



Opinion on District Focus Maps

Scott & Ashley Mann 

Thu, Aug 3, 2023 at 6:34 PM

To: districting@cityofirvine.org

Irvine was master planned with the village concept in mind. Therefore, districts should not split villages. As Irvine residents, we do not support maps 135 and 138 as they split Woodbridge into two districts. It would also be good to show the general location of each city council member or identify which district they would fall under for each map if the approximate location is a violation of privacy.

Sincerely,
Scott Mann



Drawirvine.org

Fred P 
To: districting@cityofirvine.org

Sat, Aug 5, 2023 at 12:01 PM

I have no issue with districts, but object to adding more bureaucrats to the city payroll. This is an obvious power play by the socialists on the council, namely, Democrats. We have already lost the reason for Irvine being better than most cities in the world, its master plan. Larry Agran made sure of that. It is also obvious he is behind this plot to provide further control of Irvine by the socialists. Irvine will go the way of Santa Ana in time.



Districting Maps

Lisa Glasl 

Thu, Aug 24, 2023 at 1:09 PM

To: "districting@cityofirvine.org" <districting@cityofirvine.org>

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Irvine for the past 27 years. We raised our children in the Woodbridge community. I understand the desire to have representation for "areas" of Irvine rather than 4 at large council members. However, any map, that splits up a community, is a really bad idea. It also goes against what you say your primary goal is; "our primary goals when drawing City Council districts is to draw lines that **respect neighborhoods, history, and geographical elements**"

Maps #135 and #138 split up Woodbridge. I strongly oppose these maps. Please reject these maps, as it is clear they go against City Council's goals and would not fairly represent a tight community like Woodbridge.

Thank you,
Lisa Glasl



Reject maps 135 and 138

Steve Rice 
To: district1ng@cityofirvine.org

Fri, Aug 25, 2023 at 11:51 AM

As Woodbridge residents for over 40 years, it makes no sense to separate the village of Woodbridge in the redistricting voters of Irvine. Please reject maps 135 and 138.

Steve and Tammy Rice



Sent from my iPhone



Redistributing

Gail Feuerstein 
To: districting@cityofirvine.org

Sat, Aug 26, 2023 at 4:34 PM

In my estimation, Irvine Villages (such as Westpark II, Woodbridge, Quail Hill Etc.) need to be kept intact and not split. They tend to have similar needs and desires.

I think the process is flawed, I think the idea that individuals submit their requests - each having their own agenda and then picking one is not a good idea. I would prefer to see a group of diverse individuals representing various concerns to decide a district map together since it requires these individuals to have give and take. I don't want the council to be the deciders on what map to chose as they have a vested interest in redistricting (especially if home address plays a role if a council person can run again).

The request to have the consultant draw a map (I believe 144) to benefit a specific race is very scary.

I'm afraid that this districting plan will divide the city.

Sent from my iPhone



new voting districts

DION GRAY 

Mon, Aug 28, 2023 at 1:07 PM

To: "districting@cityofirvine.org" <districting@cityofirvine.org>

Please keep all of Woodbridge Village together.

Thank you!

Dion Gray





Voting District Map

Jeanette 
To: districting@cityofirvine.org

Tue, Aug 29, 2023 at 1:00 AM

To The Irvine City Council:

I recently learned that the City Council is proposing that Woodbridge be split into two separate voting districts and has also prepared two proposed maps that would do that.

As a long time Irvine resident, 48 years, and a longtime Woodbridge resident, 46 years, I have a very good appreciation of this city and our beautiful Village of Woodbridge. Woodbridge is NOT two separate entities or districts. In my opinion, Woodbridge is the BEST village in Irvine, and should NOT be divided in any way by the City Council. We have the outstanding WVA which manages our village and it would be very detrimental to try and divide the village in any way politically.

Please seriously reconsider your plan to split Woodbridge into separate voting districts.

Jeanette Shelly Atkins



Proposed districting maps

Caren Harris 
To: districting@cityofirvine.org

Sun, Sep 3, 2023 at 4:10 PM

As a 30 year resident of Woodbridge Village I am voicing my objection to any proposed districting map that would split Woodbridge Village into separate voting districts (specifically maps 135 and 138).

