

California Local Government

Counties and Cities



Reminder: California Local Offices are Nonpartisan

- At the local level in California, elections are nonpartisan
 - Counties: Supervisors
 - Cities:
 - City Councils
 - Mayors



Local Government: Cities

- Municipality = city
- Three Main Institutional Differences
 - Charter v. General Law (cities and counties)
 - Mayor-council v. council-manager
 - If mayor-council: Weak mayor v. strong mayor
 - At-large v. district elections

Cities

- Charter City
 - Cities that have a charter (like a constitution) approved by residents
 - Some autonomy to determine how they run the government
 - For example, in government structure and elections
 - “Home rule”
 - Most large cities are charter cities
 - Sacramento is a charter city
- General Law City
 - Regulated by the general laws of the state
 - Majority of California cities are general law
 - 75% (according to Nicolas Heidorn, *California Municipal Democracy Index 2016*, California Common Cause)
 - In practice, latitude from state government, though state could have more control

City Government

- Council-manager
 - Most California cities are this (+90%)
 - Day-to-day management of government is supervised and controlled by city manager
 - Manager is appointed by the city council
 - In most cities, council members select one of the council to be mayor; often the position is rotated among the council
 - In others, the Mayor is elected separately and mayor is on the city council
 - This is the case for Sacramento
- Mayor-Council
 - In some cities, the mayor is not only separately elected but also has powers (like veto, hire/fire city manager, propose the budget = **strong mayor system**; powers vary)
 1. Oakland
 2. San Francisco
 3. Los Angeles
 4. Fresno
 5. San Diego

Sacramento has a

- Council-manager system with a separately elected mayor – the mayor sits on the council and is not a “strong mayor”
 - Sometimes this is referred to as a weak mayor-council system
- Attempts to change this system to strong mayor
 - Strong-mayor measure (to amend charter) defeated
 - Measure L in 2014, 56-44%
 - Measure A in 2020, 57% “No”

Electing City Council Members

- At-large elections
 - Most cities have at-large elections (+80%)
 - All city council candidates run for office in the entire city
 - Most have 5-member city councils
 - Pro: city council members represent the entire city and qualified candidates are not restricted from running for office based on where they live
 - Con: some areas of the city may not be represented
- District Elections
 - The city is divided into districts, and one city council member is elected from each district
 - Residents elect someone who lives in their area and knows their concerns
 - Changing to **district** elections has increased diversity on city councils
 - Decreased cost of running for office

