



# DEVELOPING BOUNDARIES FOR A DISTRICT-BASED ELECTORAL SYSTEM

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City Council Meeting – September 20, 2017

Presented by,  
Anthony J. Mejia, Chief City Clerk

# Public Hearing No. 3

- Purpose:
  - Inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community regarding the draft district boundary maps.





# How Did We Get Here?

- June 5, 2017
  - The City received a letter alleging violations of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).
- July 19, 2017
  - The City Council adopted Resolution No. 7524, declaring its intention to transition to district-based elections.
  - Provides for 90-day safe harbor period in which to conduct four (4) Public Hearings to develop District Maps and adopt an Ordinance.

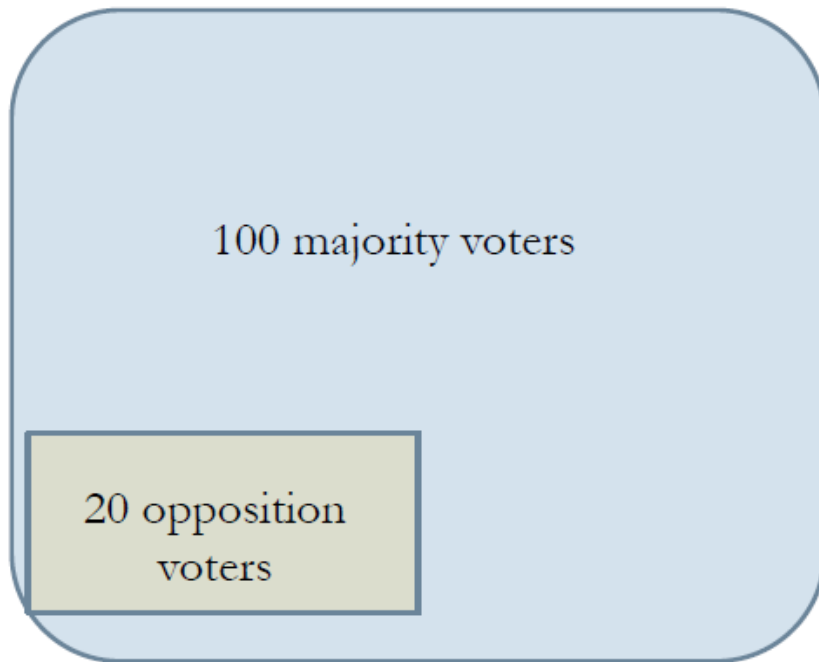


# Community Outreach and Notice

- New Webpage: [www.southpasadenaca.gov/districts](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/districts)  
(Updated Daily) [www.southpasadenaca.gov/districtsfaq](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/districtsfaq)
- Legal Noticing 10 days prior to each Public Hearing
  - La Opinión (Spanish)
  - World Journal (Chinese)
  - Korea Times (Korean)
  - South Pasadena Review
    - With instruction on how to obtain the translated notice materials and to request interpreter services to participate in the Public Hearings.
- Multiple articles in South Pasadena Review and Star News
- Facebook with expanded marketing
- National Night Out
- Community Groups
  - Meetings of Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, & Exchange
  - Notified to Chinese American Club and Vecinos Representatives

