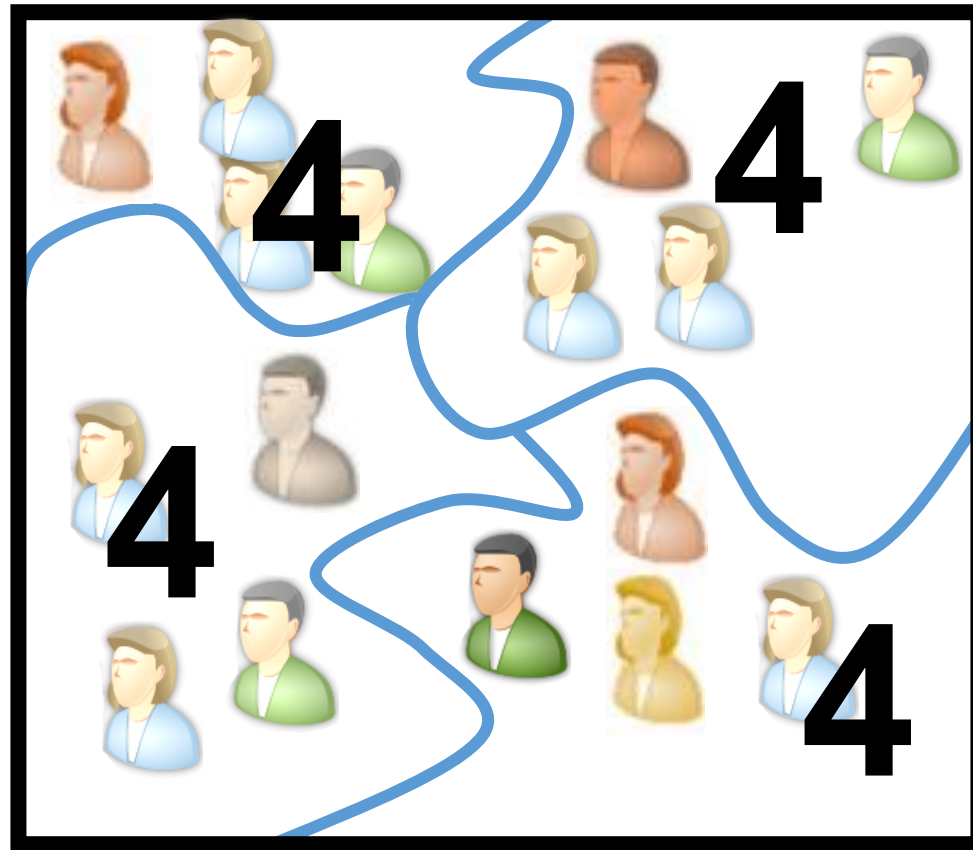




# Common Cause

*Holding Power Accountable*

**Redistricting** is when we redraw districts so each has the same number of residents.

