

Redistricting 101



SHOW UP



**Partnership for the
Advancement of
New Americans**

*This presentation was adapted with permission
from materials provided by Common Cause and
the Black Census and Redistricting Hub*

What is redistricting?

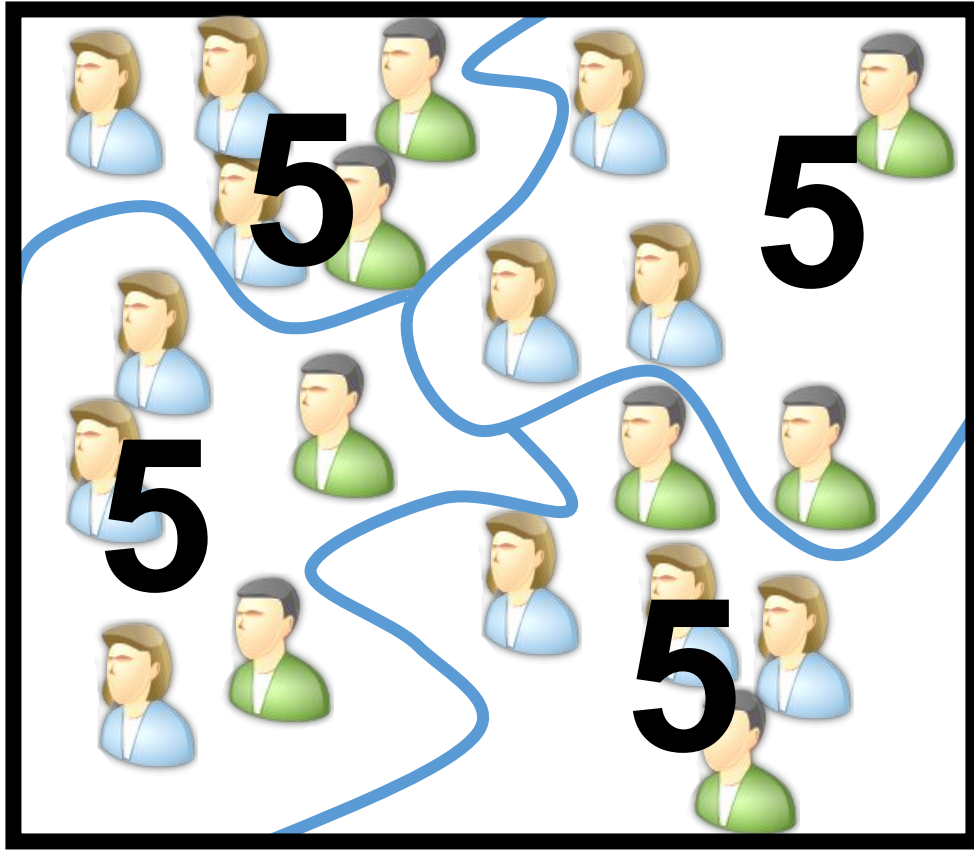
- Redrawing of political district lines to ensure equal representation based on decennial census data
- Affects political districts and political power at the:
 - Federal (congressional districts)
 - State (assembly, senate, and board of equalization districts)
 - Local levels (county supervisorial, *some* city council, *some* school boards, and *some* special districts)





