

# **REDISTRICTING COMMISSION OVERVIEW**

**Neighborhoods Commission**

**March 9, 2011**

# Agenda

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- **Introduction and history**
- **What is Redistricting and why is it important?**
- **Legal overview**
- **Census data**
- **How you can help and be involved**
- **Conclusion**

# 2011 Commission Members

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***Chair - Rich De La Rosa***

***District 1 - Cynthia Cobb***

***District 2 - Forrest Williams***

***District 3 - Erik  
Schoennauer***

***District 4 - Mike Flaughter***

***District 5 - Andrea Flores  
Shelton***

***District 6 - Chris Schumb***

***District 7 - Dustin De Rollo***

***District 8 - Bonnie Mace***

***District 9 - Judy Chirco,  
Vice Chair***

***District 10 - Dave Fadness***

# San Jose's Redistricting History

- **Charter changed in November 1978**
  - **Expanded Council from 7 to 11 members**
  - **Established 10 Council Districts**
  - **Councilmembers elected by Districts**
- **First District Elections – 1980**
- **Previous Redistricting efforts**
  - **1981, 1991, 2001**

# Redistricting Process and Goals

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- **Process used to redraw the boundaries of City Council Districts**
- **Based mainly on population changes as determined by the 2010 Census**
- **Provide fair and equal representation for San Jose residents**
  - **Districts are generally equivalent in population size**

# Why is Redistricting Important?

## Can impact -

- **A neighborhood's location within a Council District**
- **Boundary changes may move City facilities (parks, libraries, community centers, etc.) to a different Council District**
- **The representatives elected to serve on the City Council – new boundaries can influence future leaders from a District**

# City Charter, Section 403

- **Establishes 11-member Redistricting Advisory Commission - one member per Council District, plus Chair appointed by the Mayor**
- **Commission recommendations due to Council within 120 days of appointment (May 31)**
- **Council shall enact Redistricting Ordinance by October 31**
- **Ten (10) districts shall be “as nearly equal in population as practicable” – “nearly equal” is the goal!**

# City Charter Section 403

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- **Consider -**
  - ✓ **Natural boundaries, street lines and/or City boundaries**
  - ✓ **Geography**
  - ✓ **Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory**
  - ✓ **“Communities of interest” within each District**

# Voting Rights Act

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- **Section 2 bars any voting practice “which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of race or color.”**
  - ✓ **Dilution of voting strength**
  - ✓ **Discriminatory result, not intent**

# Voting Rights Act

- **Three “necessary preconditions”**
  - ✓ **The minority group is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single-member district**
  - ✓ **The minority group is politically cohesive**
  - ✓ **A white majority votes sufficiently as a bloc to enable it to defeat the minority’s preferred candidate**

