

Redistricting  
2021 Under  
New  
California  
Statutes

**Redistricting 101:  
Overview of Redistricting and  
Responsibilities of San Diego  
Redistricting Commission**

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**Presenters:**

**Kathay Feng  
National Redistricting  
Director, Common Cause**

**Marguerite Leoni  
General Counsel  
San Diego County  
Independent Redistricting  
Commision**

# Redistricting 2021 Under New California Statutes

## **Presentation Outline:**

1. What is redistricting?
2. Why is redistricting important to community health?
3. How to create a transparent and inclusive redistricting process?
4. Key differences 2011 v. 2021 & statutory responsibilities of the San Diego County Independent Redistricting Commission

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**Introduction of Kathay Feng**






# Redistricting 101



**Common Cause**

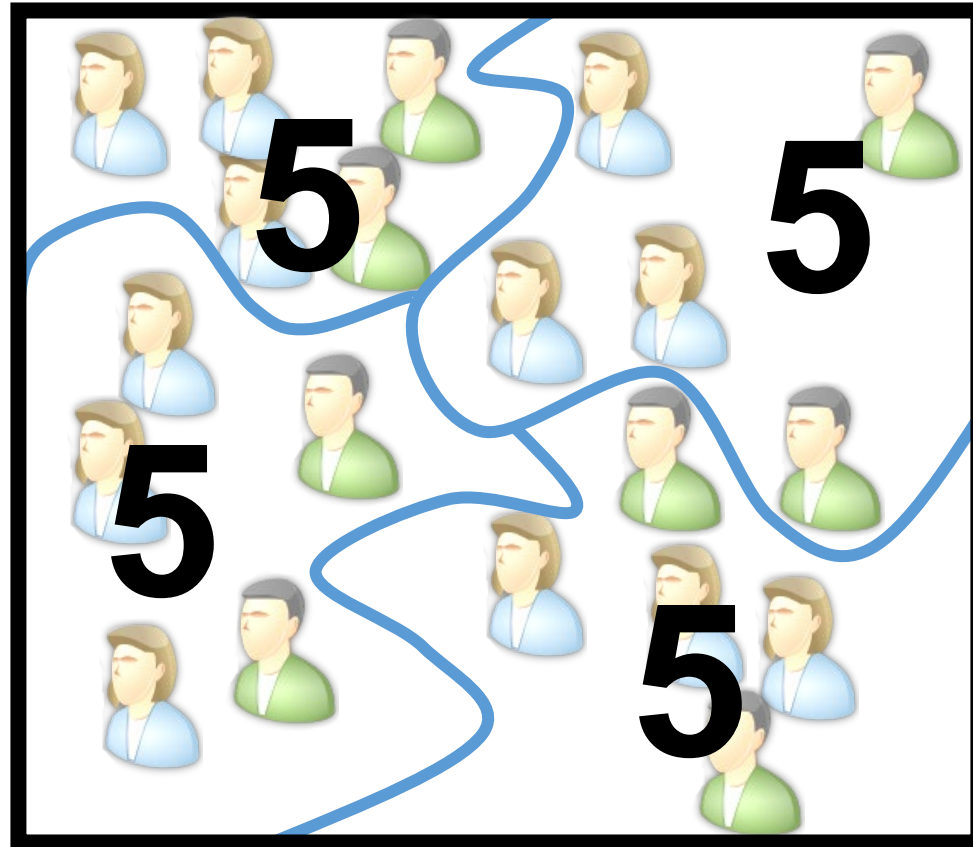
*Holding Power Accountable*



- 
1. **What** is redistricting?
  2. **Why** is redistricting important to community health?
  3. **How** can you create a transparent and inclusive redistricting process?