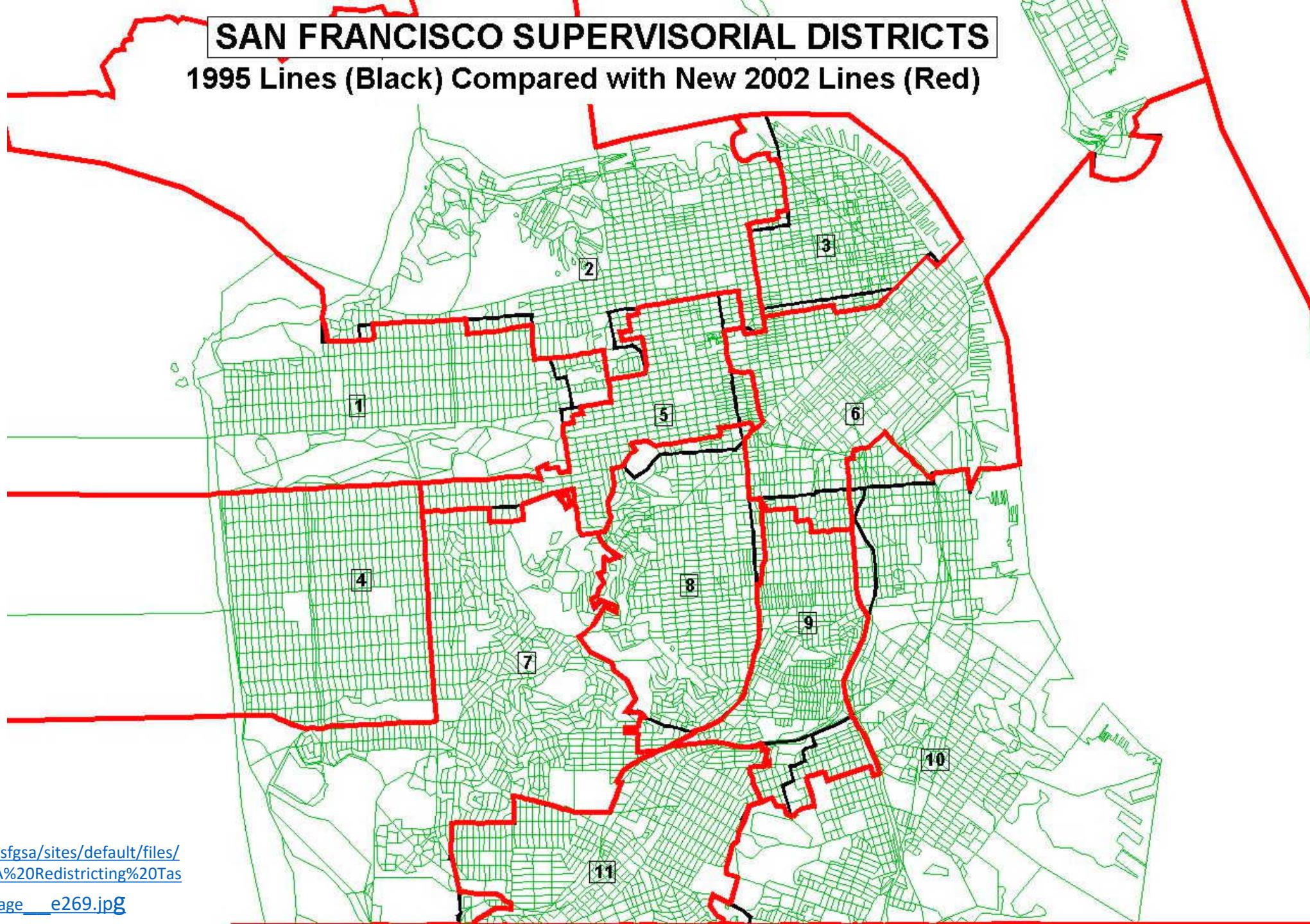
Examples of City Government

San Francisco is Unique

- San Francisco is unique County-City