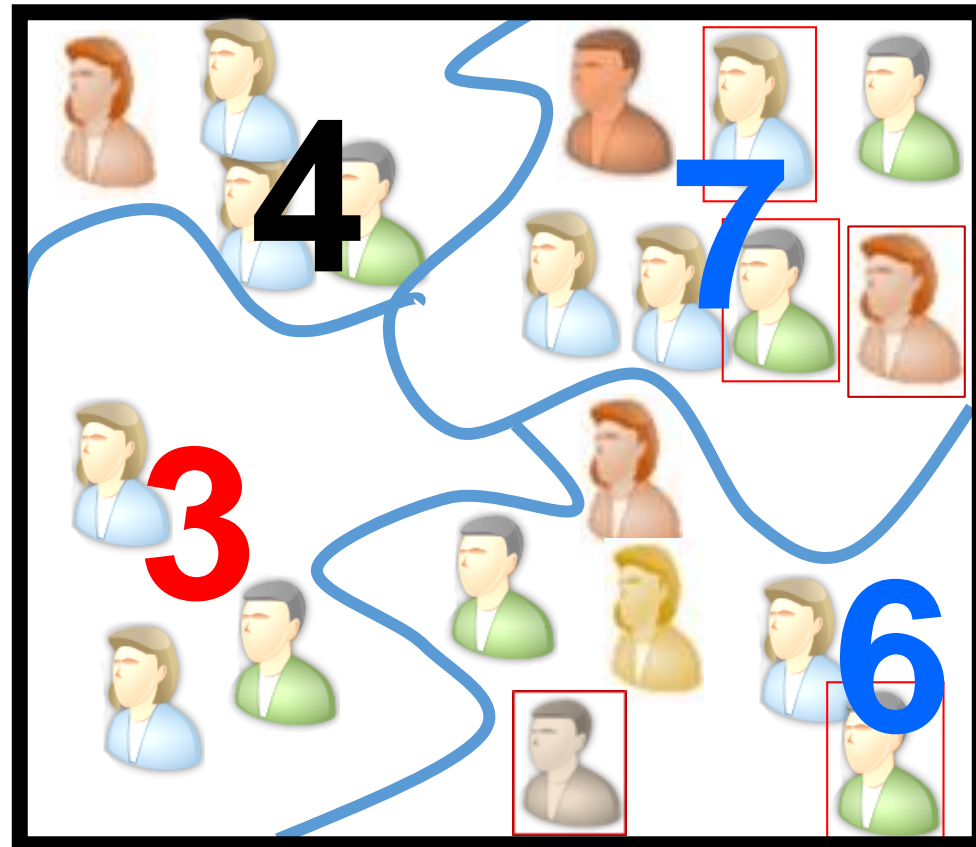


What is  
Redistricting?



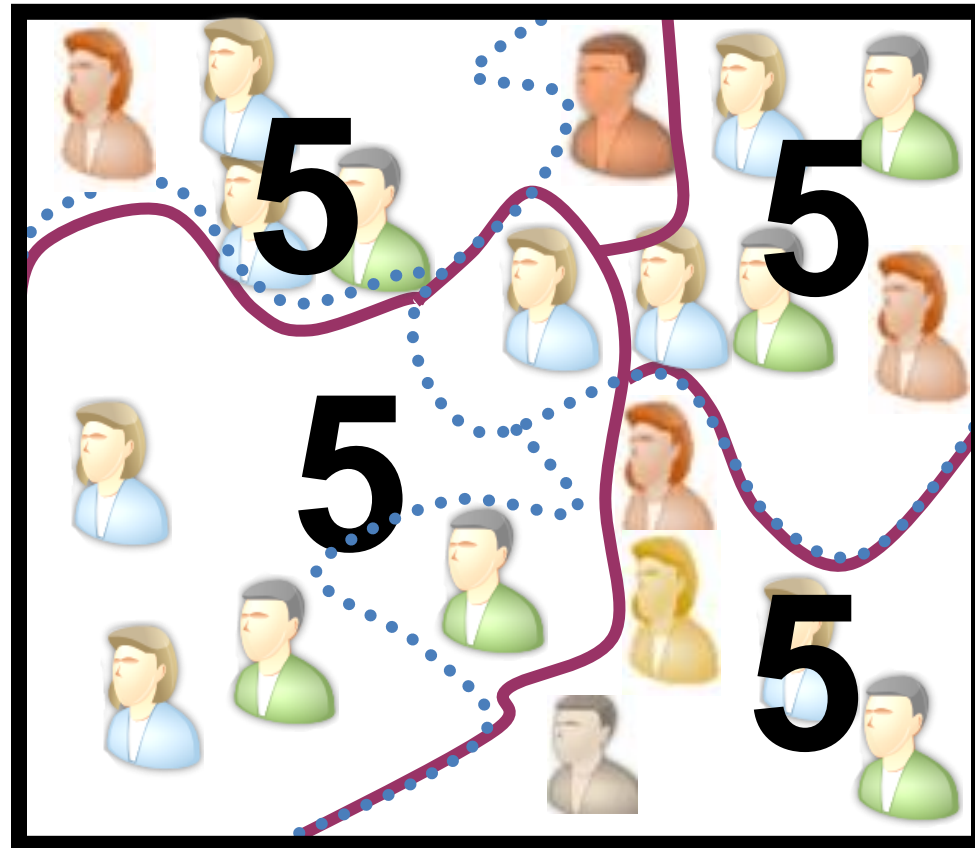
Over time, districts become uneven in population.

What is  
Redistricting?