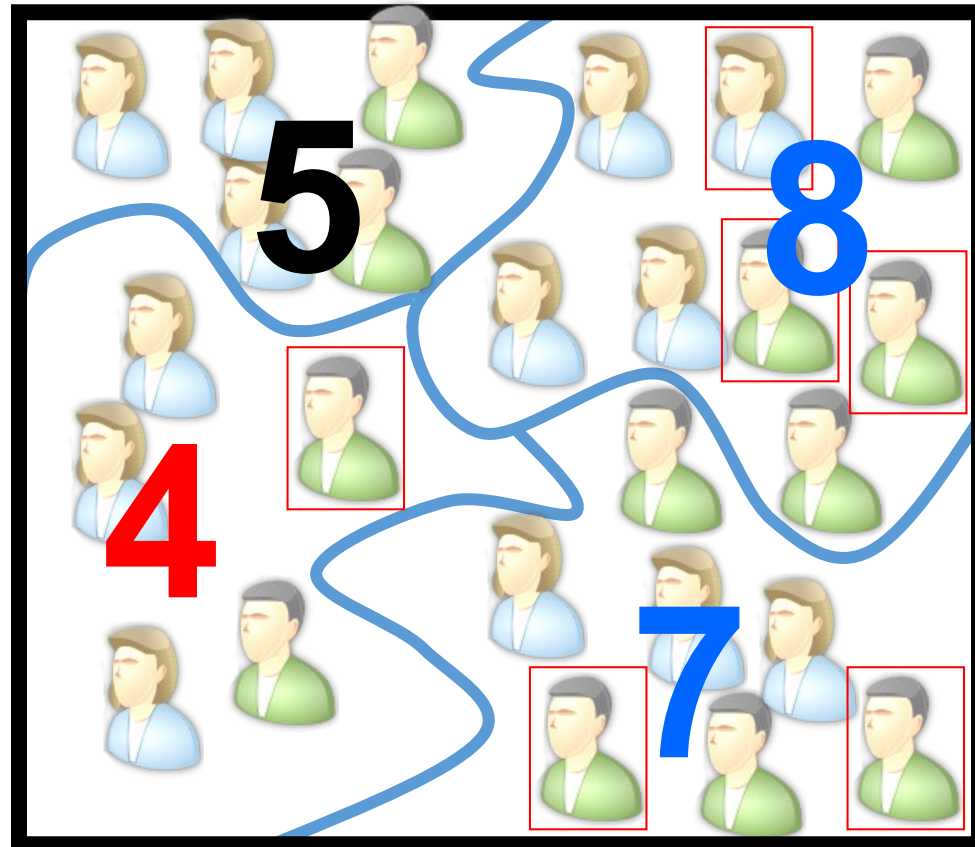
**Each district must have the same number of residents.**