government (11 members + mayor)

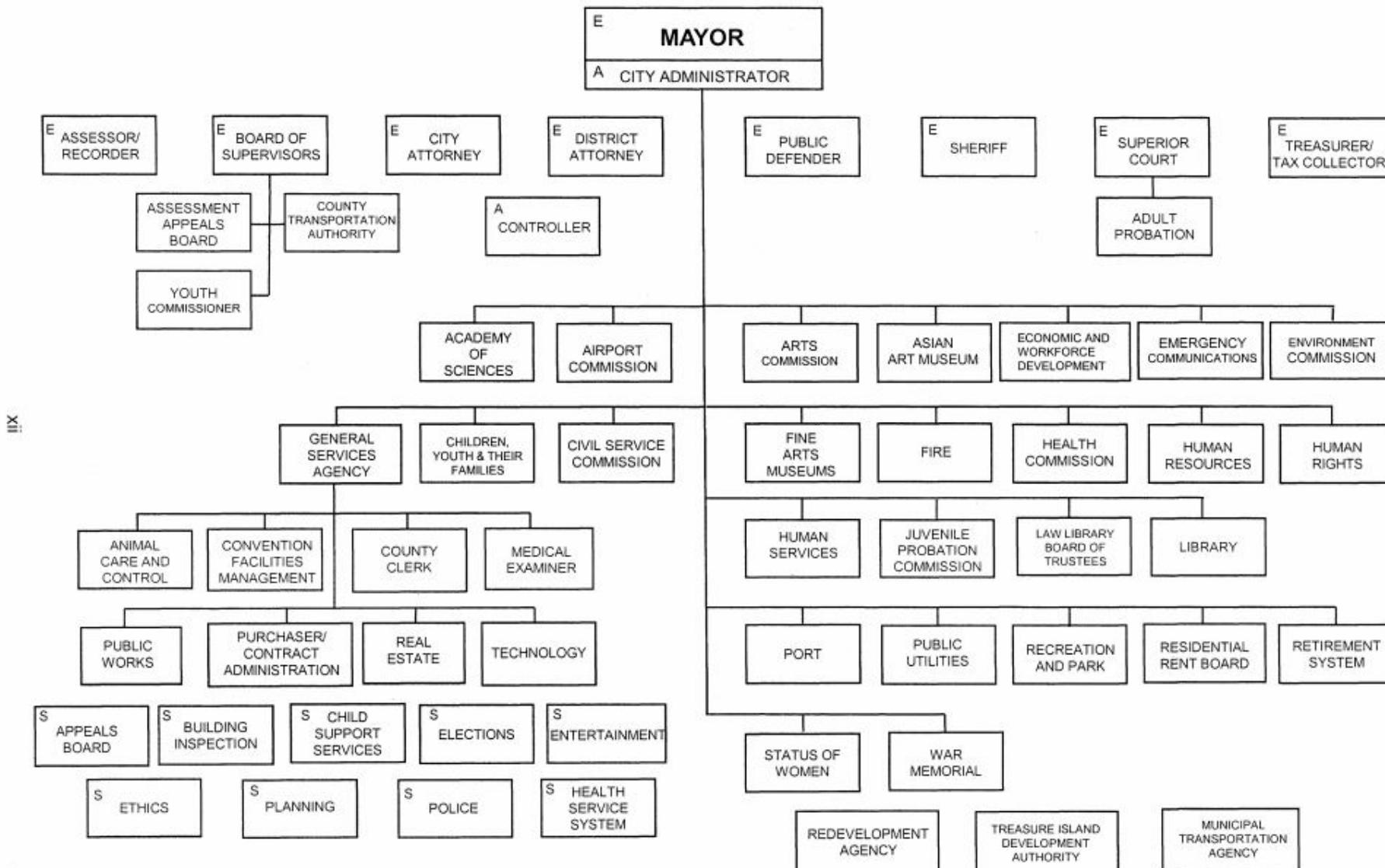
SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS

