



City of Gilroy STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title:

Sixth Public Hearing Regarding the City's Transition from an At-Large to a District-Based Elections System for the Purpose of Receiving the Demographer's Presentation on the Transition Process and Selecting a Final District Elections Map from the Remaining Two Draft Map – Maps D and F; as well as Determining the Order of Elections – that is - Which Three Districts Will Be on the Ballot in the November 2026 Election and Which Three Districts Will Be on the 2028 Ballot; Determining Whether Candidates for City Council Must be Residents and Electors of the District in Which They Seek Election for Any Period of Time Prior to Filing Their Nomination Papers and Declaring Their Intent to Run; and Introduce Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Gilroy declaring henceforth that City Council elections will be districted, adopting a districting map, declaring the order of elections, and potentially imposing a residency requirement on Council candidates

This Public Hearing item shall be heard at 7:00 p.m. or soon thereafter

Meeting Date: May 19, 2025
From: Andrew Faber, City Attorney
Department: City Attorney
Submitted By: Andrew Faber, City Attorney
Prepared By: Andrew Faber, City Attorney

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

1. Select either Draft Map D or Draft Map F as the official district map.
2. Determine which districts will be on the ballot in 2026 and which in 2028.

3. If desired by the Council, impose a residency requirement of no greater than 30 days upon candidates prior to filing their nomination papers.
4. Motion to read the ordinance by title only and waive further reading.
5. Introduce an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Gilroy officially declaring that henceforth, the City Council elections will be districted, including the determinations made regarding items 1-3 above.

BACKGROUND

The City of Gilroy ("City") currently has an at-large election system, where each of the City's six Councilmembers are elected to staggered four-year terms by voters throughout the City. The mayor is also elected at-large to a four-year term.

1. *Letter Alleging Violation of the CVRA and the City's Resolution of Intent to Transition from At-Large to District-Based Elections.*

On December 16, 2024, the City received a letter alleging a violation of the California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA"). The letter asserts that the City is in violation of the CVRA because the City's councilmember elections are at-large as opposed to by district and there exists racial polarization and vote dilution. On February 24, 2025, the City Council adopted a resolution declaring its intent to transition to a district-based electoral system commencing with the November 2026 Election.

2. *Public Hearings, Public Input, and Community Workshops.*

On March 3, 2025, and March 17, 2025, the City Council held the first and second of five public hearings required for the City's transition to by-district elections. Public Hearings Nos. 1 and 2 were held prior to any draft maps being drawn. Redistricting Partners, the City's retained demographer, made presentations at both public hearings regarding the CVRA, the transition process from at-large to district elections, the potential composition and number of districts, as well as the public input process. Members of the public provided input at both hearings regarding communities of interest in and the various attributes of the City of Gilroy to aid in the districting process. At the close of the March 17th hearing, having considered the public's input and the presentation by Redistricting Partners, the City Council provided direction to the demographer to begin drawing draft maps for a by-district electoral system comprised of six districts and an at-large mayor.

In addition, on March 25 and March 29, 2025, the City hosted two workshops—offering childcare and language translation — where Redistricting Partners gave a presentation on districting, facilitated a Q&A session, engaged the public in map-drawing, and gathered additional public input.

On April 7, 2025, Public Hearing No. 3 was held to receive public and City Council feedback on the first set of draft maps. After considering this public input and the presentation by the demographer, the City Council provided direction to Redistricting Partners on proposed revisions to the draft maps to be considered and new maps drawn.

On April 21, 2025, Public Hearing No. 4 was held to receive public and City Council feedback on the second set of draft maps. After considering this public input and the presentation by the demographer, the City Council provided direction to Redistricting Partners on proposed revisions to the draft maps to be considered and new maps drawn.

Two weeks later, on May 5, 2025, Public Hearing No. 5 was held to receive public and City Council feedback on the second set of draft maps. After considering this public input and the presentation by the demographer, the City Council provided direction to Redistricting Partners on the final two maps for consideration at the final public hearing No. 6.

3. *Draft Map Development.*

Based on public input and City Council feedback at (the prior hearings and) the May 5 Public Hearing No. 5, the City Council selected two draft maps (Draft D and Draft F) for final consideration at the May 19, 2025 Public Hearing. These draft maps were designed to incorporate and address the public's concerns and the direction provided by the City Council, all the while ensuring that the draft maps comply with both the CVRA and the Federal Voting Rights Act, as well as the sound map drawing/ demographic principles and meeting the requirements of the Fair Maps Act. These draft maps incorporate the underlying Census tract geography to establish the boundaries of individual City Council districts. In drawing these maps, every care was taken to honor neighborhoods and communities of interest as identified through public input. Furthermore, each of the maps complies with the 10% total deviation requirement between the largest to smallest district by population. Further explanation of the public input received and analysis that went in to drafting each of these draft maps will be provided by Redistricting Partners on May 19, 2025, at Public Hearing No. 6. These map drafts have been posted on the City's website since Thursday, May 8, 2025.

On May 19, 2025, Public Hearing No. 6, draft Maps D and F will be considered by the City Council.¹ One map will be selected for adoption as the six-district electoral map for City Council elections. The public is again invited to provide their input on these draft maps before the City Council selects one of the maps.

4. *Other Matters/ Order of Elections & Residency Requirements.*

In addition to the consideration of maps, the City Council also must determine the order of elections – that is, which three districts will be on the ballot in November of 2026, and which three districts will be on the ballot in November of 2028, as City Council terms are staggered under state law. The City Council will make this decision once it has selected a final map. The decision on the order of elections must be made “in the spirit of the California Voting Rights Act,” which aims to increase public participation in the electoral process as well as the ability of minority voters to elect candidates of their choice. In

¹ If the Council makes or directs any changes to the map drafts, that new map may not be selected as the final map on May 19, 2025. Rather, the new map draft with changes must be posted to the City's districting website for 7 days before any action is taken.

making this decision, the City Council may consider any number of factors including but not limited to projected turnout in the 2026 and 2028 elections, where the current at-large incumbents live vis a vis the new districts, which of the current at-large City councilmembers' terms are ending, the composition of each district, continuity, and of course the public input that Council receives on these questions.

The City Council may also determine whether candidates for City Council must be residents of the district in which they seek election for any period of time prior to filing their nomination papers. Pursuant to Government Code section 34882, a candidate running for a city councilmember position is not eligible to hold that office unless they reside in the geographical area making up the district from which they are elected at the time their nomination papers are issued. There is no requirement related to a minimum residency period, and the City is not required to impose such a requirement. In fact, neighboring cities have taken different positions on this issue – some have imposed a 30-day residency requirement – the legal maximum in California – while others have imposed no minimum residency requirement. The City currently has no minimum residency requirement, and the City Council invites the public to provide their input on this topic.

The proposed ordinance for City Council consideration is attached to this staff report. This ordinance may be used for any map and the sequence of elections selected by the City Council. This ordinance will be introduced (the “first reading”) on May 19, 2025, and adoption (“the second reading”) is scheduled for the June 2, 2025 City Council meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There is no fiscal impact to hold this meeting as the City has already retained the services of outside legal counsel and a demographer to assist in the transition to district-based elections.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Throughout the process in this transition to district elections, the City has engaged in a robust effort to encourage participation and inclusivity as a part of the process.

The City has also provided multiple ways for the public to submit feedback through in-person and online formats such as map drawing, fillable Communities of Interest forms, and submission of public comment. Members of the public have been encouraged to regularly visit the City’s districting webpage at:

<https://www.cityofgilroy.org/1069/Transition-to-District-Based-Elections>

Members of the public can access all meeting materials as well as provide input on the districting process and draft maps via the City’s website.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

During the regular meeting of February 24, 2025, the City Council adopted a Resolution declaring its Intent to Transition to District-Based Elections pursuant to California Elections Code Section 10010, with the transition taking effect for the November 2026 and 2028 Elections.

During the regular meeting of March 3, 2025, the City Council held its first public hearing – Public Hearing No. 1 - related to the transition to district-based elections. There, the City's demographer, Redistricting Partners, made a presentation on the CVRA and the transition process for preparing district boundaries.

On March 17, 2025, the City Council held Public Hearing No. 2 at which the City's demographer, Redistricting Partners, made a second presentation on the transition process for preparing district boundaries and how to use the City's online map-drawing tool, "Districtr." The City Council also determined on that date that the City of Gilroy will continue to have six City Council members – now in six distinct districts – and an at-large mayor.

On March 25 and March 29, 2025, the City hosted two workshops—offering childcare and language interpretation—where Redistricting Partners gave a presentation on districting, facilitated a Q&A session, engaged the public in map-drawing, and gathered further public input.

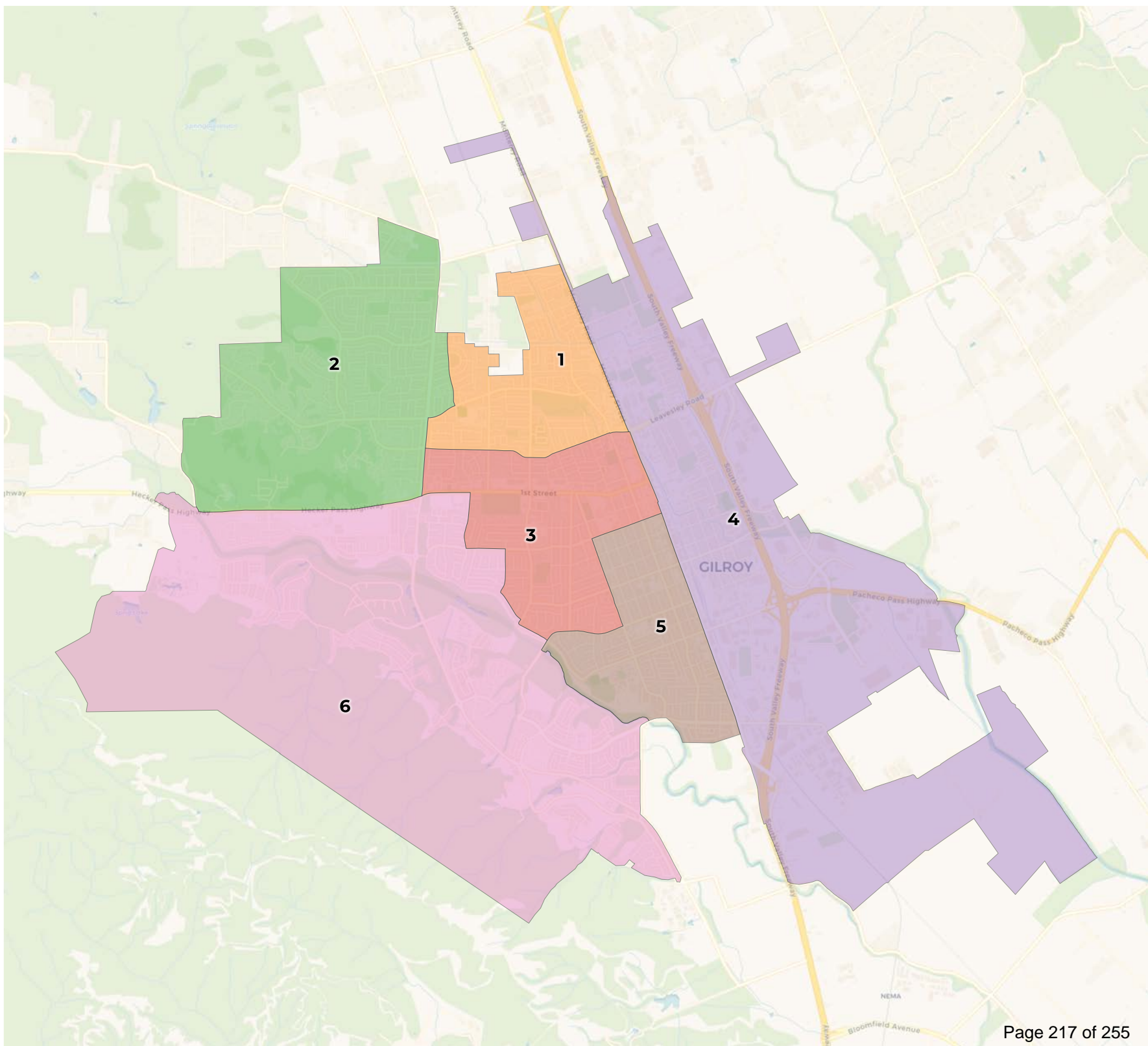
On April 7, 2025, the City Council held Public Hearing No. 3 to receive public and City Council feedback on this first set of draft maps. The City Council, after considering public input, provided direction to Redistricting Partners on proposed map revisions and new maps to be drawn for Public Hearing No. 4 on April 21, 2025.

On April 21, 2025, the City Council held Public Hearing No. 4 to receive public and City Council feedback on the second set of draft maps. The City Council, after considering public input, provided direction to Redistricting Partners on proposed map revisions and new maps to be drawn for Public Hearing No. 5 on May 5, 2025.

Two weeks later, on May 5, 2025, Public Hearing No. 5 was held to receive public and City Council feedback on the second set of draft maps. After considering this public input and the presentation by the demographer, the City Council provided direction to Redistricting Partners on the final two draft maps for consideration – Draft Maps D and F - at the final Public Hearing No. 6.