**What is  
Redistricting?**



**Over time, districts become uneven in size.**

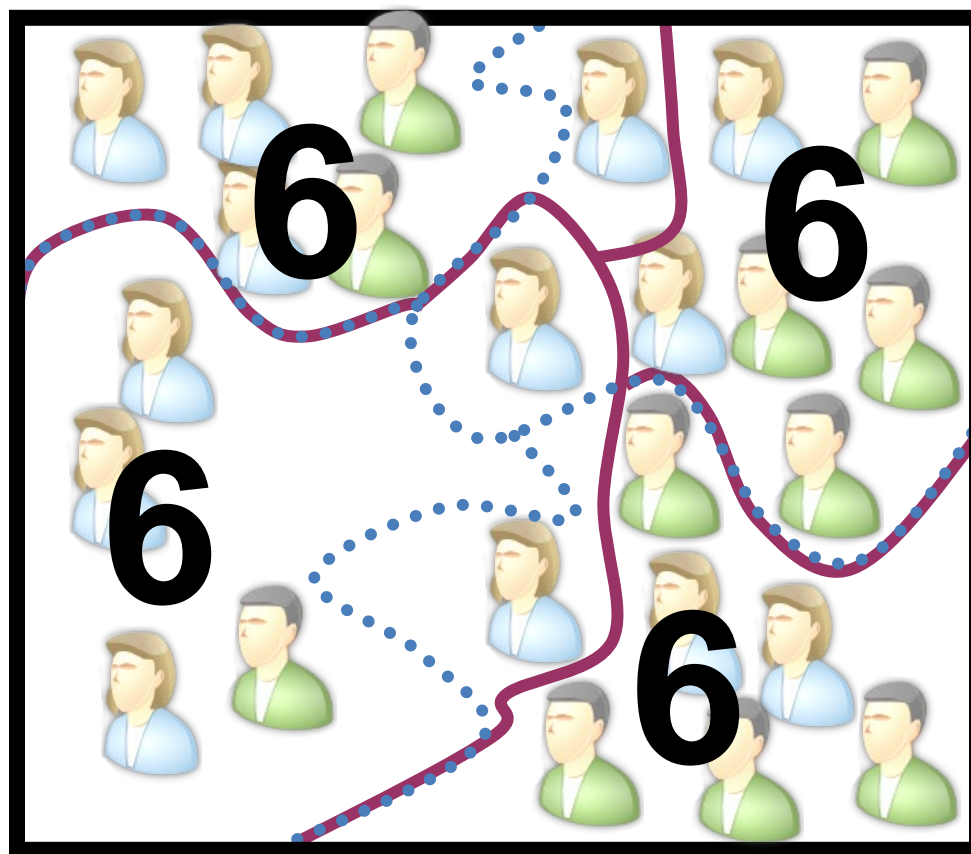
**What is  
Redistricting?**





**Every ten years, the district lines have to be redrawn to make each district even in size again.**

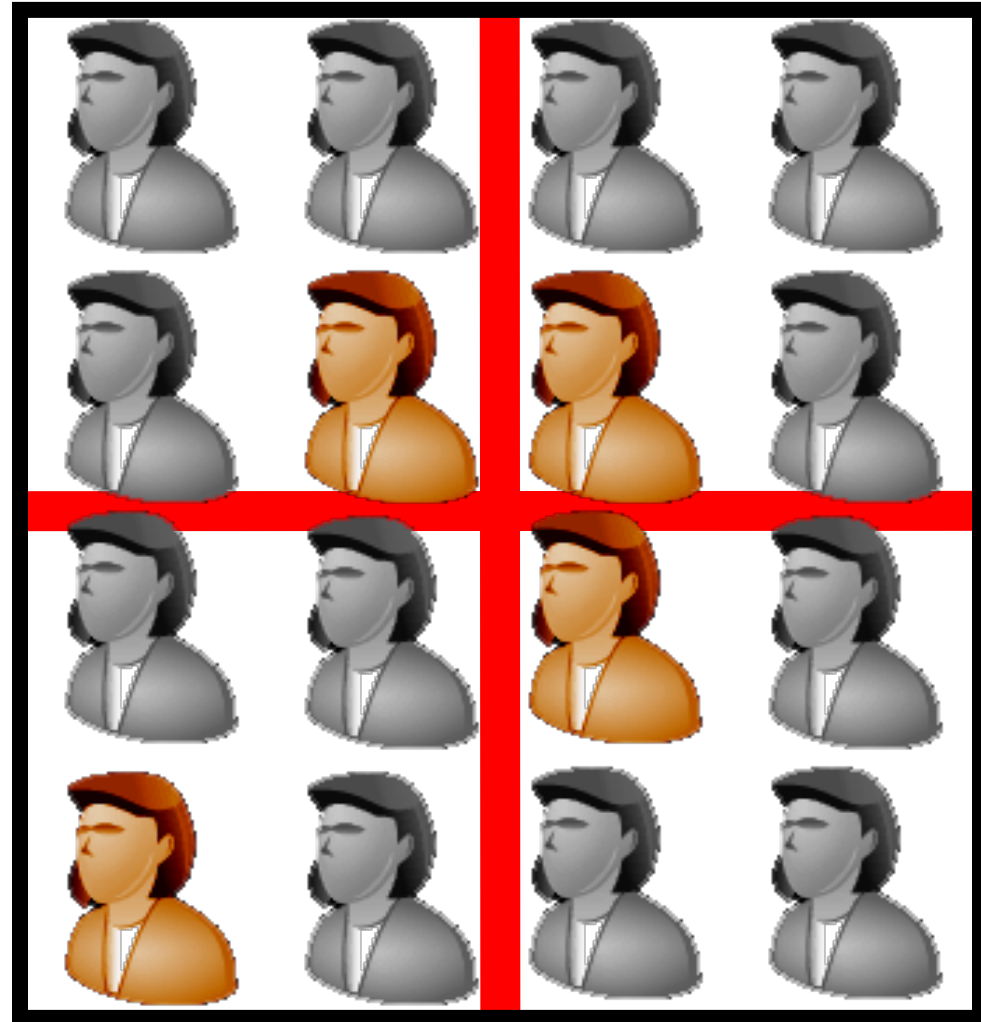
**What is  
Redistricting?**



# Redistricting can take away minority voting rights.

Why Does  
Redistricting  
Matter?