1995 Lines (Black) Compared with New 2002 Lines (Red)



City and County of San Francisco Organization Chart

(As of June 30, 2010)



A = Appointed by Mayor and confirmed by Board of Supervisors / E = Elected / S = Shared – appointed by various elected officials.

Sacramento City Council

Alan Warren
lost re-election
to Sean Loloee

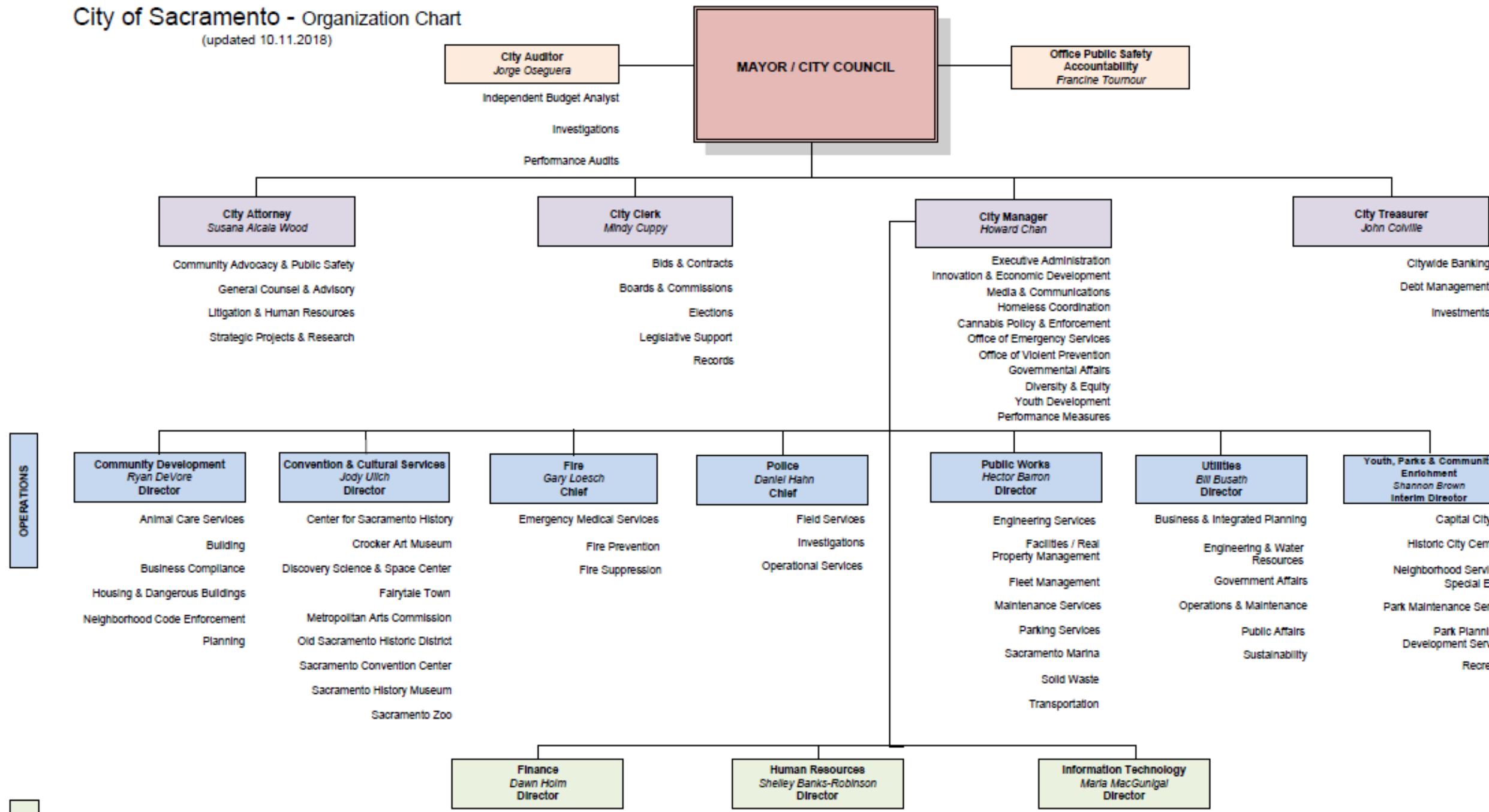
Steve Hansen lost
primary election to
Katie Valenzuela

