



DEVELOPING BOUNDARIES FOR A DISTRICT-BASED ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Community Workshop – September 16, 2017

Presented by,
Anthony J. Mejia, Chief City Clerk

Community Workshop

- 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.

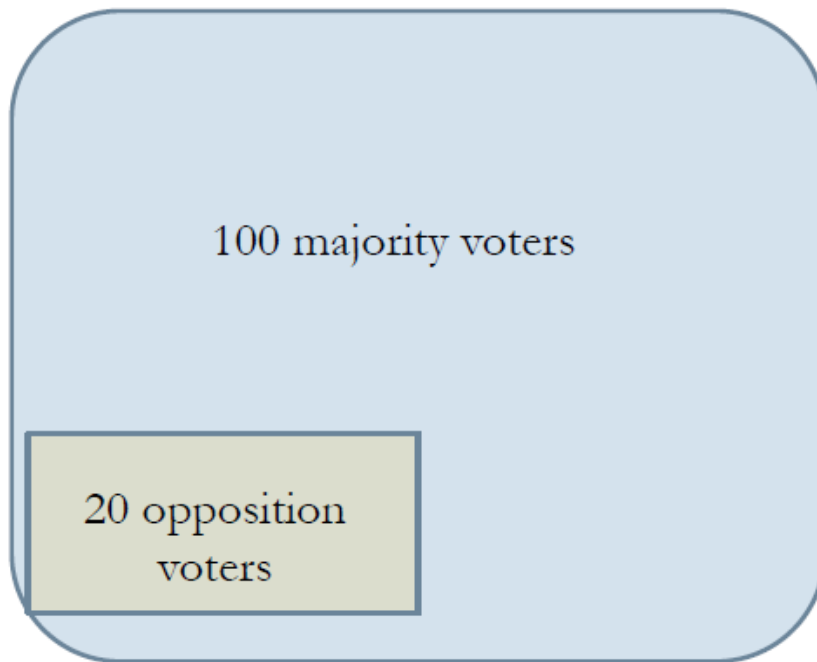


Community Outreach and Notice

- New Webpage: www.southpasadenaca.gov/districts
(Updated Daily) 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

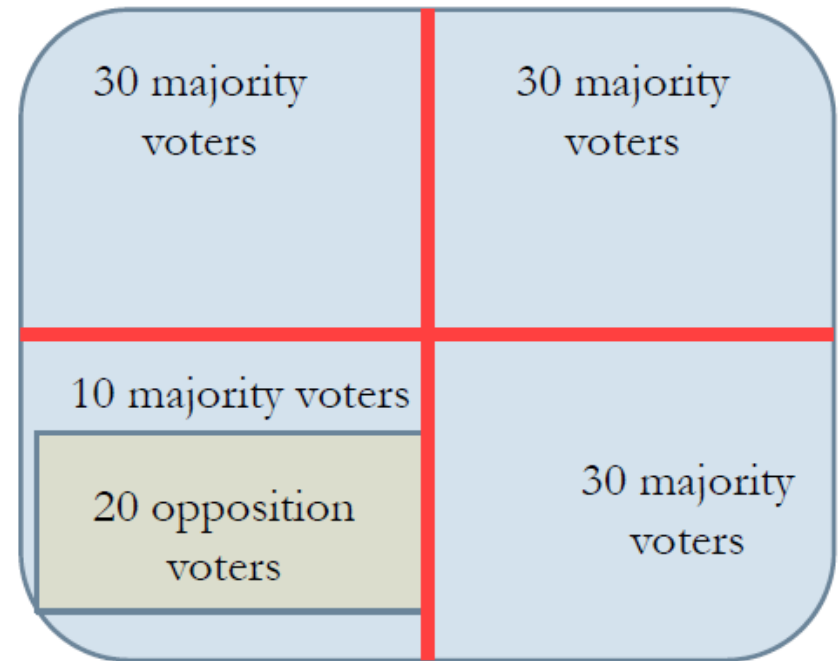
How Are District Elections Designed To Work?

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.)