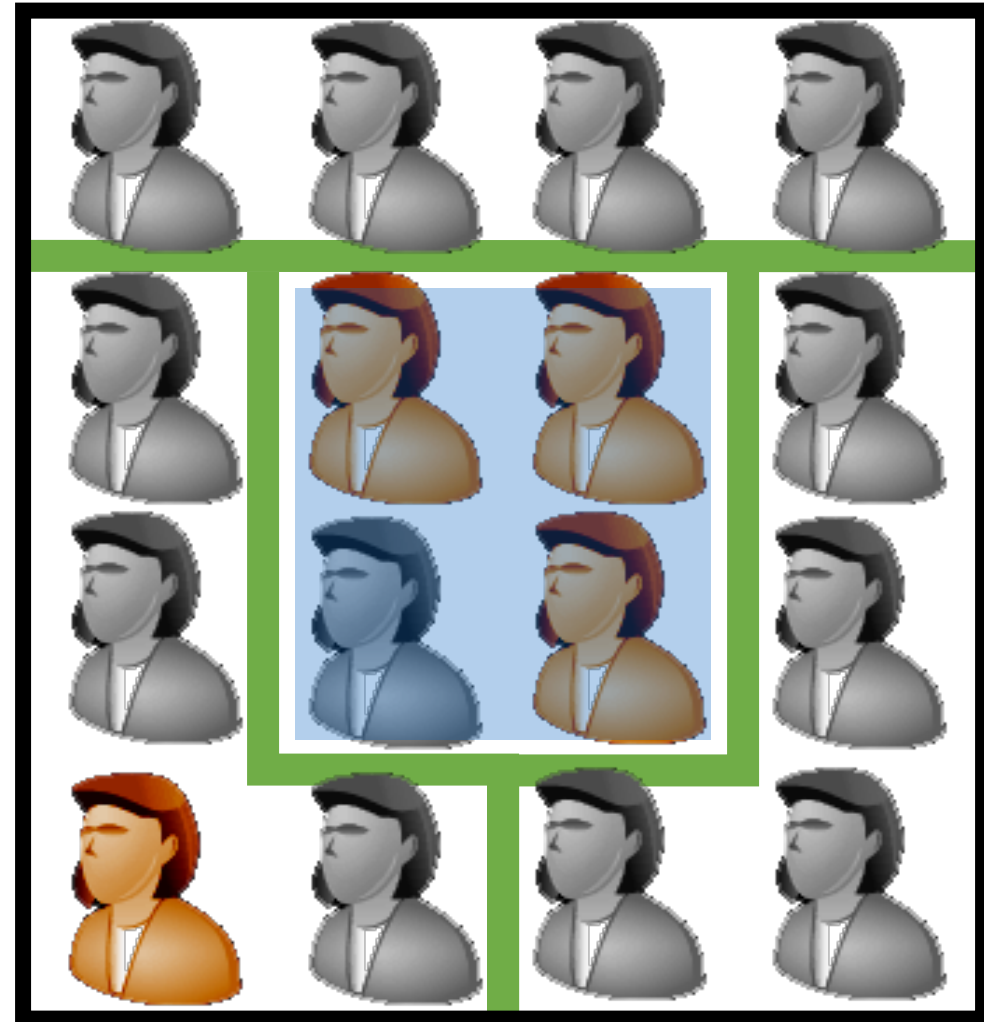
Minorities  
make up  
only  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  in all  
four  
districts