The City of Irvine was developed into distinct villages with Woodbridge being an early and very prominent village. It would seem a direct contradiction of the original city plan to now split Woodbridge into different districts for City Council voting purposes. It makes absolutely no sense since there are other alternatives and especially given that the drawirvine.org website states "one of our primary goals when drawing City Council districts is to draw lines that respect neighborhoods, history, and geographical elements". How would dividing any part of Woodbridge Village into different districts with different City Council representation respect the neighborhoods, history and geographical elements of Woodbridge?

I urge you to reject maps 135 and 138 as currently drawn.

Caren Harris



Proposed District Voting Maps for the City of Irvine

Ileen Frankel 
To: "districting@cityofirvine.org" <districting@cityofirvine.org>

Mon, Sep 4, 2023 at 4:44 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a homeowner in Woodbridge. I recently learned that two of the voting district maps under consideration propose to split Woodbridge into separate voting districts. The Woodbridge Village Association Board of Directors objects to any voting district map that would split Woodbridge into separate voting districts. I strongly support the Board's position that the entirety of Woodbridge be included within a single voting district.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ileen Frankel



Woodbridge

Bill Cardillo 
To: "districting@cityofirvine.org" <districting@cityofirvine.org>

Tue, Sep 5, 2023 at 4:39 PM

I would like to express my concern about splitting the village of Woodbridge. I can't see where this would make any sense and I'm opposed to this.

Thankyou,

Bill Cardillo

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



District Maps Comments

Kevin Ansel 
To: "districting@cityofirvine.org" <districting@cityofirvine.org>

Wed, Sep 6, 2023 at 7:33 AM

Re: District Maps

Greetings,

We have been home owners in Irvine for 24 years in the village of Woodbridge. I have been looking at the various purposed districting maps. There are two maps that I do not agree with. Maps number 135 and 138 split the Village of Woodbridge. I believe we should have the same representation for the entire community. Woodbridge as a whole has center management with its association. Maps 135 and 138 would make it difficult for unity and would have different leadership for our community. Please do not adopt either of these to district layouts.

Thank you,

Kevin Ansel



Village of Woodbridge Resident



Crossing The Line

NOELandDEE ROSEBERRY 
To: "districting@cityofirvine.org" <districting@cityofirvine.org>

Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 3:03 AM

When it comes to redistricting in Irvine, shouldn't the same rules apply that seek to protect minorities, also protect the majority? I mean according to Irvine councilmember TAMMY KIM, her concern is focused on ensuring that the White population does not dominate in each of the six districts. However, if she is going to expect the public to accept this, and basically buy into that all White people think one way, and all Asian Americans think another way, then shouldn't the lines be FAIR across the board? I mean her maps read like this: Map #126, the Asian American population is higher in all districts except one, and the highest percentage of Asian Americans in one district is 64% with Whites at 24%. Map #133, four out of six districts have a higher percentage of Asian Americans by, again, as much as 64%. Map #136, the Asian American population is higher in all districts except one, and that one difference is only 2%. I mean let's have the conversation about fairness if we want to continue down a path that seeks to divide people rather than bring people together. If Irvine wants to district by race, then we can no longer be a city of diversity, equality, and inclusion. I really don't want to go there because people should be looked at as individuals by their own making, their own beliefs, values and morals. No two people are identical. So how can people like TAMMY KIM be so closed minded in thinking people of a certain race all think the same? But, it goes deeper than that. She is playing by two sets of rules. She has no problem with an Asian population majority in 5 of the 6 districts, but has a problem if it were the other way around. How does someone even wrap their hand around her logic?

I have no problem with districts having a majority population of non white people. But I do have a problem when a person like TAMMY KIM would rather split up a community just so the White population does not dominate. What the heck is she so worried about?

Let's NOT be influenced by TAMMY KIM's political agenda in her quest to divide us! Unfortunately her mindset is programmed in believing that all Asian Americans think alike. We know that all White people do not think alike, so why would she think Asian Americans are any different? She obviously doesn't, and is playing to a bigger audience while using Irvine citizens as her tools. She is, as I have heard many describe her as, an opportunist, while exploiting the people around her. TAMMY KIM does not deserve our attention when she speaks of dividing people along racial lines ... let alone our respect as she sits on the dais!

