

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Carol Peters <carolp919@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:05 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Highlands

I was informed too late of the meeting to discuss the five council districts.  
I strongly support that the Highlands remains one district and Grant one district.  
Each are individual communities who need representation for their individual issues.  
I have lived in the Highlands for 40+ years and it deserves it's own representation.  
So much of what happens at City Council is focused on North Los Altos down town and residential living areas.  
Hoping to see a change.  
carol peters

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** R Kane <rkane@rocketmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 1:31 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City Council; Districts  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

Hello Council,

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands whole and intact.

Thank you,  
Richard Kane  
1709 Newcastle Drive  
Los Altos, CA

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Steve Smith <steve.smorck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 1:56 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City Council; Districts  
**Subject:** Districting Map--please vote for either Draft C2 of F2A

As a Grant Park resident, I am delighted that Council has taken the time to listen to and incorporate this neighborhood's inputs with respect to the Districting maps. I was even more impressed that the demographer came up with two maps that keep Grant Park (and the Highlands) whole.

I encourage council to approve either Draft Map C2 or F2A.

Thank you,

Steve Smith

**Melissa Thurman**

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**From:** Farhad Parivar <farhad.parivar@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 2:32 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

Dear Sirs, Madams,

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands whole and intact.

Thank you,

Farhad Parivar

1919 Alford Ave  
Los Altos

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** John Park <jpark0924@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 2:59 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Subject: Please vote for either the Districting Map Draft C2 or F2A

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2 or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands whole and intact.

Thank you,

John Park  
1935 Annette Ln, Los Altos, CA 94024

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** abject\_and.0q@icloud.com  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 3:05 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands whole and intact.

Thank you,

Roya Parivar

1919 Alford Ave  
Los Altos

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Ariel Faigon <ariel.faigon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 3:44 PM  
**To:** City Council; Districts; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A - keep Grant Park whole

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage the council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands whole and intact.

Thank you

Signed, Grant Park neighborhood residents:

- Ariel Faigon
- Anat Faigon
- Ori Faigon
- Ben Faigon

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Emil Herzog <eherzog0@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 5:53 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** new maps

Maps C2 and F2A are much better than the previous one that split grant park. It isn't great for highlands area.  
Doug Keeley  
1801 Alford. Ave.



## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Rick Evans <rickevans@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 5:54 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** City Council; Districts  
**Subject:** Re: voting districts. Please vote for either C2 or F2A

Greetings,

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A.  
Both of the plans keep Grant Park intact.

Best regards,

Rick Evans  
1856 Alford Ave.

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Lauren K <nerual5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 6:52 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City Council; Districts  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve district Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands whole and intact.

Thank you,

Lauren Kane

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Ori Faigon <ori.faigon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 11:27 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City Council; Districts  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

Dear Council,

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands whole and intact.

Thank you,  
Ori Faigon

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Anurag Wadehra <awadehra@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2024 10:19 AM  
**To:** Public Comment; City Council; Districts  
**Subject:** Please vote for either the Districting Map Draft C2 or F2A

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2 or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands whole and intact.

Thank you,

Anurag

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Anurag Wadehra

Contact: [aw@anuragwadehra.com](mailto:aw@anuragwadehra.com) [LinkedIn](#)

Newsletter: [Growth Matters](#)

Courses: Product Market Fit, Go-to-Market [Cohort Based](#), [Mini-Videos](#)

Creative Works: [Play Documentary Podcast Poetry Translation \(audio\)](#), [Personal Blog](#)

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** ingrid kane <ikane@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2024 10:54 AM  
**To:** Public Comment; City Council; Districts  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

Dear Council,

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands whole and intact.

Thank you,  
Ingrid Kane

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Anthony lantosca <jake1610@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 13, 2024 12:31 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Districts

Please consider voting for Draft Map C2 or F2A which would keep Grant Park and the Highlands separate voting districts. Thank you.

Anthony and Theresa lantosca  
1610 Ben Roe Drive, Los Altos.

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Roberta Phillips <robertaphillips1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 11:44 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Districting New Maps C,C2.F2,F2A

## New Districting maps C, C2,F2,F2A



**Roberta Phillips** <[robertaphillips1@gmail.com](mailto:robertaphillips1@gmail.com)>

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to City, districts



Dear Council Members

I reviewed the new maps posted on the City Web Page over the weekend.