**Redistricting can allow the community to elect the candidates of their choice.**

Minorities  
make up  $\frac{3}{4}$   
of this district

If a majority  
can be  
drawn, the  
Voting  
Rights Act  
requires it



**Why Does  
Redistricting  
Matter?**

Guess Where  
This Photo Is  
From



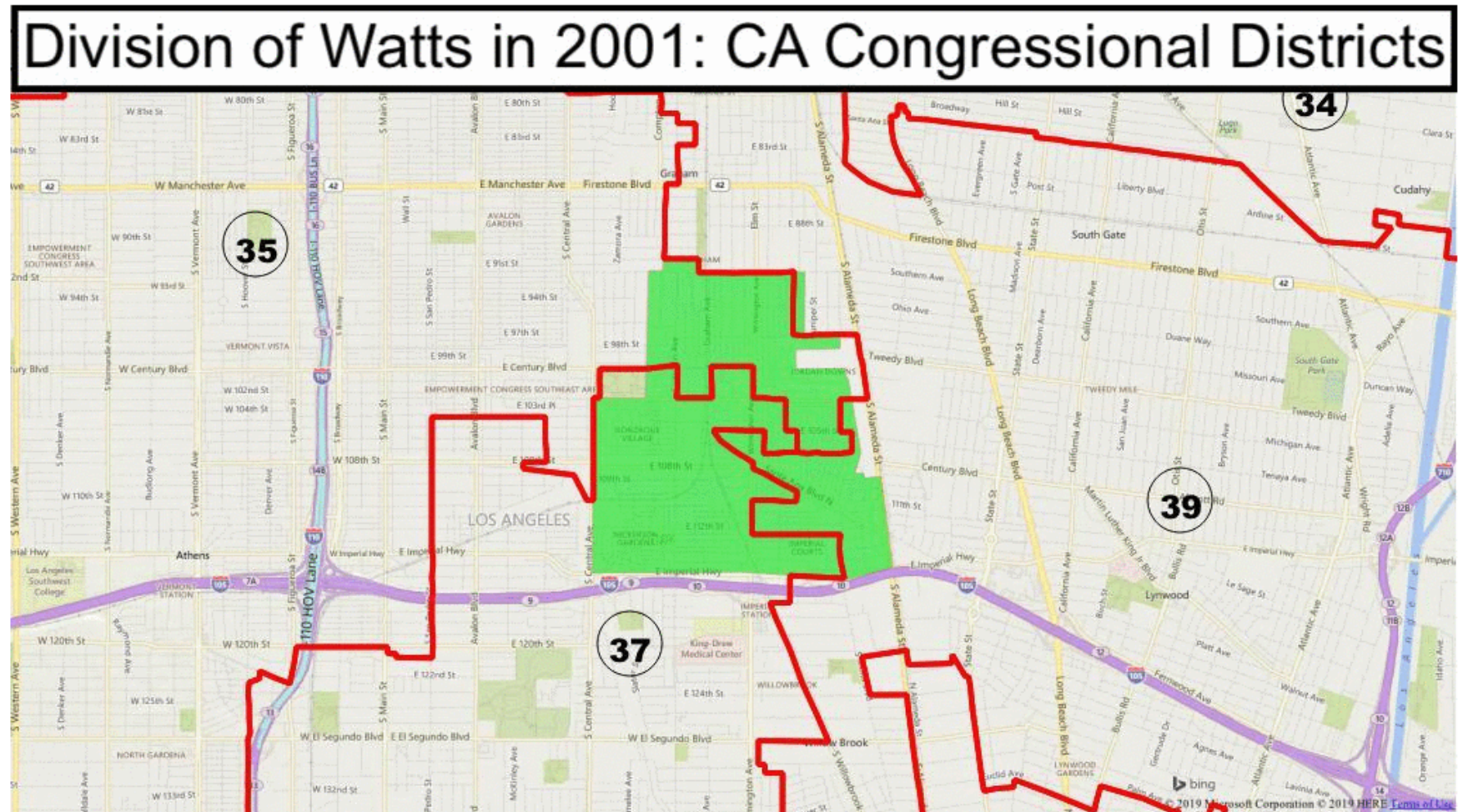


In a time of  
need, Watts  
was ignored.