We need to keep communities together, first and foremost. That should be our goal!

Sincerely,

Dee Fox

When I moved to Irvine in 1979, the population was about 60,000 and the "village concept" was still mostly on paper. My "community" was and is the 14 houses on a cul-de-sac. Between the scattered housing tracts were row crops and orchards, eucalyptus windrows, two-lane roads with no street lighting, 4-way stop signs, and Marine Corps jets and helicopters that sometimes made noise. Most workers commuted to jobs outside Irvine, and grocery shopping was only nearby Tustin. Irvine is very different now.

The five city council members were elected at-large. I've voted in every Irvine election since then. The city's population has grown to over 300,000. After the fight over the fate of the closing Marine Corps base and the sale of the property to developers, dark money influence over local elections seemed to get worse and worse, along with partisan politics. City Council members seemed remote and indifferent to large parts of Irvine's citizenry and swayed by political donors. The City Council still has five members elected at-large.



IS IRVINE LARGE ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE CITY COUNCIL?

As of 2018, there are 19,495 incorporated cities, towns, and villages in the United States. 14,768 of these have populations below 5,000. Only ten have populations above 1 million, and none are above 10 million. Irvine is among the 310 cities that are considered at least medium-sized cities with populations of 100,000 or more.

Irvine is the 63rd-most populous US city.

Irvine ranks 13th among California cities by population. Irvine is similar in size to such cities as Anaheim, Stockton, Riverside, Santa Ana, and Chula Vista. There are 58 counties in California. Irvine ranks 23rd among counties. Irvine has a larger population than such California counties as Merced, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, or Marin. The combined populations of the 14 smallest county populations are less than Irvine's population.

Within Orange County, Irvine is 2nd largest by population (after Anaheim, although Santa Ana is nearly equal to Irvine). Thus, of the 34 cities in OC, 31 are smaller than Irvine. Irvine's population is 9.7% of the total OC population. Irvine's current population is equal to the cumulative total population of the 11 smallest OC cities.

When Irvine adopts six districts, each district would have a population about equal to Placentia. (Placentia has a City Council of five persons. To equalize this degree of representation in Irvine, it would require each of six Irvine districts to have five members for a total City council size approaching 24-30 persons.) Or, each district would have one each of Rancho Santa Margarita, Fountain Valley, Cypress, Brea, Aliso Viejo, and Placentia.

Irvine is large enough to warrant expansion of the City Council. But enlarging the Council from five to seven

actually does little to improve democratic representation. Six districts result in about 52,000 people in each district. Enlarging the council to 14 would bring this down to about 22,000 per member. Very large cities, such as New York and Chicago, have city councils numbering more than 50. Los Angeles has not enlarged its city council since 1924. Consequently, LA has just 15 districts with a council member representing about 260,000 people. (San Francisco has about 79,000 residents per district, and Long Beach has 52,000 per district.) "More council members would mean a larger, more diverse bench of leaders and less of a hit to the balance of representation each time a member leaves." (LA Times, 11/13/22). Perhaps it would be just a tad more difficult for "dark money" to influence a majority of 6 or 8 district elections. Enlarging the City Council to 7 or 9 would be an improvement over the current five, ignoring 52 years of population growth in Irvine. **YES, Irvine should enlarge the City Council, no matter what, to 7 or 9.**

DISTRICTING

My own hopes for "districting" in Irvine include increasing responsiveness of council members to the voters of Irvine, reducing the influence of "dark money" in city elections, and improving voter turnout.

"Community" is broadly defined as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. Using districting to define Irvine "communities" is like slicing a loaf of bread. Each district is substantially similar. On the other hand, if the goal is the hegemony of a particular "interest group", gerrymandering becomes a malignant tool. It would be a step backward in Irvine's celebration of cultural diversity by delineating specific cultural zones.