I still object to San Antonio Rd being split down the middle south of Alvarado. It also doesn't make sense that this district on all the maps crosses over Foothill Expressway. The residents who live on the west side and east side of San Antonio Rd have the same interests of safety. We want to get mail from our mailboxes without being hit by a car. We want ambulances and fire trucks to get into our driveways. The boundary should be Los Altos Avenue, not San Antonio Rd. We live between the Jr High and the High School and have buses, cars and bikes trying to share the road. The City has asked for communities of interest, yet the new maps do not reflect our interest.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips

32 year resident of Los Altos

## **Melissa Thurman**

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**From:** nancerz@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 19, 2024 10:10 AM  
**To:** City Council; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Re-districting

Please keep C2 and F2A districts together in the draft maps. It would be a great opportunity to have districts that share similar concerns and issues.

Nancy Phillips  
1171 Volti Ln  
Los Altos CA 94024



## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Cori Mehring <cmehring@me.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 19, 2024 12:32 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City Council; Districts  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

Dear Los Altos City Council-members:

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands neighborhoods whole and intact.

Thank you,  
-Cori Mehring, 30-year Los Altos resident  
1936 Colleen Dr.

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Aram and June Darmanian <darmanian@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 19, 2024 12:44 PM  
**To:** Districts; City Council; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands neighborhoods whole and intact.

Thank you,

June Darmanian  
1595 Ben Roe Drive  
Los Altos

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Aram Darmanian <adarmanian@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 19, 2024 12:54 PM  
**To:** Districts; City Council; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands neighborhoods whole and intact.

Thank you,

Aram Darmanian  
1595 Ben Roe Drive  
Los Altos

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Megan Allen <meganallen@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 19, 2024 5:07 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City Council; Districts  
**Subject:** Please vote for either WIN-WIN Map: Draft C2, or F2A

As a Grant Park resident, I encourage council to approve Draft Map C2, or F2A, because either would be a WIN-WIN, by keeping both Grant Park and Highlands neighborhoods whole and intact.

Thank you, Megan Allen

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Alice Kwei <akaltos3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2024 9:55 AM  
**To:** City Council; Districts; Public Comment  
**Cc:** Alice Kwei  
**Subject:** South Los Altos Redistricting Feedback

Dear Los Altos Council,

As a Highlands resident, I encourage the council to approve Draft Map C2 or F2A, as either option would be a win-win by keeping both the Grant Park and Highlands neighborhoods whole and intact.

Communities of Interest (COI):

Both the C2 and F2A maps create districts that align with important neighborhood interests, including traffic, shopping/business, places of worship, and other areas within walking distance.

Grant Park shares common concerns and interests with the Oak neighborhood:

- Traffic: Concerns regarding Fremont Ave and Grant Road, along with shortcutting through the Grant Park and Oak neighborhoods
- Public Transit stops
- Space and Facilities: Shared access to Oak School and MVLA High School neighborhood facilities such as EV chargers and recreation fields/track outside of school hours
- Outdoor walking/running routes throughout both neighborhoods
- Shared shopping and business areas within walking distance (Lucky's Plaza, Foothill Crossing)
- Places of worship

Highlands has following common interests with Loyola Corners and nearby areas:

- Traffic: Loyola Corners and Foothill Expressway
- Loyola Corners restaurants/cafés
- Access to Loyola Corners businesses
- Miramonte Avenue Post Office

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alice Kwei

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** paragon8@att.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2024 2:52 PM  
**To:** City Council; Districts; Public Comment  
**Subject:** South Los Altos Redistricting Feedback - C2, F2A are good

Dear Los Altos Council,

**As a Highlands resident, I encourage the council to approve Draft Map C2 or F2A, as either option would be a win-win by keeping both the Grant Park and Highlands neighborhoods whole and intact.**

Communities of Interest (COI):

Both the C2 and F2A maps create districts that align with important neighborhood interests, including traffic, shopping/business, places of worship, and other areas within walking distance.

Grant Park shares common concerns and interests with the Oak neighborhood:

1. Traffic: Concerns regarding Fremont Ave and Grant Road, along with shortcutting through the Grant Park and Oak neighborhoods
2. Public Transit stops
3. Space and Facilities: Shared access to Oak School and MVLA High School neighborhood facilities such as EV chargers and recreation fields/track outside of school hours
4. Outdoor walking/running routes throughout both neighborhoods
5. Shared shopping and business areas within walking distance (Lucky's Plaza, Foothill Crossing)
6. Places of worship

Highlands has following common interests with Loyola Corners and nearby areas:

1. Traffic: Loyola Corners and Foothill Expressway
2. Loyola Corners restaurants/cafés
3. Access to Loyola Corners businesses
4. Miramonte Avenue Post Office

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Kwei, registered voter in Highlands.