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

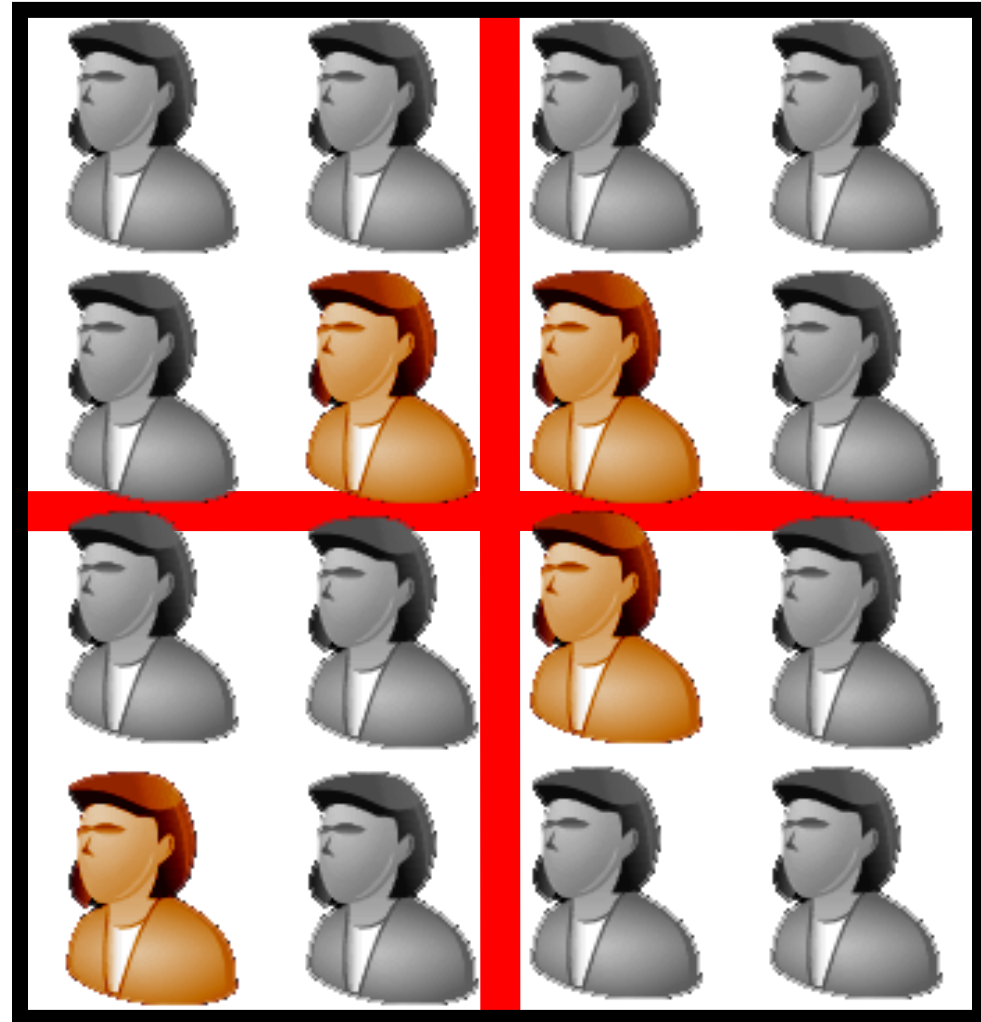
What is  
Redistricting?



The way the lines are drawn can be used to take away **minority voting rights**.

Why does  
Redistricting  
Matter?

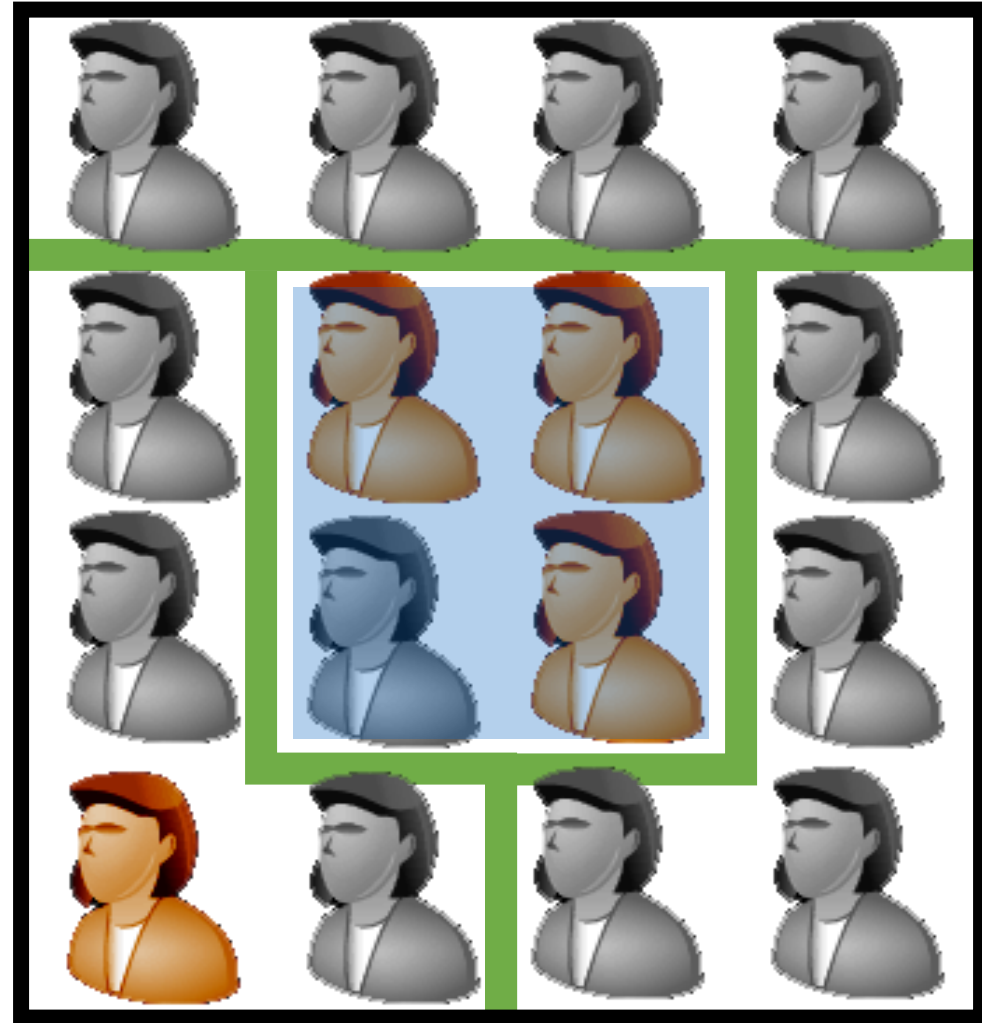
Minorities  
make up  
only  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  in all  
four  
districts