In four decades of Irvine residency, I have not observed any useful historic boundaries that emphatically say "here is a voting district" or "this is a distinctly different place". In the last 15 years, I have spent many hours walking and cycling the trails and bike paths of Irvine, north, south, east, and west. It's very difficult to define differences between "communities" this way. (There is substantial similarity in views, trail landscaping, back walls, stucco, and tile.) In my view, any district map will have some degree of arbitrariness, and there are an infinite variety of ways to fiddle with boundaries. Consequently, I submitted a variety of district proposals that simply equalized the populations of districts and ignored all other criteria such as planning area, ZIP codes, school districts, political party, race, rent/own, village, recent arrival, age, income, *et cetera*. I'd like most to live in a community of humans that values human diversity and avoids tribalism and divisiveness. None of my districting ideas attracted much attention. That's okay. I'll try to explain later on.

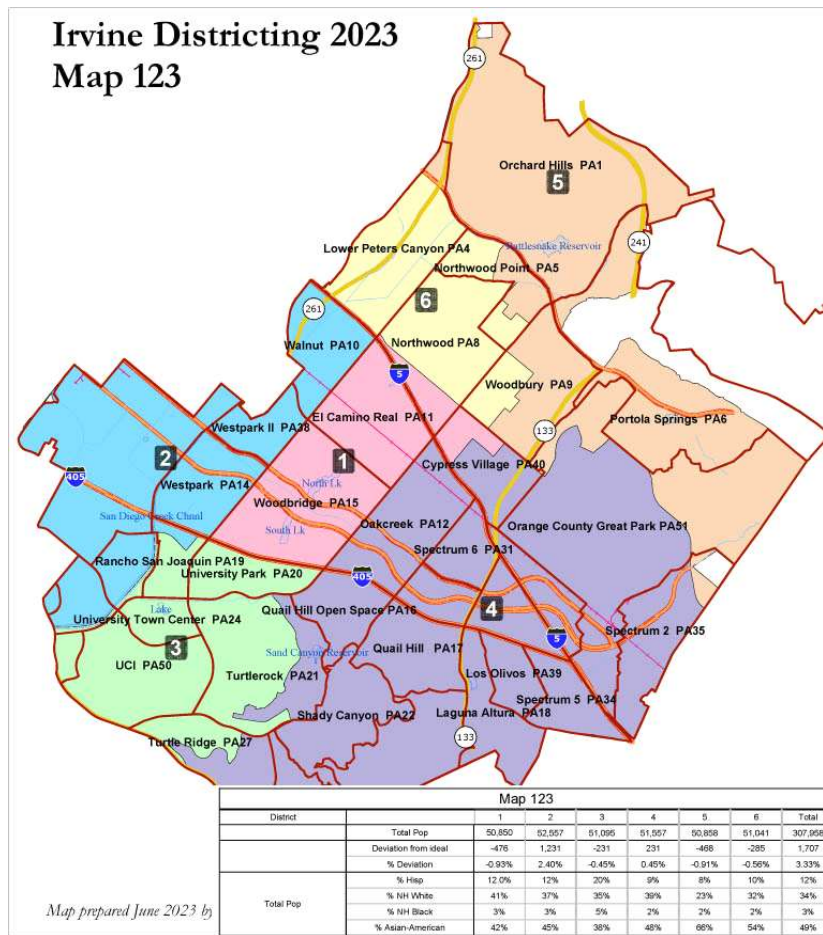
Personally, I have never voted on the basis of race or "looks like me"- I am reluctant to accept that other people do. (Racial supremacy and bigotry are wrong for us in any direction). I must admit that in voting for candidates based on "what they say about their conduct once elected", I have been fooled. I have voted one time or another for each of the current City Council members, but am unlikely to do so again. I probably won't have to think about that since it seems unlikely that any current council person will be a candidate living within a district encompassing the part of Irvine wherein my residence is located. I believe that in our republic, people have a duty to be informed and to vote. I'm hoping districting will improve the connection between voters and council candidates (council members responsive to the electorate and better turnout by voters) and reduce the influence of campaign funds from outside Irvine or from unidentified sources (dark money).

So, when a district proposal seems to have "guided" boundaries, some degree of "Gerrymandering", inclusion/exclusion/segregation, I think I don't want it. Some bias is at work. Reject it. When a council member says "I want at least two districts to have a majority based on a particular racial category", that seems like undemocratic bias and should be rejected. But "equally drawn" districts without gerrymandering or boundary fiddling based on race or politics would give us an equitable set of districts and the "right" solution for Irvine.

