

Korean Resource Center

Proposed Redistricting Plan for Buena Park

Submitted to the City of Buena Park

on September 1, 2015

Submitted by Korean Resource Center

with assistance from the Demographic Research Project / Census Information Center,
Asian Americans Advancing Justice

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INTRODUCTION TO THE KOREAN RESOURCE CENTER

Background

About the Korean Resource Center:

The Korean Resource Center (KRC) was founded in 1983 to empower the Korean American community as well as low-income immigrant and people of color communities through a holistic model that combines education, social services, and culture with effective advocacy and community organizing. KRC is guided by four principles: Live Rightly, Know Our Roots, Empower Ourselves, and Live in Harmony. KRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with offices in Los Angeles and Orange County and is a founding affiliate of the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC).

Korean Americans, AAPIs, and other ethnic communities in Orange County:

Orange County has the nation's third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population, in which AAPIs make up 20% of the total population in the county. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, AAPIs are the fastest growing population with a 41% growth rate between 2000 and 2010. Also, the Latino/a population makes up 34% of the total Orange County population, making it the second largest demographic in the county.

Even though communities of color make up a large part of Orange County, such communities, including Korean Americans and AAPIs, are disproportionately impacted by poverty, healthcare disparities, immigration problems, and other challenges, while being relatively unengaged in civic life. According to a 2014 report, "A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in Orange County," by Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles and OCAPICA in Orange County, 1 in 10 AAPIs live in poverty and nearly a quarter are low-income, rates that are significantly higher than that of Whites. Compared to a \$48,220 per capita income of Whites, Latinos earn the lowest at \$17,028 and Koreans earn \$28,018, which is only 58.1% of the per capita income of Whites. Additionally, 45% of Latinos are low-income, with 17% of Latinos living in poverty, the highest of any ethnic community in Orange County. Among Korean Americans, 28% are low-income. Furthermore, Thai and Korean communities have the highest poverty rates at 14% and 13%, respectively.

In Orange County, more AAPIs are immigrants than any other racial group. Sixty-two percent of AAPIs are foreign-born, while 69% of Korean Americans are foreign-born. Over three-quarters (76%) of AAPIs speak a language other than English, coming in second to 80% of the Latino community. Among Koreans, 84% are likely to speak Korean. Further, over 200,000 AAPIs in Orange County are limited English proficient (LEP), with 50% of Koreans and 42% of Latinos 5 years and older being LEP.

Although growing numbers of these ethnic groups are becoming naturalized, registering to vote, and casting ballots, AAPIs made up only 14% of Orange County's total electorate in the 2012 general election. This indicates that AAPIs have not yet realized their full potential as participants in the political process. Overall, Korean voters as well as Latino voters have been lagging behind county turnout

averages. Looking at Buena Park, KRC believes that elected leaders in the area would be more in tune with immigrant communities and economic challenges in those minority communities with improved district representation and increased voter turnout.

District Election System:

District elections will allow local communities to develop a stronger and more impactful collective voice and to train a pipeline of future leaders that can serve in various areas. District elections will give AAPI and Latino communities an avenue to advocate for more equitable services and broader city efforts to alleviate the disproportionate impacts of poverty and other disparities. Finally, district elections will guarantee that the civil rights, defined under the California Voting Rights Act, of immigrant communities in Buena Park will be protected, fundamentally strengthening the democratic process.

KRC is uniquely positioned to carry out and support these communities in changing the election system because of its expertise and history of implementing impactful civic engagement efforts, burgeoning influence and base in Orange County, and its relationships with key local organizations and community leaders.