Attachments:

1. [Draft Map D](#)
2. [Draft Map F](#)
3. Draft Ordinance No. 2025-XXX



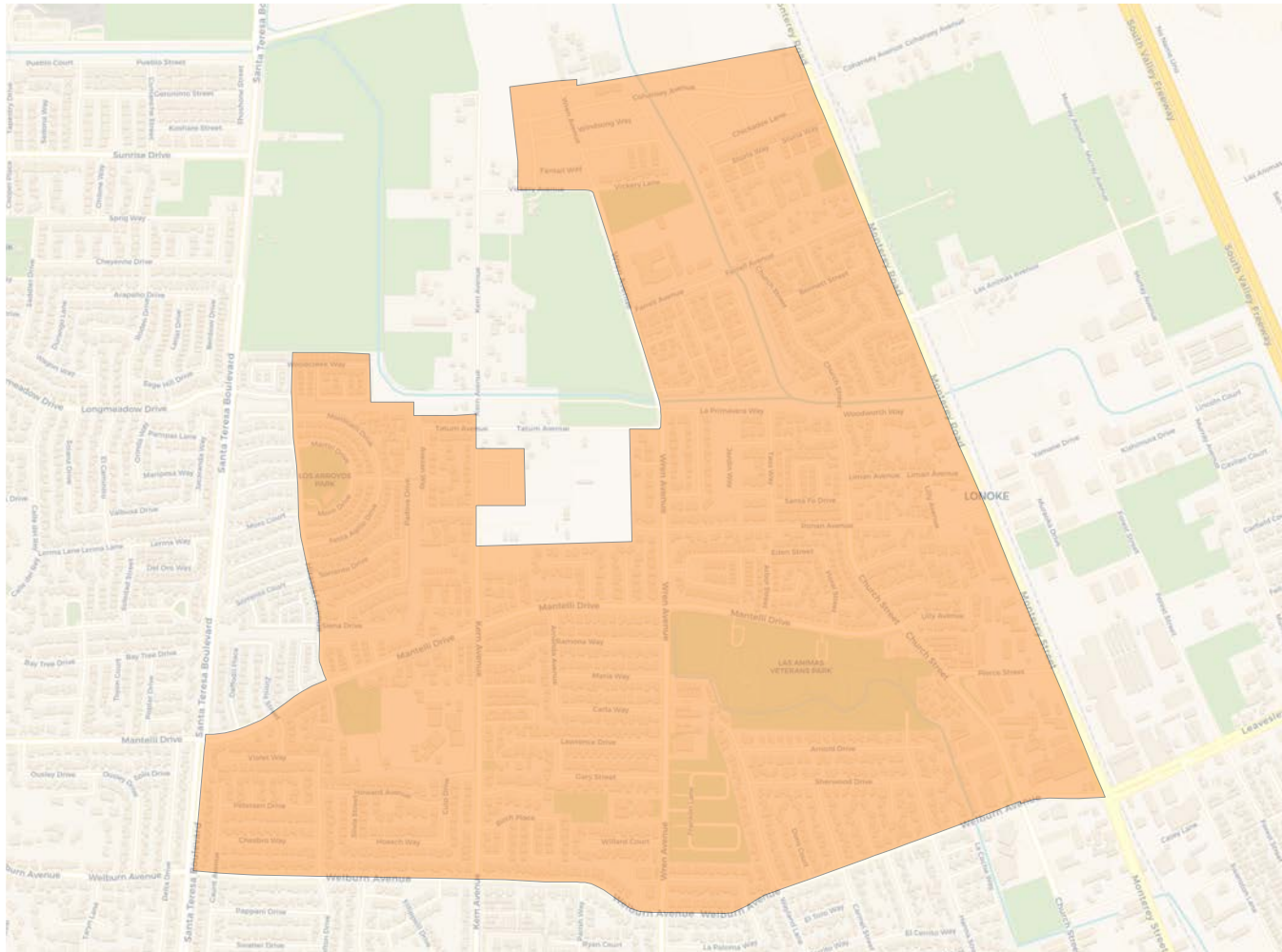
2020 Census

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Population | 10,227 | 10,079 | 10,058 | 9,484 | 10,092 | 9,752 |
| Deviation | 278 | 130 | 109 | -465 | 143 | -197 |
| Deviation % | 2.8% | 1.3% | 1.1% | -4.7% | 1.4% | -2.0% |
| Other | 2,304 | 4,860 | 3,247 | 1,218 | 2,532 | 4,535 |
| Other % | 22.5% | 48.2% | 32.3% | 12.8% | 25.1% | 46.5% |
| Latino | 6,396 | 3,637 | 6,078 | 7,875 | 6,647 | 3,126 |
| Latino % | 62.5% | 36.1% | 60.4% | 83.0% | 65.9% | 32.1% |
| Asian | 1,260 | 1,371 | 546 | 251 | 754 | 1,864 |
| Asian % | 12.3% | 13.6% | 5.4% | 2.6% | 7.5% | 19.1% |
| Black | 267 | 211 | 187 | 140 | 159 | 227 |
| Black % | 2.6% | 2.1% | 1.9% | 1.5% | 1.6% | 2.3% |

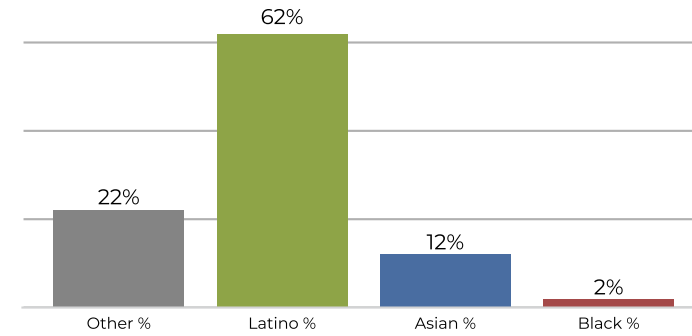
Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total CVAP | 5,922 | 6,820 | 6,686 | 3,618 | 5,544 | 7,095 |
| Other CVAP | 1,325 | 3,369 | 2,183 | 795 | 1,925 | 3,548 |
| Other CVAP % | 22.4% | 49.4% | 32.7% | 22.0% | 34.7% | 50.0% |
| Latino CVAP | 3,891 | 2,438 | 3,879 | 2,488 | 2,808 | 2,380 |
| Latino CVAP % | 65.7% | 35.7% | 58.0% | 68.8% | 50.6% | 33.5% |
| Asian CVAP | 552 | 989 | 428 | 202 | 648 | 940 |
| Asian CVAP % | 9.3% | 14.5% | 6.4% | 5.6% | 11.7% | 13.2% |
| Black CVAP | 154 | 24 | 196 | 133 | 163 | 227 |
| Black CVAP % | 2.6% | 0.4% | 2.9% | 3.7% | 2.9% | 3.2% |

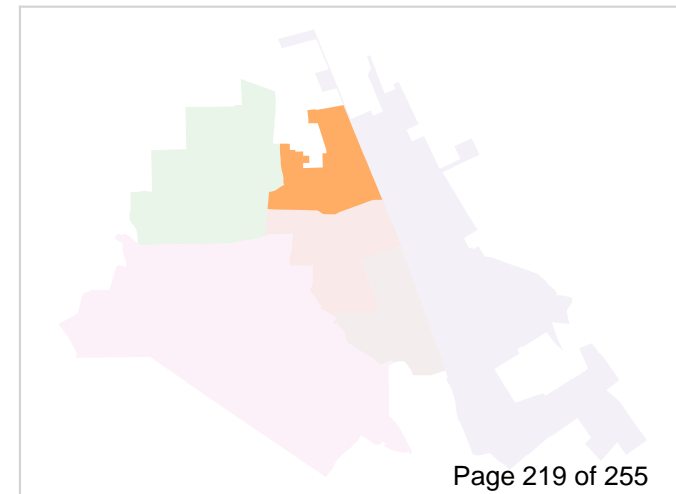
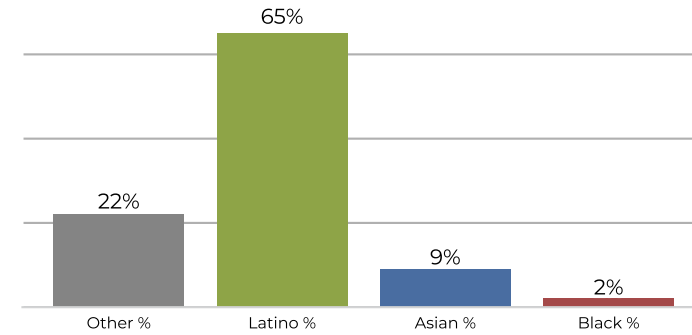
District 1



2020 Census

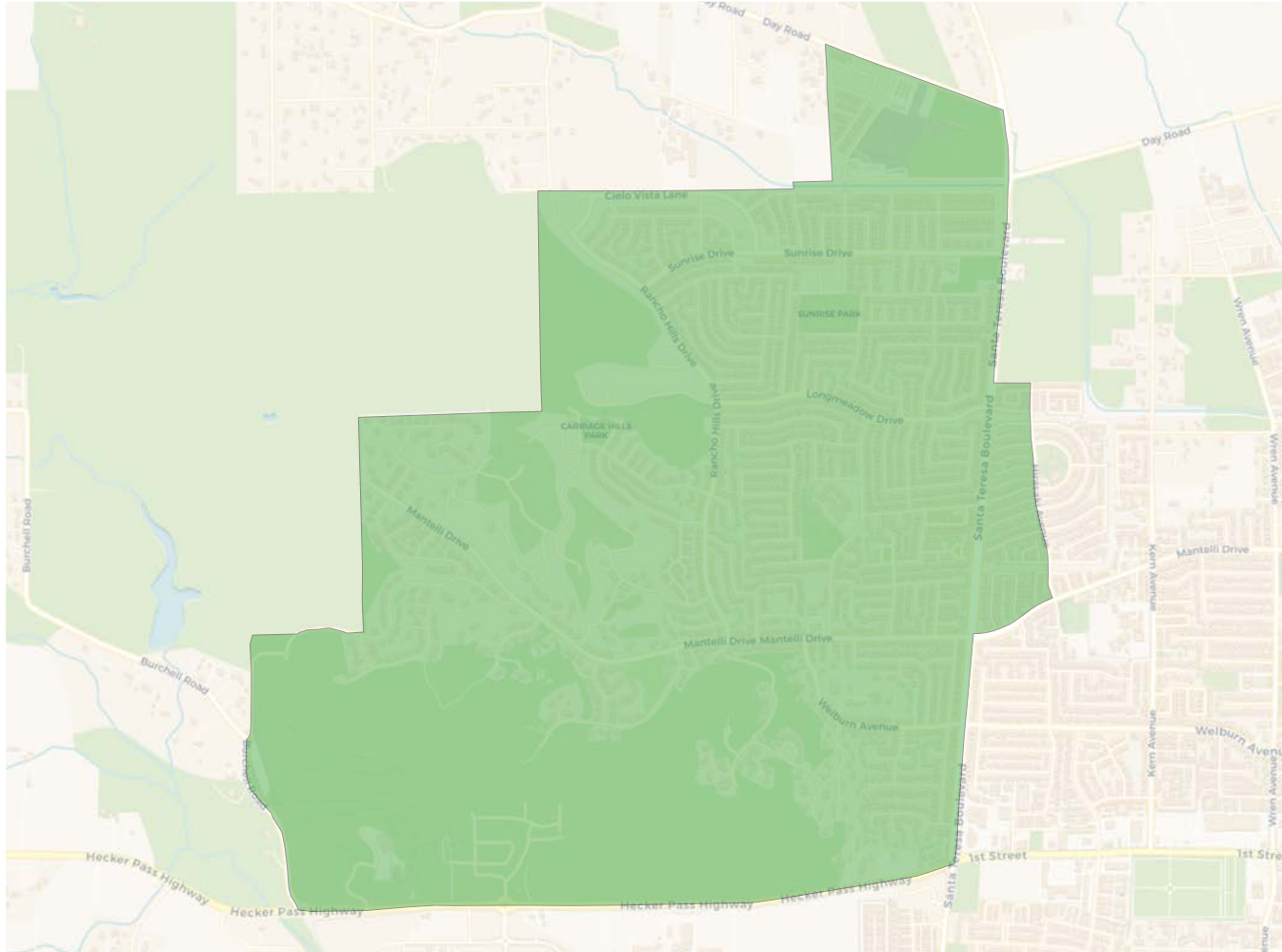


Citizen Voting Age Population

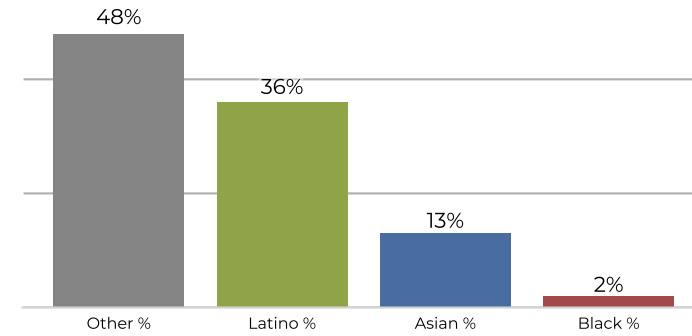


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 10,227 | 278 | 2.8% | 2,304 | 22.5% | 6,396 | 62.5% | 1,260 | 12.3% | 267 | 2.6% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 5,922 | 1,325 | 22.4% | 3,891 | 65.7% | 552 | 9.3% | 154 | 2.6% | | |