When people organize, we can elect candidates of our **community's choice**.

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

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



Why does  
Redistricting  
Matter?





# California's Redistricting Story





HEY, MR.  
GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIAL, WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
UNDER THERE?

TRUST ME.  
YOU DON'T NEED  
TO KNOW.

THE  
PUBLIC

CLOAK  
*of*  
SECRECY







What are the real life impacts  
of gerrymanders?

Take a  
guess where  
this picture is  
from





In a time of  
need, Watts  
was ignored.



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

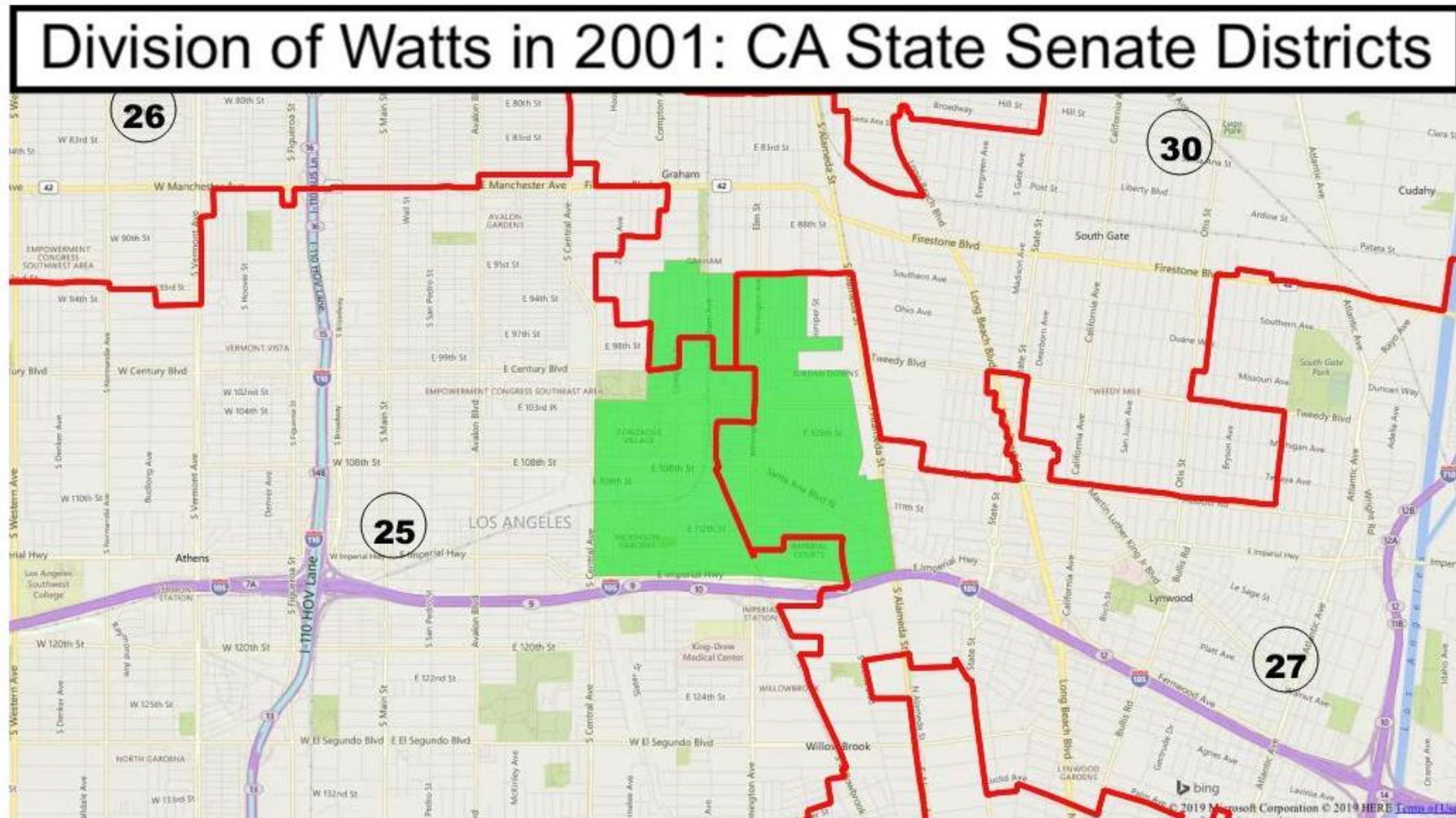
## Division of Watts in 2001: CA Congressional Districts