**What is
Redistricting?**

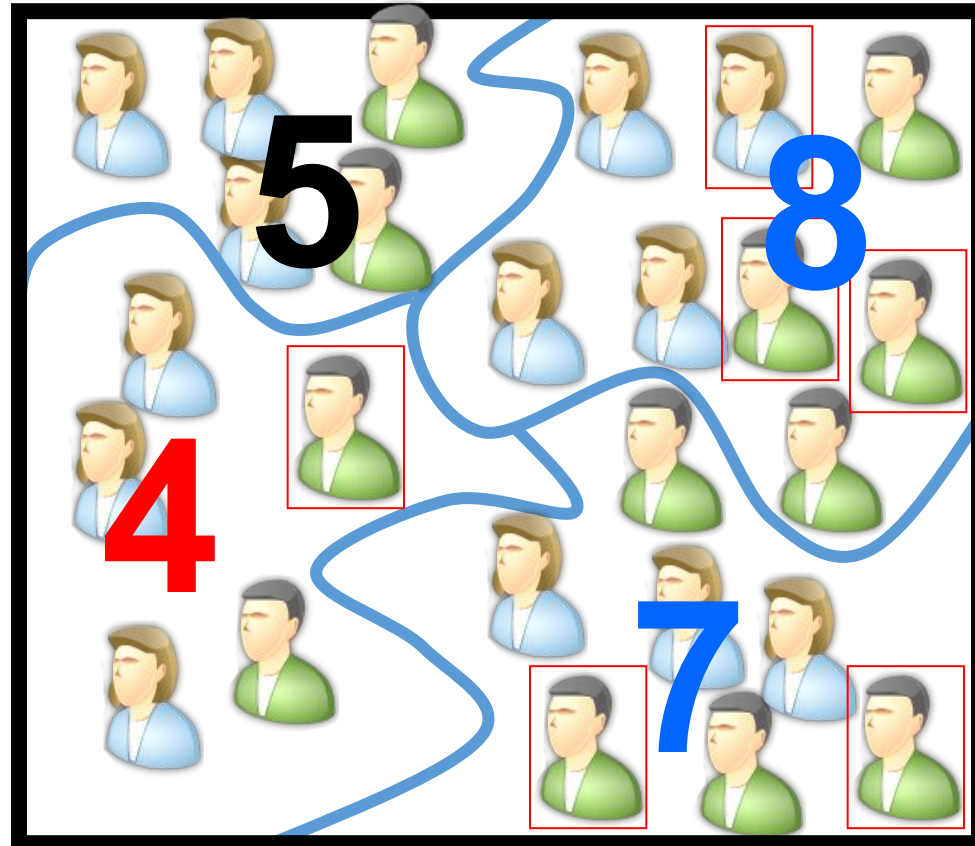
**Each district must have the same
number of residents.**





What is
Redistricting?

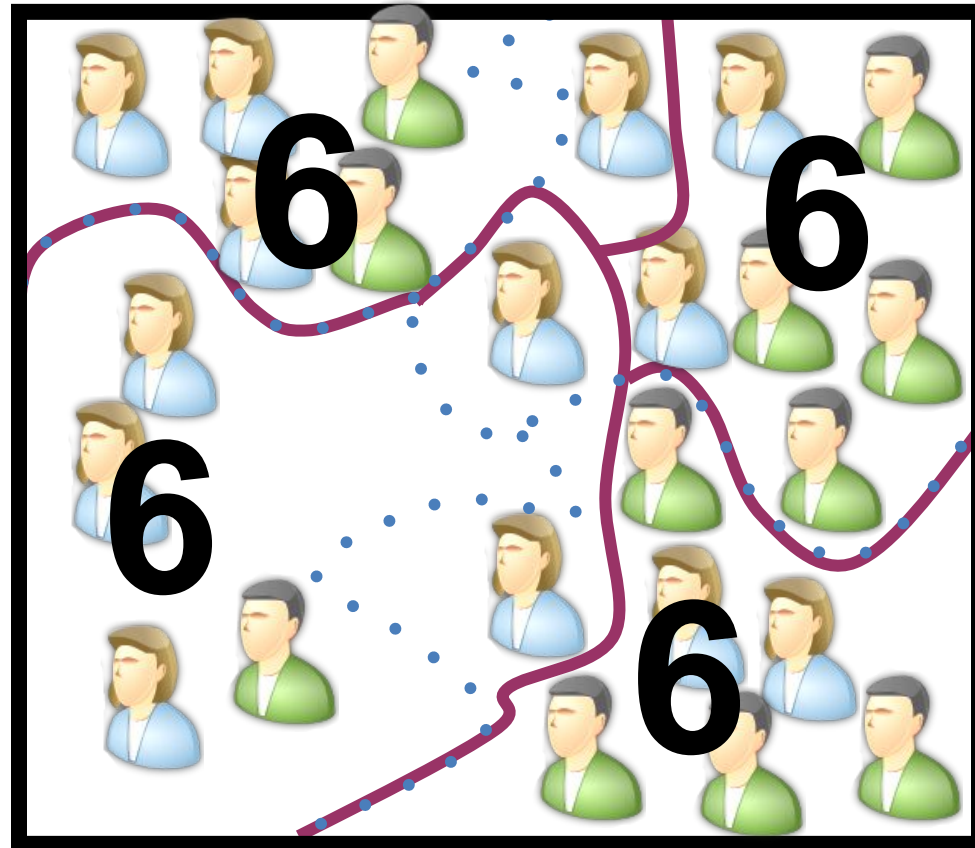
Over time, districts become uneven in size.