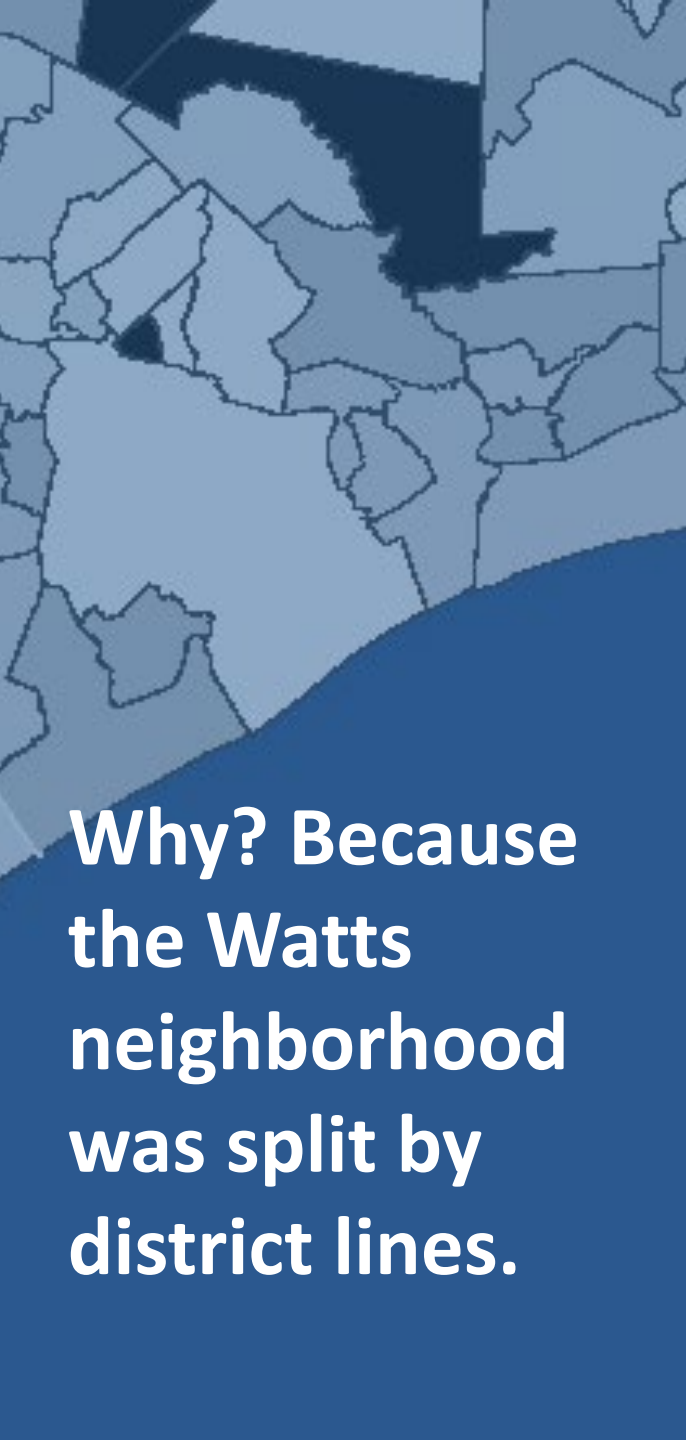


In 2001, Watts was split  
by incumbents into 3  
districts at the  
Congressional level.

Why? Because  
the Watts  
neighborhood  
was split by  
district lines.