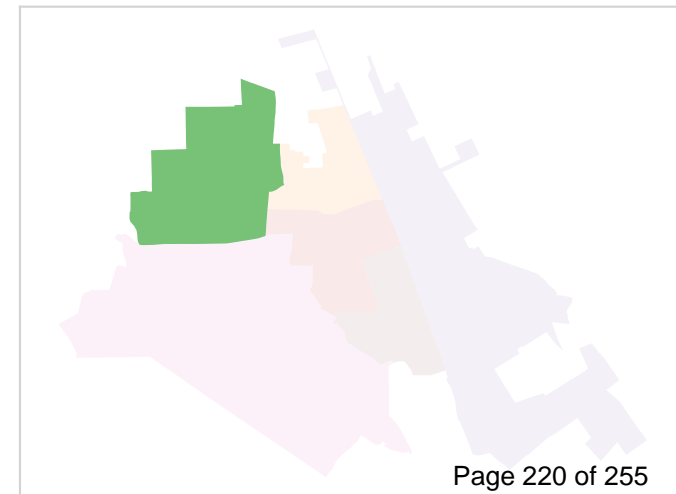
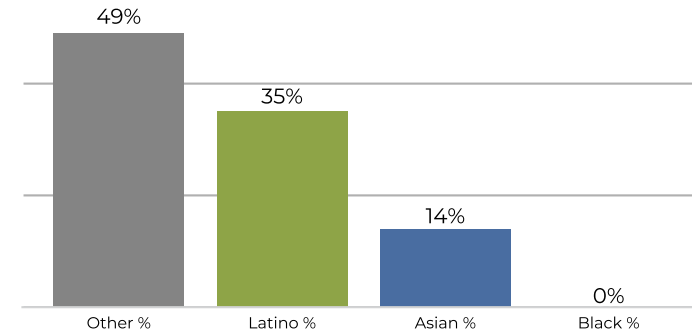
District 2



2020 Census

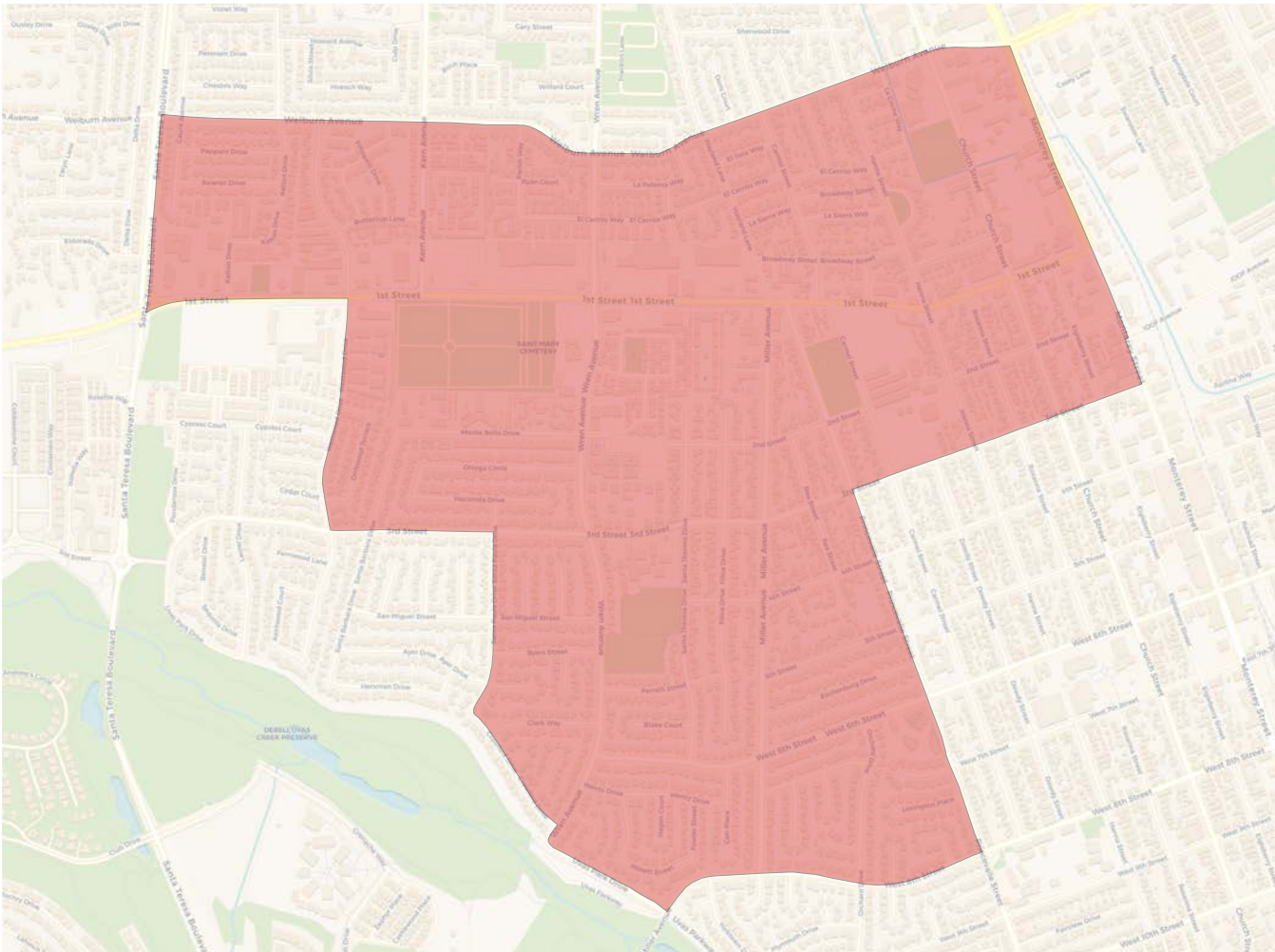


Citizen Voting Age Population

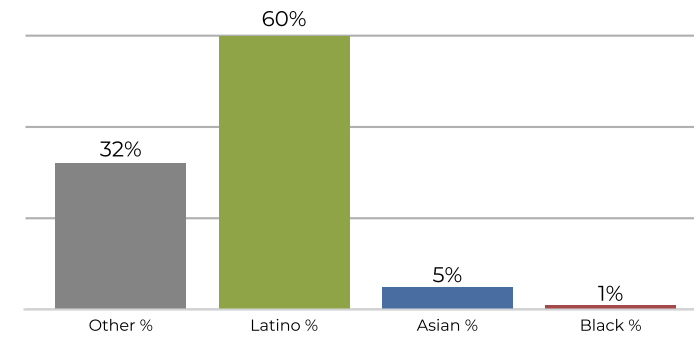


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 10,079 | 130 | 1.3% | 4,860 | 48.2% | 3,637 | 36.1% | 1,371 | 13.6% | 211 | 2.1% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 6,820 | 3,369 | 49.4% | 2,438 | 35.7% | 989 | 14.5% | 24 | 0.4% | | |

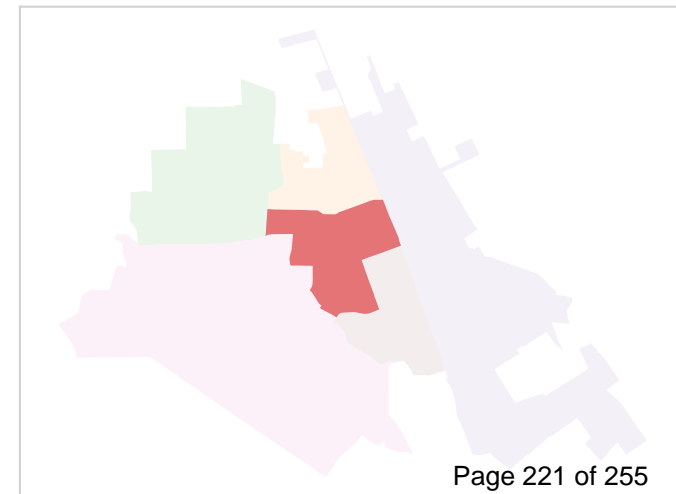
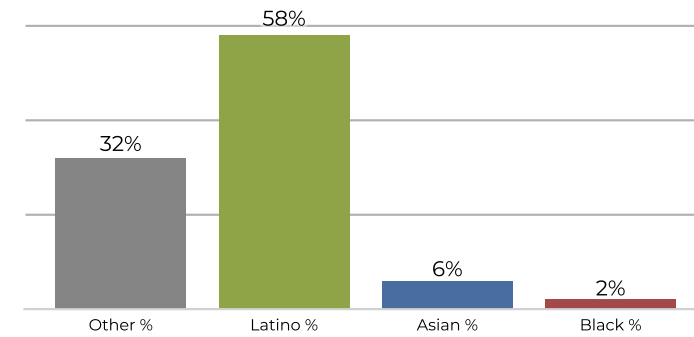
District 3



2020 Census

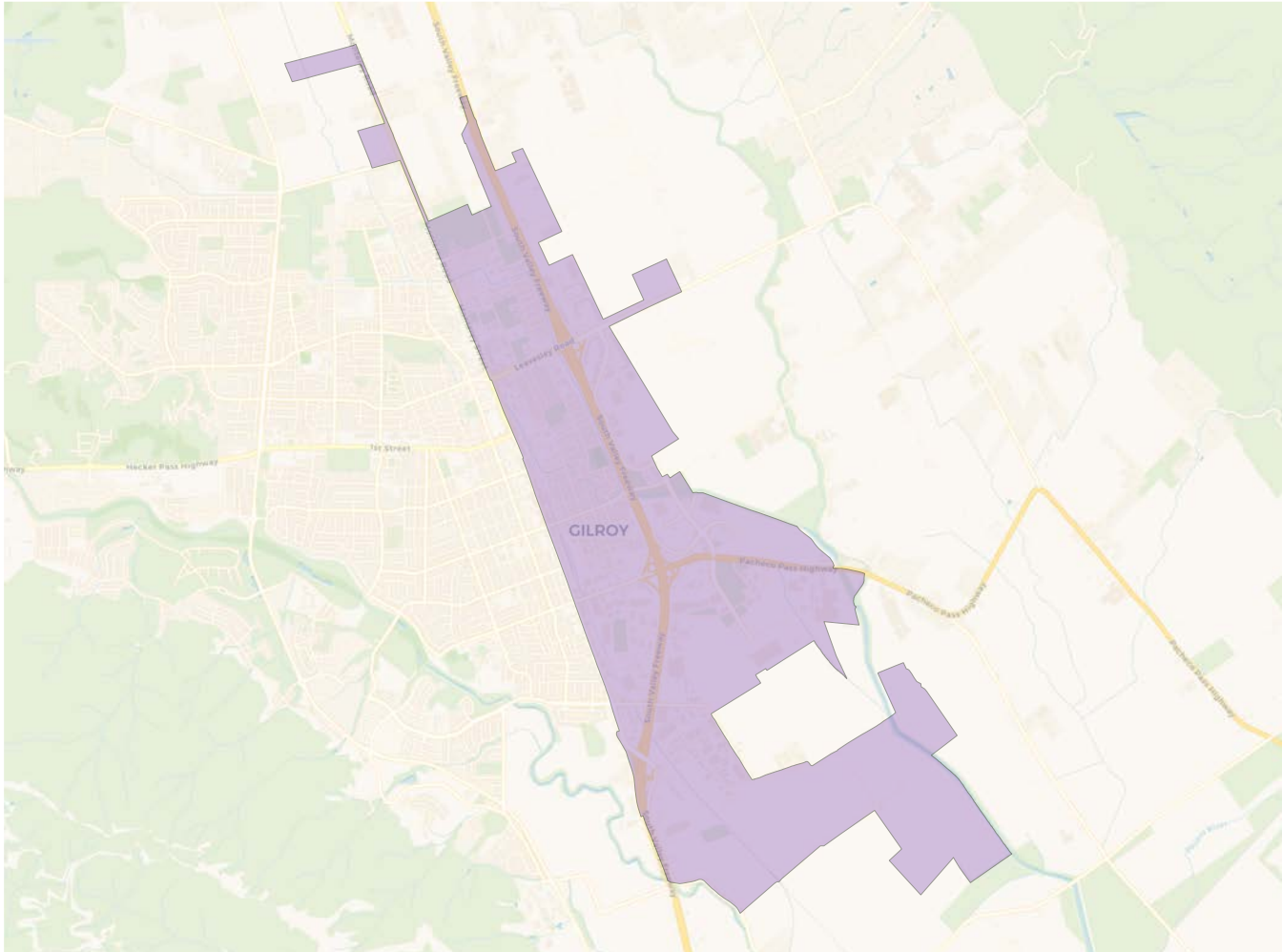


Citizen Voting Age Population

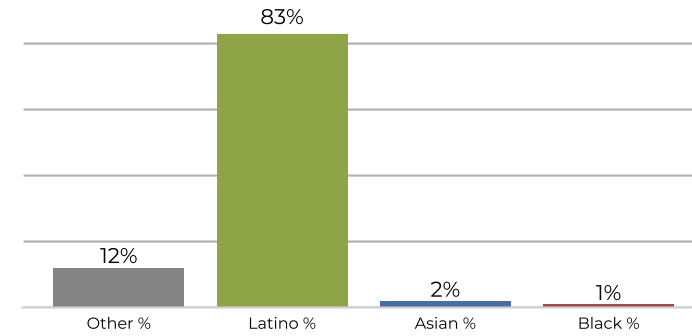


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 10,058 | 109 | 1.1% | 3,247 | 32.3% | 6,078 | 60.4% | 546 | 5.4% | 187 | 1.9% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 6,686 | 2,183 | 32.7% | 3,879 | 58.0% | 428 | 6.4% | 196 | 2.9% | | |