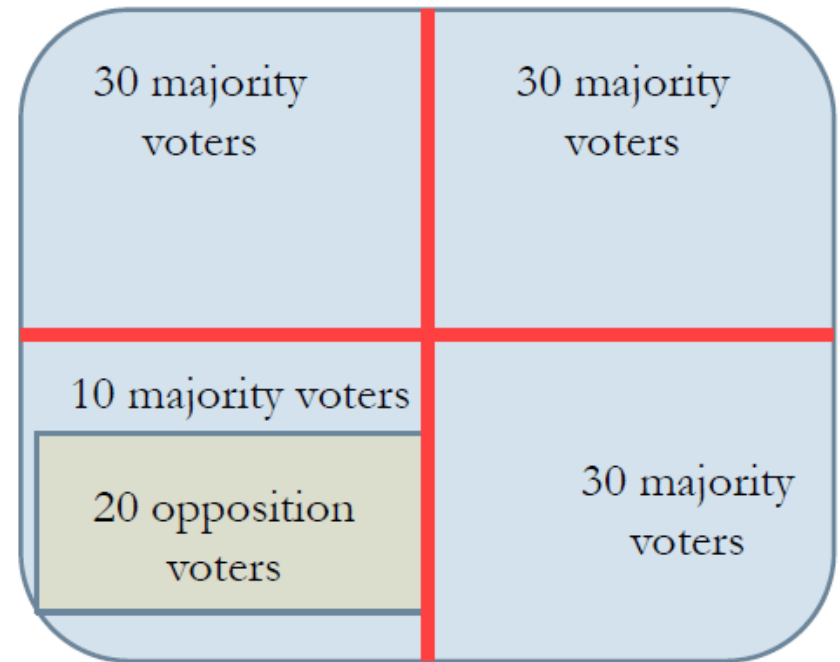
# How Are District Elections Designed To Work?

## At-Large Election



When one voting bloc significantly outnumbers another, the majority wins every at-large seat.

## By-District Election



But if the smaller group is geographically concentrated, it can elect someone who shares their views to the Council or Board.



# Meeting and Hearing Schedule

- July 19, 2017: City Council Meeting to introduce topic and adoption of the Resolution of Intent to transition from at-large to district-based elections. **(Day 1)**
- August 16, 2017: City Council Meeting to seek community input and to provide direction on “communities of interest” and the composition of districts. Public Hearing #1: **(Day 28)**
- September 6, 2017: City Council Meeting to seek community input and to provide direction on “communities of interest” and the composition of districts. Public Hearing #2: **(Day 49)**



# Meeting and Hearing Schedule

- September 16, 2017: Saturday Community Workshop to seek input on the content of the draft maps and sequencing of elections. (**Day 59**)
- September 20, 2017: City Council Meeting to seek community input and to provide direction on the content of the draft maps and sequence of elections. Public Hearing #3 (**Day 63**)
- October 4, 2017: City Council Meeting to select a preferred district map and to adopt an ordinance to transition to district-based elections (Govt. Code 36937[a]).  
Public Hearing #4 (**Day 77**)



# Criteria for District Boundaries

## Mandatory Criteria

- Equal Population Based on Census Data.
  - Not voter registration or eligible voting age population.
- Compliance with Federal Voting Rights Act.
- No Racial Gerrymandering

## Traditional Criteria

- Topography

If there is a “neighborhood” with a concentration of a protected class group, it cannot be divided in a way that dilutes their voting strength.

and continuity of office.

But, Courts say that race cannot be the predominant factor. District boundaries cannot “cherry pick” street by street to place a protected class into the same district.





# Criteria for District Boundaries (Cont.)

- Communities of Interest – A neighborhood or community of shared interest, views, or characteristics.
- Possible community feature/boundary definitions include:
  - School Attendance Areas;
  - Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
  - Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
  - Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
  - Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
    - Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
    - Languages spoken at home; and
    - Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.



# Recommendation

- Conduct a Public Hearing to receive public testimony on the draft maps of voting district boundaries and the sequence of elections.
- It is suggested that the City Council eliminate two or more proposed draft maps, so that discussion may remain focused on the remaining map(s).
- Provide direction regarding any modifications to the draft maps.
- Reach consensus regarding final draft map(s), along with any modifications, to be considered at the 4<sup>th</sup> and final Public Hearing on October 4, 2017.