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Debby Meredith <debbymeredith@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2024 6:23 PM  
**To:** Districts; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Input on redistricting maps

Honorable Council Members,

Thank you for all your efforts thus far in dealing with the complex task of dividing Los Altos into election districts. I've been following this topic with great interest and wanted to provide feedback for your consideration.

The past 22 years, I have lived with my family on Van Buren Street and love our active and cohesive neighborhood. One of the primary reasons we invested in our home is because of its proximity to Downtown Los Altos. I believe all of our neighbors feel this same way, and we all heavily patronize the shops, restaurants and various services. Personally, just a few hours ago I walked to and from Downtown to get a vaccine at Walgreens, do some local shopping, and get a cup of tea. My family and I intentionally invest in Downtown Los Altos, and we view this vibrant area as an extension of our home. We feel strongly that we should be represented in the same district as this area, and we look forward to increasing the downtown vibrancy.

In looking at the current Draft Maps, it looks like A, F, F1, F3, F4, and F5 along with the second map submitted by the public submitted as of October 10, 2024, all have our Van Buren neighborhood in the same proposed district as Downtown Los Altos, however the others do not. As a long term and very involved resident, I would respectfully ask that you consider my input in your redistricting decision.

Thank you!  
Debby Meredith  
460 Van Buren Street, Los Altos, CA 94022

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Stanley Quan <squan124@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2024 10:50 PM  
**To:** City Council; Public Comment; Districts  
**Subject:** South Los Altos Redistricting Feedback

Dear Los Altos Council,

As a Highlands resident, I encourage the council to approve Draft Map C2 or F2A, as either option would be a win-win by keeping both the Grant Park and Highlands neighborhoods whole and intact.

Communities of Interest (COI):

Both the C2 and F2A maps create districts that align with important neighborhood interests, including traffic, shopping/business, places of worship, and other areas within walking distance.

Grant Park shares common concerns and interests with the Oak neighborhood:

- Traffic: Concerns regarding Fremont Ave and Grant Road, along with shortcutting through the Grant Park and Oak neighborhoods
- Public Transit stops
- Space and Facilities: Shared access to Oak School and MVLA High School neighborhood facilities such as EV chargers and recreation fields/track outside of school hours
- Outdoor walking/running routes throughout both neighborhoods
- Shared shopping and business areas within walking distance (Lucky's Plaza, Foothill Crossing)
- Places of worship

Highlands has following common interests with Loyola Corners and nearby areas:

- Traffic: Loyola Corners and Foothill Expressway
- Loyola Corners restaurants/cafés
- Access to Loyola Corners businesses
- Miramonte Avenue Post Office

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Stanley Quan



## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Dan Perkins <dan.perkins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2024 9:01 AM  
**To:** City Council; Districts; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Please preserve the Grant Park Neighborhood in the 5 district plan

October 21, 2024

Dear Los Altos City Council,

We are writing to request that the Grant Park neighborhood be left intact within a single district for the new 5 district plan.

The Grant Park community is long rooted in Grant Park School, it's land acquisition in the 80's, and the creation of Grant Park which serves a wide variety of community interests, including organized games (soccer), a community play area, summer concerts, and classrooms and the multi-purpose room from the original school which now hosts many community groups including a senior center in South Los Altos. This and many other factors make the Grant Park neighborhood special and unique to Los Altos, a vibrant community we should preserve, not divide.

It is essential the Grant Park neighborhood retain a clear voice on city council, and that our neighborhood not be split between competing interests or be politically gerrymandered.

In addition, we favor the 5 district option over the 4 because it continues and tradition of rotating the mayorship among the city council members. This encourages fuller community participation, recognizes the importance of all our community neighborhoods, and reduces political partisanship.

We strongly encourage City Council to preserve the Grant Park Neighborhood in the 5 district plan.

Respectfully,  
Dan & Nancy Perkins  
Grant Park Los Altos Residents

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Eric Steinle <eric.steinle@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2024 11:52 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Election districts

We have neighborhoods.

We need to create election districts.

The simplest, fairest, and most logical way to create election districts is to use the neighborhoods.

The Fair MAPS Act (Elec. Code, § 21130, subd. (c) (2)) tells us what to do: “To the maximum extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criterion in this subdivision [i.e., contiguity], **the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood** or local community of interest **shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division.**” (Emphasis added.)

A “community of interest,” or, more properly, a “**local** community of interest,” appears as an alternative, or perhaps addendum, to “local neighborhood.” Local neighborhoods and local communities of interest are not mutually exclusive. We must harmonize the procedural commands of section 21130 with the policy commands of the CVRA.

The CVRA simply says that a district is a “divisible part” of the city (Elec. Code, § 14026, subd. (b)). The Fair MAPS Act (Elec. Code, § 21130) tells us how to apply the CVRA.