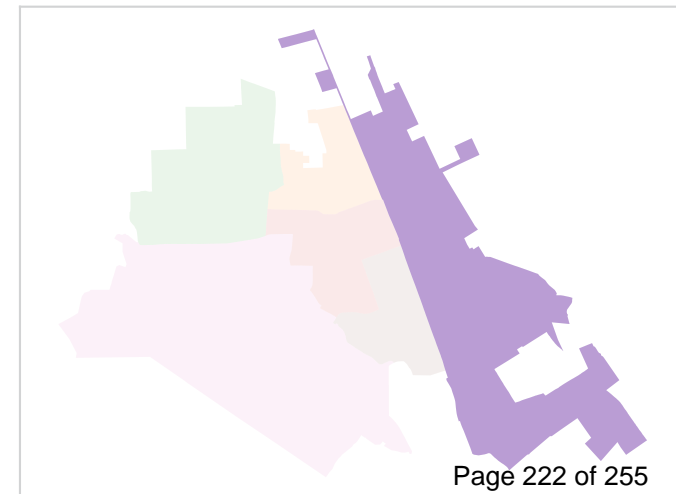
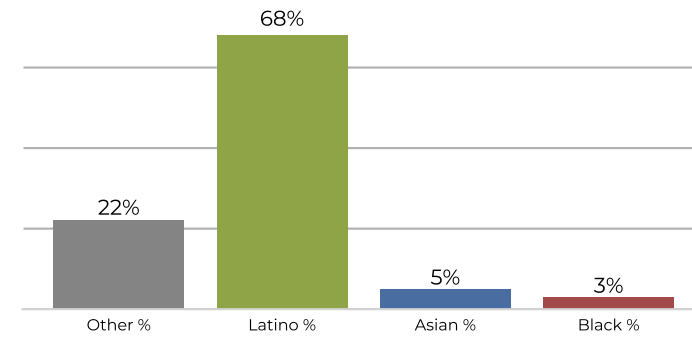
District 4



2020 Census

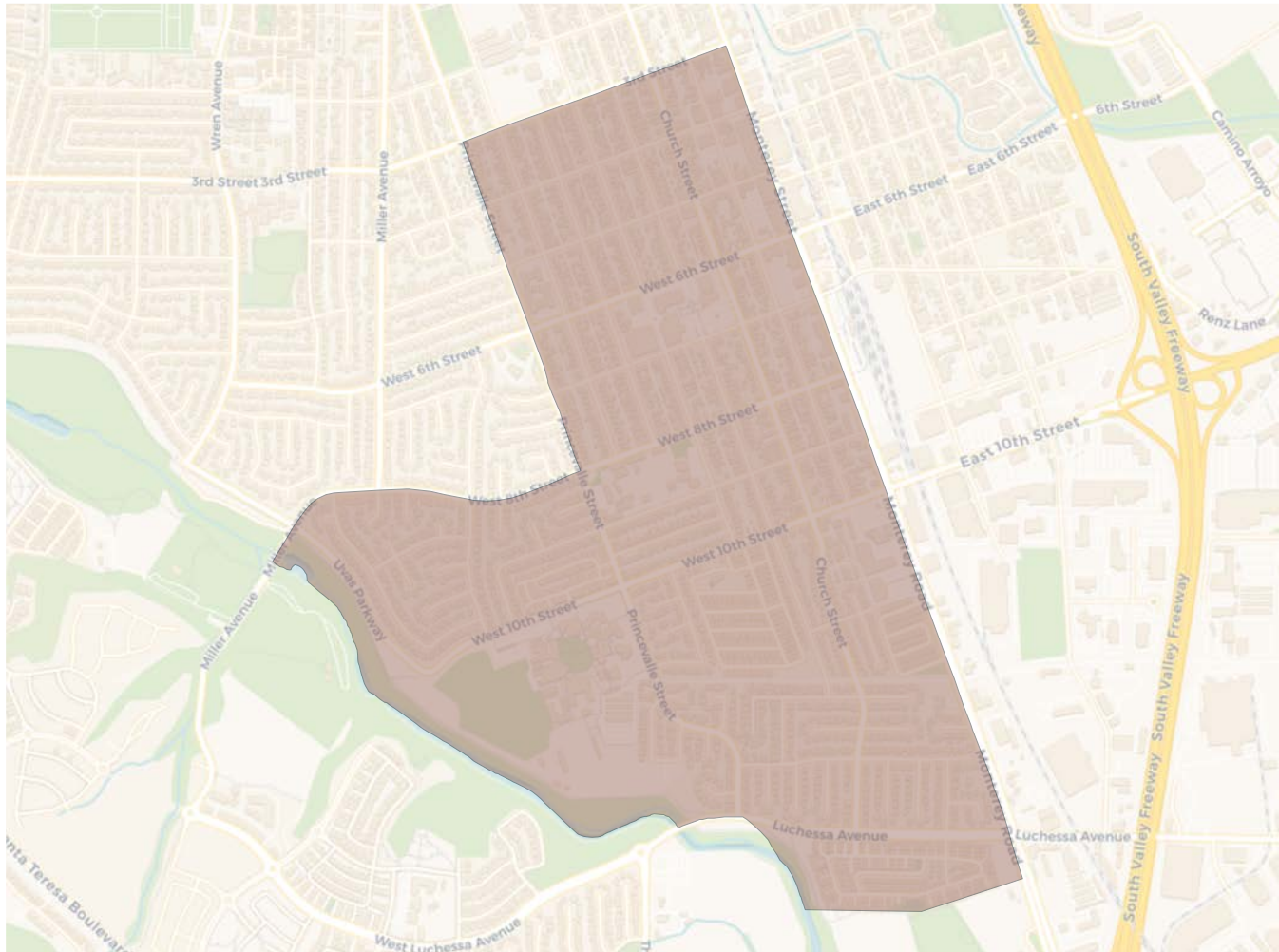


Citizen Voting Age Population

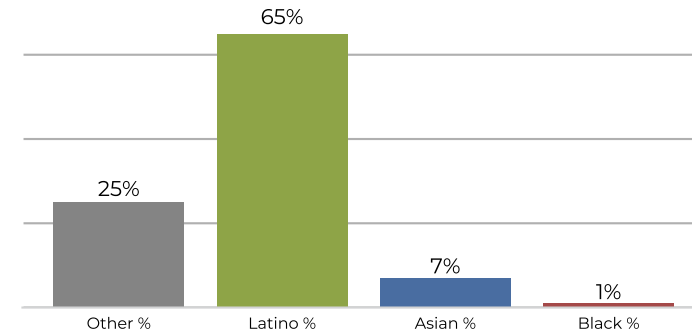


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 9,484 | -465 | -4.7% | 1,218 | 12.8% | 7,875 | 83.0% | 251 | 2.6% | 140 | 1.5% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 3,618 | 795 | 22.0% | 2,488 | 68.8% | 202 | 5.6% | 133 | 3.7% | | |

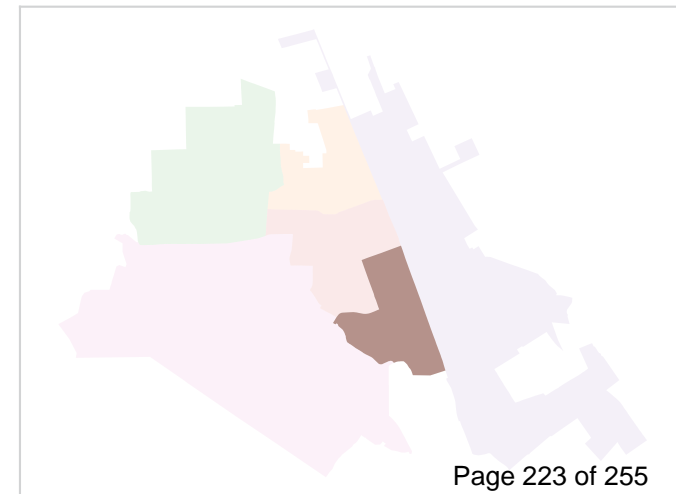
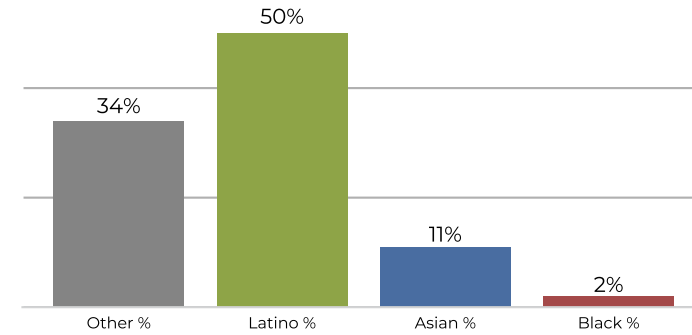
District 5



2020 Census

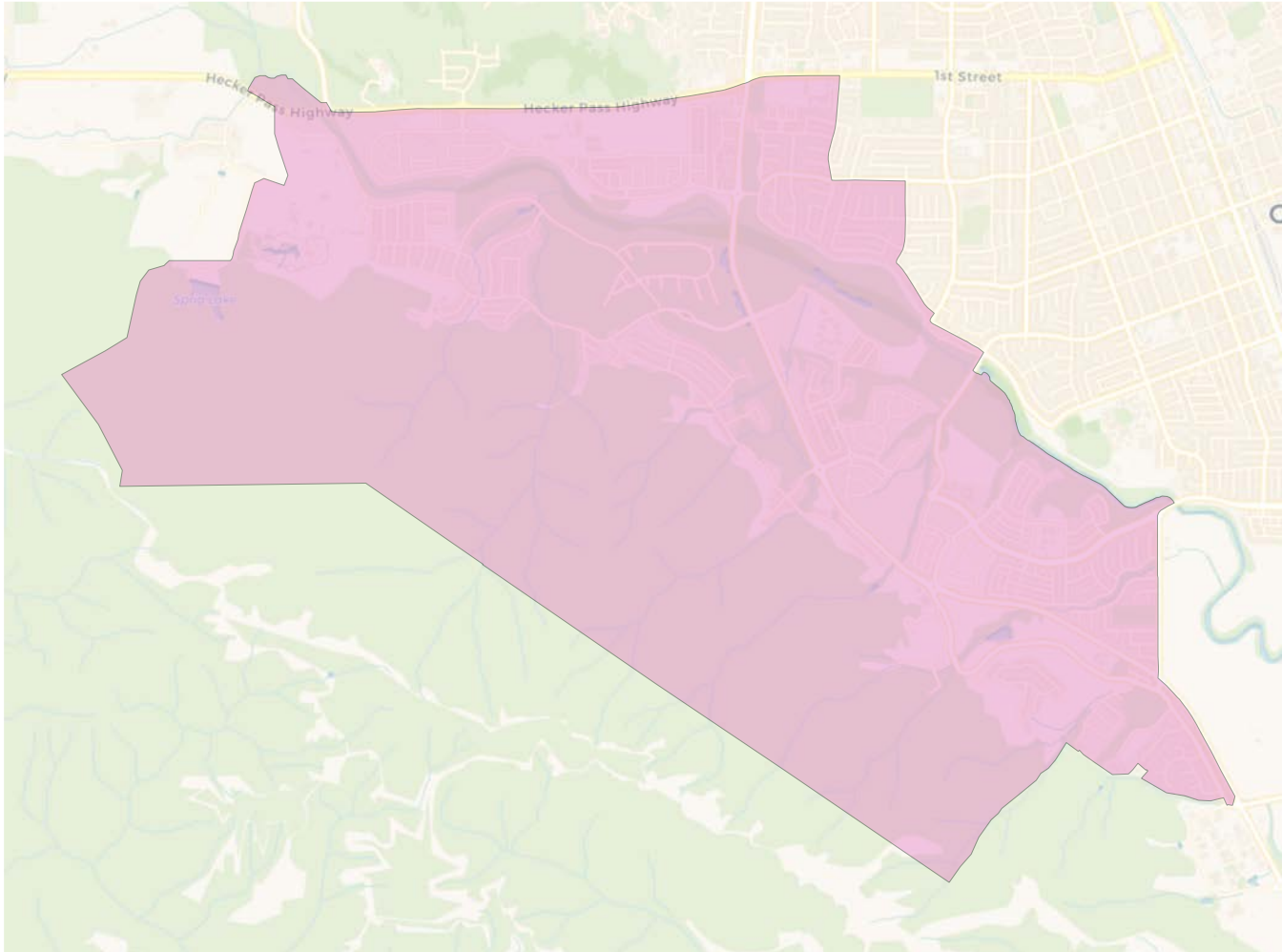


Citizen Voting Age Population

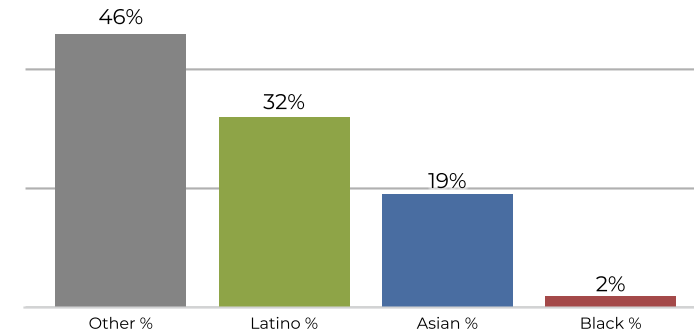


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 10,092 | 143 | 1.4% | 2,532 | 25.1% | 6,647 | 65.9% | 754 | 7.5% | 159 | 1.6% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 5,544 | 1,925 | 34.7% | 2,808 | 50.6% | 648 | 11.7% | 163 | 2.9% | | |

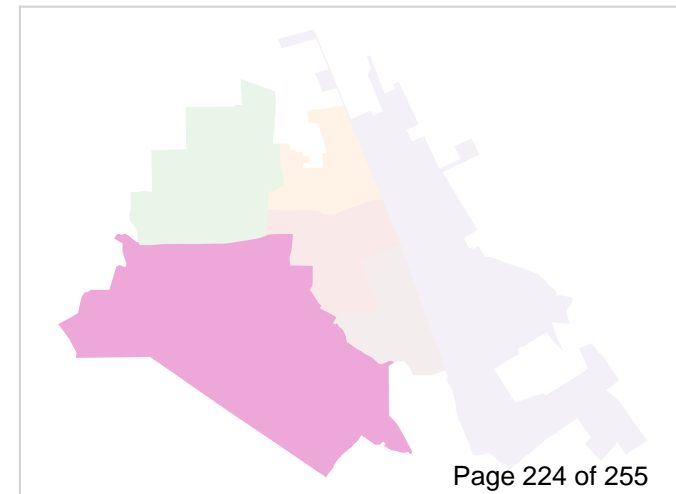
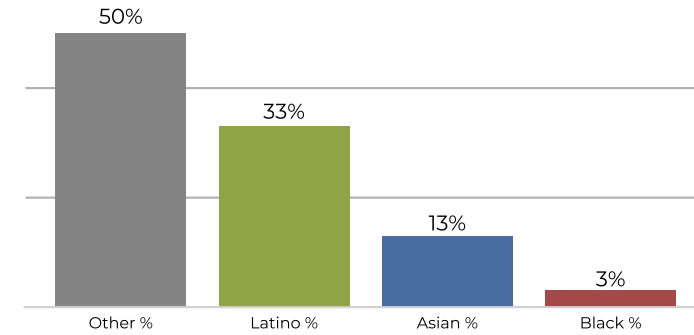
District 6