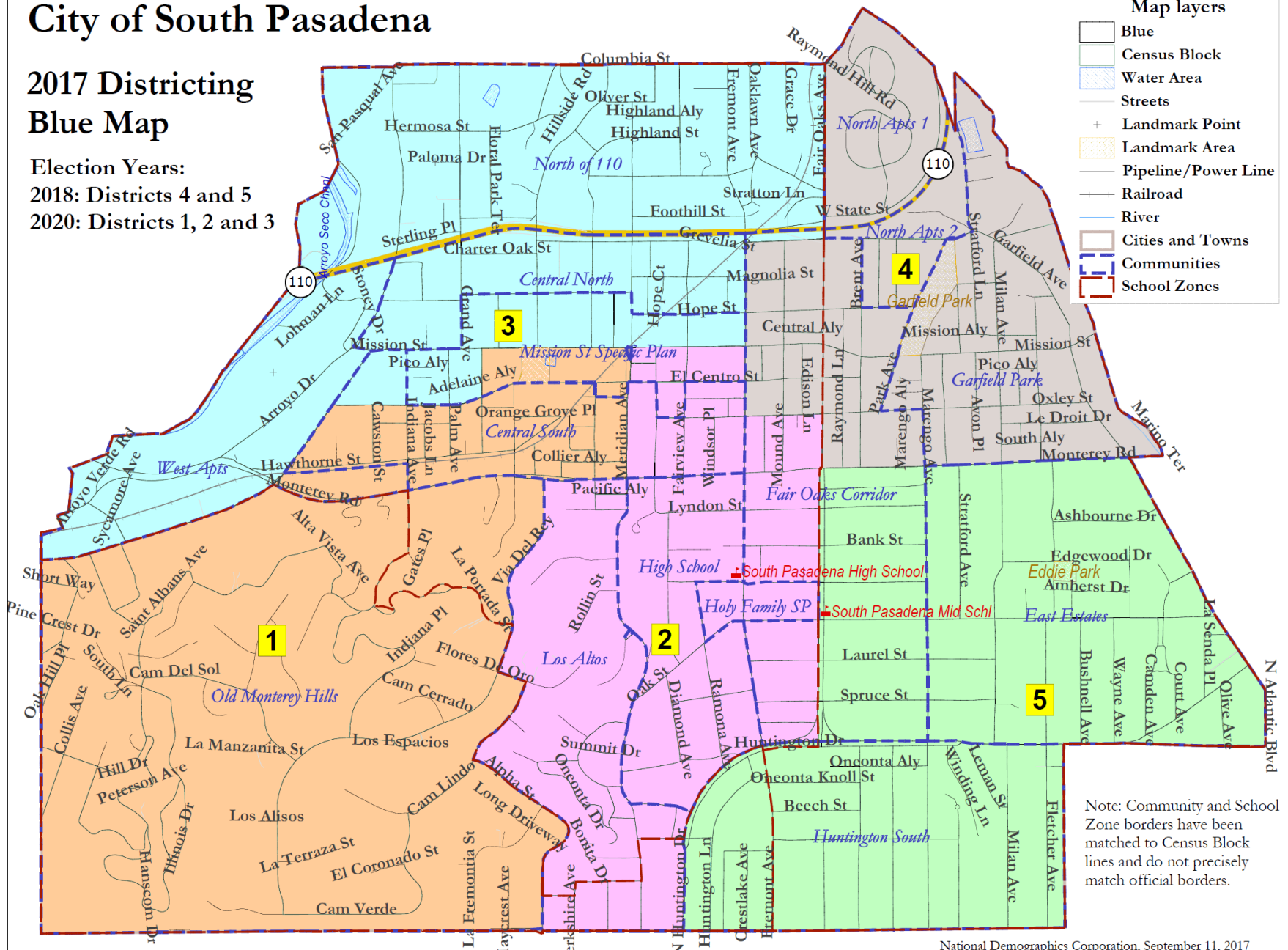
# City of South Pasadena

## 2017 Districting Blue Map

Election Years:

2018: Districts 4 and 5

2020: Districts 1, 2 and 3



Note: Community and School Zone borders have been matched to Census Block lines and do not precisely match official borders.