In pertinent part, it instructs us:

(c) The districting body shall adopt election district boundaries using the following criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:

- (1) To the maximum extent practicable, election districts shall be geographically contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous. Areas that are separated by water and not connected by a bridge, tunnel, or regular ferry service are not contiguous.
- (2) To the maximum extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criterion in this subdivision, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single election district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Characteristics of communities of interest may include, but are not limited to, shared public policy concerns such as education, public safety, public health, environment, housing, transportation, and access to social services. Characteristics of communities of interest may also include, but are not limited to, cultural districts, shared socioeconomic characteristics, similar voter registration rates and participation rates, and shared histories. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
- (3) To the maximum extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria in this subdivision, the geographic integrity of a city or census designated place shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. This paragraph does not apply to a city.
- (4) To the maximum extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria in this subdivision, election districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the local jurisdiction. Election district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents.

(5) To the maximum extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria in this subdivision, election districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

Contiguity (§ 1) and compactness (§ 5) are not serious concerns in a city of less than 7 square miles. Geographic integrity of a city (§ 3) does not apply, by its own terms. (The Fair MAPS Act applies to any scheme for district elections in any jurisdiction within the State, not only those imposed by the CVRA.)

That leaves the "geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest[, which] shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division" (§ 2) and the "natural and artificial barriers, streets, [and] the boundaries of the local jurisdiction," with the added instruction that "election district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents." (§ 4)

Put differently, a district is a coherent, readily-comprehensible area characterized by an identifiable commonality. That commonality must be understood in terms of "effective and fair representation." Finally, since districts are to be created in this case to further the specific policies of the CVRA, those districts should further the policy that "the method of election may not be imposed or applied in a manner that impairs the ability of the protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or the abridgment of the rights of voters who are members of a protected class. (Elec. Code, § 14027.) Whether that is more than a hypothetical concern is not a question that needs to be answered, in the event.

Those drawing district lines must attend, in order of priority, to: contiguity; the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest; barriers, streets, and jurisdictional limits; and, if relevant, compactness. And, as we only recently learned, census blocs may not be split, an extra-statutory kind of non-negotiable boundary.

To achieve the goals of the CVRA, through application of the Fair MAPS Act, we look first at our neighborhoods. They are the historical "communities of interest" in the city.

The Highlands and Grant Park are established neighborhoods that are "easily identifiable and understandable by residents." To the fullest extent possible, each of them should be included whole in an election district; but not necessarily in the same election district. South Los Altos as a whole is overall less dense than the neighborhoods further north and west. The Highlands is not populous enough to be its own district, but it makes sense to put it, for example, with as much of Loyola Corners as is needed to fill in the numbers. Grant Park can make up a district on its own.

There are maps with this distribution already showing.

Rancho San Antonio and the areas along Foothill do not seem problematic.

The real problem has been the area west of El Monte. It must fit into two districts. There have been several suggestions for how to do this, any of which will satisfy the minimum requirements of the law, but none of which has been without controversy.

I think that, here, the Fair MAPS Act offers a way to think about how this might be decided. This, I suggest, is where the notion of communities of interest—neighborhoods in fact, if not in name—may come into play.

In its definition of "communities of interest," the Fair MAPS Act includes criteria that may identify such communities, including "shared public policy concerns such as education, public safety, public health, environment, housing, transportation, and access to social services." I suggest that the area around the high school would be such a community. It is the only public high school within the city limits, and we all know how much of a headache the traffic situation there has been, for many years and in many ways. This affects residents, students, drivers, and pedestrians (including cyclists) from El Camino Real up to the south side of the high school, and over as far as San Antonio, since the Safe Routes to Schools initiatives are top of mind for just about everyone. That would make the area from ECR up to the high school and over to San Antonio an obvious election district.

On the west side of San Antonio, there are two different schools, Egan and Santa Rita, which present different issues, although the Safe Routes to Schools concerns are common. There are also different circulation issues on Los Altos Avenue, and a different mix of housing and commercial concerns. Even if that section seems very much like the area on the east side of San Antonio, the impact of the high school is so great as to make that district special. Thus, even if the area going south from ECR on the west side of San Antonio is merely what is left over, it is still different enough from the area on the east side to justify thinking about it as a separate district.

The advantage of this way of approaching districts is that it respects all parts of the law: it starts with neighborhoods, it uses barriers and streets, and it identifies such communities of interest as are based on public policies and issues. That makes the districts safer from challenge.

This means that Maps A and B are the best starting point for determining the final map.