Larry Carr retired;
Mai Vang won
election to replace
him



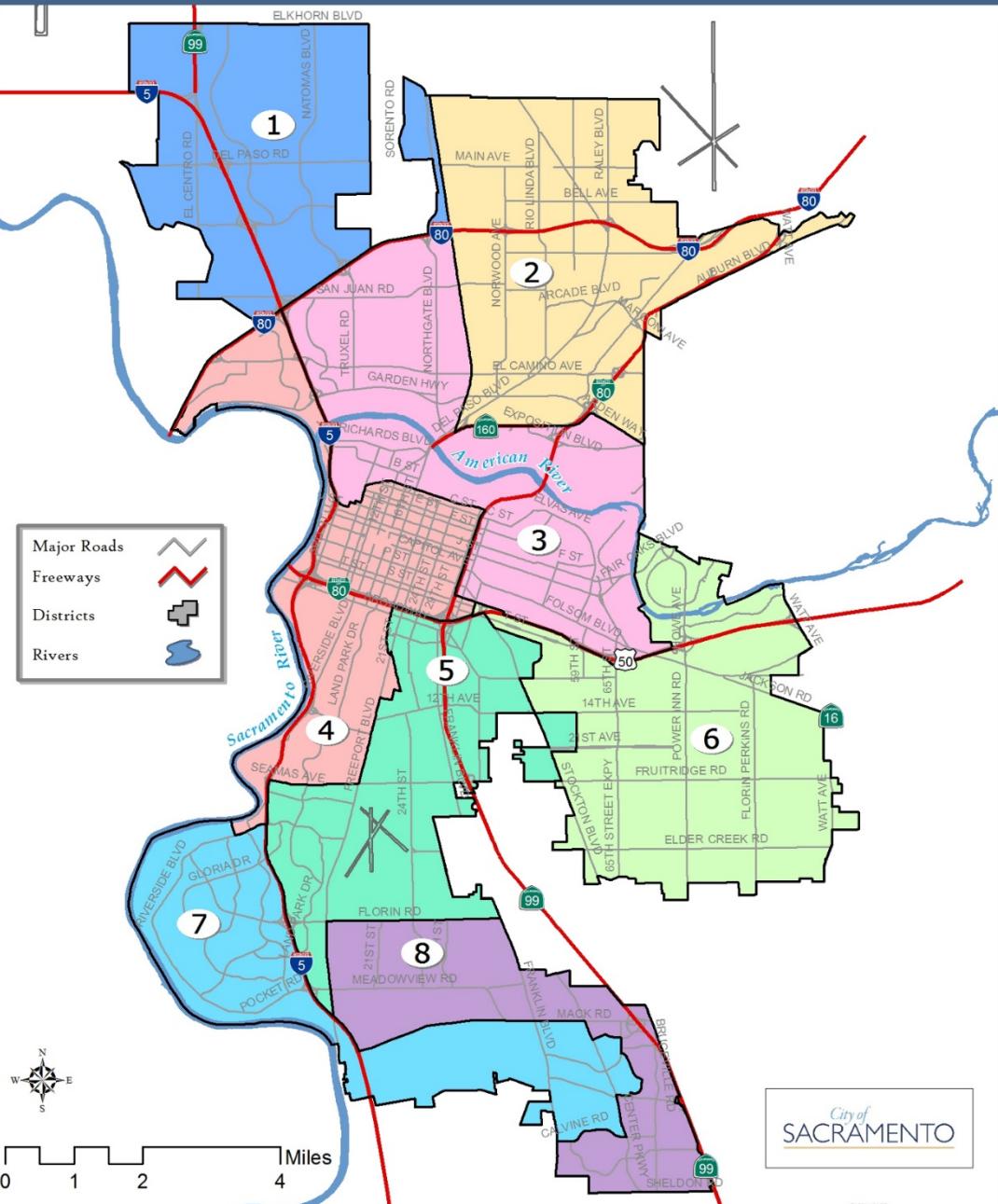
City of Sacramento - Organization Chart

(updated 10.11.2018)





Council Districts



The city of Sacramento

MAYOR & COUNCIL

Darrell Steinberg - Mayor

Vice Mayor Eric Guerra (District 6)