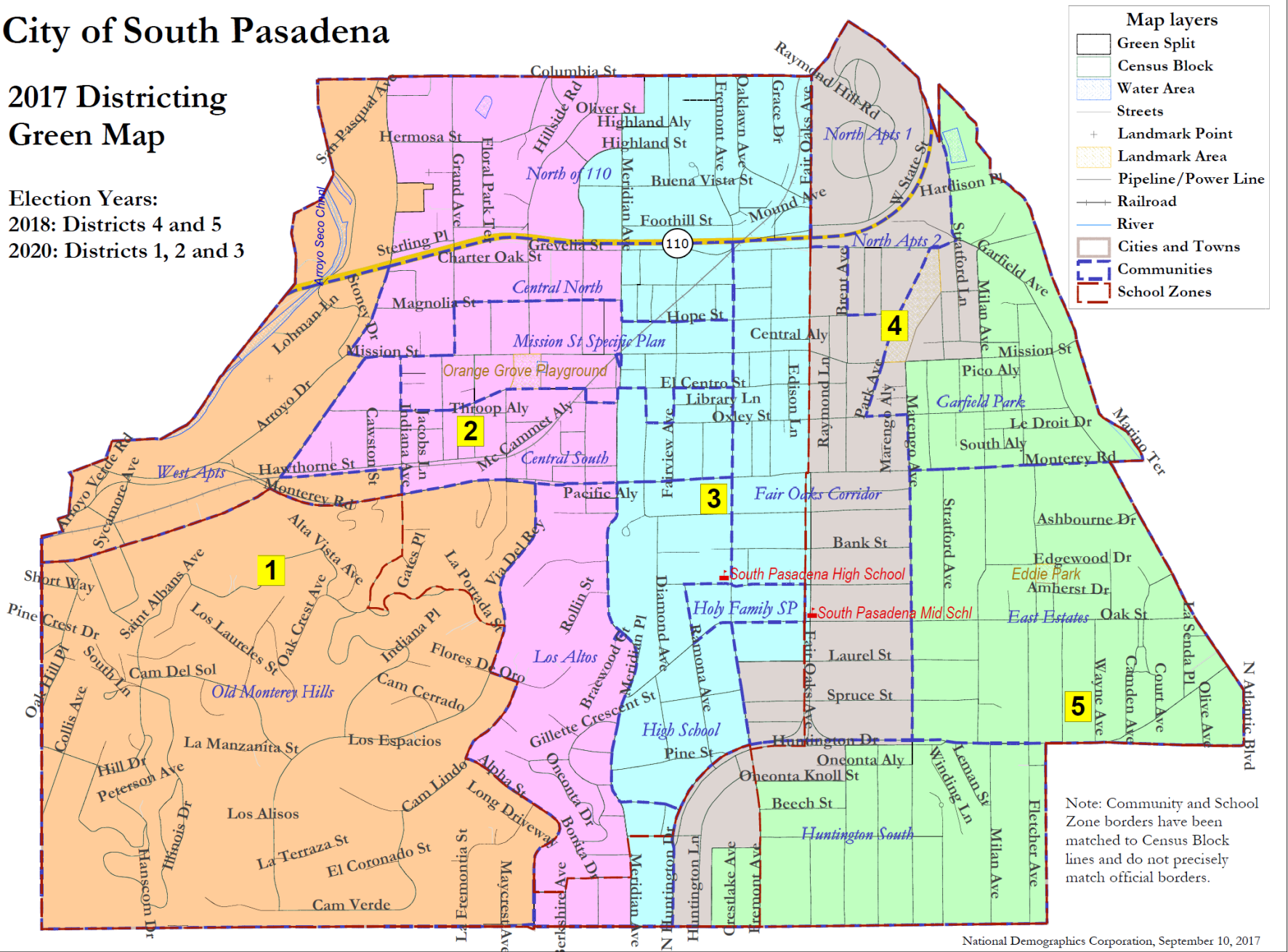
# City of South Pasadena

## 2017 Districting Green Map

Election Years:

2018: Districts 4 and 5

2020: Districts 1, 2 and 3



Note: Community and School Zone borders have been matched to Census Block lines and do not precisely match official borders.