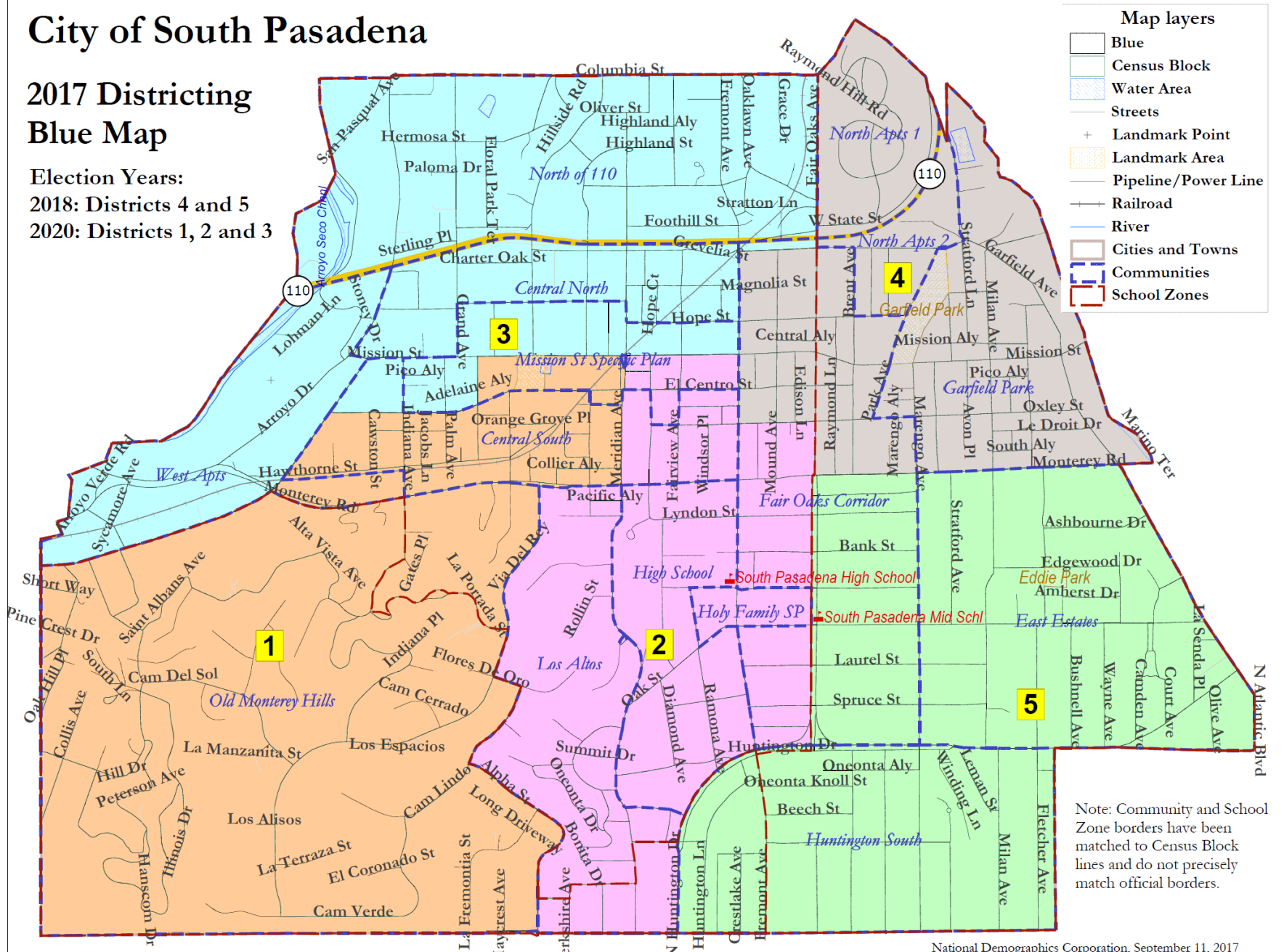
- Communities of Interest – A neighborhood or community of shared interest, views, or characteristics.
- Possible community feature/boundary definitions include:
 - School Attendance Areas;
 - Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
 - Areas around parks and other neighborhood 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.



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.