District 1 - Angelique Ashby

District 2 - Allen Warren

District 3 - Jeff Harris

District 4 - Steve Hansen

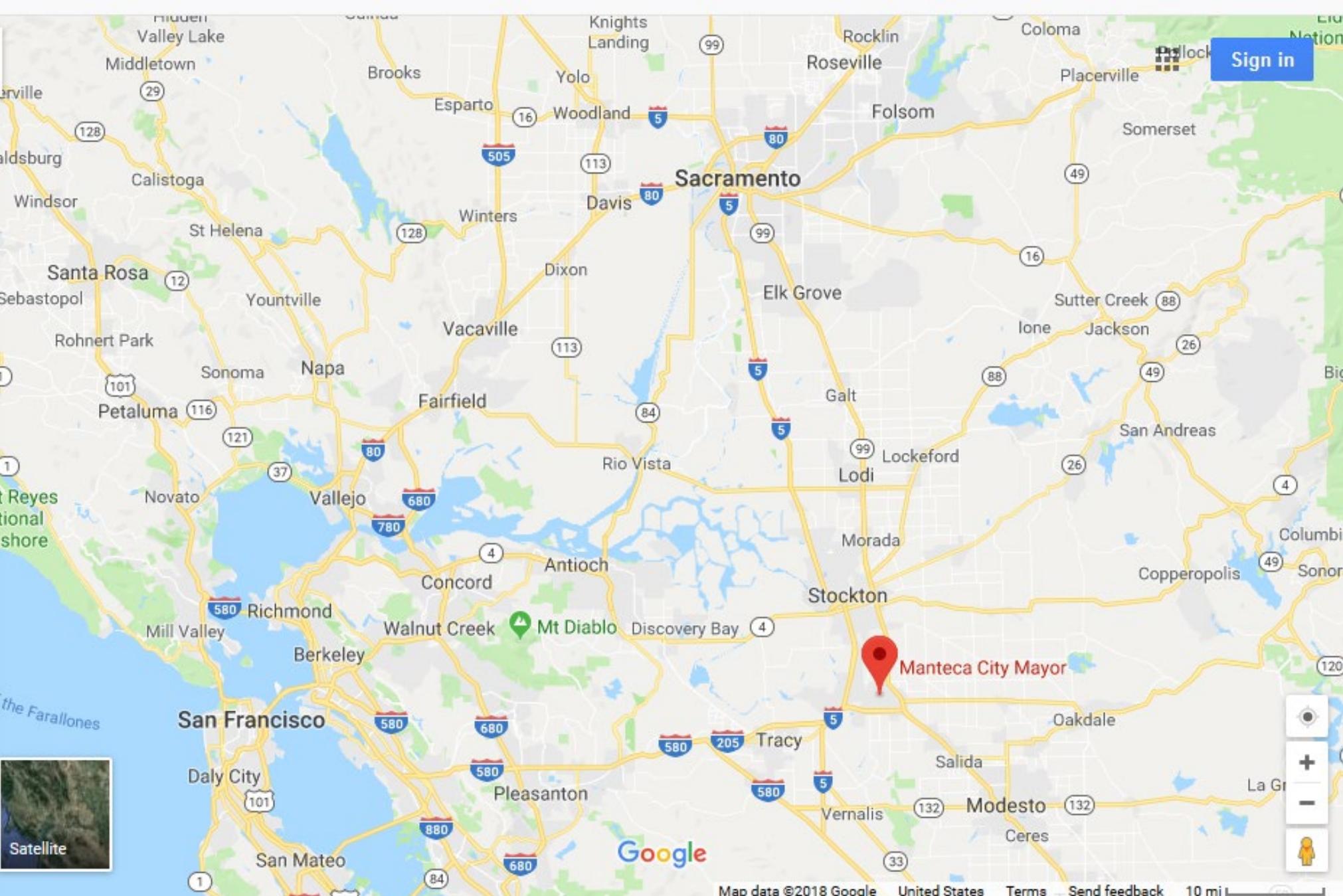
District 5 - Jay Schenirer

District 7 - Rick Jennings, II

District 8 - Larry Carr

<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Mayor-Council>

Sign in



Manteca City Council



Benjamin J. Cantu - Mayor

David Breitenbacher - Vice Mayor

Debby Moorhead - Councilmember

Jose Nuño - Councilmember

Gary Singh - Councilmember



Mayor And City Council



Benjamin J.
Cantu
Mayor



David
Breitenbacher
Vice Mayor



Debby
Moorhead
Councilmembe
r



Gary Singh
Councilmembe
r



Jose Nuño
Councilmembe
r

City Council Goals



CITY OF

MANTECA

California

THE FAMILY CITY

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[Mayor and City Council](#)

[Stephen 'Steve' DeBrum](#)

[Debby Moorhead](#)

[Mike Morowit](#)

[Rich Silverman](#)

[Gary Singh](#)



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The five-member City Council consists of a Mayor and four City Councilmembers all directly elected at-large. The City Council governs the City of Manteca, setting policy and adopting laws and regulations concerning municipal affairs, subject only to limitation and restrictions of the state constitution. The City Council meets formally twice each month on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1001 W. Center Street, Manteca.



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Government

Council-Manager Framework

The City of San José operates under a [council-manager governance structure](#). This system combines the policy leadership of elected officials on the City Council with the managerial expertise of an appointed city manager.



Mayor and City Council

The San Jose City Council is the legislative body that represents the community and is empowered by the [City Charter](#) to formulate citywide policy, adopt laws/ordinances, and approve budgets. The City Council is composed of the Mayor, who is elected by the community at large and serves as the Council chair, and ten councilmembers who are elected by voters in districts.

Under the City Charter, the Mayor is responsible for recommending policy, program, and budget priorities to the City Council, which in turn approves policy direction for the City. The City Charter limits the Mayor and Councilmembers from serving more than two consecutive terms in those offices.

Council Appointees

The City Council appoints five individuals to manage the City organization and support the City Council for effective governance. These appointees include the City Manager,

Related Links

[**•City Initiatives**](#)[**•Awards**](#)[**•Guide to Government**](#)[**•State of California**](#)[**View All**](#)