**What is
Redistricting?**

Every ten years, the district lines have to be redrawn to make each district even in size again.

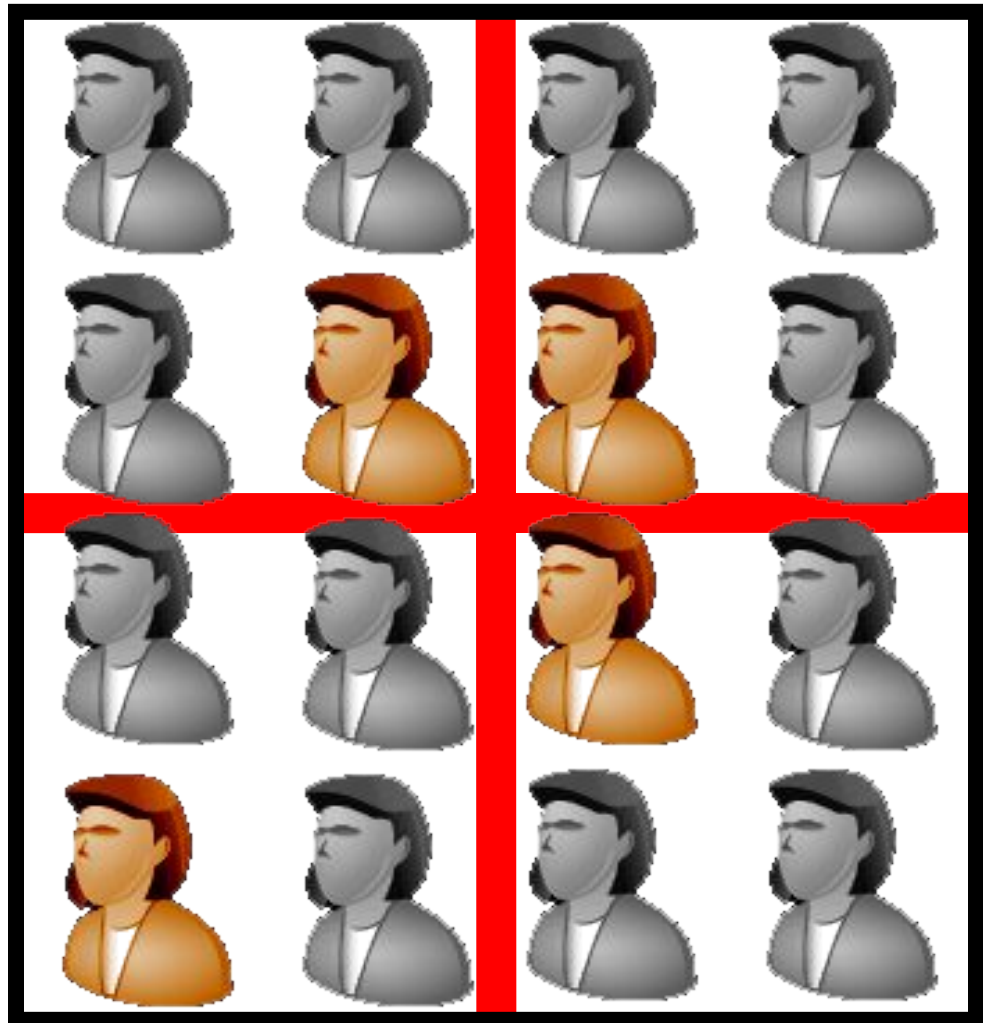




What is Redistricting?

Redistricting can take away minority voting rights.