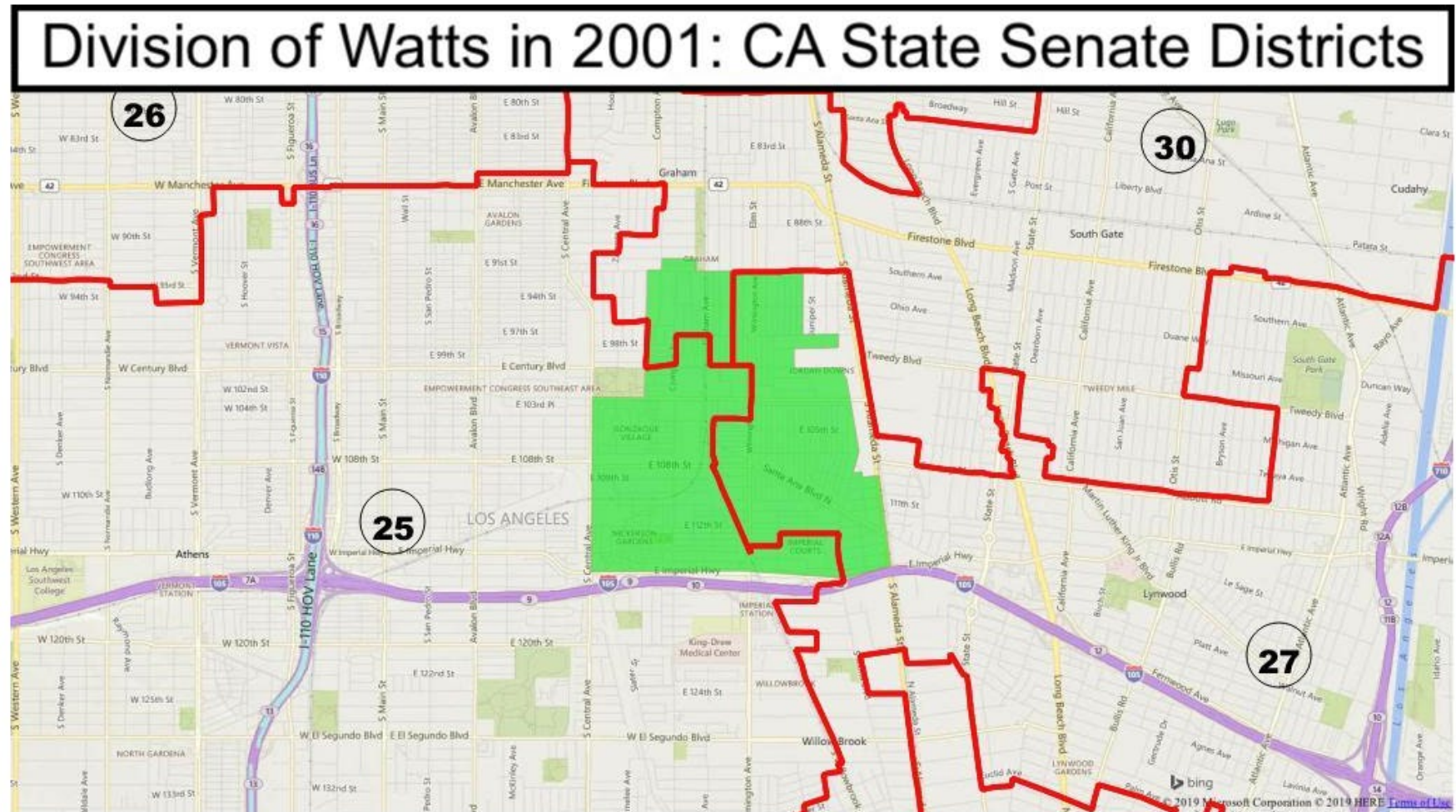






Why? Because  
the Watts  
neighborhood  
was split by  
district lines.

In 2001, Watts was split  
by incumbents into 3  
districts at the state  
Senate level.





**Communities'  
voices and  
needs were  
abandoned.**

*“At the time of the 2003 flood, I remember our office trying to be very responsive, but there was a lot of **ping-ponging** of constituents between elected representatives. Residents weren't sure who actually was their member of Congress.*

*Watts is cut into three different Congressional and state Senate districts. Residents who live on the same street may live in different districts. There was a lot of unnecessary **frustration** for constituents during a difficult time.*

***This would have never happened if all of Watts belonged to one district.”***

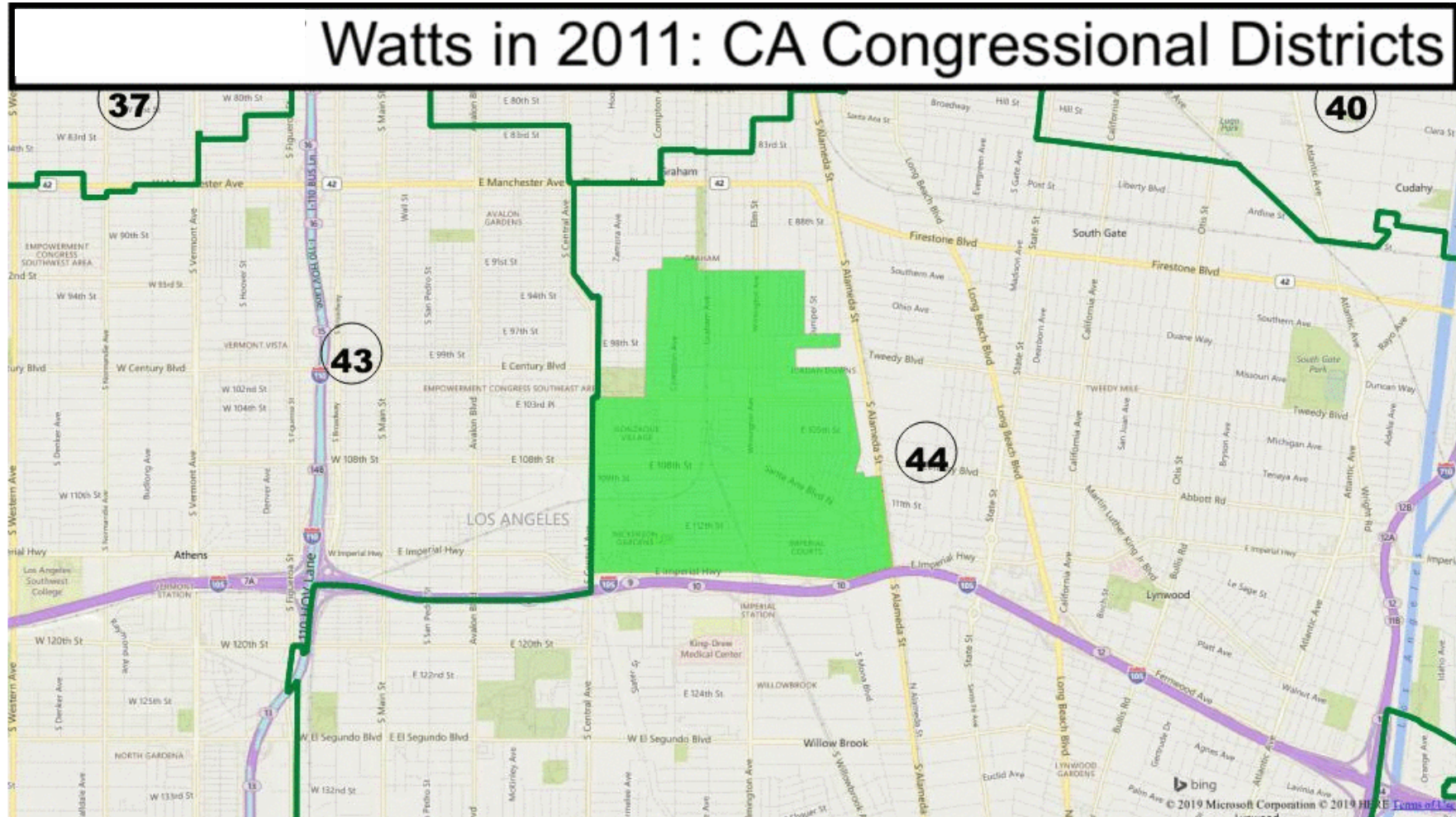
*- Romulo Rivera, former Congressional staffer*