# Example

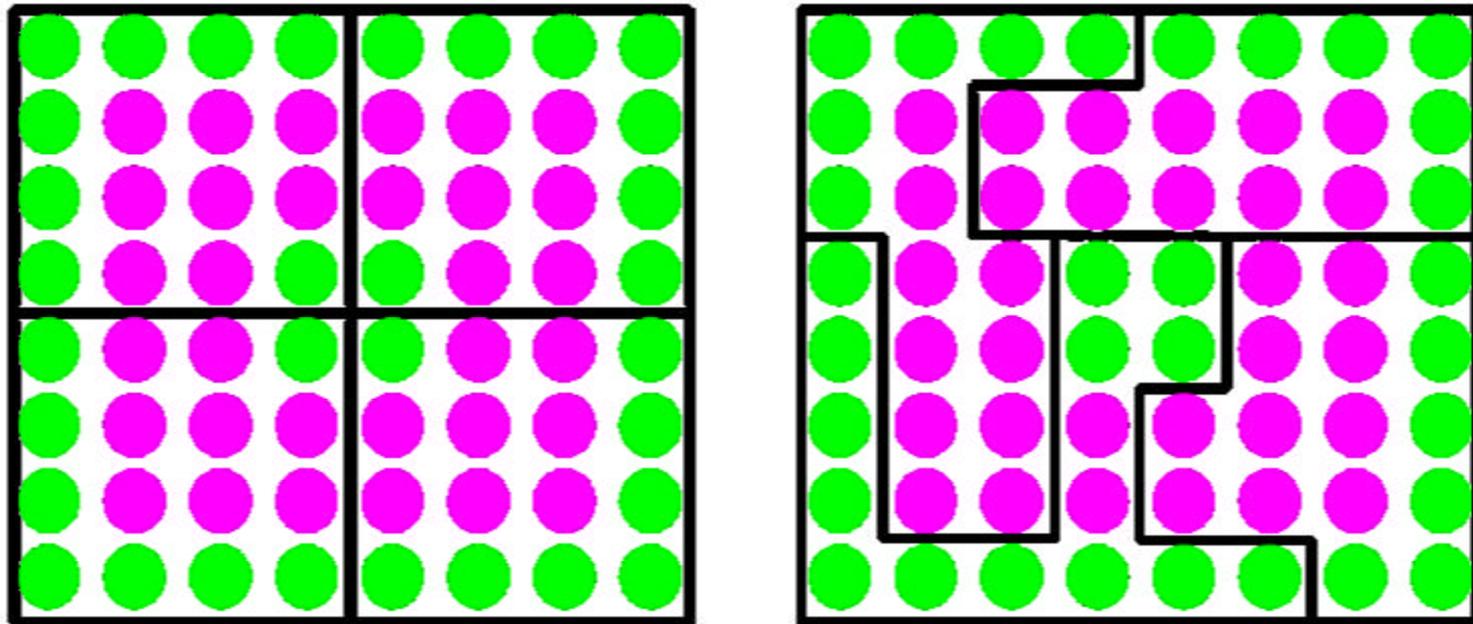


Diagram from “The Gerrymander, How to Divide and Conquer your Enemy, A Case Study on Map Use Abuse” by Walter Goedecke, September 1, 2007

# U. S. Supreme Court Decisions

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- **Limit unjustified or excessive race-based redistricting**
  - ✓ **Use traditional race-neutral principles**
    - **Compactness**
    - **Contiguity**

# Other Considerations

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## Mayor Reed's January 7, 2011 Memo

- **Maintain continuity of existing Council Districts to the extent possible**
- **2001 Commission Criteria**

# Other Considerations

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## *California State Propositions*

- **Prop 11 (November 2008) and**
- **Prop 20 (November 2010)**
  - ✓ **Established Citizens Redistricting Commissions for state legislative and congressional districts**
  - ✓ **Similar criteria as Charter and 2001 Commission**

# California Proposition 20

- **Prop 20 defines “community of interest”**
  - ✓ **A contiguous population**
  - ✓ **Shares common social and economic interests (examples given)**
  - ✓ **Should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation**