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=105>

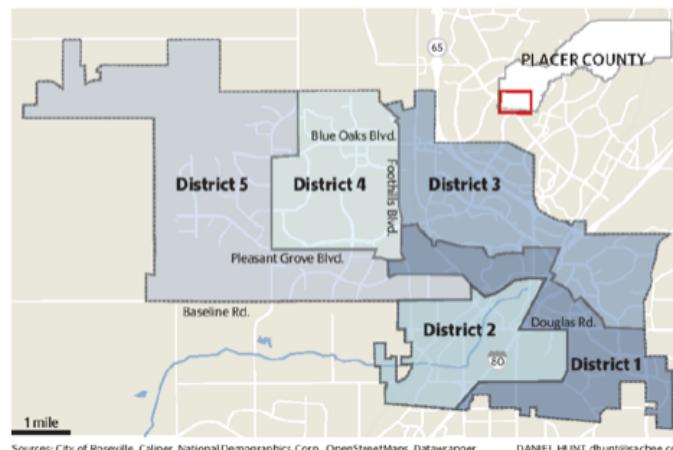
accessed June 30, 2019

A⁻ A⁺

Roseville district map protects current council

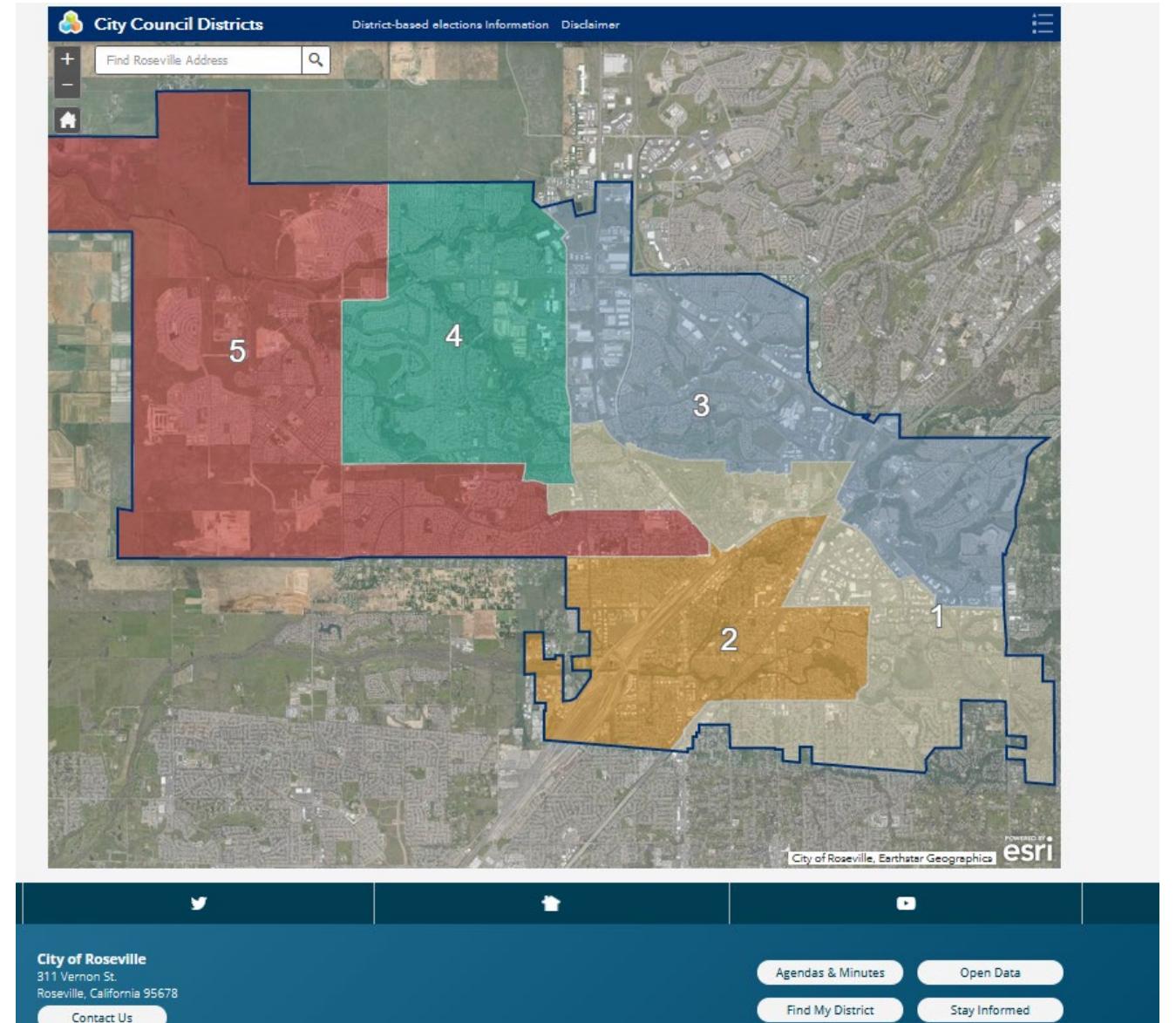
Approved districts in Roseville

Last month, the Roseville City Council approved boundaries as it switched to district elections in 2020 from at-large voting. Under this map, each of the current council members resides in a separate district for November elections.