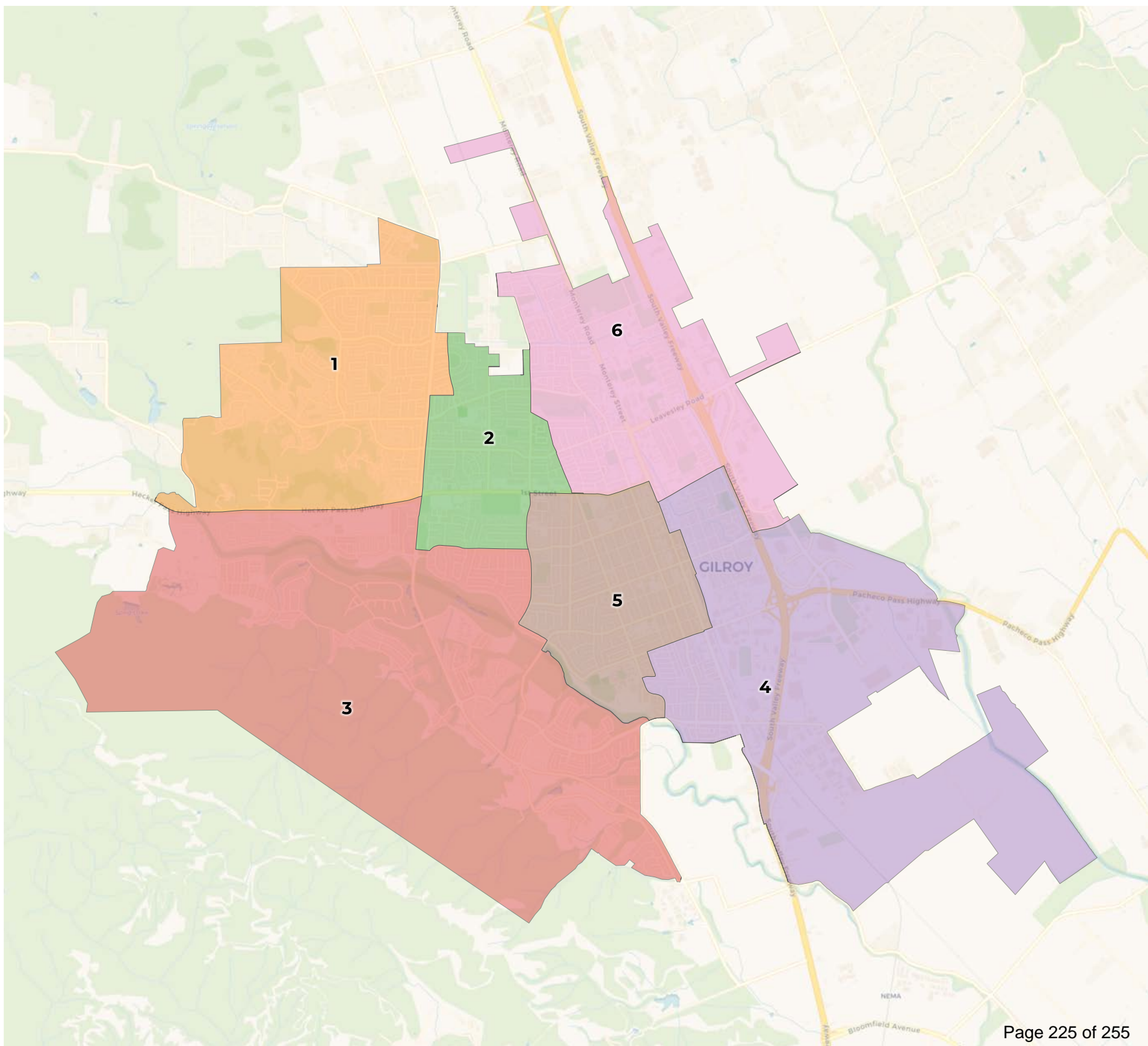
2020 Census



Citizen Voting Age Population



| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 9,752 | -197 | -2.0% | 4,535 | 46.5% | 3,126 | 32.1% | 1,864 | 19.1% | 227 | 2.3% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 7,095 | 3,548 | 50.0% | 2,380 | 33.5% | 940 | 13.2% | 227 | 3.2% | | |



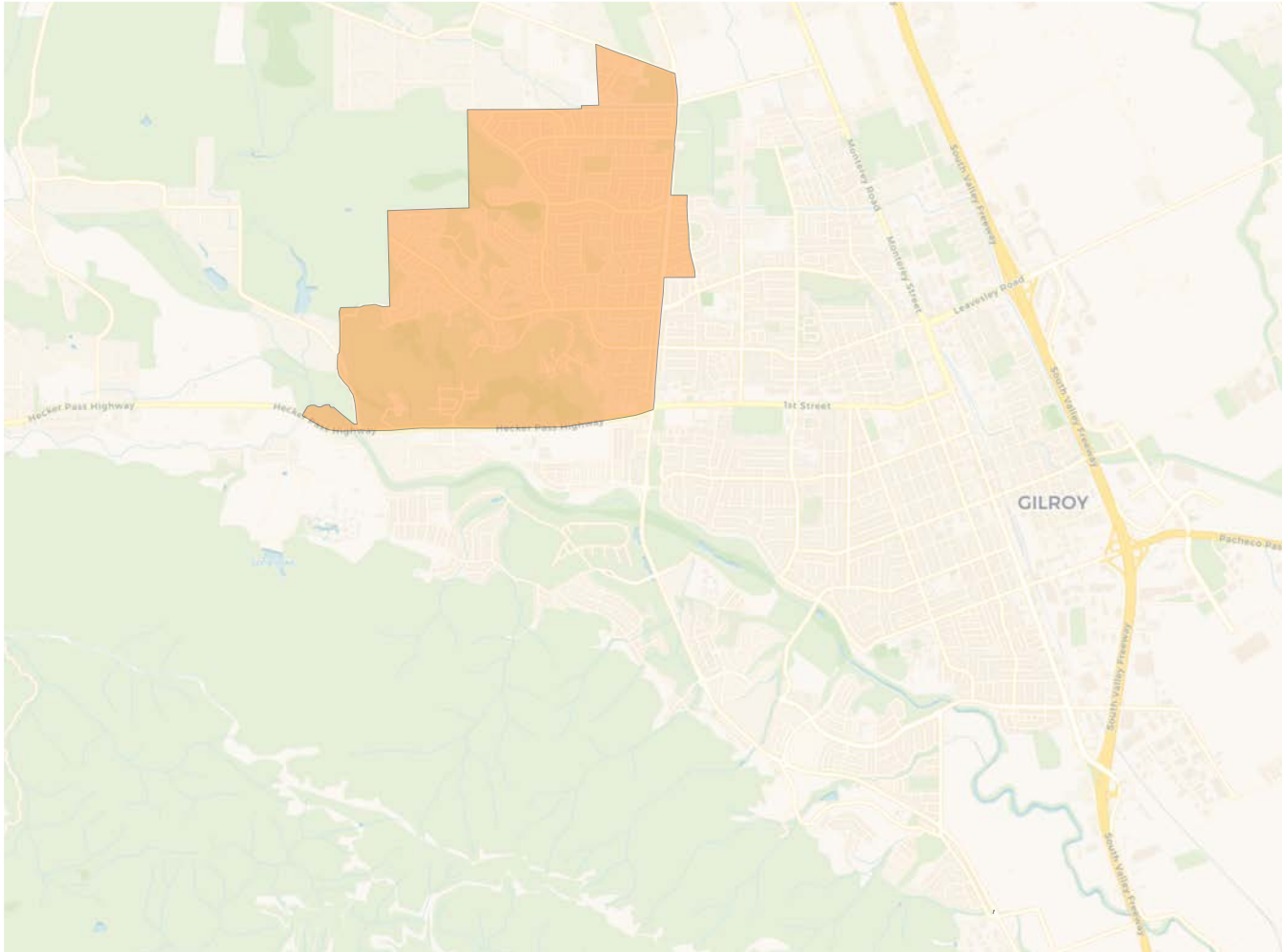
2020 Census

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Population | 9,851 | 9,847 | 9,557 | 10,225 | 10,543 | 9,669 |
| Deviation | -98 | -102 | -392 | 276 | 594 | -280 |
| Deviation % | -1.0% | -1.0% | -3.9% | 2.8% | 6.0% | -2.8% |
| Other | 4,778 | 2,637 | 4,496 | 1,798 | 3,164 | 1,823 |
| Other % | 48.5% | 26.8% | 47.0% | 17.6% | 30.0% | 18.9% |
| Latino | 3,513 | 6,098 | 2,980 | 7,572 | 6,790 | 6,806 |
| Latino % | 35.7% | 61.9% | 31.2% | 74.1% | 64.4% | 70.4% |
| Asian | 1,349 | 907 | 1,849 | 650 | 470 | 821 |
| Asian % | 13.7% | 9.2% | 19.3% | 6.4% | 4.5% | 8.5% |
| Black | 211 | 205 | 232 | 205 | 119 | 219 |
| Black % | 2.1% | 2.1% | 2.4% | 2.0% | 1.1% | 2.3% |

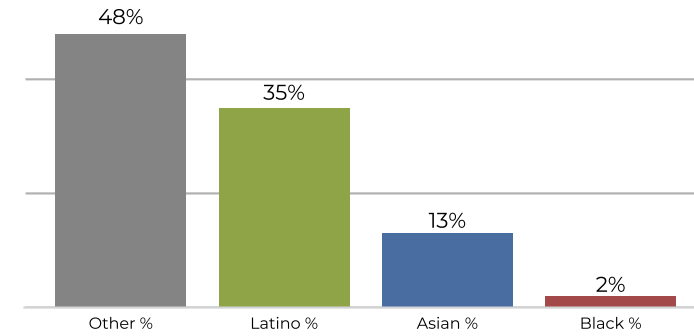
Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total CVAP | 6,700 | 5,968 | 7,123 | 4,310 | 6,281 | 5,303 |
| Other CVAP | 3,316 | 1,415 | 3,667 | 1,208 | 2,562 | 977 |
| Other CVAP % | 49.5% | 23.7% | 51.5% | 28.0% | 40.8% | 18.4% |
| Latino CVAP | 2,386 | 3,823 | 2,307 | 2,499 | 3,155 | 3,714 |
| Latino CVAP % | 35.6% | 64.1% | 32.4% | 58.0% | 50.2% | 70.0% |
| Asian CVAP | 974 | 603 | 924 | 426 | 388 | 444 |
| Asian CVAP % | 14.5% | 10.1% | 13.0% | 9.9% | 6.2% | 8.4% |
| Black CVAP | 24 | 127 | 225 | 177 | 176 | 168 |
| Black CVAP % | 0.4% | 2.1% | 3.2% | 4.1% | 2.8% | 3.2% |

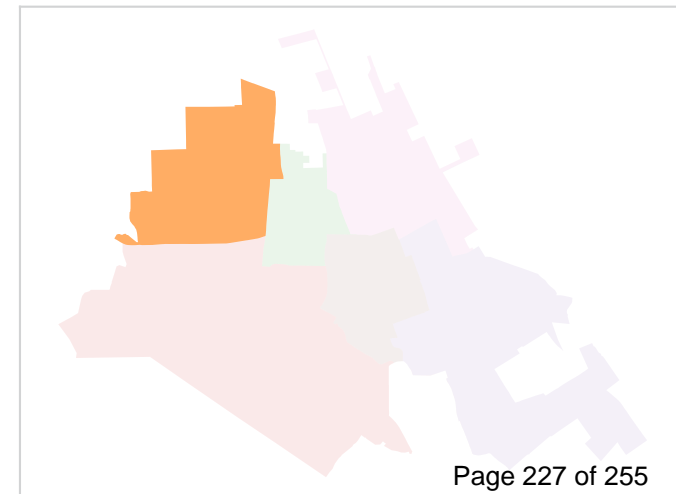
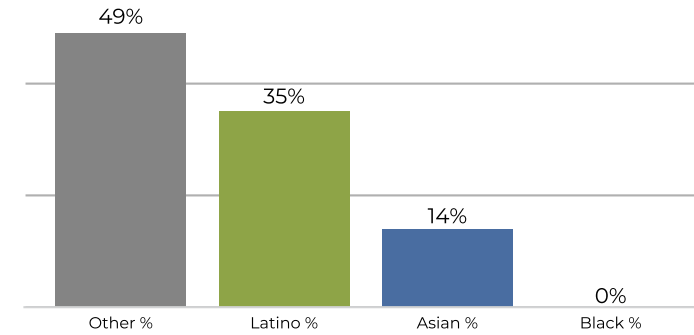
District 1



