

CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT:

DEVELOPMENTS, COMPLIANCE, AND LITIGATION

2025 Cal Cities Annual Conference



MEET THE PANEL



Douglas Johnson

President, National
Demographics Corporation



Christopher Skinnell

Partner, Nielsen Merksamer



Sheri Damon

City Attorney, City of Seaside



Ryder Smith

President, Tripepi Smith

THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Timeline

2002	Enacted
2006	CA Appeals Court affirms constitutionality
2017	AB350 creates “safe harbor” timeline and \$30,000 payment system AB278 empowers cities to switch without going to the voters

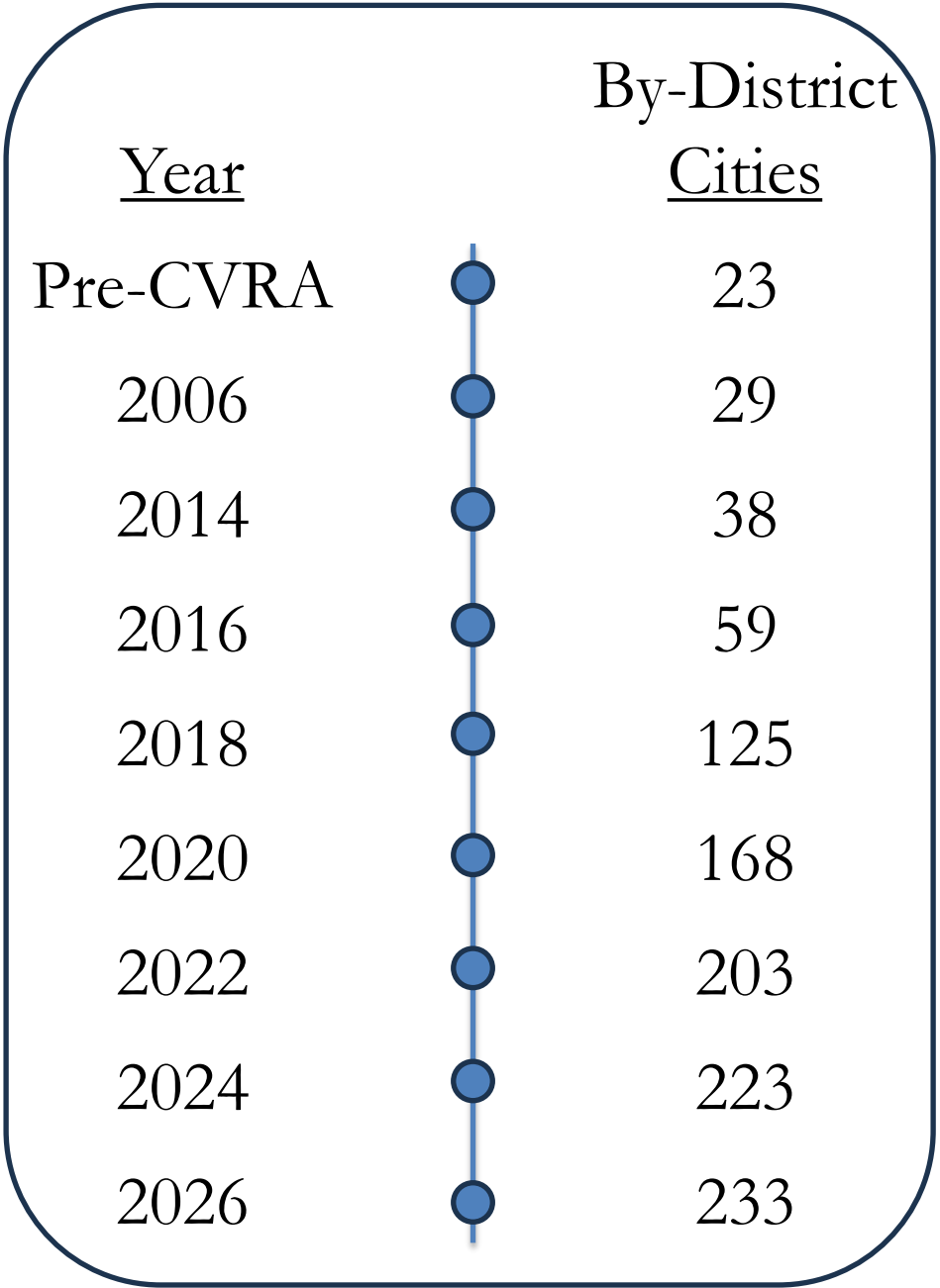
Provisions

Show racially polarized voting &
Show dilution of “protected class”
ability to elect