Minorities make up only $\frac{1}{4}$ in all four districts



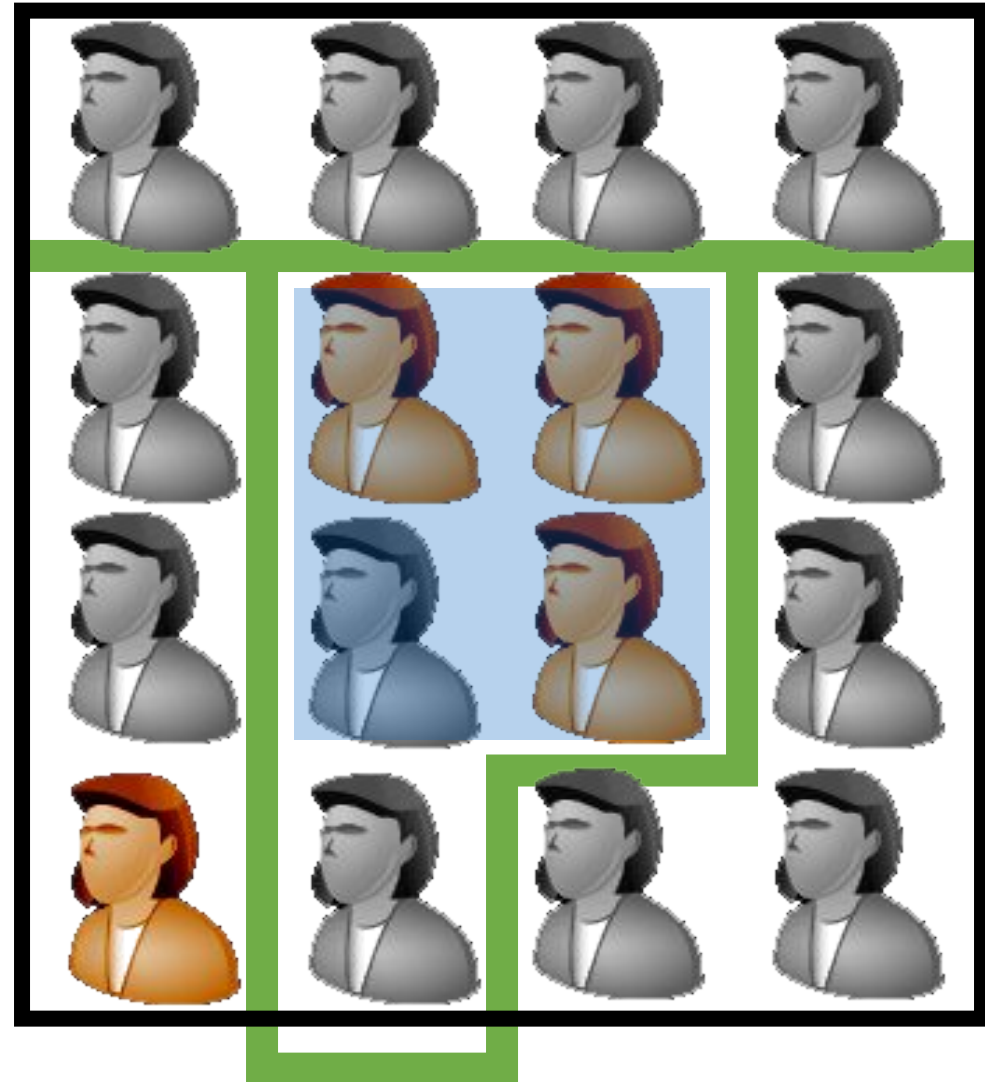


What is Redistricting?