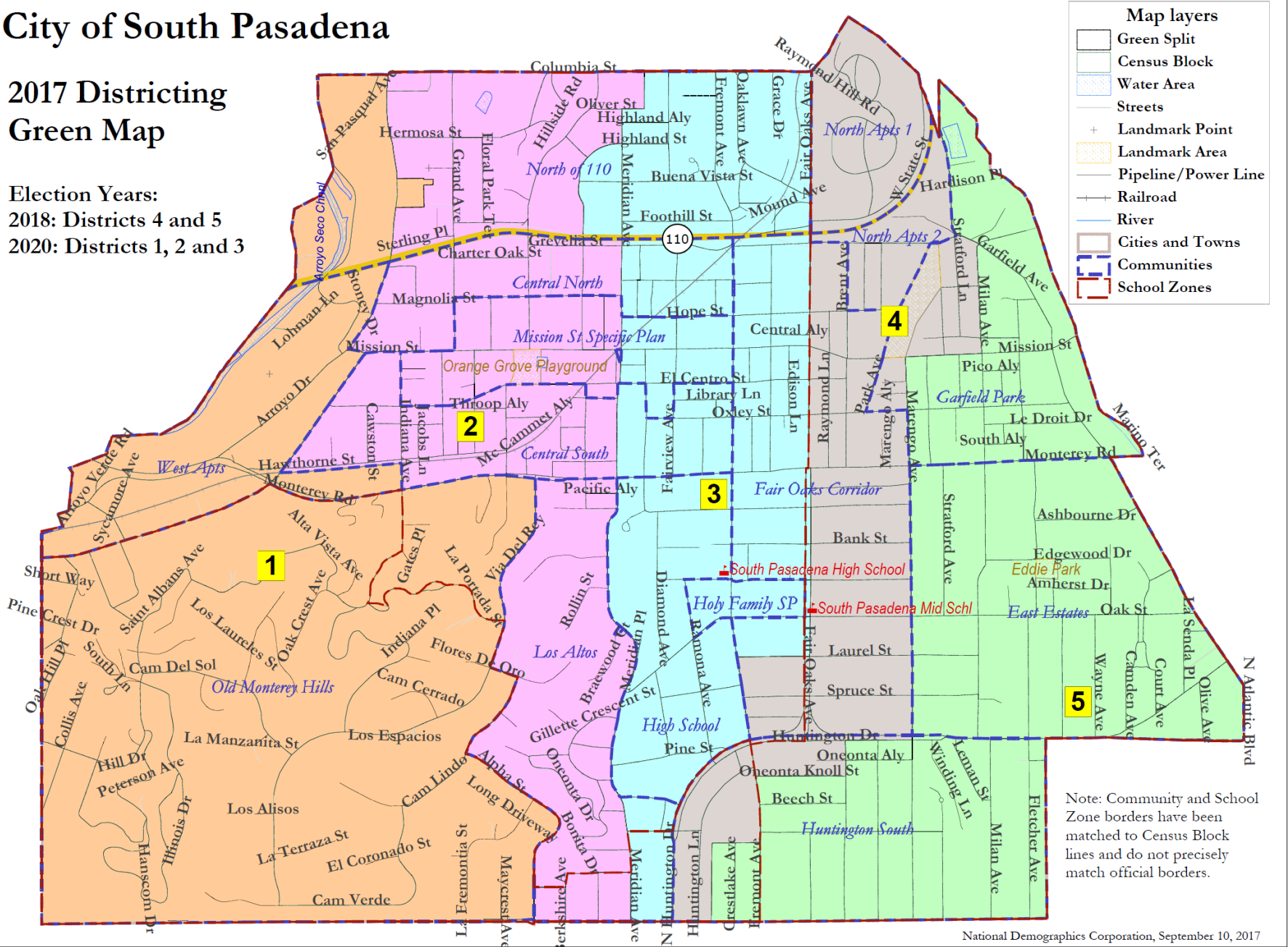
City of South Pasadena

2017 Districting Green Map

Election Years:

2018: Districts 4 and 5

2020: Districts 1, 2 and 3





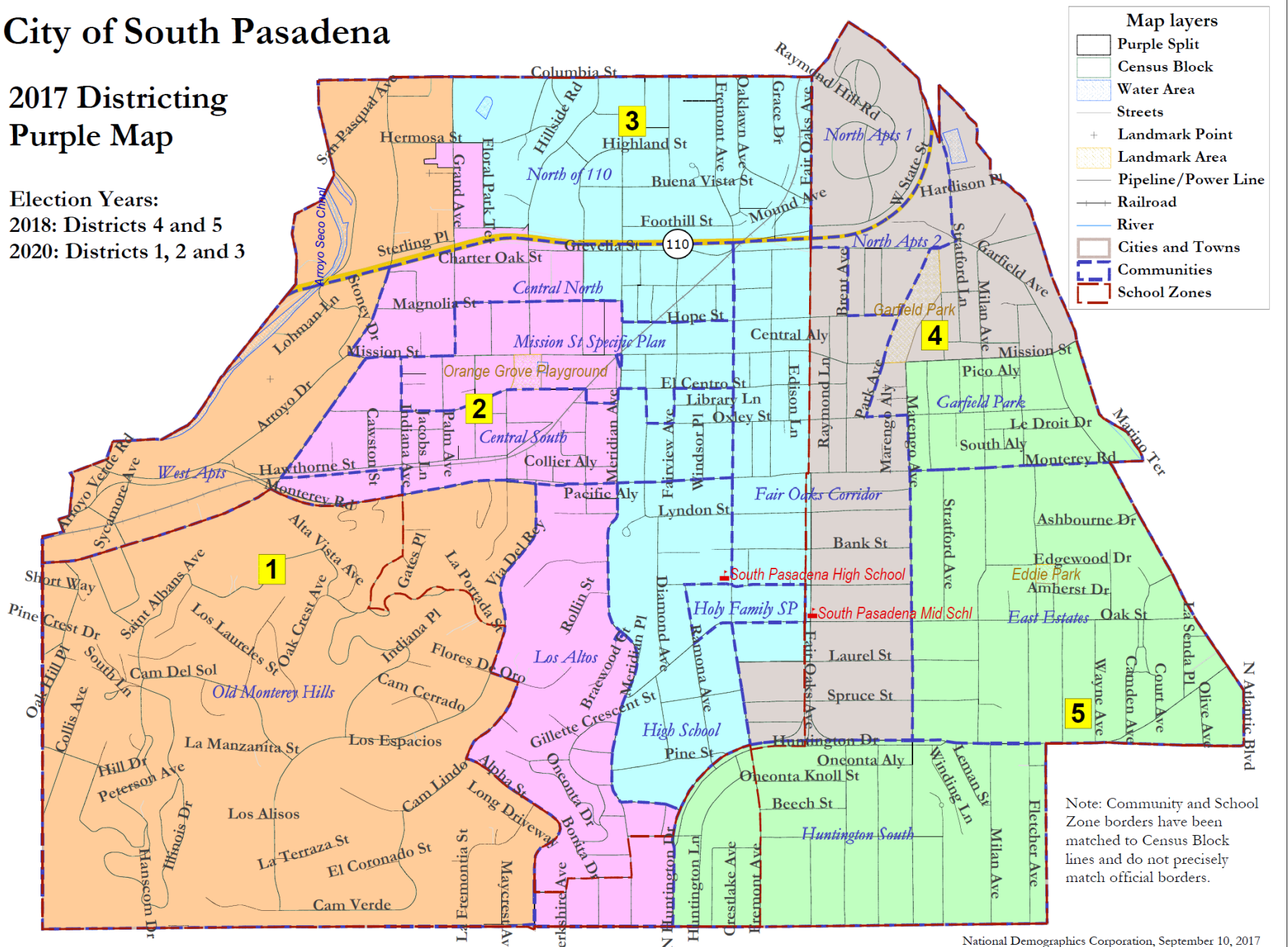
City of South Pasadena

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.