2020 Census

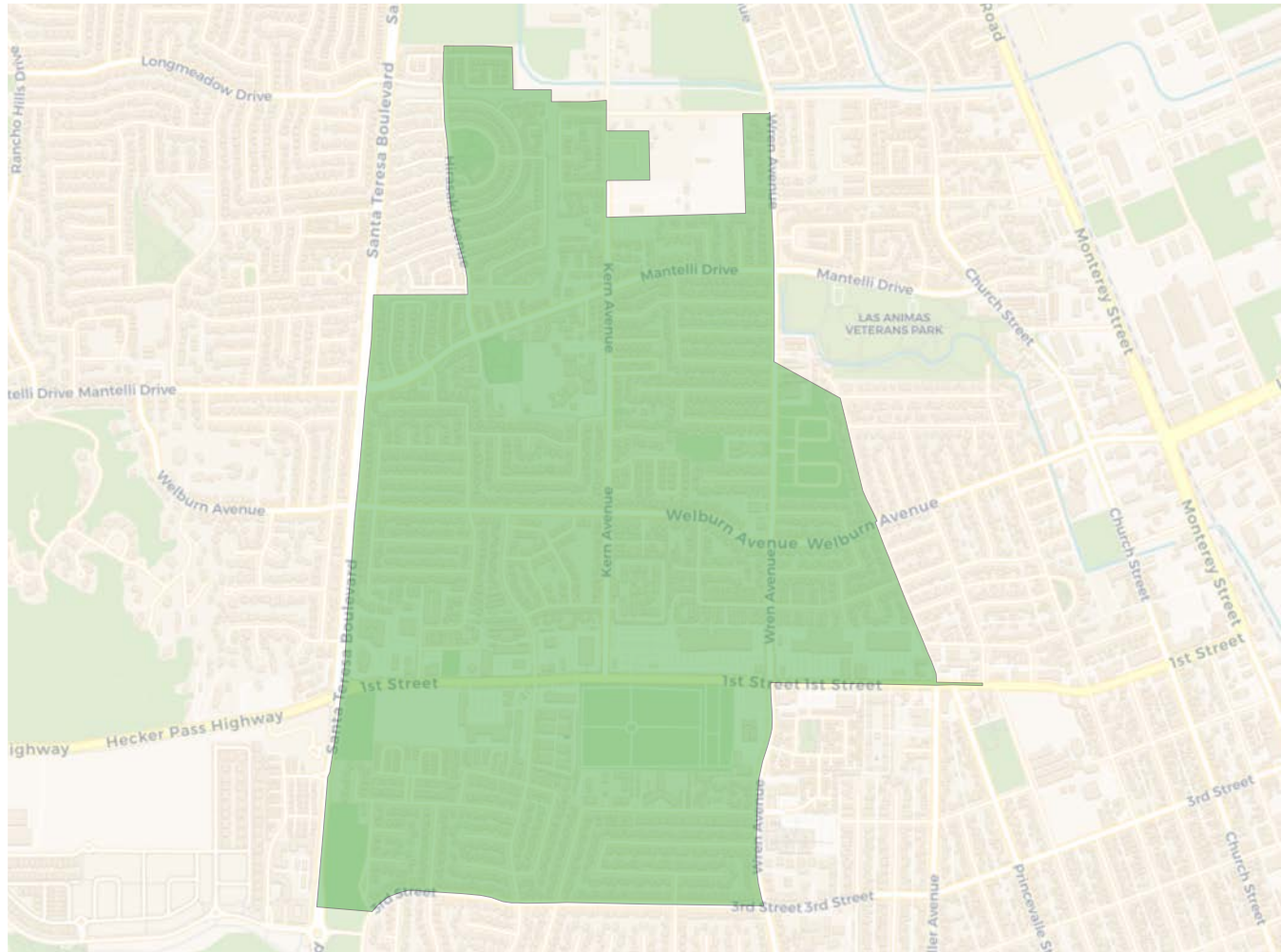


Citizen Voting Age Population

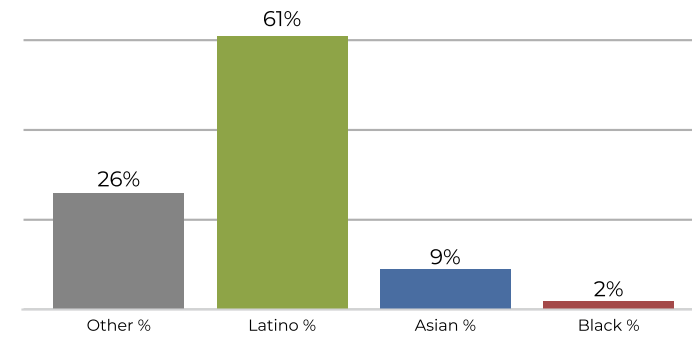


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 9,851 | -98 | -1.0% | 4,778 | 48.5% | 3,513 | 35.7% | 1,349 | 13.7% | 211 | 2.1% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 6,700 | 3,316 | 49.5% | 2,386 | 35.6% | 974 | 14.5% | 24 | 0.4% | | |

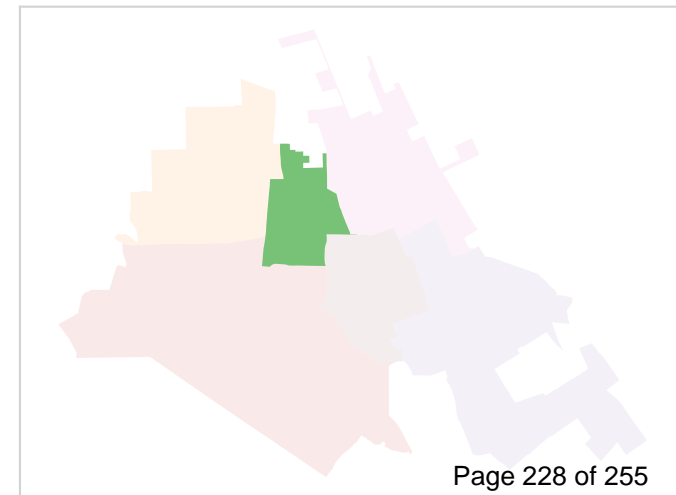
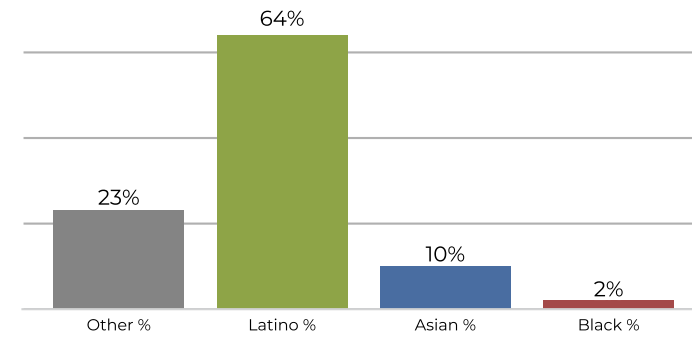
District 2



2020 Census

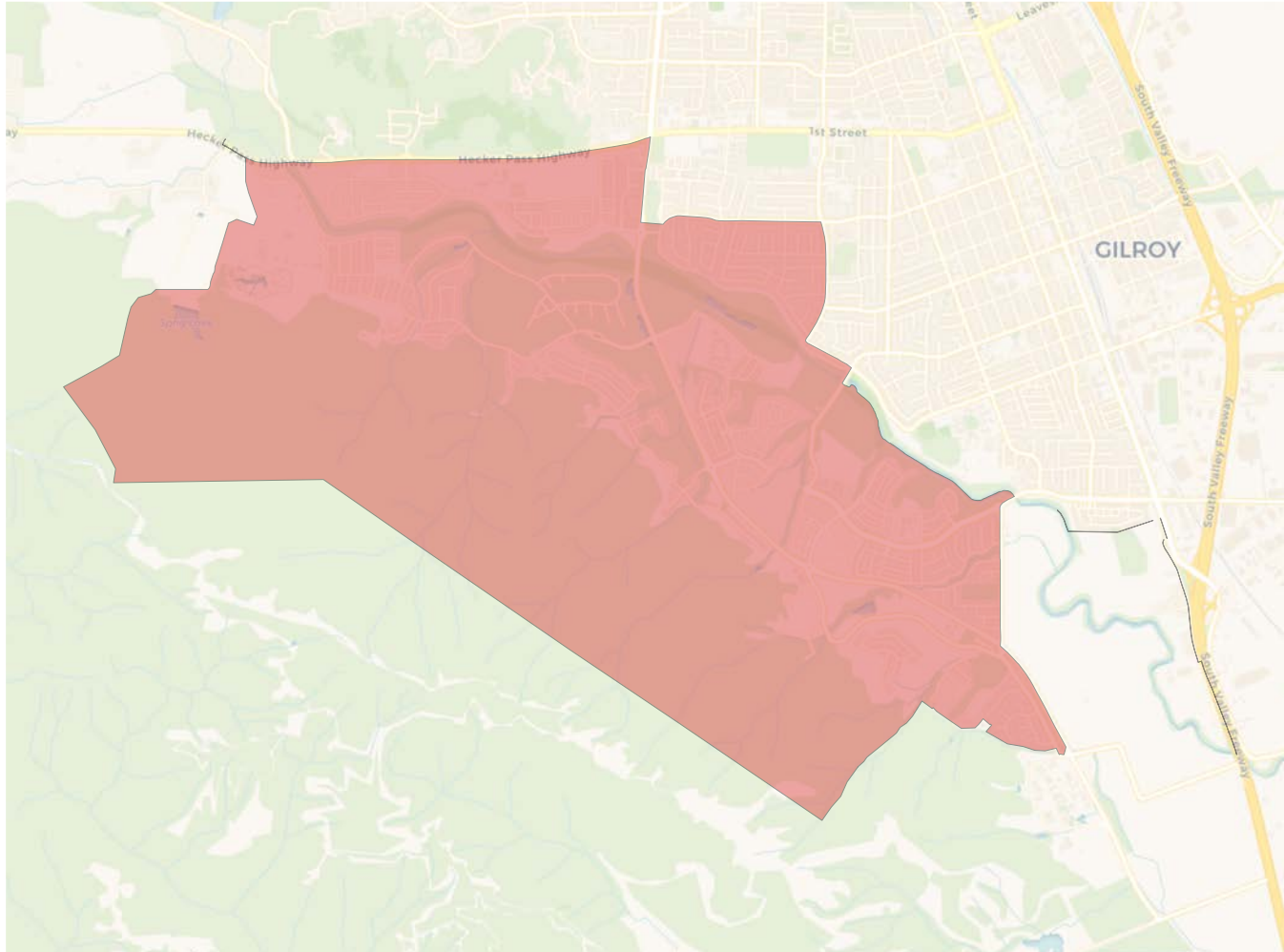


Citizen Voting Age Population

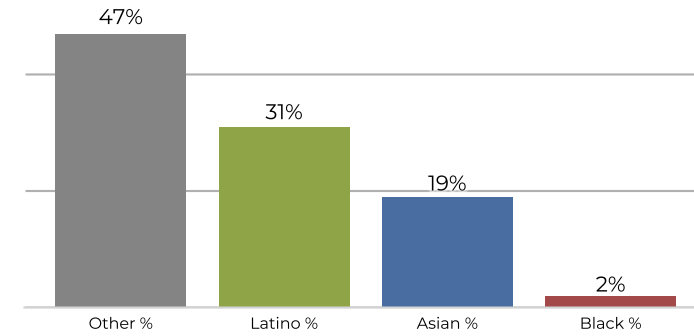


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 9,847 | -102 | -1.0% | 2,637 | 26.8% | 6,098 | 61.9% | 907 | 9.2% | 205 | 2.1% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 5,968 | 1,415 | 23.7% | 3,823 | 64.1% | 603 | 10.1% | 127 | 2.1% | | |

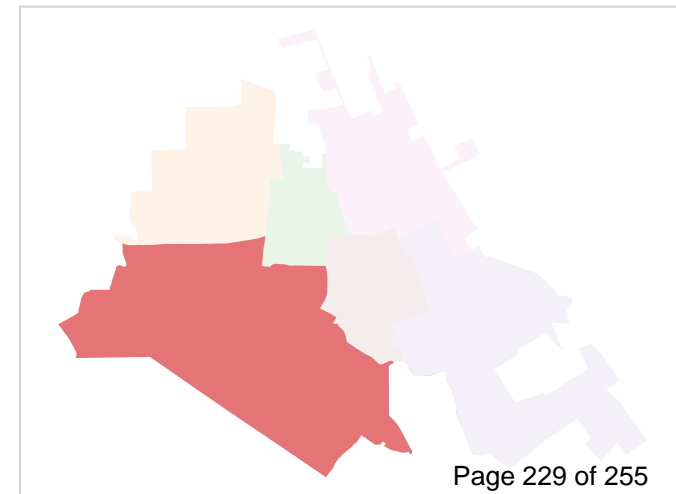
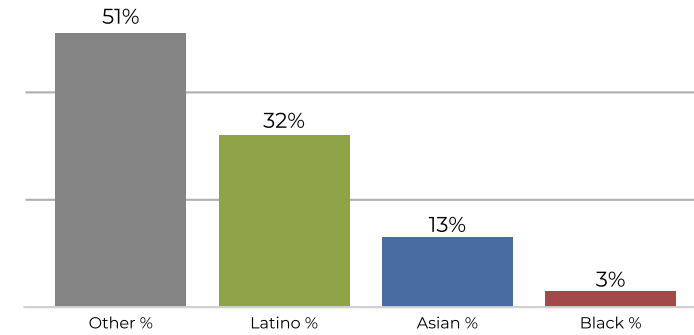
District 3