Remedy: districts or alternative
voting system

Safe Harbor: by-district elections

Transitions



LEGAL CHALLENGES AND PUSHBACK

Early Losses



Ongoing Trial



Upcoming Trials



Looming

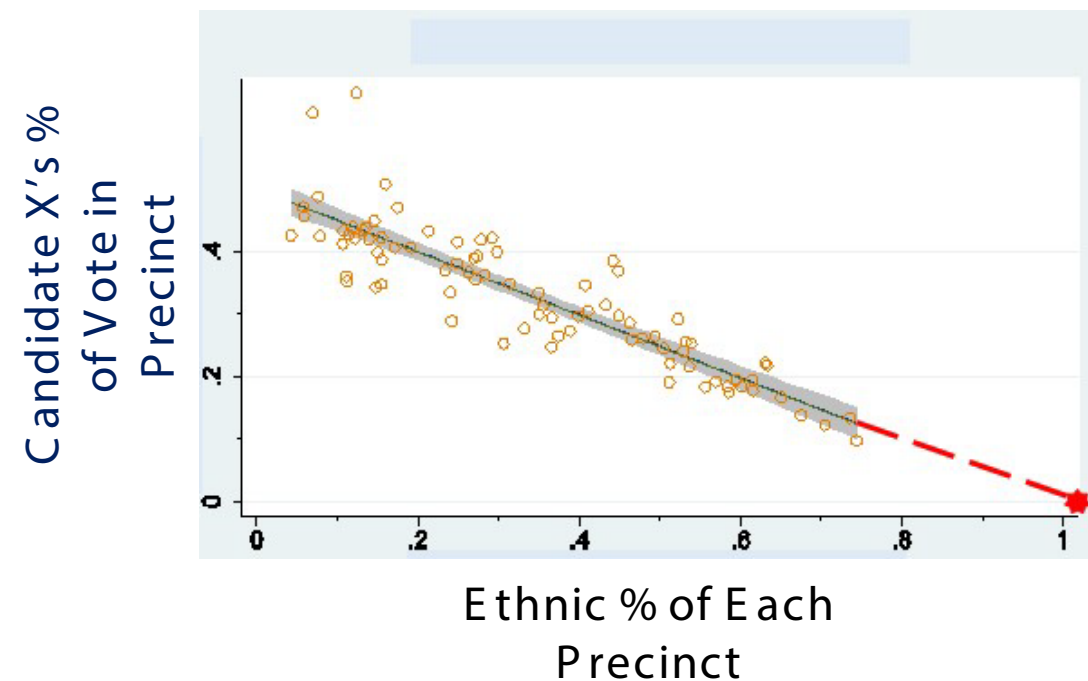
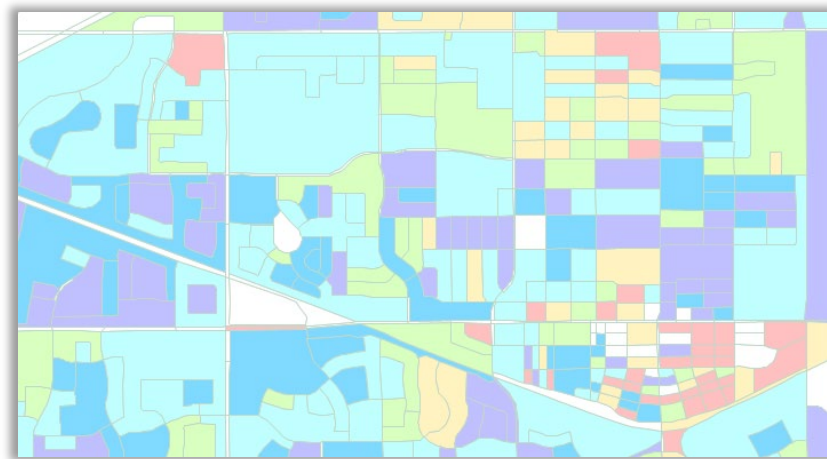


Louisiana v. Callais

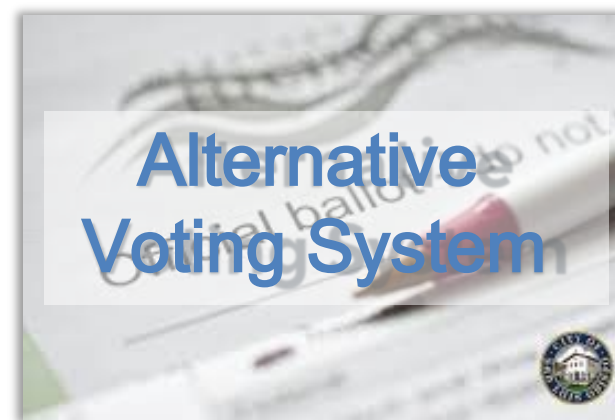
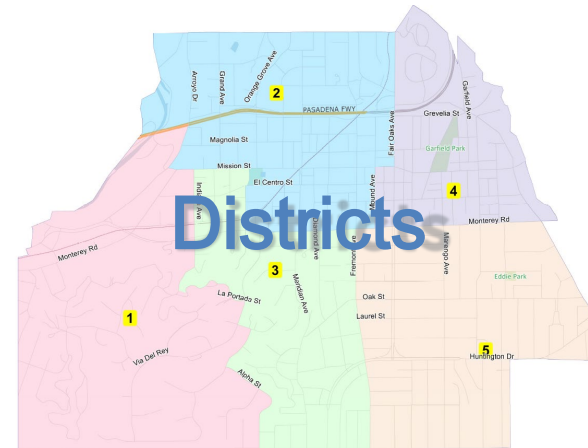


BEST PRACTICES AND LOOKING AHEAD

Study your demographics

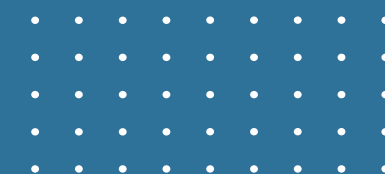


Consider your options



Consider your timing

1. Proactive
2. Wait for letter
3. Prepare to Fight



Q&A

THANK YOU!



Douglas Johnson

djohnson@ndcresearch.com



Christopher Skinnell

cskinnell@nmgovlaw.com



Sheri Damon

sdamon@ci.seaside.ca.us



Ryder Smith

ryder@tripepismith.com