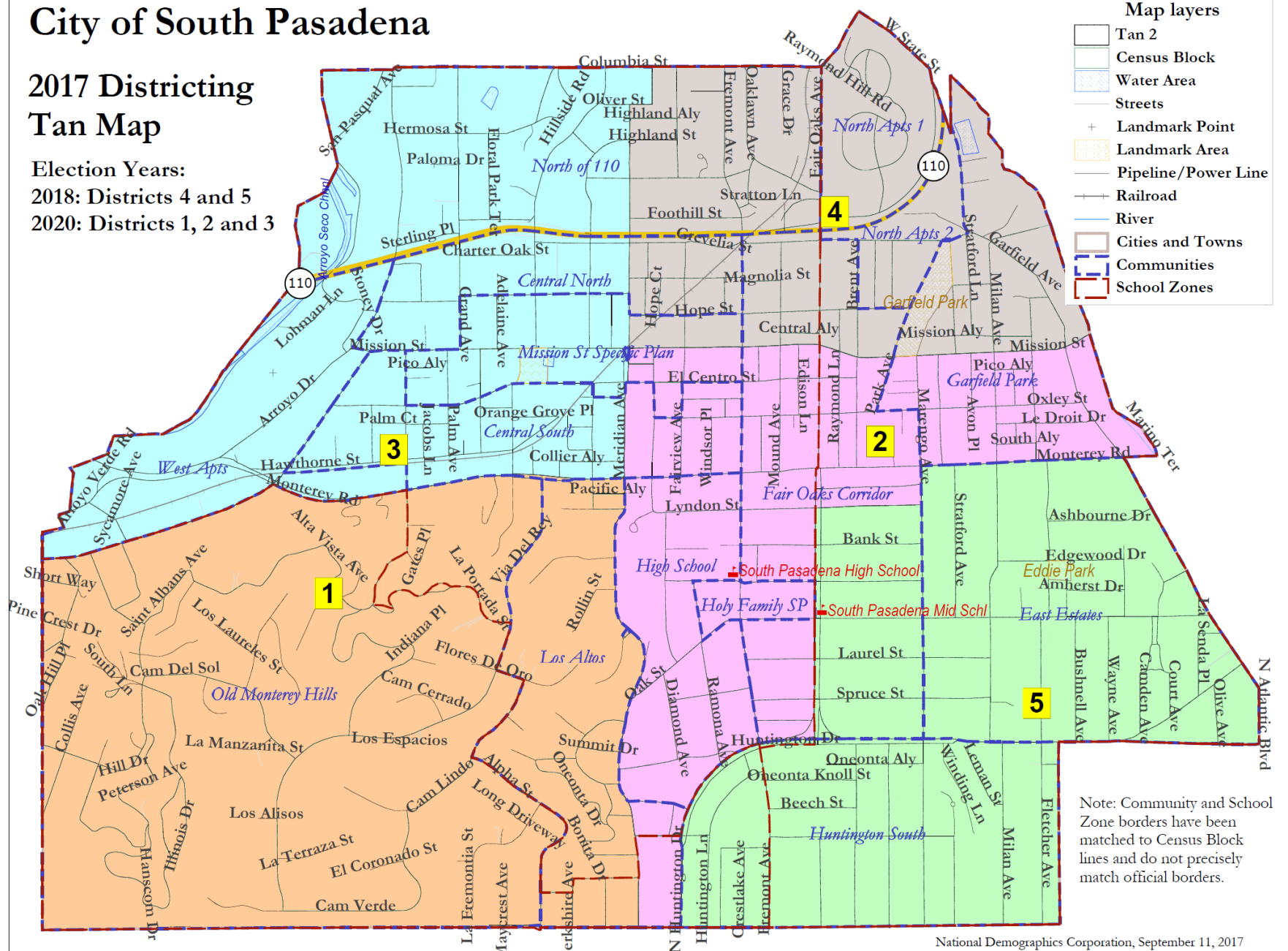
City of South Pasadena

2017 Districting Tan Map

Election Years:

2018: Districts 4 and 5

2020: Districts 1, 2 and 3



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



Public Comment & Modifications

- Public Comment will be 3 minutes each. Staff and the City's Demographer will attempt to respond to questions following the speakers time allotment. All comments will be summarized and provided to the City Council prior to the Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 20th.
- Attendees are welcome to take the printed maps and draw proposed modifications. The maps will be provided to the City Council for its consideration of whether to instruct staff to include the modification(s) in the final draft map.