



# DEVELOPING BOUNDARIES FOR A DISTRICT-BASED ELECTORAL SYSTEM

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Map Drawing Workshops – August 28 & 29, 2018

Presented by,  
Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk



# How Did We Get Here?

- March 5, 2018 – Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) urged the City to transition to district-based elections.
- April 19, 2018 – The City Council agreed and recognized that district-based elections are an opportunity to strengthen minority groups voting power.
- By law, cities must conduct 4 public hearings and complete the districting process within 90 days.
- The City reached an agreement with SVREP to allow for enhanced outreach efforts, provided that the transition was completed by December 31, 2018.



# Statement of Principles

- **Goals:**
  - Maximize the goals of the CVRA, including civil rights, equality, and inclusion.
  - Prioritize the creation of majority/minority districts.
  - To the extent practical, keep organized neighborhoods intact.
  - Maintain the principle that the best interest of the City as a whole remains the first responsibility of all elected officials.
- **Process:**
  - Evaluate our current structure of government and demographics, compare with and learn from other comparable cities and recommend the structure of government that best achieves the goals of the CVRA and the long-term needs of our city.
  - Encourage and work through communication platforms to obtain participation from as many residents and stakeholders as possible in the process.

# At-Large Elections

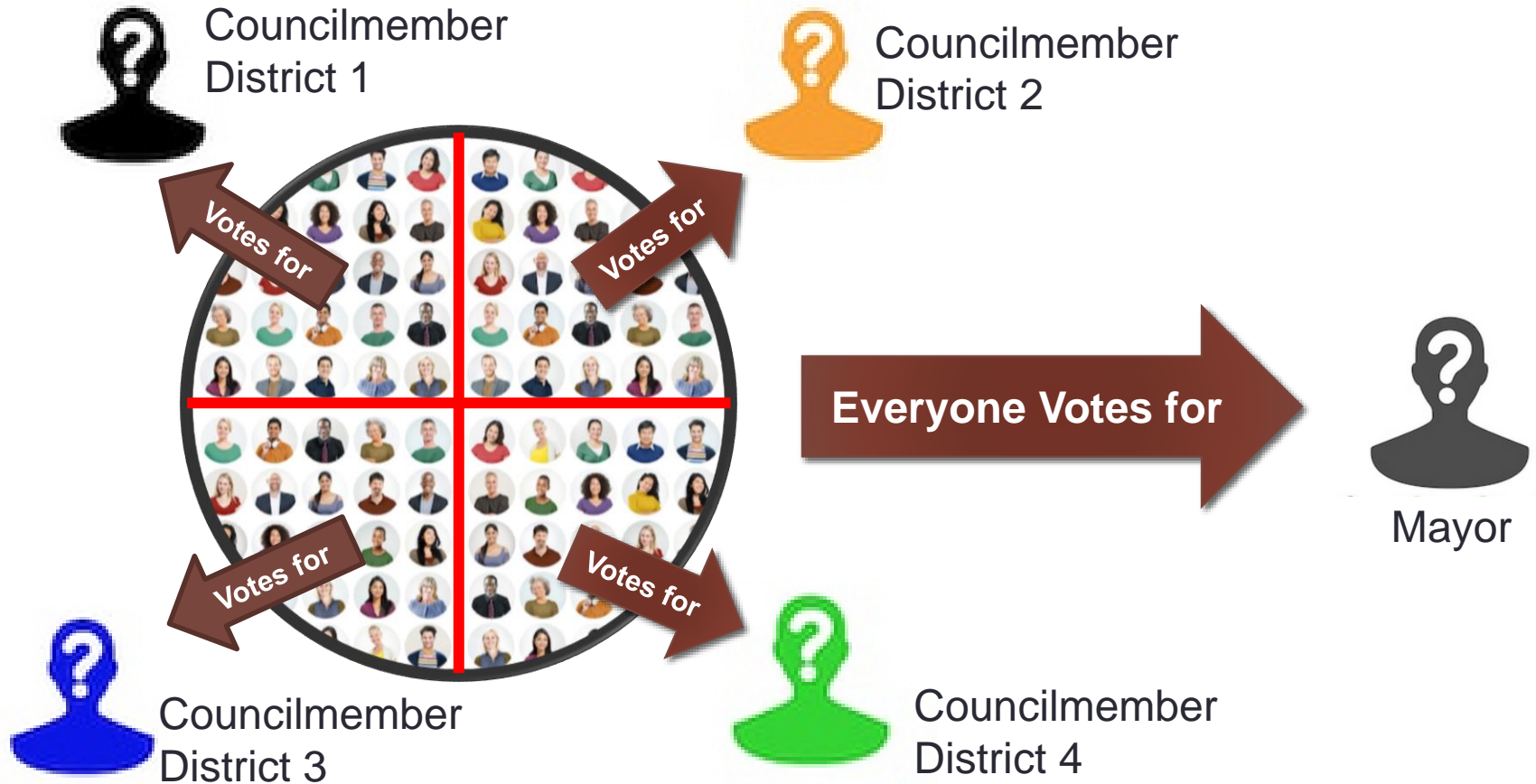


Mayor and City Council

City of Palm Springs

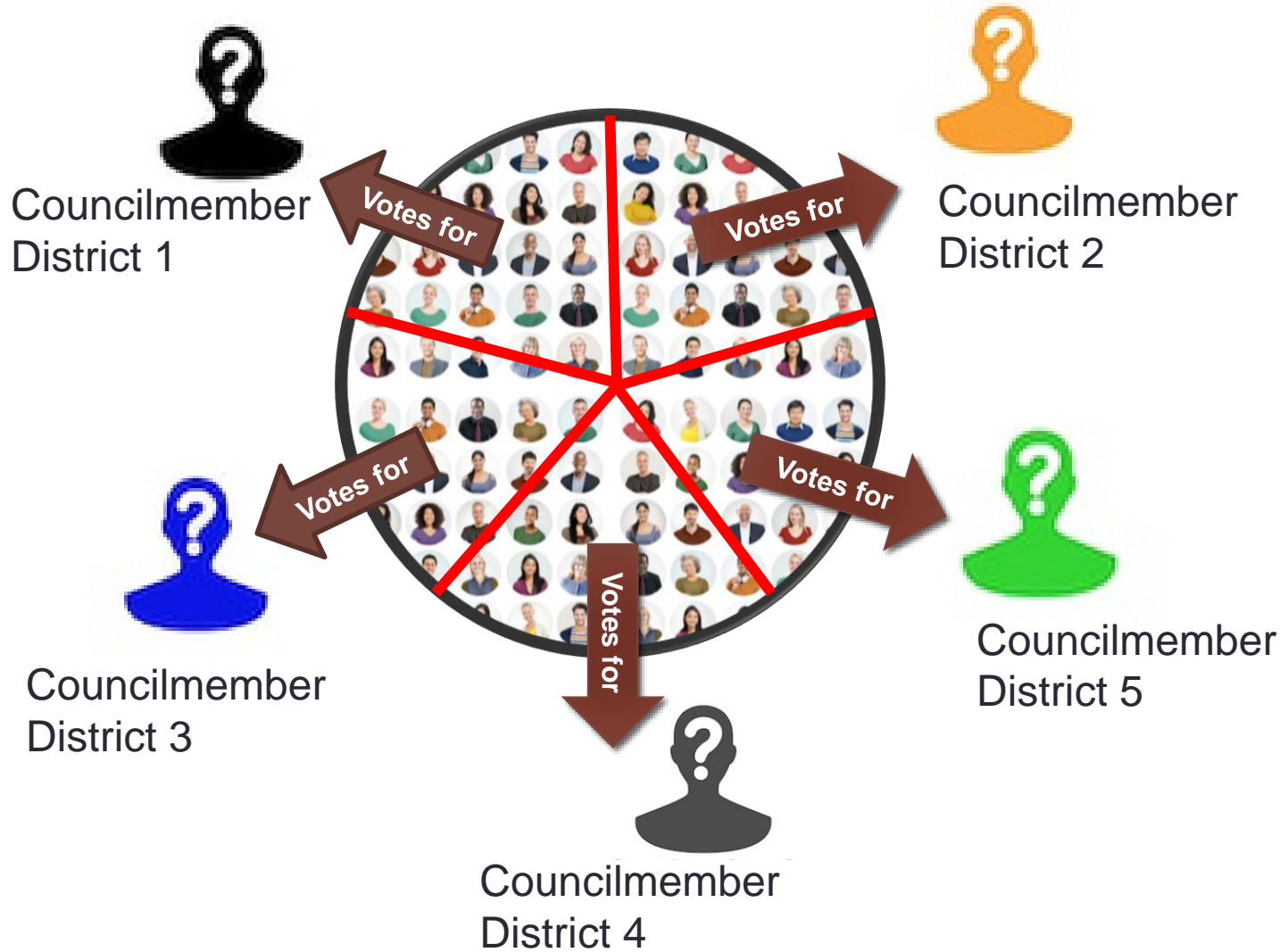
# District-Based Elections

- 4 Districts + At-Large Mayor



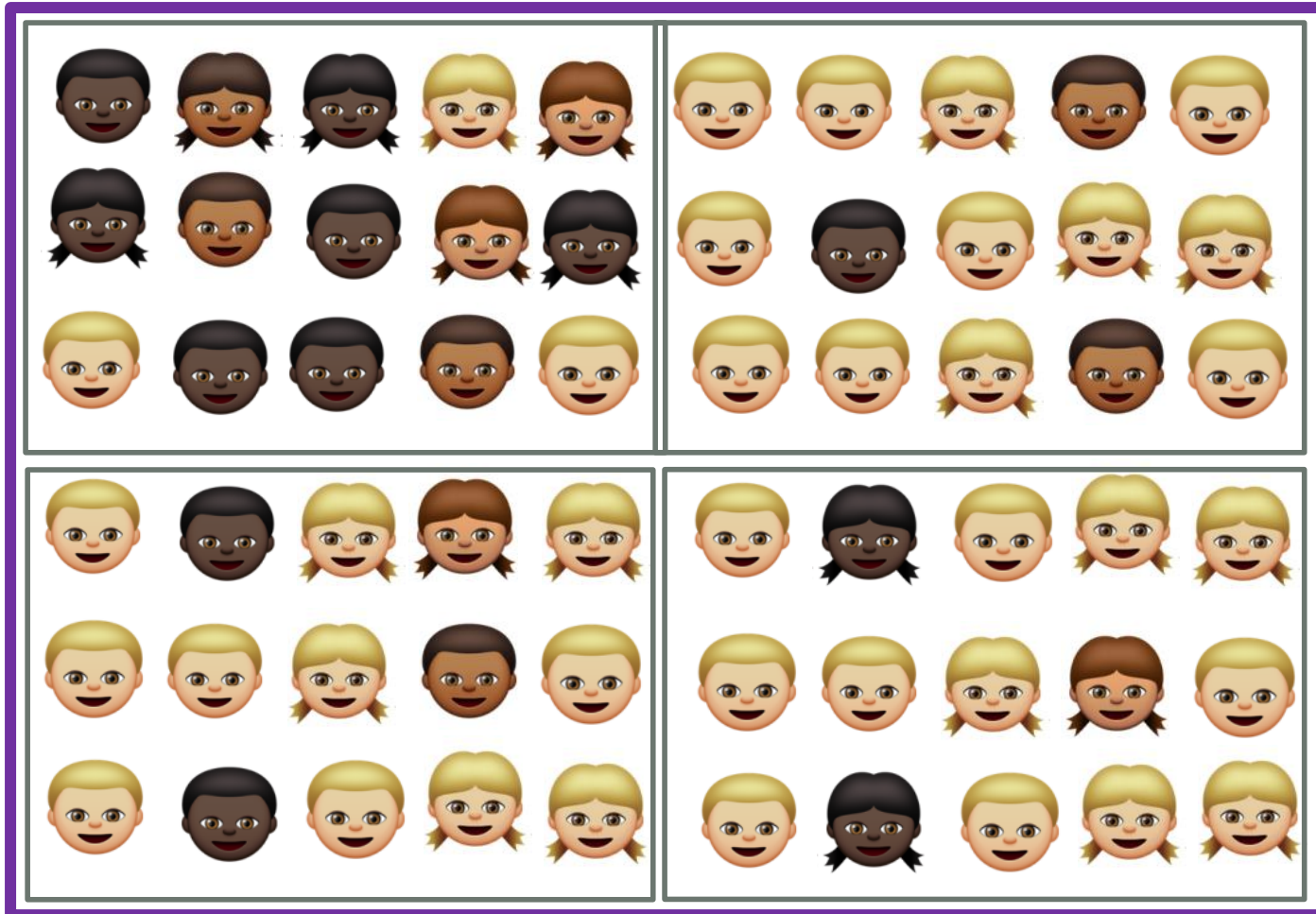
# District-Based Elections

- 5 Council Districts & Rotating Mayor



# Minority/Majority District

City of Palm Springs



If minorities collectively vote for a particular candidate, but the white majority votes for someone else, the minorities will not be able to elect a representative.

However, if a minority/majority district is created, the minority group will have greater voting influence and could elect a representative of their choice.



## Phase 2 – Form of Gov't & Election Year

- **Thursday, September 27, 2018; 6:00 p.m. - City Council Study Session (CVRA Only)**
  - CVRA Community Working Group will submit its recommendations to City Council.
    - Number of Districts;
    - Proposed district maps;
    - At-Large or rotating Mayor;
    - Election year;
    - Reducing barriers for residents wanting to run for City Council
- **Thursday, October 4, 2018; 6:00 p.m. - City Council Meeting (CVRA Only)**