Redistricting can allow the community to elect the candidates of their choice

Minorities make up $\frac{3}{4}$ of this district

If a majority can be drawn, the Voting Rights Act requires it





Guess where this photo is from





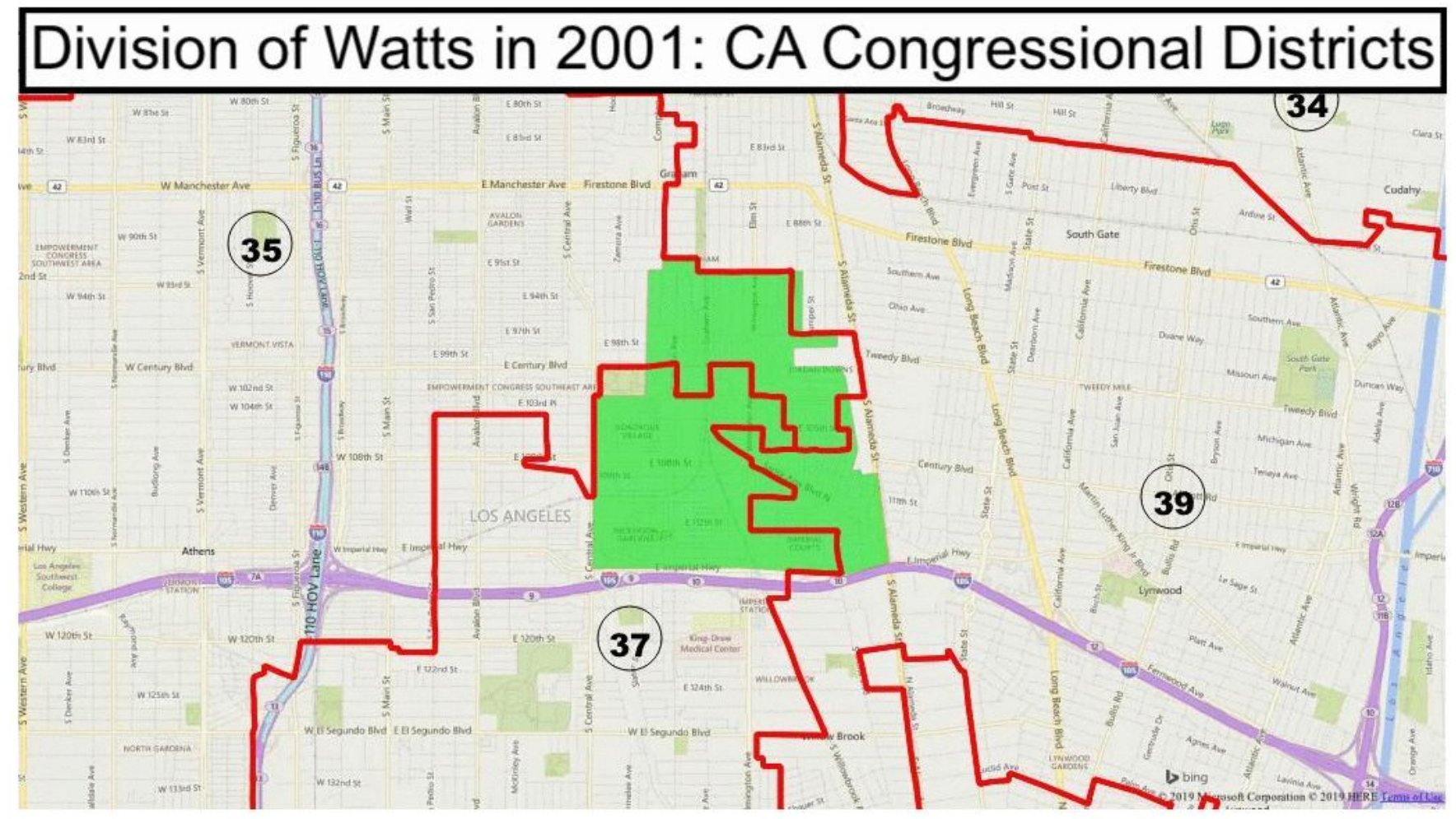
**In a time of need, Watts
was ignored**





Why?
Because the Watts neighborhood was split by district lines.

In 2001, Watts was split by incumbents into 3 districts at the Congressional level.