Why? Because the Watts neighborhood was split by district lines



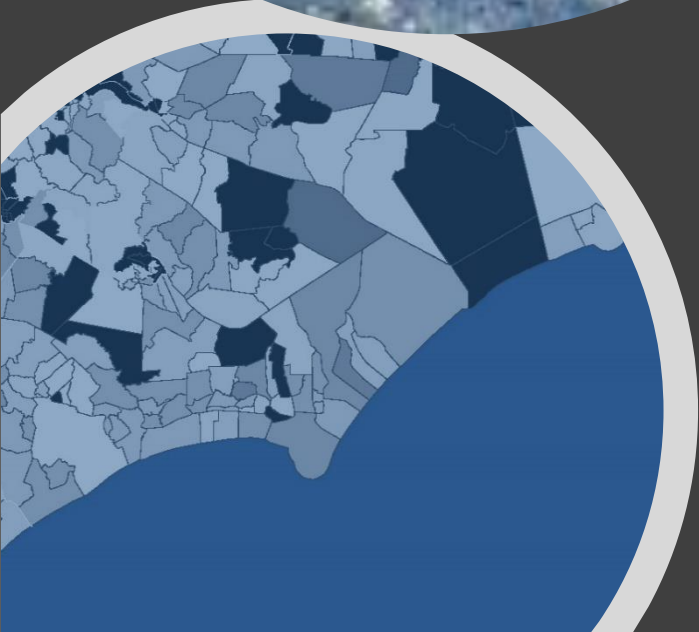
In 2001, Watts was split by incumbents into 3 districts at the state Senate level.



Why? Because the Watts neighborhood was split by district lines



**Because of  
redistricting,  
community 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.*

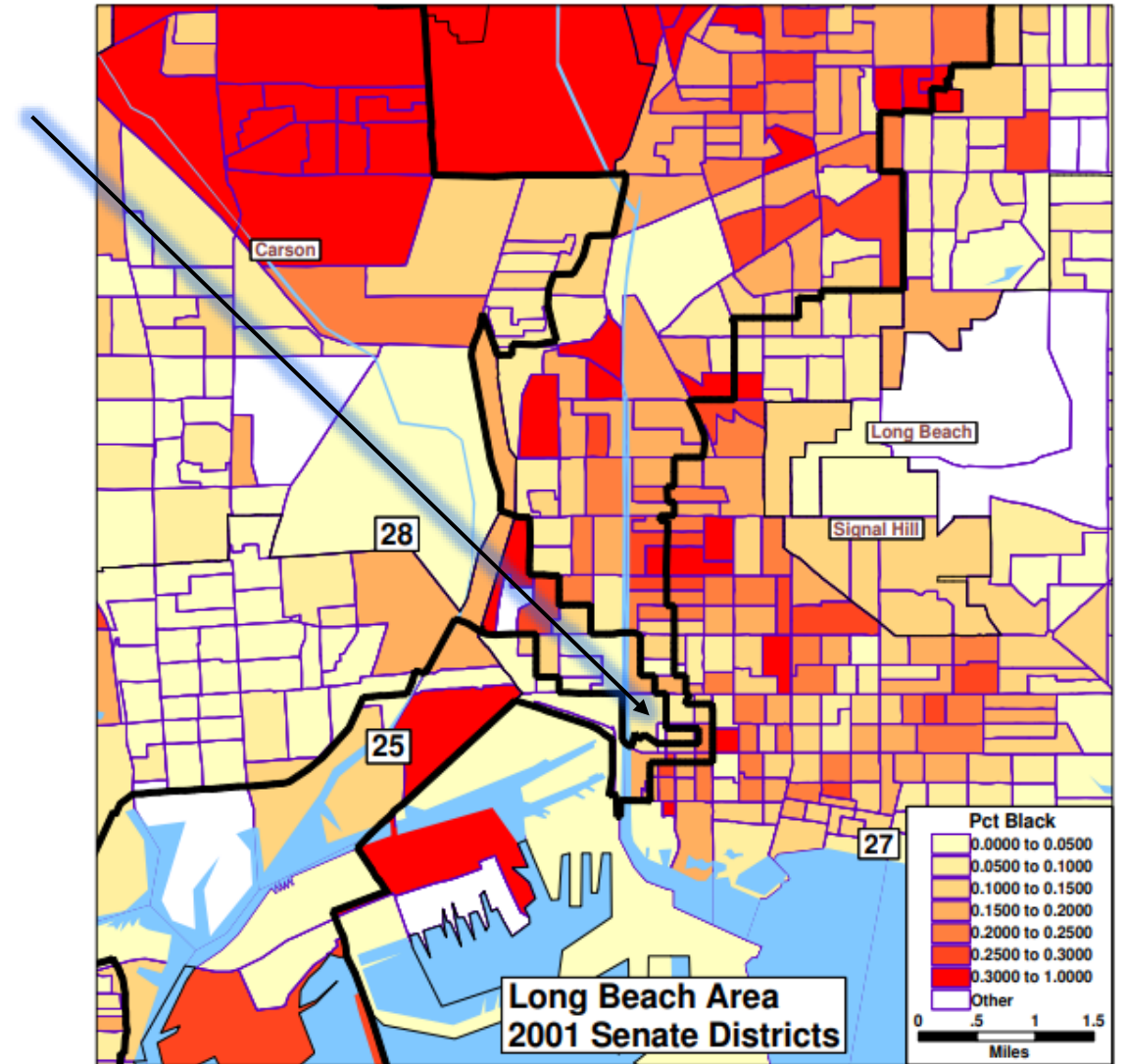
***This would have never happened if all of Watts belonged to one district."***