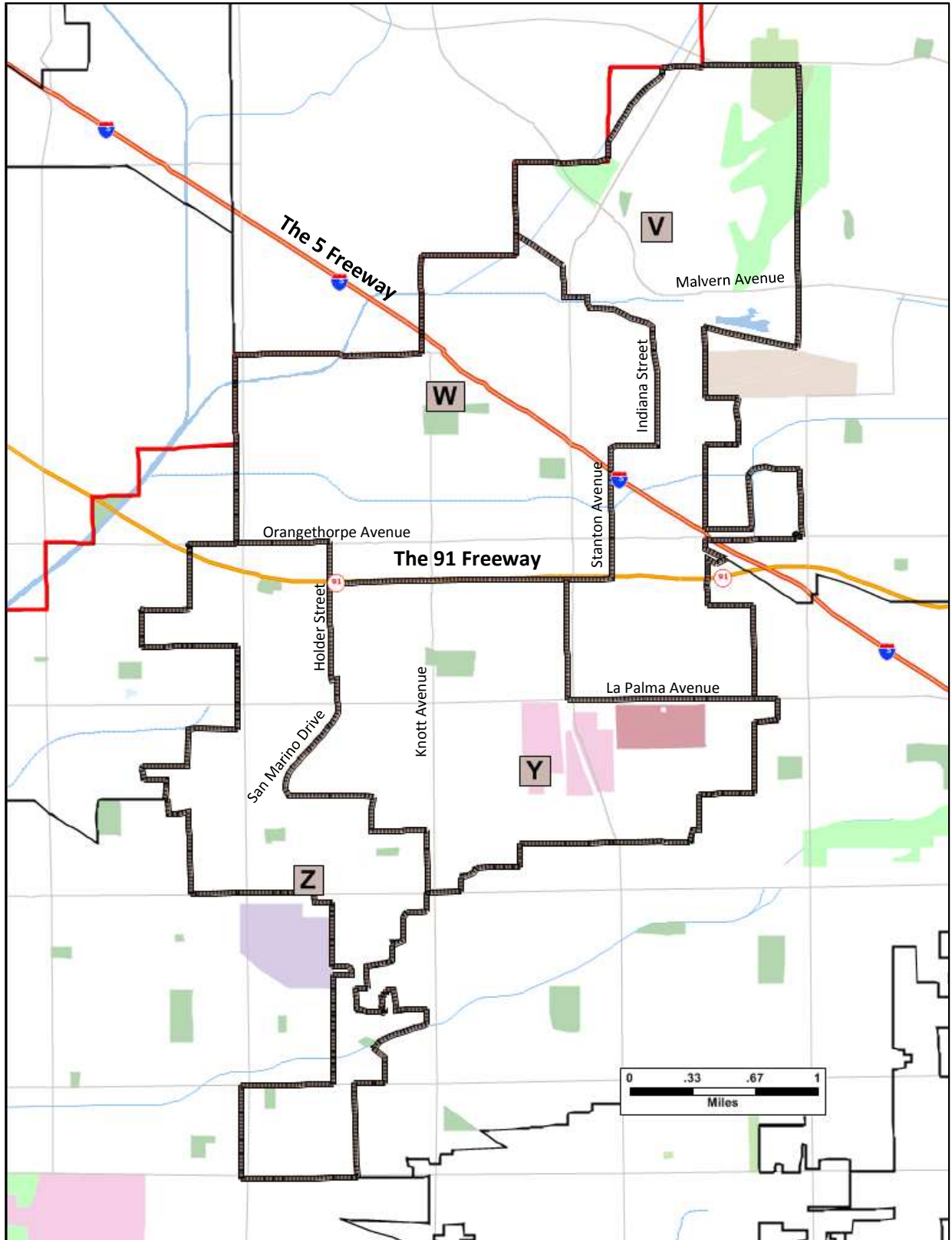
KRC's website is www.krcla.org

Community Involvement Process and Activities:

KRC held the first community meeting about the redistricting process in August with Buena Park residents. The purpose of this meeting was to educate the community, particularly the Korean American community, identify communities of interest, and determine community priorities in the mapping process. In this August meeting, KRC finalized its mapping proposal with support from Asian Americans Advancing Justice and input from the participants about significant community landmarks, residences, and areas that commercially serve communities of interest.

Prior to the meeting, KRC hosted phone banks for several days with assistance from volunteers. Volunteers asked Korean American voters in Buena Park about where they live and what challenges they face in their daily lives, listened to their opinions about redistricting, and encouraged them to participate in the process. Also, prior to the phone banks, KRC mailed letters about redistricting to over 400 registered Korean voters in Buena Park.