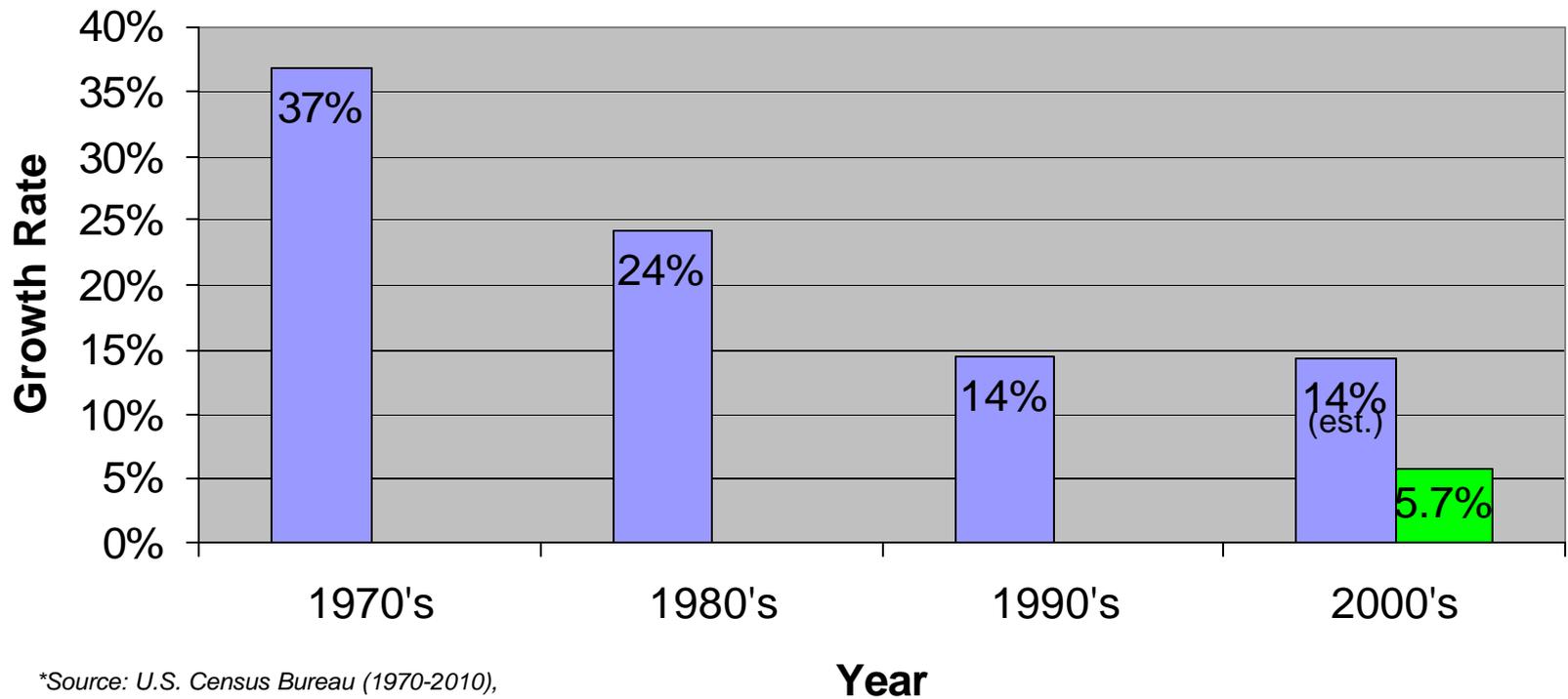
# Census 2010 Count Success

- **In March 2010, over 130 million homes across the U.S. received mailed census questionnaires.**
- **From May-July 2010, 1.2 million census workers visited 47 million homes, making up to six non-response follow-up attempts.**
- **Santa Clara County achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> highest mailed questionnaire response rate in California (75%).**