2020 Census

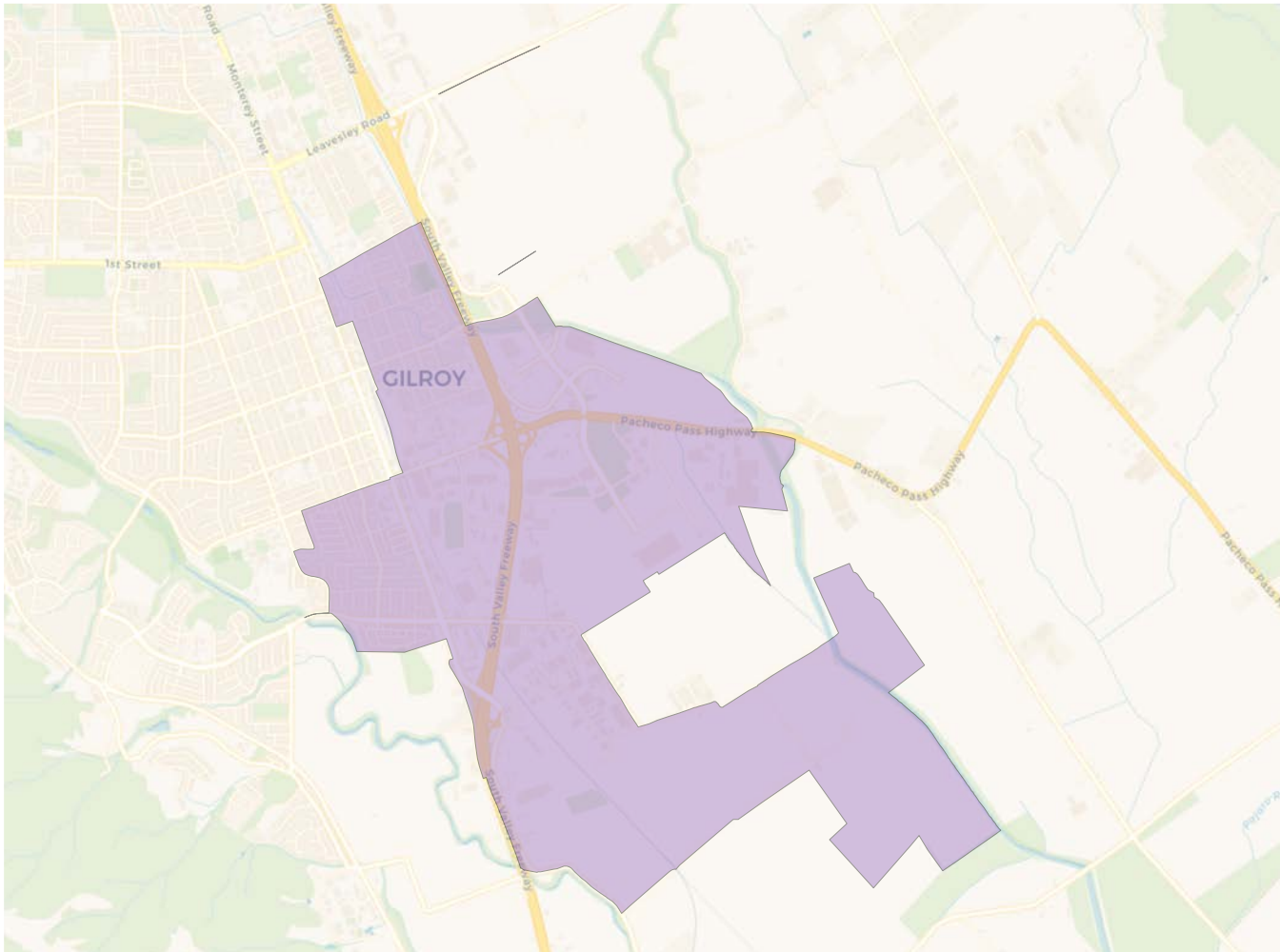


Citizen Voting Age Population

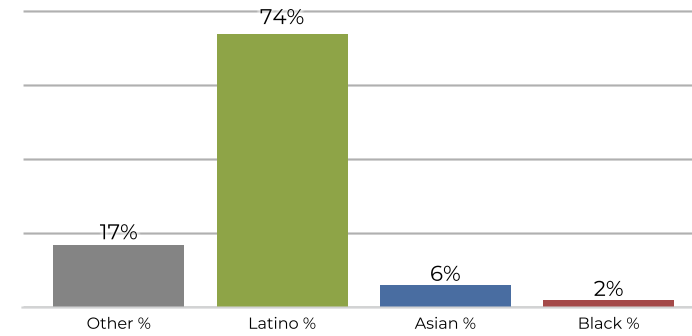


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 9,557 | -392 | -3.9% | 4,496 | 47.0% | 2,980 | 31.2% | 1,849 | 19.3% | 232 | 2.4% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 7,123 | 3,667 | 51.5% | 2,307 | 32.4% | 924 | 13.0% | 225 | 3.2% | | |

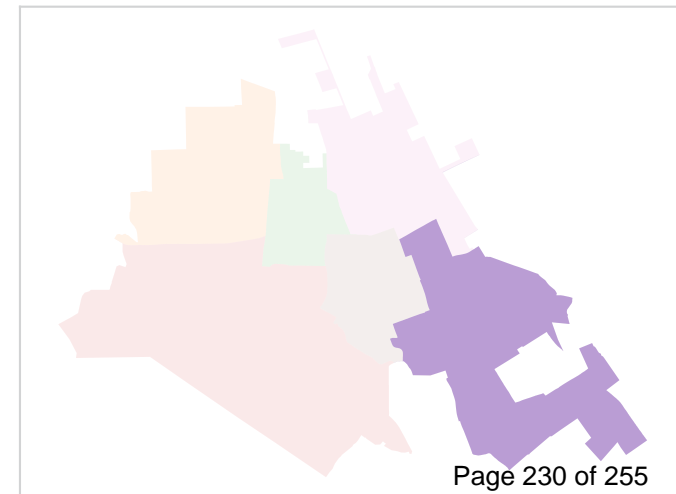
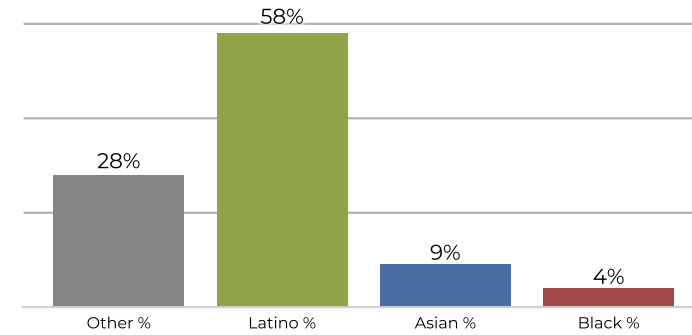
District 4



2020 Census

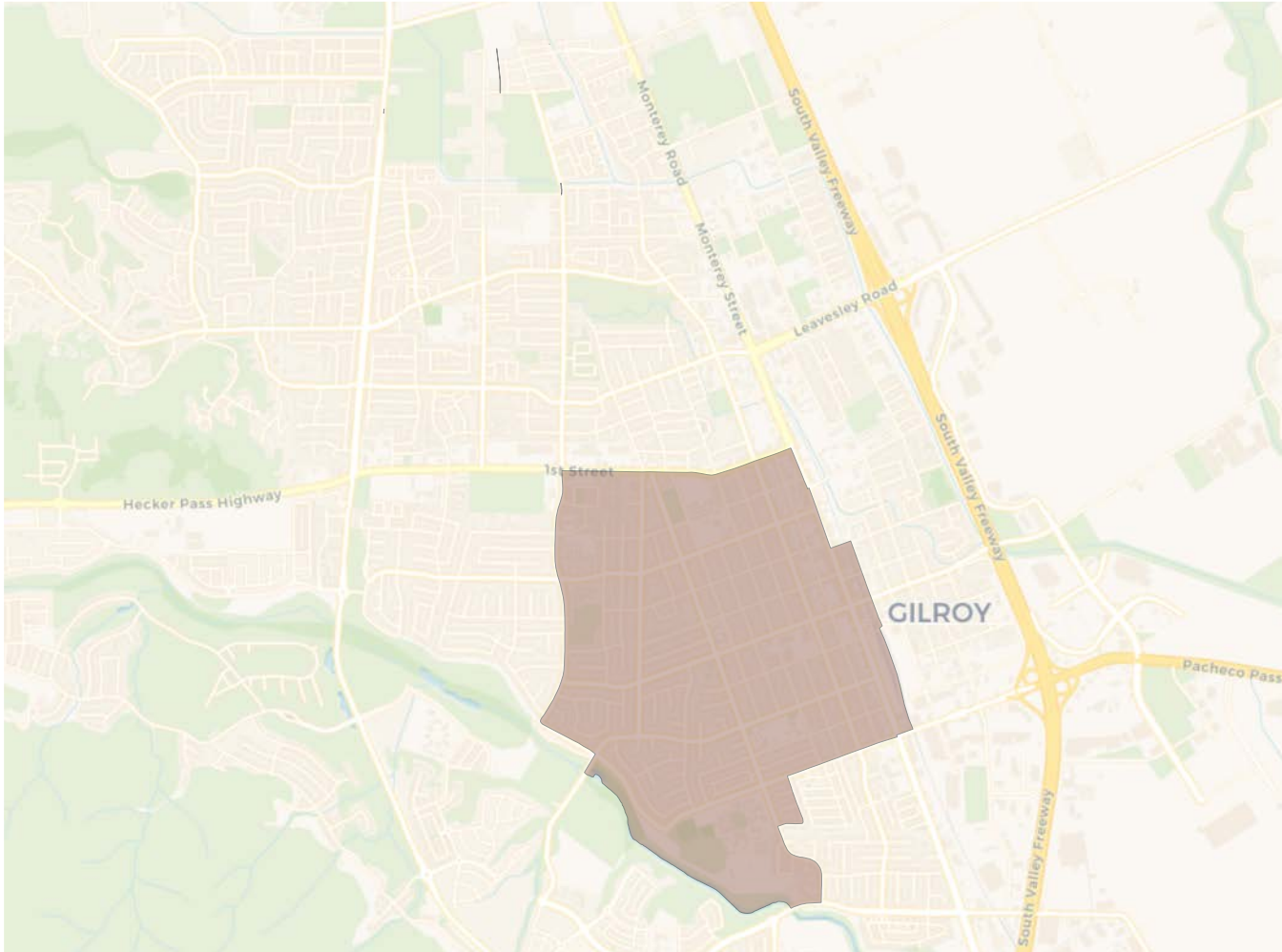


Citizen Voting Age Population

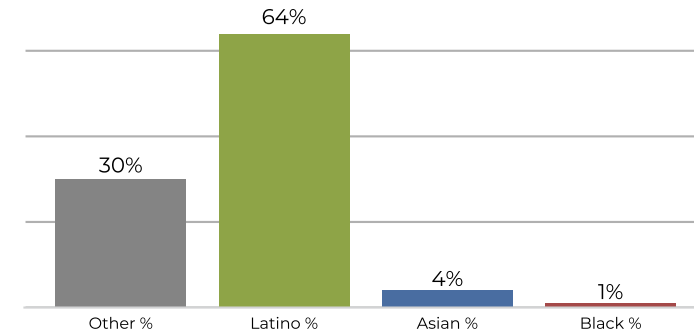


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 10,225 | 276 | 2.8% | 1,798 | 17.6% | 7,572 | 74.1% | 650 | 6.4% | 205 | 2.0% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 4,310 | 1,208 | 28.0% | 2,499 | 58.0% | 426 | 9.9% | 177 | 4.1% | | |

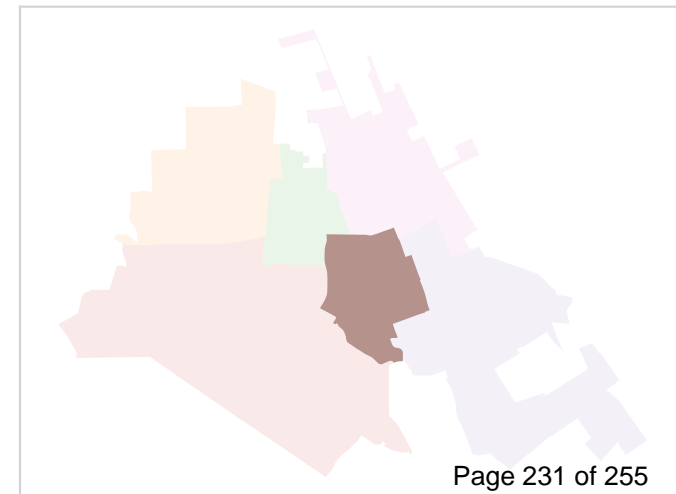
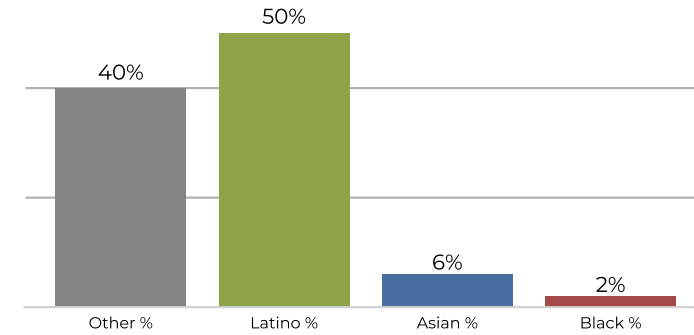
District 5