PROPOSED MAP (See attached block equivalency file for precise district configuration)



District Overviews

District V (Northeast)

District V is loosely bounded by the city limits to the north and east, La Palma Avenue to the south, and Beach Boulevard/Stanton Avenue/Indiana Street/Franklin Street/Beach Boulevard to the west.

The district respects the integrity of two higher income communities of interest, one north of Malvern Avenue and another between Orangethorpe Avenue and La Palma Avenue, and recognizing common interests, draws the two together. Doing so recognizes differences between higher income communities north of Malvern Avenue and lower income communities south of Malvern and closer to the 5 Freeway; the interests of the two disparate communities of interest are best served in different districts. The district also respects the integrity of a primary Asian American community of interest north of the train tracks.

District W (Northwest)

District W is loosely bounded by the city limits to the north, Beach Boulevard/Franklin Street/Indiana Street/Stanton Avenue to the east, the 91 Freeway/Orangethorpe Avenue to the south, and the city limits to the west.

The district respects the integrity of immigrant, low-income, limited-English proficient, and Latino communities of interest generally residing north of the 91 Freeway. Drawing adjacent higher income and Asian American communities of interest into a distinct, surrounding district to the east (1) recognizes differences between higher income communities north of Malvern Avenue and lower income communities south of Malvern and closer to the 5 Freeway, (2) unites higher income communities of interest north of Malvern Avenue and between Orangethorpe Avenue and La Palma Avenue in the same district, and (3) allows for an appropriate population deviation in both districts.

District Y (Southeast)

District Y is loosely bounded by the 91 Freeway to the north, Beach Boulevard/La Palma Avenue/city limits to the east, city limits/Knott Avenue/Crescent Avenue to the south, and San Marino Drive/Holder Street to the west.

The district respects the integrity of a second lower income community of interest, loosely bounded by the 91 Freeway to the north, Western Avenue/La Palma Avenue/Dale Street to the west, city limits to the south, and Western Avenue/Crescent Avenue/Holder Street to the west. The district is also home to Knotts Berry Farm and related attractions, as well as Buena Park Downtown.

District Z (Southwest)

District Z is loosely bounded by Orangethorpe Avenue to the north, Holder Street/San Marino Drive/Crescent Avenue/Knott Avenue to the west, city limits to the south, and city limits to the west.

The district respects the integrity of a higher income community of interest loosely bounded by Orangethorpe Avenue to the north, Holder Street/Crescent Avenue to the east, city limits to the south, and city limits to the west.

Compliance with Buena Park 2015 Redistricting Criteria

The following section outlines how redistricting criteria were respected in our line-drawing process.

1. Each council district shall contain a nearly equal population as required by law.

Guidance provided by the City of Buena Park identified an ideal district population of 20,133 persons and an allowable deviation of 5 percent; each district must contain between 19,126 and 21,140 people.

Each district in the proposed map contains between 19,666 and 20,350 people; no district deviates from the ideal population by more than 2.5 percent.

2. Each council district shall be drawn in a manner that complies with the Federal Voting Rights Act.

Preliminary analysis of Voting Rights Act compliance concerns indicated that no district could be drawn in which a minority community could constitute 50% or more of a district's citizen voting-age population.

3. Each council district shall not be drawn with race as the predominate factor in violation of the principles established by the United States Supreme Court in Shaw v. Reno, 509 U.S. 630 (1993), and its progeny.

Race was not the predominant factor in the drawing of the proposed map. While race can legally be considered as one of many factors in the drawing of legislative districts, residents considered it as one of many communities of interest, balanced against other redistricting criteria identified by the city.

4. Each council district shall consist of contiguous territory in as compact form as possible.

All districts in the proposed map are contiguous. Districts were drawn in as compact form as possible, while respecting other districting criteria, including maintaining the integrity of communities of interest.

