

Melissa Thurman

From: patmarriott@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 1:34 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT STUDY SESSION ITEM #1 JUNE 11, 2024

Council Members:

Overpromised. Underdelivered.

That's the current state of public engagement on district-based elections.

One of the documents at the May 28 council meetings was:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

... 6. All public hearings shall be noticed on the City's website, and in addition, as follows: posting on the City's website at least 7 calendar days in advance of the hearing and publication at least 7 days in advance of the hearing in the newspaper adjudicated to provide notice within the City; and holding at least one hearing on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6 pm on a weekday.

7. Adopting the proposed schedule to complete the transition from an at-large elections system to a by-district elections system:

Date	Event
June 11, 2024	Public Hearing No. 1
June 25, 2024	Public Hearing No. 2
July 2, 2024	Public Hearing No. 3
By August 27, 2024	Draft Maps Published
September 3 2024	Public Hearing No. 4
September 17, 2024	Public Hearing No. 5
October 1, 2024	Public Hearing No. 6

The first notice I got was in the CM Weekly Update today, June 8, with a link to this page:

<https://www.losaltosca.gov/cityclerk/page/district-based-elections>

It says (highlights are mine):

The transition to a districts-based elections system is an open, public process, where public input is highly sought after and appreciated. California Elections Code Section 10010 mandates that five public hearings must be held throughout the transition process, but the City Council may choose to hold as many public community workshops as necessary to gather as much public input as possible, within the time constraints for the overall project.

The staff report for the June 11 Study Session on district elections says:

Public Outreach

In addition to the formal public hearing process, the City is implementing a robust effort to encourage participation and inclusivity as a part of the districting process. To this end, the City is doing the following:

- Hosting a webpage dedicated to districting, which includes an explanation of the districting process, relevant demographic data, the process for getting public input (in all legally required languages), a calendar of public hearings and/or workshop dates, the notice and agenda for each hearing/workshop, audio/video records of the hearings/workshops, a copy of the draft map(s) considered, and a copy of the final adopted map; and*
- Promoting the public workshop and hearing dates on all City social media channels and advertising the hearings and workshops in the Los Altos Town Crier and/or the Daily Post, depending on advertising deadlines and availability*

The switch from at large to district elections is a major shift for Los Altos Residents and one of the most significant issues you will deal with in your Council tenure. As such, it certainly deserves a much more “robust effort” to get public input.

What I’ve seen so far does not go nearly far enough to “encourage participation and inclusivity.” No snail mail to every residence, no ads in either the Town Crier or the Daily Post. Blocking Zoom comments is particularly egregious in this context.

At this point there should be a mailer enroute to every household with a short questionnaire to be mailed back or dropped off at City Hall:

- Should the city be divided into
 - Four districts with a mayor elected by the entire city?
 - Five districts with a mayor rotating among the council members as we have now?
- If an elected mayor, should that person serve for
 - 1 year
 - 2 years
 - 4 years
- Should there be term limits for council members and mayor?
 - 1 term
 - 2 terms
 - No limits

You owe it to your constituents to educate them about the possibilities and ramifications of district elections and give them every opportunity to comment on the few options we have.

So far, I am disappointed in your efforts to live up to that obligation.

Respectfully,
Pat Marriott

Melissa Thurman

From: David Roode <droode@netwiz.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 7:02 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: christinac@latc.com; Gabriel Engeland
Subject: Re: racially based districts for council election

On 6/9/2024 6:52 PM, David Roode wrote:

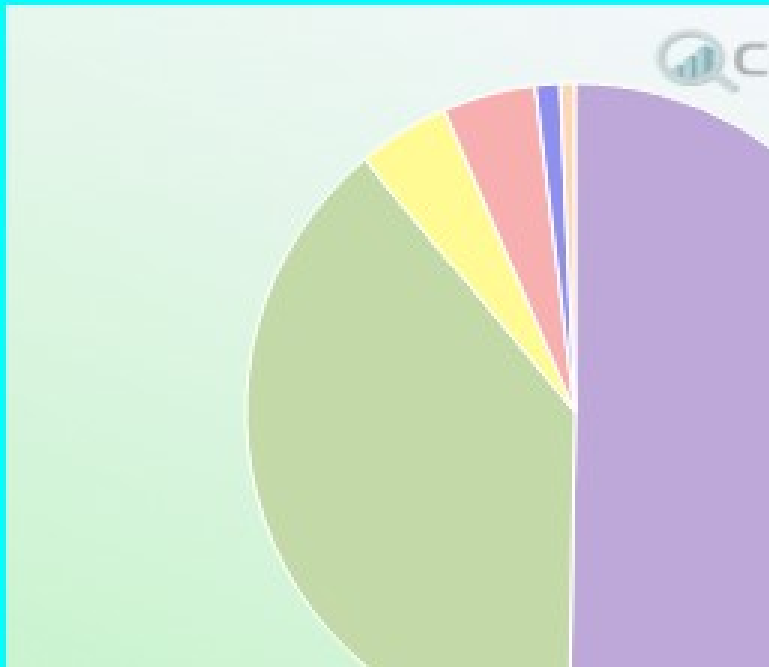
I believe that it will be futile to try to break Los Altos into districts such that there is much of increase in representation of any race in one particular subdistrict. The most you might expect would be a small variation of the racial makeup compared to the city as a whole.

I base this on the fact that both Los Altos and Los Altos Hills have a very similar makeup. These two cities together are broken into two zip codes, 94022 and 94024. However these 2 zip codes themselves although being a different geographic breakdown, still have the same racial makeup.