Of those plans that I drew weeks ago, **the one I like best is 123**. I'm not adamant about it, but I see some things

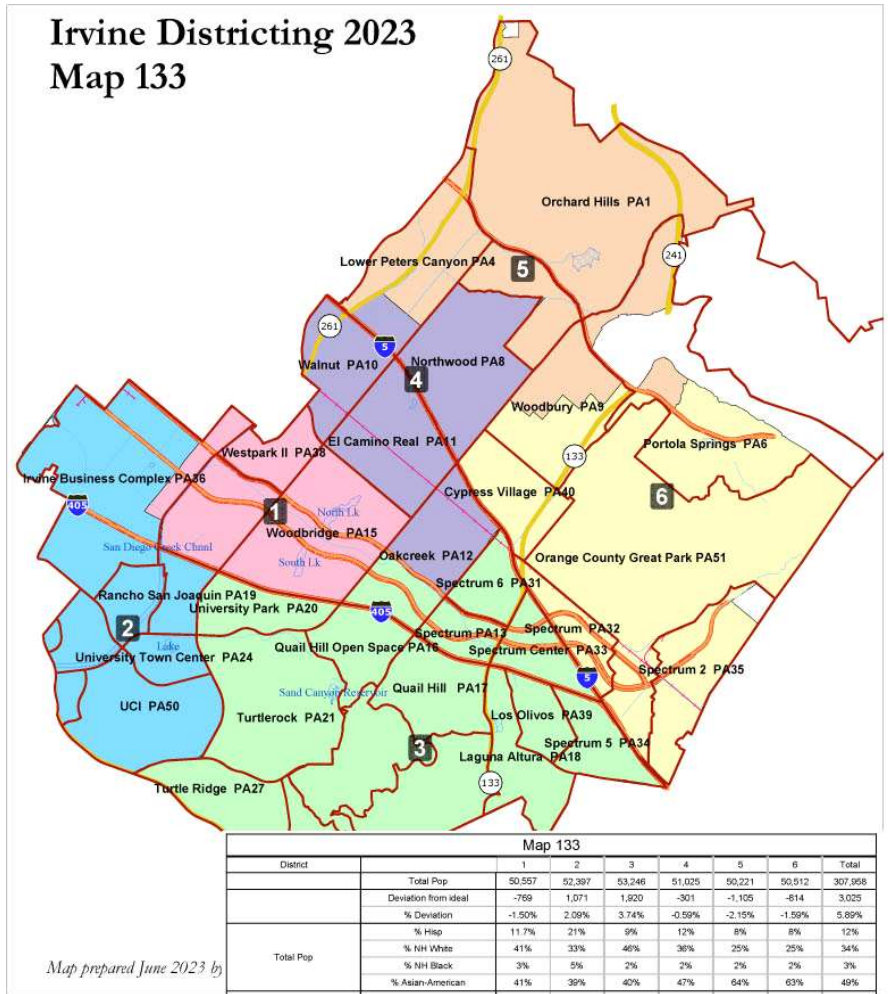
that appeal to me. With the exception of district 5, the northern tier, most districts are defined by streets with minimal sprawling. I like D5, the northern tier, for its dominance by recent construction, mostly in the last 10 years. Northwood D6 (my zone) is a contiguous block north of the I-5. UCI, D3, is nearly its own district, including the city's largest employer and a group of ephemeral voters, but also Turtle Rock. (Ephemeral: It's assumed that students pursue a 4-year course of study, may or may not live on campus or in Irvine that entire time, and depart Irvine and UCI after completing their studies, thus, voting perhaps once in an Irvine election.) D2, the "west" side, contains IBC and a predominance of "renters". Older neighborhoods, such as Woodbridge, are in the middle, D1. I personally wish for the east side Great Park to be split between districts (or not included in any district) to avoid any perception that the Great Park is "owned" by any one district. It belongs to all of Irvine and should not be ruled by any "subgovernment". (5 Points named nearby residential developments "Great Park Neighborhoods", but some folks have taken to saying they live within the Great Park and therefore deserve a greater say in its fate.)