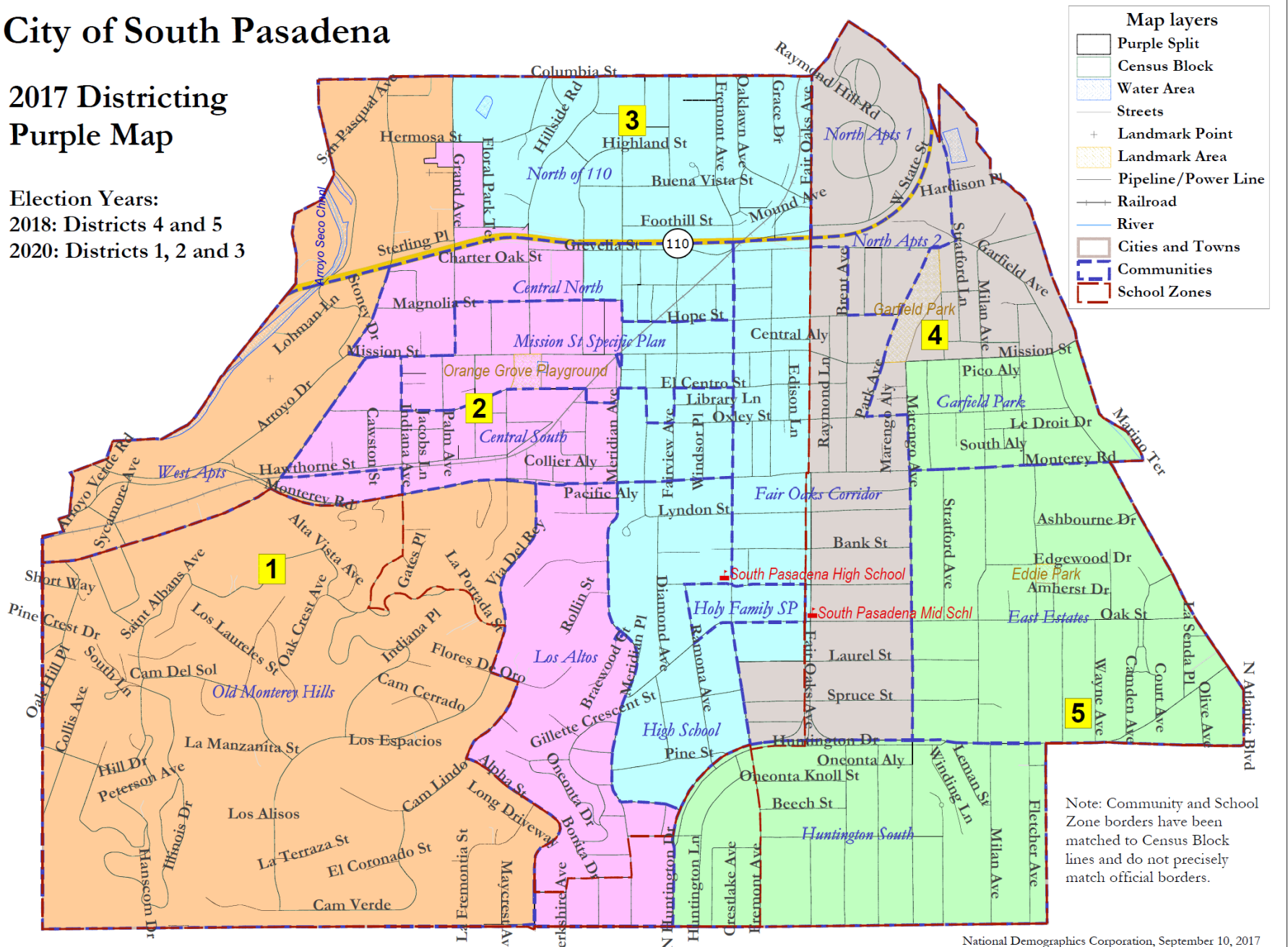
# City of South Pasadena

## 2017 Districting Purple Map

Election Years:

2018: Districts 4 and 5

2020: Districts 1, 2 and 3



- Map layers**
- Purple Split
  - Census Block
  - Water Area
  - Streets
  - Landmark Point
  - Landmark Area
  - Pipeline/Power Line
  - Railroad
  - River
  - Cities and Towns
  - Communities
  - School Zones

Note: Community and School Zone borders have been matched to Census Block lines and do not precisely match official borders.



# City of South Pasadena

## 2017 Districting Tan Map

Election Years:

2018: Districts 4 and 5

2020: Districts 1, 2 and 3