2020 Census

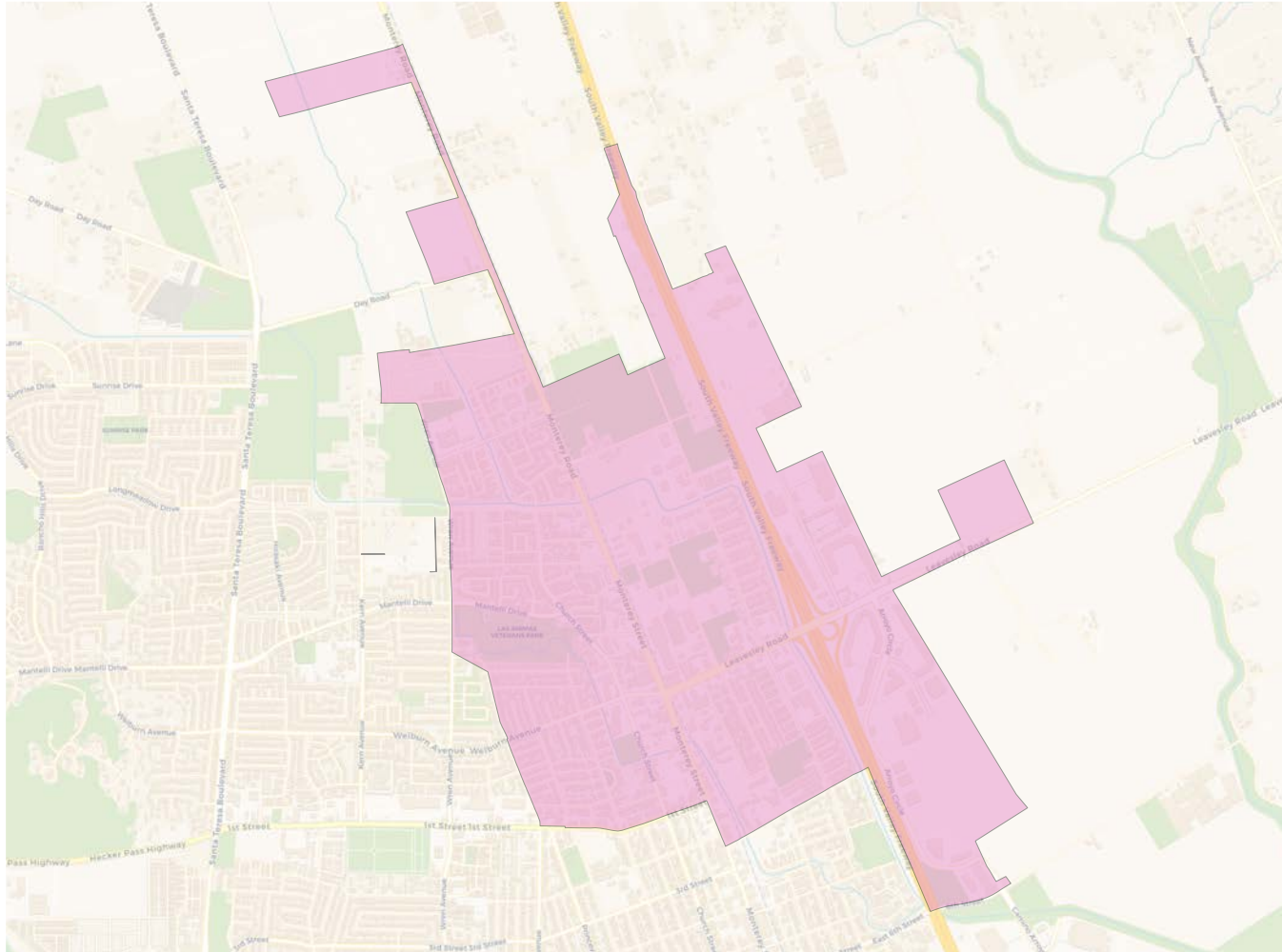


Citizen Voting Age Population

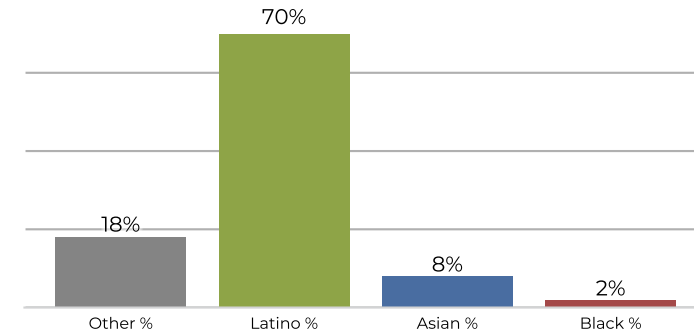


| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 10,543 | 594 | 6.0% | 3,164 | 30.0% | 6,790 | 64.4% | 470 | 4.5% | 119 | 1.1% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 6,281 | 2,562 | 40.8% | 3,155 | 50.2% | 388 | 6.2% | 176 | 2.8% | | |

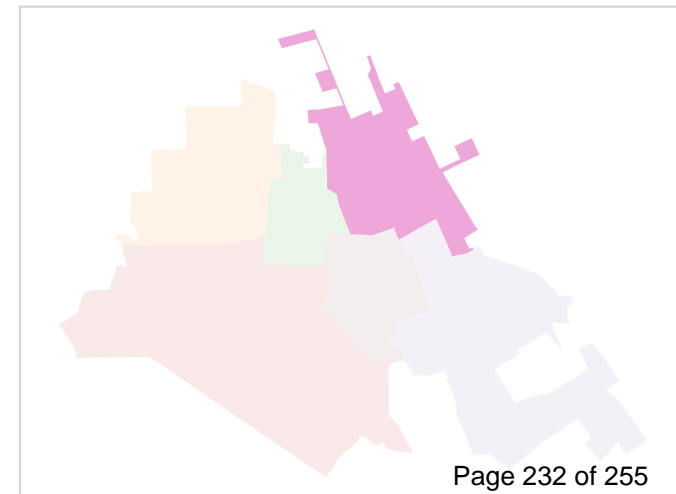
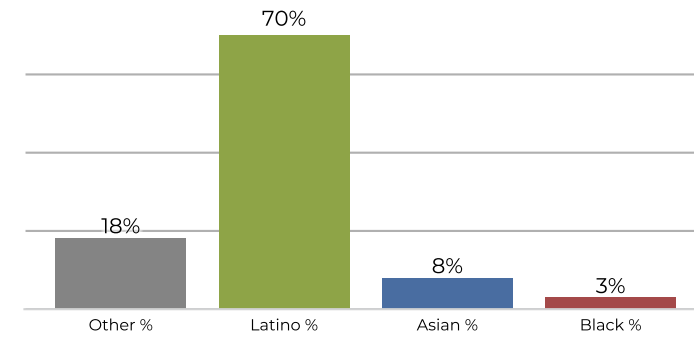
District 6



2020 Census



Citizen Voting Age Population



| Population | Deviation | Deviation % | Other | Other % | Latino | Latino % | Asian | Asian % | Black | Black % |
|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|
| 9,669 | -280 | -2.8% | 1,823 | 18.9% | 6,806 | 70.4% | 821 | 8.5% | 219 | 2.3% |
| Total CVAP | Other CVAP | Other CVAP % | Latino CVAP | Latino CVAP % | Asian CVAP | Asian CVAP % | Black CVAP | Black CVAP % | | |
| 5,303 | 977 | 18.4% | 3,714 | 70.0% | 444 | 8.4% | 168 | 3.2% | | |

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-XX

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GILROY
TO ESTABLISH THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE CITY
COUNCIL BY SIX DISTRICTS, ESTABLISH THE BOUNDARIES,
IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS, AND THE ELECTION ORDER OF
EACH DISTRICT, ESTABLISH A RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT TO
SEEK A COUNCIL SEAT FROM EACH DISTRICT, AND RELATED
ACTIONS**

WHEREAS, the City of Gilroy has historically used an at-large method of election, which is consistent with the guarantees of Section 7 of Article 1 and of Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the City's at-large electoral system elects six at-large members to the City Council and an at-large mayor to staggered four-year terms; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 34886 permits the City Council to change the method of election by ordinance to a "by-district" system in which each member of the City Council is elected only by the voters in the district in which the candidate resides, in accordance with California Government Code Section 34871; and

WHEREAS, a by-district system can also be consistent with the guarantees of Section 7 of Article I and of Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2025-07 which initiated the process of establishing a by-district election system to replace the current at-large system commencing with the 2026 election; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of California Elections Code Section 10010, a city that changes from an at-large city council method of election to a by-district city council method of election must hold a total of five public hearings, which includes at least two (2) public hearings regarding potential voting district boundaries prior to the release and consideration of any draft voting district maps, and two (2) public hearings following the release of draft voting district maps; and

///

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2025 and March 17, 2025, pursuant to California Elections Code Section 10010(a)(1), the City Council held public hearings where the public was invited to provide input regarding the composition of the City's voting districts before any draft maps were drawn, and the City Council of the City of Gilroy considered and discussed the same; and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing of the City Council on March 17, 2025, the City Council also invited input on whether to have six (6) districts and an at-large directly-elected Mayor, or seven (7) districts with the Mayor selected by the City Council on a rotating basis, and voted to proceed with a six-district system with an at-large directly elected Mayor, directing its demographer to draft maps that divide the City into six (6) districts in preparation for the April 7, 2025 public hearing; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2025, April 21 2025, and May 5, 2025 pursuant to California Elections Code Section 10010(a)(2), the City Council held public hearings where the public was invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft maps that had been released and published at least seven (7) days before each public hearing and the proposed sequence of the elections, and the City Council of the City of Gilroy considered and discussed the same; and

WHEREAS, at its public hearing on April 7, 2025, the City Council reviewed twenty-four draft maps prepared by Redistricting Partners based on public input and direction received at the March 17, 2025, public hearing, and provided direction and proposed revisions regarding the draft maps and new maps; and

WHEREAS, at its public hearing on April 21, 2025, the City Council reviewed draft maps that had previously been submitted and created by the public and/ or created by Redistricting Partners, and provided further direction on changes to the boundaries in these draft maps and also drew additional draft maps for consideration; and

WHEREAS, at its public hearing on May 5, 2025, the City Council selected Map D and Map F as the final maps – one of which would be selected at the May 19, 2025 Public Hearing – and noted that it would take up the questions on the order of elections

(that is, which three new districts would be on the 2026 ballot and which three districts would be on the 2028 ballot) and whether candidates running for City Council must be residents of the district in which they seek election or any period of time prior to filing their nomination paper; and

WHEREAS, at its public hearing on May 19, 2025, the City Council selected **Map _____** as the final map to serve the purposes and objectives of the California Voting Rights Act to increase participation in the electoral process and to enable minority voters to elect candidates of their choice, determined the identification numbers for the districts [if applicable], identified **Districts #, #, and #** as those districts that would select City Council candidates in in 2026, and identified **Districts #, #, and #** as those districts that would select City Council candidates in 2028; and

WHEREAS, at its public hearing on May 19, 2025, the City Council determined that candidates running for City Council must be residents of the district in which they seek election for at least thirty (30) days prior to filing their nomination papers; and

WHEREAS, these actions by the City Council do not change the schedule or method of selection of the City's at-large mayor; and

WHEREAS, throughout the foregoing process, the City engaged in a significant amount of public outreach and engagement above and beyond the public hearings and other procedures required by California Elections Code Section 10010, including hosting a webpage dedicated to districting; inviting the submission of community of interest forms to allow the public to provide input on keeping communities of interest in single districts to the extent possible; hosting workshops on the Districting process; inviting the submission of draft maps by the public using an interactive mapping tool; and providing districting information to local and to good government, civic engagement, and minority groups active within the City; and,

WHEREAS, the purposes of this Ordinance are to: enact, pursuant to California Government Code Section 34886, an ordinance providing for the election of members of the City Council of the City of Gilroy by district in six (6) single-member districts as reflected in the voting district map referred to as **Map _____** and attached as Exhibit A to

this Ordinance, in furtherance of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (Chapter 1.5 [commencing with Section 14025] of Division 14 of the Elections Code) to encourage by-district elections as one method to implement the guarantees of Section 7 of Article I and of Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution; to establish which three districts are on the ballot in 2026 and which three are on the ballot in 2028; and, to establish a thirty-day (30) residency requirement that requires candidates for City Council to live in the district in which they will run for at least 30 days prior to filing their nomination papers.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GILROY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I

INCORPORATION OF RECITALS:

The recitals set forth above are true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein by this reference as if fully set forth in their entirety.

SECTION II

A. SELECTION OF MAP:

From this time forward and commencing with the November 2026 election, City elections for City Council will be by-district, with the City divided into the six (6) electoral districts with identification numbers for the districts, as shown on the final map selected by the City Council – **Map ___**, and there is no change to the method or schedule of electing the City's Mayor, who will continue to be elected at-large.

B. ORDER OF ELECTIONS:

Districts #, #, and # will be on the ballot in November of 2026, and **Districts #, #, and #** will be on the ballot in November of 2028, in order to serve the purposes and objectives of the California Voting Rights Act to increase participation in the electoral process and to enable minority voters to elect candidates of their choice.

C. THIRTY-DAY (30) RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:

Candidates for City Council must be residents of the district in which they seek election for at least thirty (30) days prior to filing their nomination papers.

SECTION III

SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council of the City of Gilroy hereby declares that it would have passed and adopted this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases may be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION IV

TIMING OF EFFECT

Pursuant to section 608 of the Charter of the City of Gilroy, this ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days from and after the date it is adopted.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this June 2, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

APPROVED:

Greg Bozzo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bryce Atkins, Acting City Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF THE CLERK

I, **BRYCE ATKINS**, Acting City Clerk of the City of Gilroy, do hereby certify that the attached **Ordinance No. 2025-XX** is an original resolution, or true and correct copy of a City Resolution, duly adopted by the Council of the City of Gilroy at a Regular Meeting of said held on Council held **Monday, June 2, 2025**, with a quorum present.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of the City of Gilroy this **Date**.

Bryce Atkins
Acting City Clerk of the City of Gilroy

(Seal)