

City of Laguna Hills Elections Code Section 21130f Report

12/9/2025

Elections Code Section 21130(f) language:

f)... the districting body shall issue a report that explains the basis on which the districting body made its decisions in achieving compliance with the requirements and criteria described in this section, including, as to each neighborhood, community of interest, city, or census designated place that was split into two or more districts, the reason for that split.

Report:

National Demographics Corporation (NDC), on behalf of the City of Laguna Hills, has analyzed the City's adopted map and prepared the following analysis of the map's compliance with the criteria of Elections Code Section 21130:

21130(a): Population Equality

The ideal population in a 5-district map for Laguna Hills is 6,280. In the adopted map, the largest district has a population of 6,590 (4.94% over the ideal) and the smallest district has a population of 6,005 (-4.38% under the target population). At a total difference of 9.32% between the largest and smallest districts, the districts in the adopted map are within the "presumed constitutional" 10% range of state and federal law.

To achieve population equality, it was necessary to split Census Blocks. In particular, the 1,737-person block that includes the El Toro Mall site and three large apartment communities north of Los Alisos Rd needed to be split in order to balance populations on either side of the "neck" that wraps around Laguna Woods. In addition, many Census blocks fail to follow homeowner association (HOA) and planning area boundaries. Care was taken using Census data, city records, and data from local associations to divide relevant Census Blocks.

21130(b): Voting Rights Act reports

The City fully complied with the reporting requirements of Section 21130(b). That report is posted to the City's districting project website.

21130(c)(1): Contiguity

All of the districts are contiguous.

21130(c)(2): Minimize divisions of each "local neighborhood or local communities of interest"

Public comment and review of the city's geography identified the importance of the homeowners' associations (HOAs) as neighborhoods. None are divided. In addition, certain areas of special concern were identified as communities of interest throughout the process. North Laguna Hills – the area north of the "neck" that wraps around Laguna Woods – is kept together in District 1. Nellie Gail Ranch and Moulton Ranch are kept whole in District 5.

District 1 is mostly the North Laguna Hills community north of the "neck," including most of the commercial district and redevelopment area around the former El Toro Mall site. There is a block split of the 1,737-person block north of Los Alisos Rd that contains three large apartment complexes. This was done to balance population.

District 2 takes in the neighborhoods along I-5 in the central part of the city, including most of the Mathis Ranch and The Missions planning areas. This area is mostly comprised of single-family homes between the El Toro Mall site, La Paz Road, and Paseo de Valencia. It splits one publicly-identified community of interest in the Castle Park area (Community of Interest Map 1), because of population balancing needs. It does so along major roads (La Paz Rd. and Paseo de Valencia).

District 3 links several higher density communities around Laguna Hills High School and the Laguna Hills Community Center. This includes the Westside Annexation, Aliso Meadows, Lomas Lagunas, and several condominium, townhome, and apartment complexes within walking distance of the High School and Community Center. This district has a substantially higher proportion of residents who rent rather than own.

District 4 contains the lower density communities between Nellie Gail Ranch and the Districts 2 and 3. It includes most of the Aliso Hills planning area other than the high-density communities in District 3. It is mostly composed of single-family, owner-occupied homes. It contains the southern part of the publicly-identified Castle Park community split from District 2 to achieve balanced populations.

District 5 is comprised of Nellie Gail Ranch and Moulton Ranch.

21130(c)(3) does not apply to a city

21130(c)(4): Follow easily identifiable boundaries

The map principally uses Homeowner Associations and major roads between districts. Where it does not, it uses the property lines between multifamily housing projects (as in the District 1 boundary with District 3).

21130(c)(5): Compactness

The map is reasonably compact. District 1, which may appear less than compact, is dictated by the need for contiguity, and the remaining districts are drawn to minimize division of neighborhoods, including Homeowners' Associations.

21130(d): No purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party

The map does not favor or discriminate against any incumbent, political candidate, or political party. Multiple incumbents live in District 5, which would require dividing a neighborhood, Nellie Gail Ranch, to be split.

21130(e): Do not prioritize any criterion over the criteria listed in Section (c) of the statute

The adopted map does not prioritize any criterion over the criteria listed in Section (c) of the statute.