5. Each council district shall respect communities of interest as much as possible.

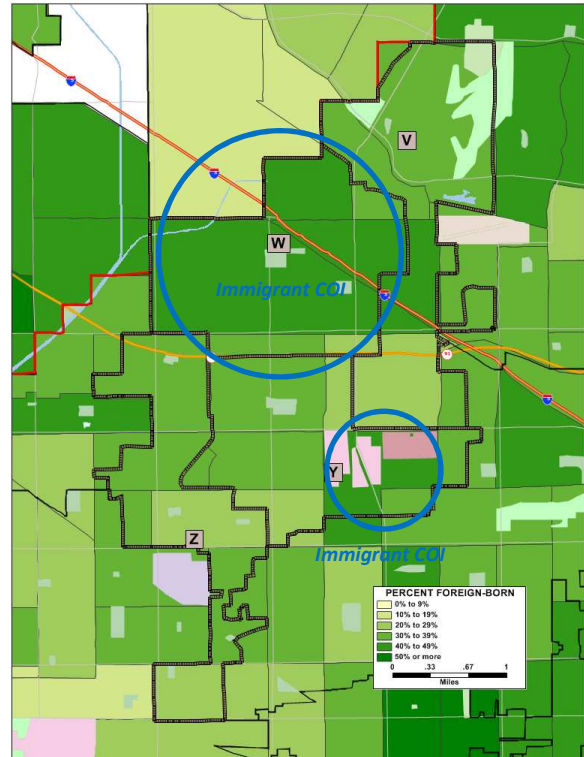
Residents identified numerous communities of interest in Buena Park, including immigrant communities, higher versus lower income communities, limited-English proficient populations, and both Asian American and Latino communities. Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 Census and American Community Survey helped more clearly define these communities of interest and identify parts of the city that were similar and different based on these characteristics. The proposed map respected the integrity of as many of these communities of interest as possible, weighed against other districting criteria, including population requirements.

A detailed description of communities of interest identified is as follows:

Immigrant communities

Recognizing the unique contributions and needs of immigrant communities, we used American Community Survey 2005-2009 Five-Year data on the foreign-born to identify two primary immigrant communities of interest (COI).

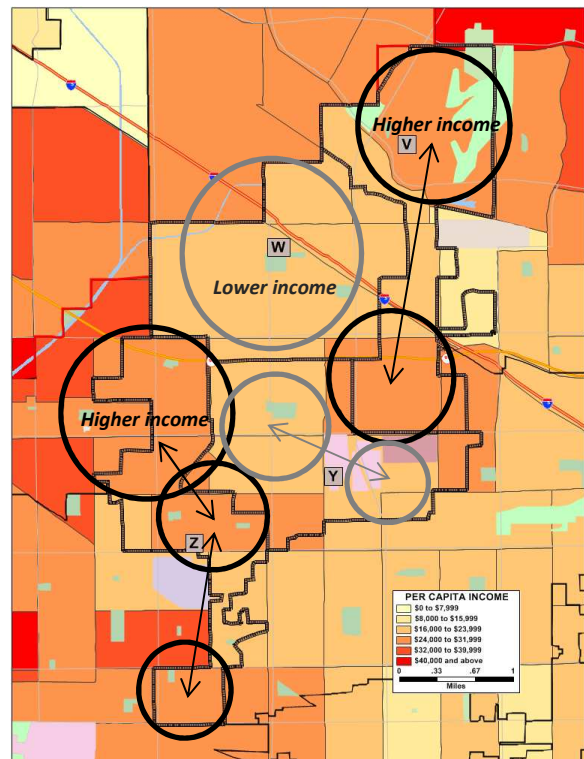
The first resides in northern Buena Park just northeast and southwest of the 5 freeway. This community of interest is large enough to constitute its own Council district. The second resides in southeast Buena Park south of La Palma Avenue, east of Western Avenue, and west of Dale Street.



Income

Recognizing the disparate needs of higher versus lower income communities, we used U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2005-2009 Five-Year data on per capita income to assess income differences within the city.