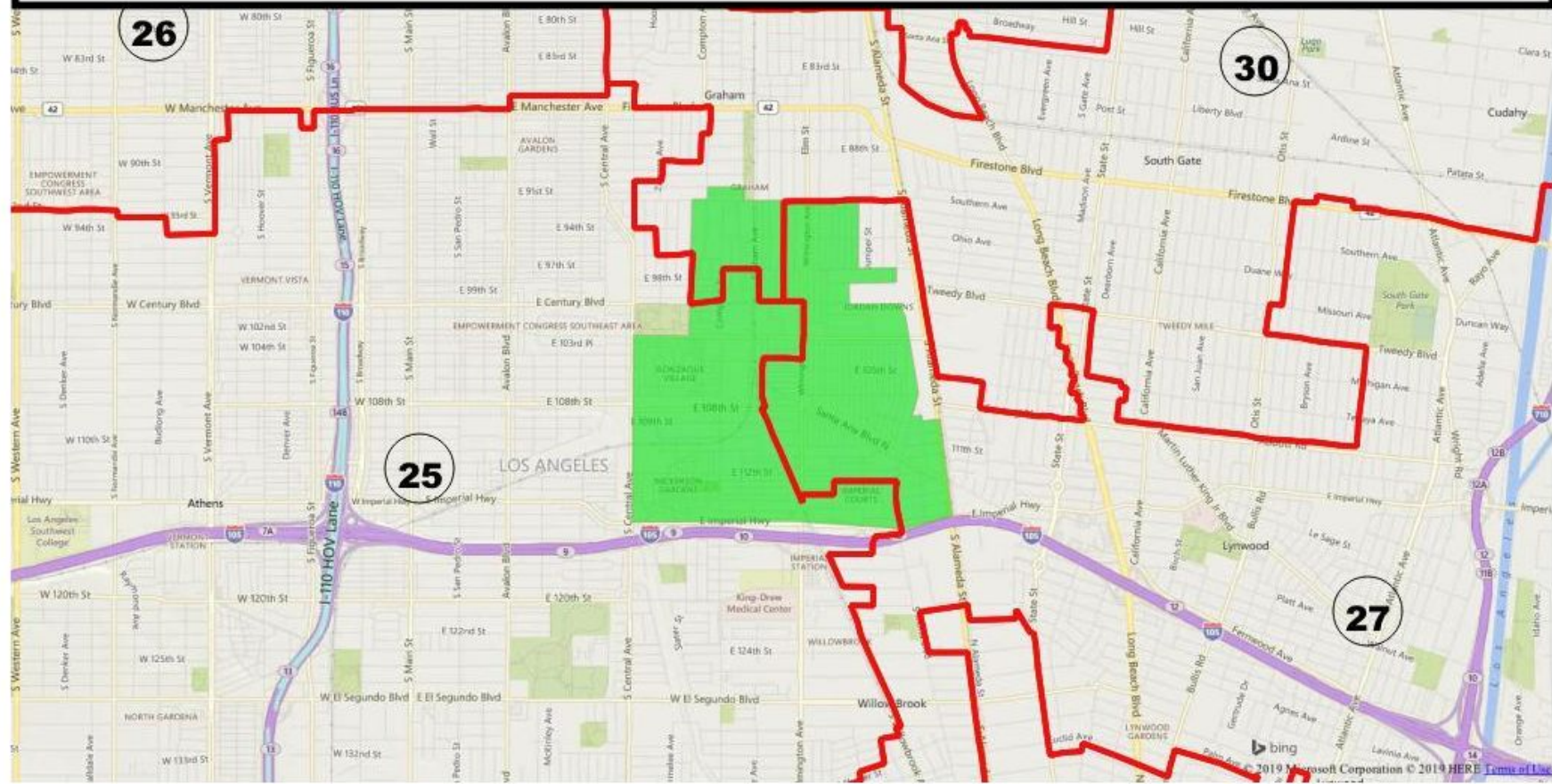




**Why?
Because the Watts
neighborhood was split
by district lines.**

**In 2001, Watts was split
by incumbents into 3
districts at the state
Senate level.**

Division of Watts in 2001: CA State Senate Districts





**Communities'
voices and
needs were
abandoned.**



*“At the time of the 2003 flood, I remember our office trying to be very responsive, but there was a lot of **ping-ponging** of constituents between elected representatives. Residents weren't sure who actually was their member of Congress.*

*Watts is cut into three different Congressional and state Senate districts. Residents who live on the same street may live in different districts. There was a lot of unnecessary **frustration** for constituents during a difficult time.*

This would have never happened if all of Watts belonged to one district.”