BY ALEXANDRA YOON-HENDRICKS

Roseville Districts



County Government

Not everyone in California lives in a city, but everyone lives in a county

CALIFORNIA

CIRCA 1850



CALIFORNIA

CIRCA 1860



CALIFORNIA

CIRCA 1870



CALIFORNIA

CIRCA 1880

- 1850: ORIGINAL COUNTIES
- 1851 – 52: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1853 – 55: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1856 – 60: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1861 – 70: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1871 – 80: COUNTIES CREATED



CALIFORNIA

CIRCA 1900



CALIFORNIA

CIRCA 1907 PRESENT

- 1850: ORIGINAL COUNTIES
- 1851–52: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1853–55: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1856–60: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1861–70: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1871–80: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1881–1900: COUNTIES CREATED
- 1907: COUNTY CREATED



Current California Counties



Counties are run by an elected Board of Supervisors

- Board of Supervisors
 - 5 Supervisors
 - Non-partisan elections
 - San Francisco is unique County-City government (11 members + mayor)



Board of Supervisors

COUNTY
OF
LAKE

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1,000 Hands

Welcome to the County of Lake Board of Supervisors Page. If you are unsure which District you live in, visit our [Supervisorial Districts](#) page, and enter your home address in the search bar at the upper right.



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Contact Us

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Supervisors

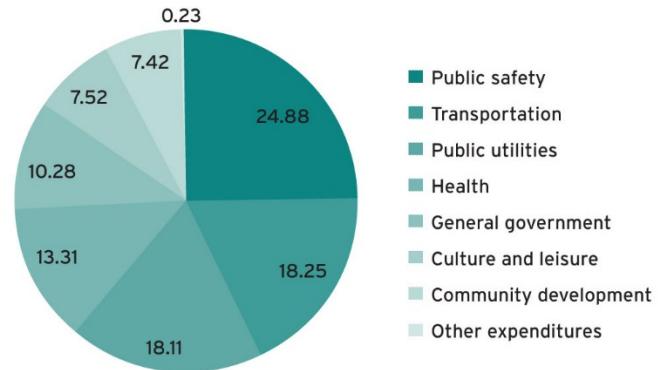
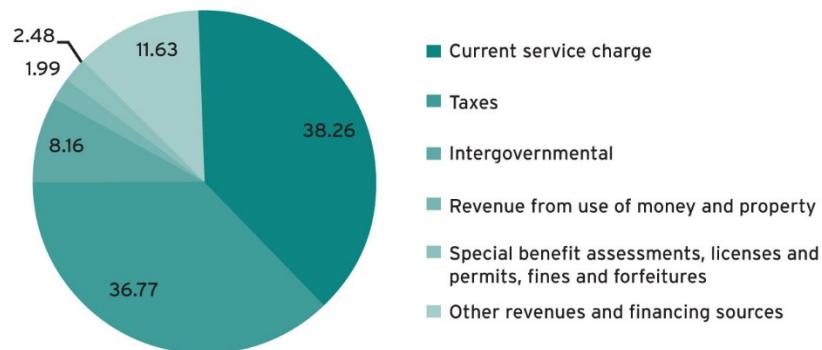
[District 1, Moke Simon](#)
[District 2, Bruno Sabatier](#)
[District 3, Eddie "EJ" Crandell](#)
[District 4, Tina Scott](#)
[District 5, Rob Brown](#)

Local Finances



FIGURE 9.4 ● California City Revenues and Expenditures, Fiscal Year 2015-16

In Fiscal Year 2015-16, California's 482 cities brought in \$78.02 billion in revenues and spent \$74.28 billion.



SOURCE: California State Controller's Office, <https://cities.bynumbers.sco.ca.gov>, accessed 8/23/18.