By 2011, after leaders



**Redistricting  
with community  
input makes a  
difference.**



# CA Sparked a Redistricting Revolution



**California cities and counties have also moved to independent commissions:**

- Berkeley
- Chula Vista
- Escondido
- Oakland
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles County
- Roseville
- Sacramento
- San Diego City
- San Diego County
- Santa Barbara County





Adopting equitable  
district maps

Creating a  
Transparent and  
Inclusive Process

Centering  
Community Input





## How can you create a transparent and inclusive process?

- New state laws on local redistricting offer a roadmap for more transparency and public engagement.
- Best practices developed by cities and redistricting experts mean you don't have to reinvent the wheel.
- New, publicly available mapping tools and technology make it easier to facilitate public engagement.





How can you create  
a transparent and  
inclusive process?

- Start now! Begin learning, planning
- Line up your resources
- Outreach and educate decision-makers and community leaders
- Redistricting Data may come July / August 2021

# Redistricting 2021 Under New California Statutes

	2011	2021
When	In the year following Census; mid-decade OK	In the year following the Census
Who	Board of Supervisors	<b>Independent Redistricting Commission</b>
Deadline	November 1, 2011	<b>December 15, 2021</b>
Criteria – Federal (see next slide)	Equal population Federal VRA Equal Protection	Same
Criteria – State (see next slide)	Discretionary	<b>Mandatory &amp; prioritized</b>
Outreach	None	<b>Media, Social Media &amp; PSA's, Community Groups</b>
Accessibility	None	<b>Express provisions for language access</b>
Hearings	Two before public hearing at which final map adopted	<b>Minimum 7 before drawing maps and 2 after</b>
Public Participation	None	<b>Website with mandatory content Extended public notice Mapping facilities</b>
Record Keeping	None	<b>Commission Report</b>

# Redistricting 2021 Under New California Statutes

	2011	2021
Criteria -- Federal	Equal Total Pop. Federal VRA Equal Protection	Same, but use Census data as adjusted to reallocate state prisoners. Also notable judicial developments under VRA & Eq. Prot.
Criteria – State	Discretionary: 1) topography, 2) geography, 3) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, 4) community of interests of the districts	Mandatory & prioritized 1) Geographic contiguity, 2) geographic integrity of any city, local neighborhood, or local community of interest, 3) geographical compactness, 4) no consideration of residence of candidate or incumbent, and no discrimination for or against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party
Local	The area of at least two districts shall be as substantially outside the City of San Diego as population permits	At least three districts shall include unincorporated territory with two of the districts having geographic area that is predominantly outside of the incorporated cities



# Redistricting 2021 Under New California Statutes

## Timeline Update

1. Census data will not be received before July 31, 2021.
2. Exact date is still uncertain.
3. Given other necessary data processing, this will likely push IRC mapping activities into the Fall 2021.
4. The statutory scheme provides some flexibility in mapping/posting requirements if data delivery date falls within 90 days of the deadline to complete the redistricting.
5. However, the deadline for completion of the process has not changed, December 15, 2021.
6. Staff is modifying the adopted timeline to better reflect what we know now and will bring update information to Commission at a future meeting.



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Question Time