls.edu/>

National Conference of State Legislatures:

<https://www.ncsl.org/>

DistrictBuilder online mapping tool:

<https://www.districtbuilder.org/>

MGGG Redistricting Lab, including its

Districtr mapping tool: <https://mggg.org>

Redistricting Data Hub

<https://redistrictingdatahub.org/>

QGIS open source GIS

<https://www.qgis.org/>

CA Citizens Redistricting Commission

Shape California's Future (State Auditor's 2020 selection process site; under repair):

www.shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov/

We Draw the Lines (2010 CRC)

<https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>

2010 CRC Final Report:

https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2011/08/crc_20110815_2final_report.pdf

2010 CRC Final Maps:

<https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/maps-final-drafts/>

"When the People Draw the Lines"

(LWV/James Irvine Foundation report on the 2010 Commission):

<https://cavotes.org/sites/default/files/jobs/RedistrictingCommission%20Report6122013.pdf>

2020 CRC Main Site:

www.wedrawthelinesca.org

Communities of Interest Tool

www.drawmycacommunity.org

District Drawing Tool

www.drawmycadistricts.org

Ballotpedia:

https://ballotpedia.org/California_Citizens_Redistricting_Commission

All About Redistricting – CA

<https://redistricting.lls.edu/states-CA.php>

California

Statewide Database, at the UC Berkeley

School of Law: www.statewidedatabase.org

CA Dept. of Finance, Demographic Research Unit (State Demographer):

<https://www.dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/>

CA Health and Human Services Data:
<https://data.chhs.ca.gov/>

CA Dept. of Justice criminal justice data:
<https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/>

CA Dept. of Corrections:
<https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/>

Federal Bureau of Prisons
<https://www.bop.gov/>

Public Policy Institute of California:
<https://www.ppic.org/>

CA Community Colleges
<https://www.cccco.edu/>

California Association of Councils of
Governments:
<https://calcog.org/>

Visit California tourism statistics:
<https://industry.visitcalifornia.com/research/researchdashboard>

“Gerry” Typefont
<https://www.uglygerry.com/>



Games!

Gerrymandering Game (online, NYU):
<https://cims.nyu.edu/drecco/games/gerry>

Mapmaker (board):
<http://gerrymanderinggame.com/>

The ReDistricting Game (online, USC
Annenberg Center) has not been ported
from Adobe Flash, but still resides at:
www.redistrictinggame.org/