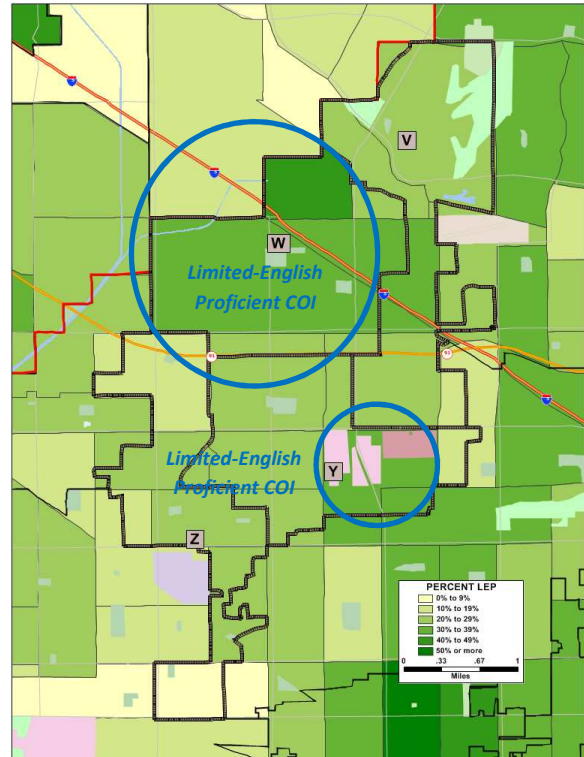
This identified higher income communities of interest (COI) to the west (north of Malvern Avenue and between Orangethorpe Avenue and La Palma Avenue) and east (between Orangethorpe Avenue to the north, Holder Street/Crescent Avenue to the east, city limits to the south, and city limits to the west). This also identified lower income communities of interest toward the city's center, nestled between higher income communities to the north, east, and west.



Limited-English proficient populations

Recognizing that language access is a critical to the effective delivery of city services, we used American Community Survey 2005-2009 Five-Year data to identify two limited-English proficient community of interest (COI) consistent with the two primary immigrant COI citywide.

The first resides in northern Buena Park just northeast and southwest of the 5 freeway. Again, this community of interest is large enough to constitute its own Council district. The second resides in southeast Buena Park south of La Palma Avenue, east of Western Avenue, and west of Dale Street.

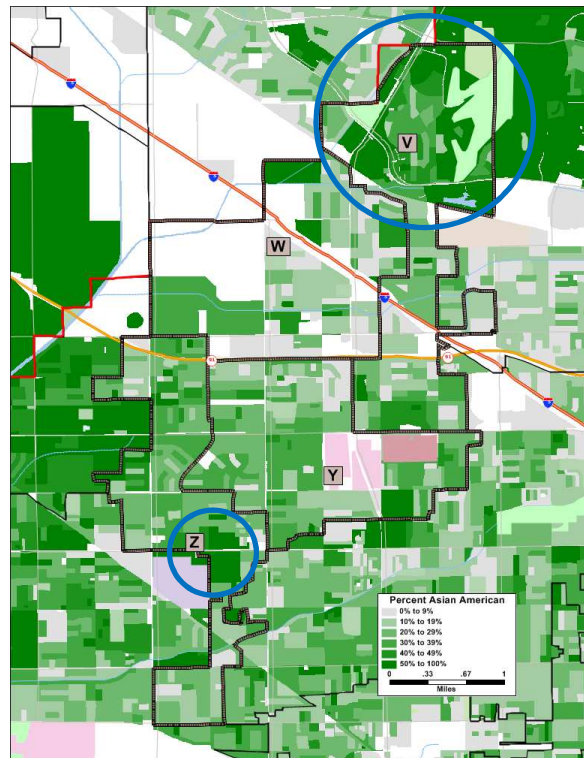


Race

Asian American communities

Captured by 2010 Census data, the Asian American community constitutes a community of interest (COI). The data identify two primary Asian American communities of interest.

