



# City of Palm Springs

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SUBJECT: California Voting Rights Act – Community of Interest of the Council District

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### Defining Communities of Interest

The Supreme Court has identified keeping “communities of interest” intact as a traditional districting principle:

*“[A] geographic area comprised of residents who share similar interests including, but not limited to, social, cultural, ethnic, geographic or economic interests, or formal government or quasi-governmental relationships, but not including relationships with political parties, incumbents, or candidates”*

In other words, Palm Springs’s communities of interest are its overlapping sets of neighborhoods, networks, and groups that share interests, views, cultures, histories, languages, and values. Such as:

- shared interests in schools, housing, crime, transit, health conditions, land use, and environmental conditions;
- common social and civic networks, including churches, temples, homeowner associations, and community centers, and shared use of community spaces, like parks and shopping centers;
- racial and ethnic compositions, cultural identities, and households that predominantly speak a language other than English;
- similar socio-economic status, including but not limited to income, home-ownership, and education levels;
- shared political boundary lines from jurisdictions other than City Council, including school districts, community college districts, and water districts;
- “visible natural and man-made features, street lines and/or City boundary lines.

In practice, communities of interest take shape for a City only through extensive public testimony from community members. Public testimony is essential to this process. Please visit [www.psdistricts.com](http://www.psdistricts.com) for a full listing of Public Hearings and Community Engagement Forums.