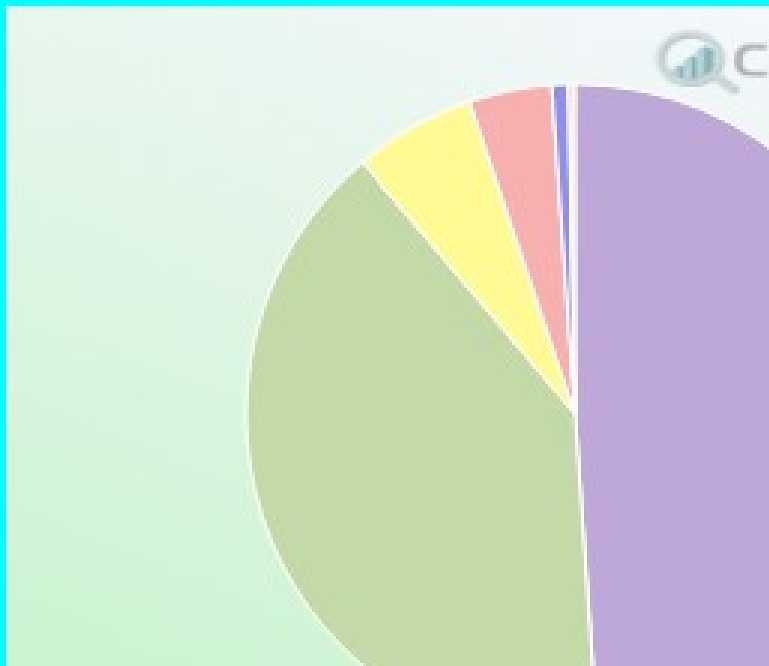
I think the legal response to the lawyer demanding the breakup should be asked at the start what they hope to achieve, specifically, in the way of an improved racial makeup of the various districts.

The below data comes from city-data.com and is based on data from the US Census.

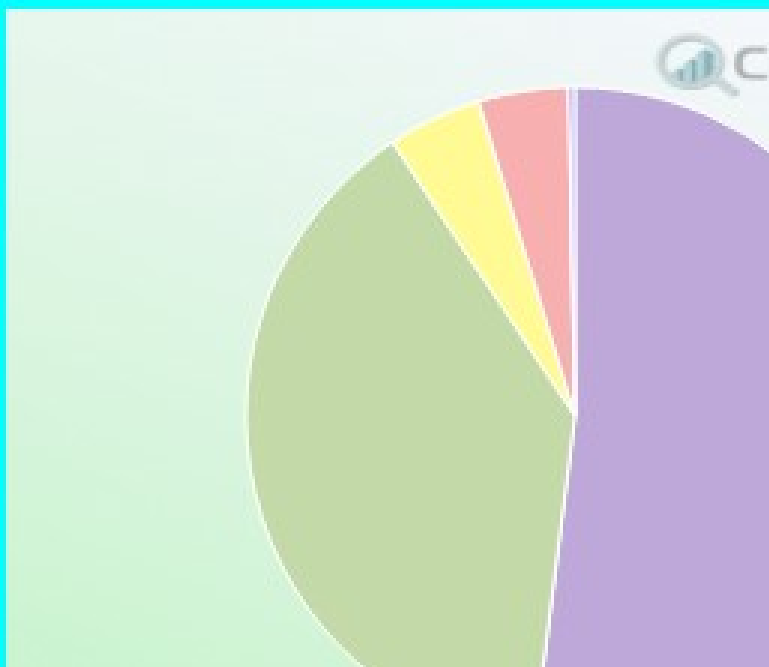
Races in Los Altos, CA



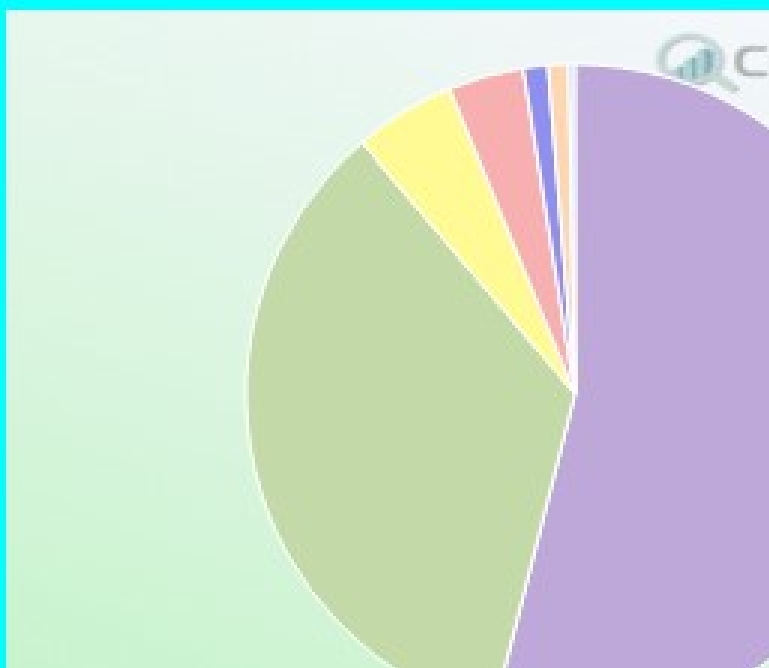
Races in Los Altos Hills, CA



Races in zip code 94025



Races in zip code 94024



By way of comparison to a nearby city:

Races in Mountain View,