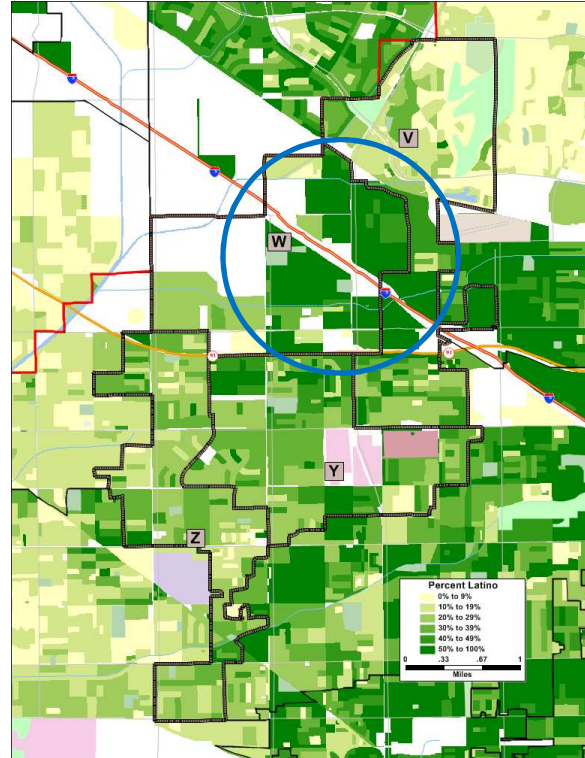
The first resides in the northern most portion of the city, loosely bounded by city limits to the north and east, train tracks to the south, and city limits to the west. The second resides in the south of the city, near the intersection of Holder Street and Lincoln Avenue.



Latino communities

Captured by 2010 Census data, the Latino community also constitutes a community of interest (COI). The data identify one primary Latino community of interest.

The Latino community of interest resides in the northern portion of the city, loosely bounded by the city limits/train tracks to the north, city limits to the east, the 91 Freeway to the south, and Knott Avenue to the west.



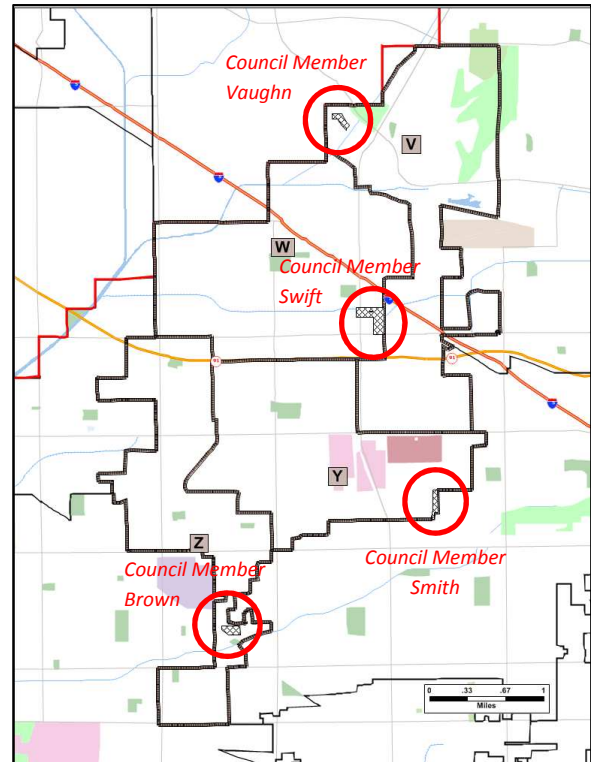
6. Each council district border shall follow visible natural and man-made geographical and topographical features as much as possible.

Where possible, district lines follow major streets and freeways. Man-made features such as train tracks were also used to help define communities of interest boundaries.

7. Each council district shall attempt to avoid head-to-head contests between incumbent Council members insofar as this does not conflict with federal or state law.

Each district in the proposed map includes one and only one incumbent Council member. Where possible, incumbent Council members were drawn together with bases of support and/or community resources.

District V includes Council Member Vaughn, district W includes Council Member Swift, district Y includes Council Member Smith, and district Z includes Council Member Brown.



8. Council districts known to be areas of higher-than-average population growth in the two to five years following this boundary line adjustment may be under populated within the population deviation amounts allowed by law.

No district in the proposed map deviates from the ideal population by more than 2.5 percent. Districts were over or under populated to respect redistricting criteria, including maintaining the integrity of identified communities of interest.