- Romulo Rivera, former Congressional staffer



In 2001, the  
Legislature gave  
Long Beach the  
“boot.”

In 2001,  
incumbent  
protection  
trumped cities  
and minority  
communities.



In 2008, an unusual coalition of people from left, right and center pushed for Prop 11's redistricting reform.





# CA's Citizen Redistricting Commission

**CITIZEN  
EMPOWERMENT**



# CA's Citizen Redistricting Commission

## PUBLIC ACCESS

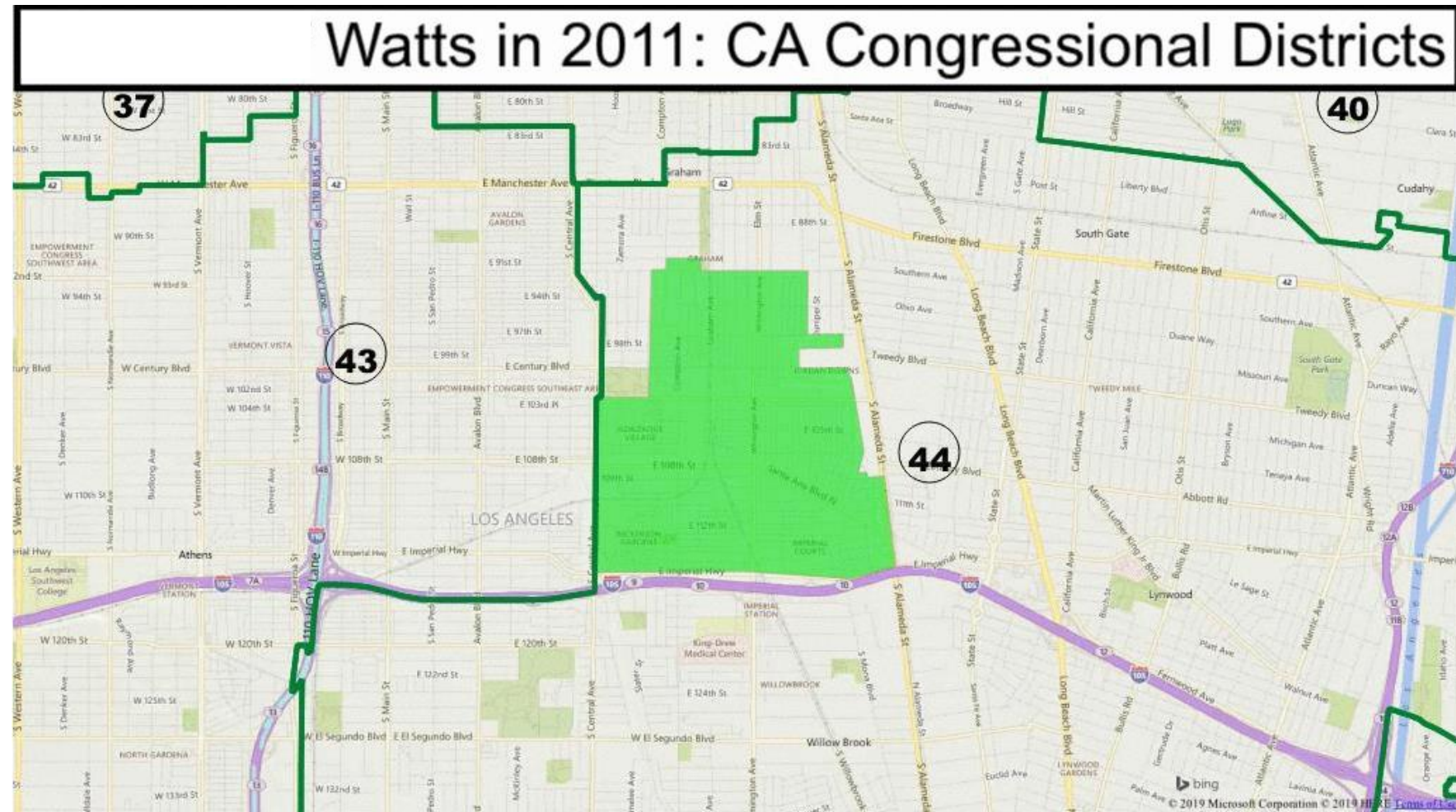


In all, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

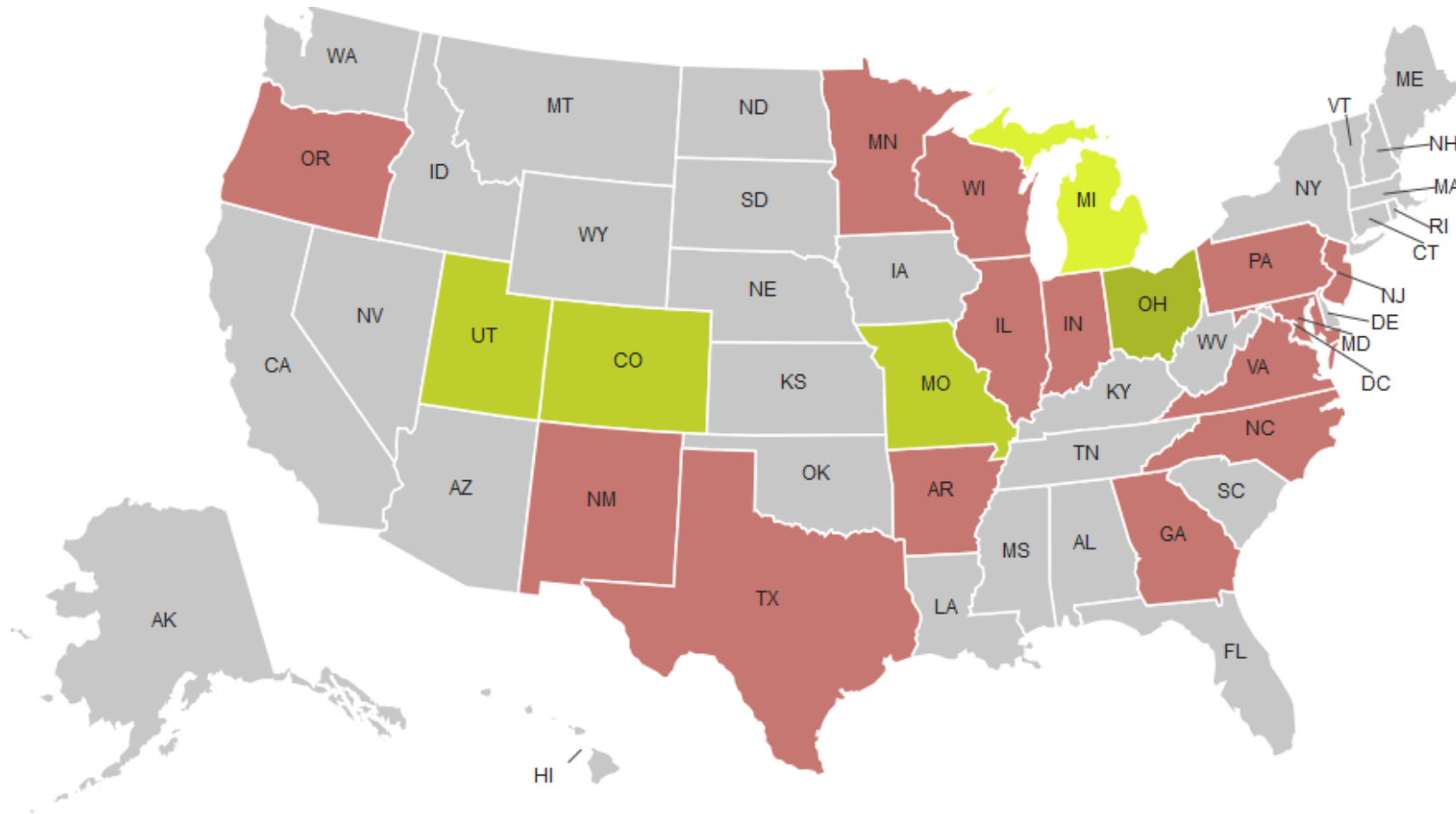
- Held over 100 public meetings
- Met in 32 cities over an eight month period.
- Received input from over 20,000 members of the public