In plan 123, Irvine has a north (Orchard Hills/Portola Springs/Woodbury), south (UCI), east (Los Alisos/Spectrum/Cypress Village), west (IBC/Westpark/Walnut), and a middle (Northwood/El Camino Real/Woodbridge).

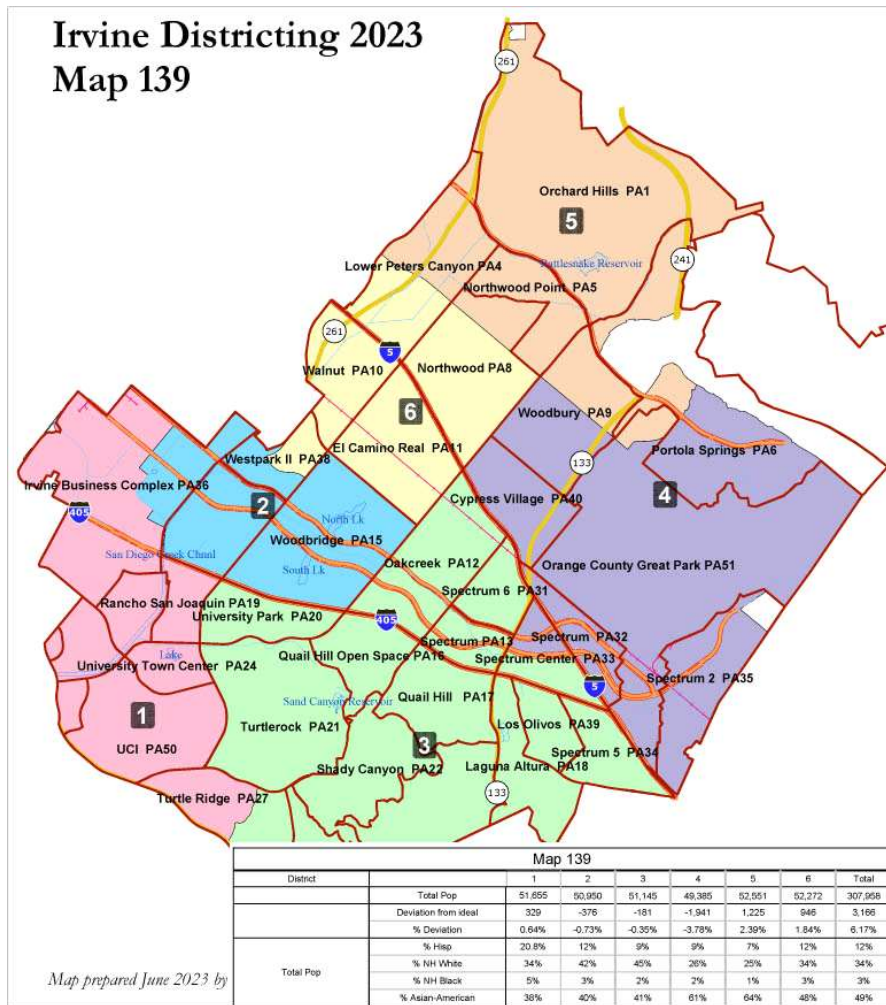


Although, I still like "123", my mind is open to other plans. To chose among the approximately 50 plans, I tried to identify similar plans that had some appeal to me, four along the northwest side and two along the southeast side. I reject most plans with irregular or sprawling districts and reject plans 135, 136 and 138 of the focus group. Plans that I could support and which are somewhat similar are: 108, 122, 123, 133, 139, 140, 144, 146, 151. I also see that several plans among those I favor are very similar to each other. They are: 108/133, 139/140, 144/146.

If our choice must be **ONE** plan for the March 2024 ballot, I would adopt **133/108**.



My second choice would be: 139/140.



By enlarging the City Council and ceasing at-large voting for all council members but the Mayor, **I'm hoping Irvine will reduce dark money influence, improve voter-council connectivity, and voter turnout in City elections.** If a larger council and districting don't help, we'll need to focus on regulating political action committees, campaign funding, and council ethics.

J. Fancher, Northwood, Irvine
11 Sep 2023