- **City of San Jose achieved similarly high 74% mail response rate (the same as in Census 2000).**

# Population Figures

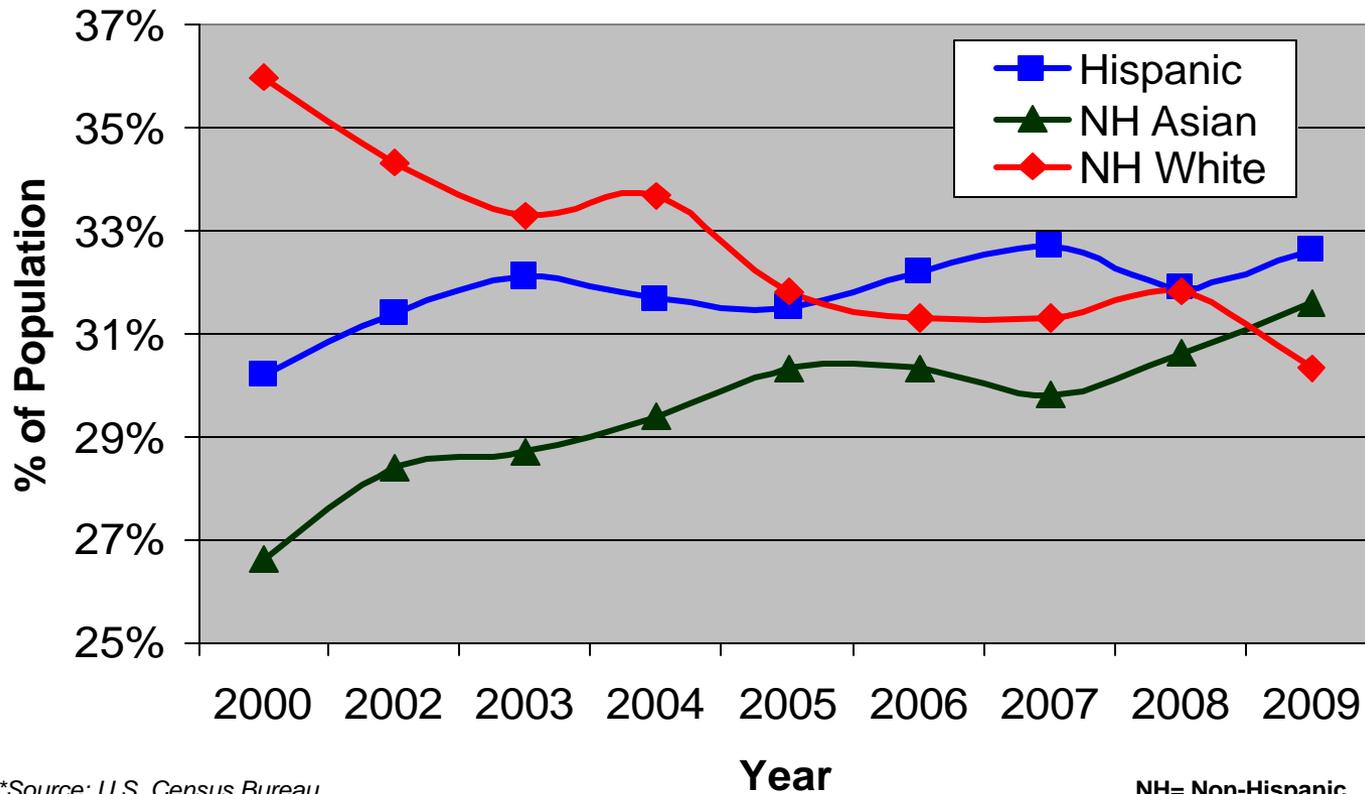
- **Will San Jose surpass 1,000,000 residents?**
- **(It should be close...)**
- **Regardless, the Council District mean population across 10 districts will be roughly 100,000 persons.**
- **Using this figure, a 10% range of population variation would yield between 95,000 and 105,000 persons in each Council District.**