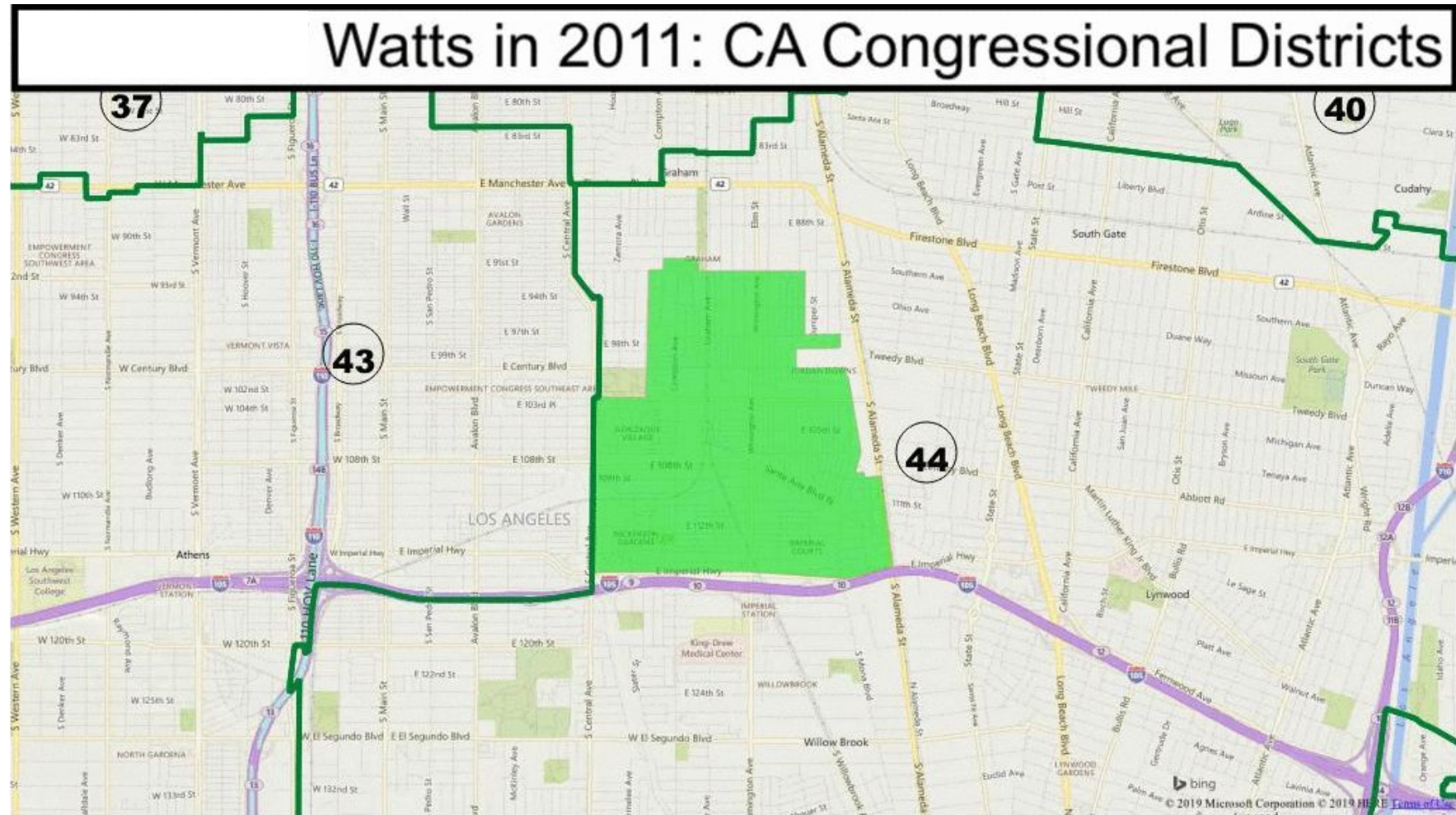
- Romulo Rivera, former Congressional staffer



Redistricting with
community input makes
difference.

After 2011, after leaders
united to testify about
Watts before the CA
Citizens Commission,
Watts was made whole.

Watts in 2011: CA Congressional Districts



Communities of Interest (COI)

What is a COI?

- A community of interest is a neighborhood, community, or group of people who have common policy concerns and would benefit from being maintained in a single district.
 - Examples: renters, shared language, etc.



Why is a COI important?

- Keeping communities of interest together is one of the mandatory criteria for redistricting in California. It can be especially helpful to communities that have been traditionally shut out of the political process.



How Can We Fight for Our Communities?

- Map our communities of interest (COI)
- Coordinate with other organizations to leverage and maximize your power
- Present COI to local and state redistricting bodies
- Participate in communications campaigns to protect your COI





PANA Is Here to Facilitate and Support

Stage 1: Drawing COIs (Mar - May)

- Co-host a virtual workshop OR
- Work with a few leaders to identify COI

Stage 2: Advocacy

- Attend monthly update meetings (May-Dec) OR get email updates
- Submit written and public testimony behalf your community
- Co-host a testimony training for community members
- Write or sign onto letters and op eds, identify people to speak to media