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



# CA sparked a Redistricting Revolution



**5 states adopted  
Redistricting Reforms in  
2018**

- **Ohio**
- **Michigan**
- **Missouri**
- **Colorado**
- **Utah**



# CA sparked a Redistricting Revolution

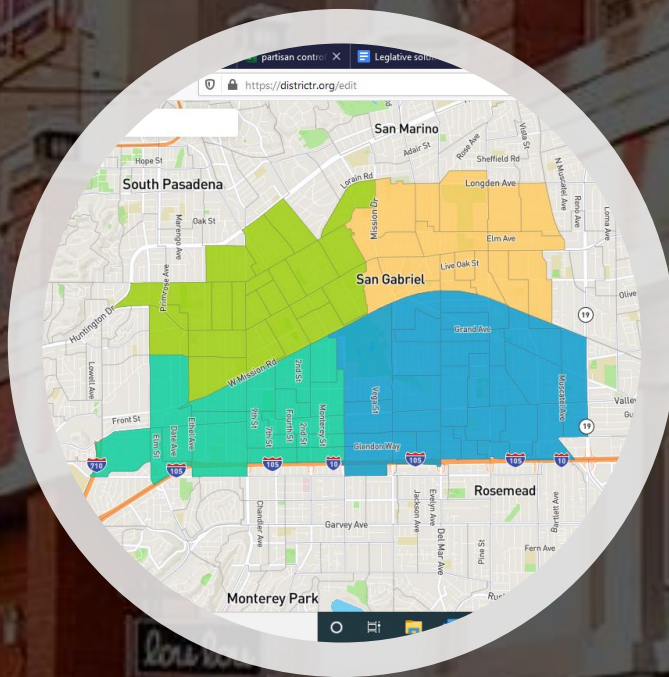


**California cities and counties also moved to independent commissions:**

- Berkeley
- Chula Vista
- Escondido
- Oakland
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles County
- Roseville
- Sacramento
- San Diego City
- San Diego County
- Santa Barbara County







# How can you help communities participate?

## Listen to the stories of Long Beach communities

- Explain how to give input
- Organize community-centered redistricting workshops
- Adopt a free mapping software platform like Districtr.org for input

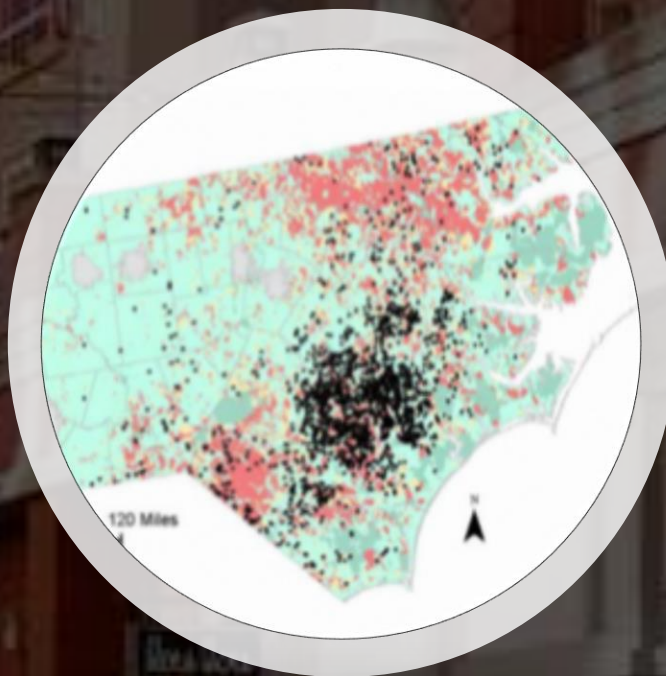




## How can you create a transparent and inclusive process?

- Allow community leaders to submit district proposals for consideration
- Hold meetings / webinars with videos turned on
- Maps are visual!
- Give people time to comment on draft maps
- Think about language and disability access





How can you lead us  
to more equitable  
government?

- Bring your lived experience, listen to others' stories
- Engage your fellow commissioners.
- Document your experience.
- Set an example for the country.





Thank you!

Questions?

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