  - City Council will discuss the CVRA Community Working Groups recommendations.
  - City Council will provide direction regarding a preferred governance structure.





## Phase 3 – Defining Districts & Maps

- **Tuesday, October 16, 2018; 6:00 p.m. - City Council Meeting (CVRA Only)**
  - City Council will narrow the number of proposed district maps and make modifications as necessary, approx. 5-6 maps may remain.
- **Thursday, November 15, 2018; 6:00 p.m. – City Council Meeting (CVRA Only)**
  - City Council will narrow the proposed district maps to a preferred 2-3 maps and make modifications as necessary.
- **Thursday, November 29, 2018; 6:00 p.m. – City Council Public Hearing #3 (CVRA Only)**
  - City Council will narrow the proposed district maps to a preferred map and make final modifications as necessary.
- **Wednesday, December 5, 2018; 6:00 p.m. – City Council Public Hearing #4**
  - City Council will adopt the final map (no changes) and introduce the ordinance.
- **Wednesday, December 19, 2018; 6:00 p.m. – City Council Public Hearing #5**
  - Adopt the ordinance.



# Other Ways to Engage!

- Paper-Based Maps!
  - Easy to do and the City's Demographer will provide an demographic analysis once submitted.
- Excel Supplement
  - If you want to double-check the demographic make-up of the proposed districts before submitting.
- Interactive View Map
  - Find specific demographic data down to the census block.
  - View and compare maps previously submitted.
- Community Input Form
  - Paper or online, submit written comments about how you think districts should be formed.



# Apply for City Boards and Commissions

- Over 18 Boards and Commissions with over 130 positions.
  - Advise the City Council on matters within their area of interests;
  - Enable more attention to be given to specific issues and problems;
  - Act as a channel of communication between the City government and the community;
  - Provide a greater opportunity for citizen participation in the affairs of the City government; and
  - Make decisions on matters where the City Council has granted authority to act.

[www.palmspringsca.gov/volunteer](http://www.palmspringsca.gov/volunteer)





# Contact Information

- Email:
  - Contact the City Clerk's Office: [cityclerk@palm Springsca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@palm Springsca.gov)
  - Contact the Demographer: [palm Springs@ndcresearch.com](mailto:palm Springs@ndcresearch.com)
- Phone:
  - Contact Anthony Mejia, City Clerk: (760) 323-8206 (direct line).
- Website:

[www.psdistricts.com](http://www.psdistricts.com)

# Map Drawing Workshop

- Purpose:
  - The City's Demographer will demonstrate the map drawing tools and assist individuals on a 1-on-1 basis.