## City of San Jose Population Growth Rate by Decade, 1970-2010\*



\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau (1970-2010),  
Calif. Dept. of Finance (2010, estimate)

## City of San Jose Major Race/Ethnic Groups, 2000-2009\*



\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau

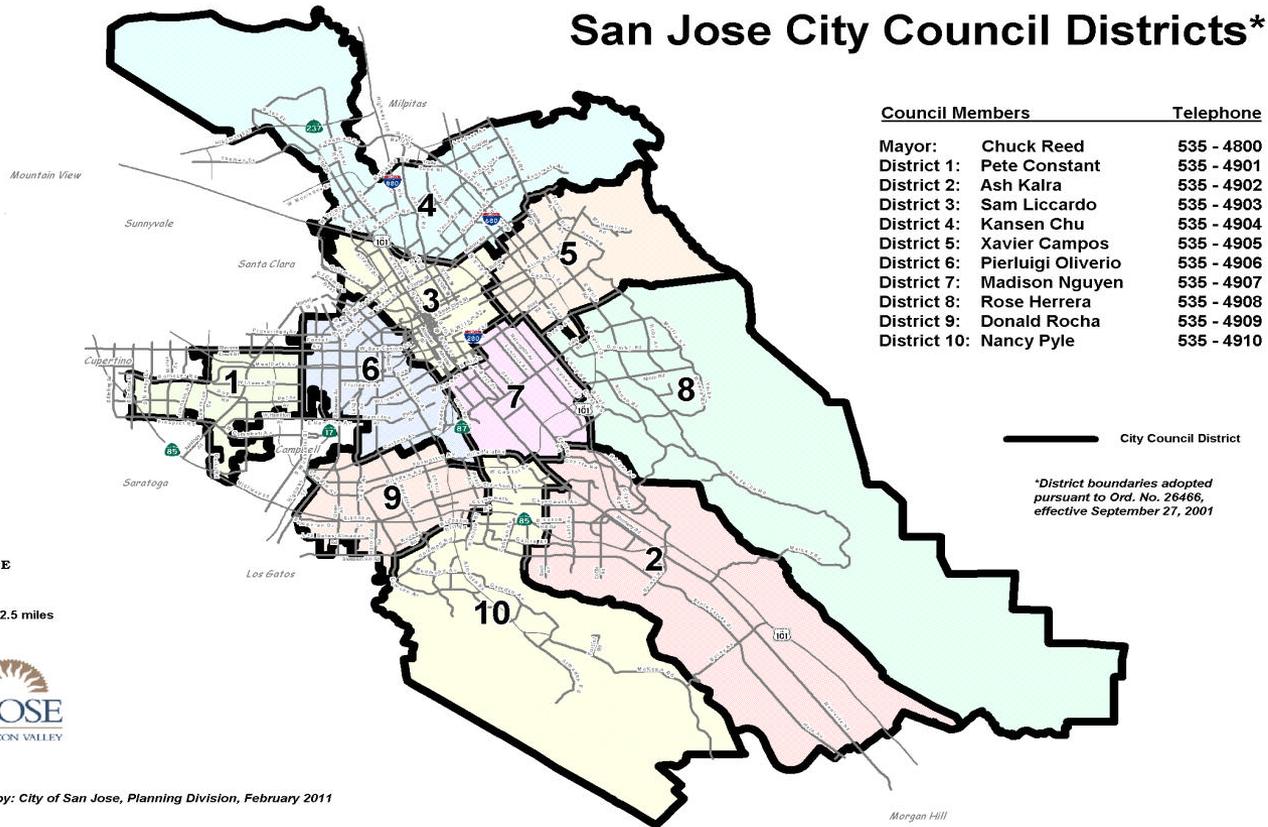
NH= Non-Hispanic

# Key Components of Population Growth

- **Residents occupying new housing  
(~65% of population growth)**
- **More residents occupying existing housing—  
i.e., more persons per household  
(~25% of population growth)**
- **New residents from annexation of County  
pockets (~10% of population growth)**

# City Council Districts Map

## San Jose City Council Districts\*



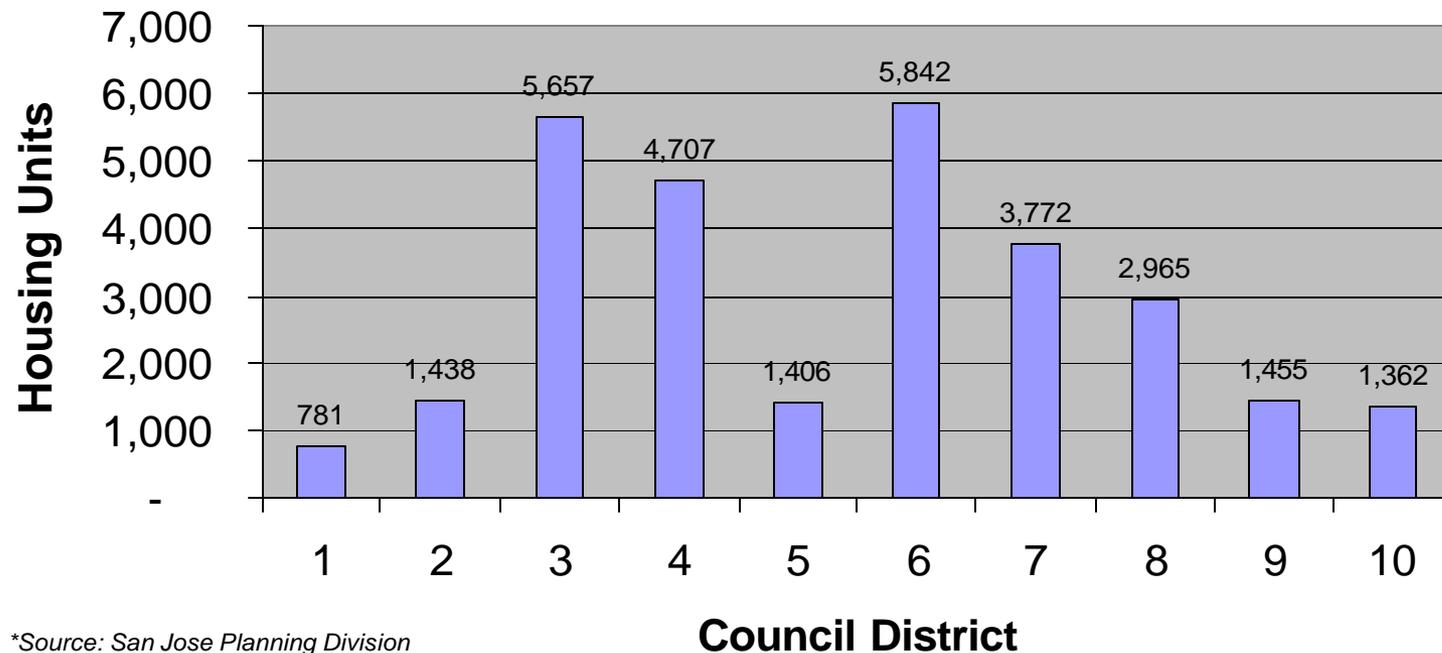
Scale: 1 inch = 2.5 miles



Map Prepared by: City of San Jose, Planning Division, February 2011

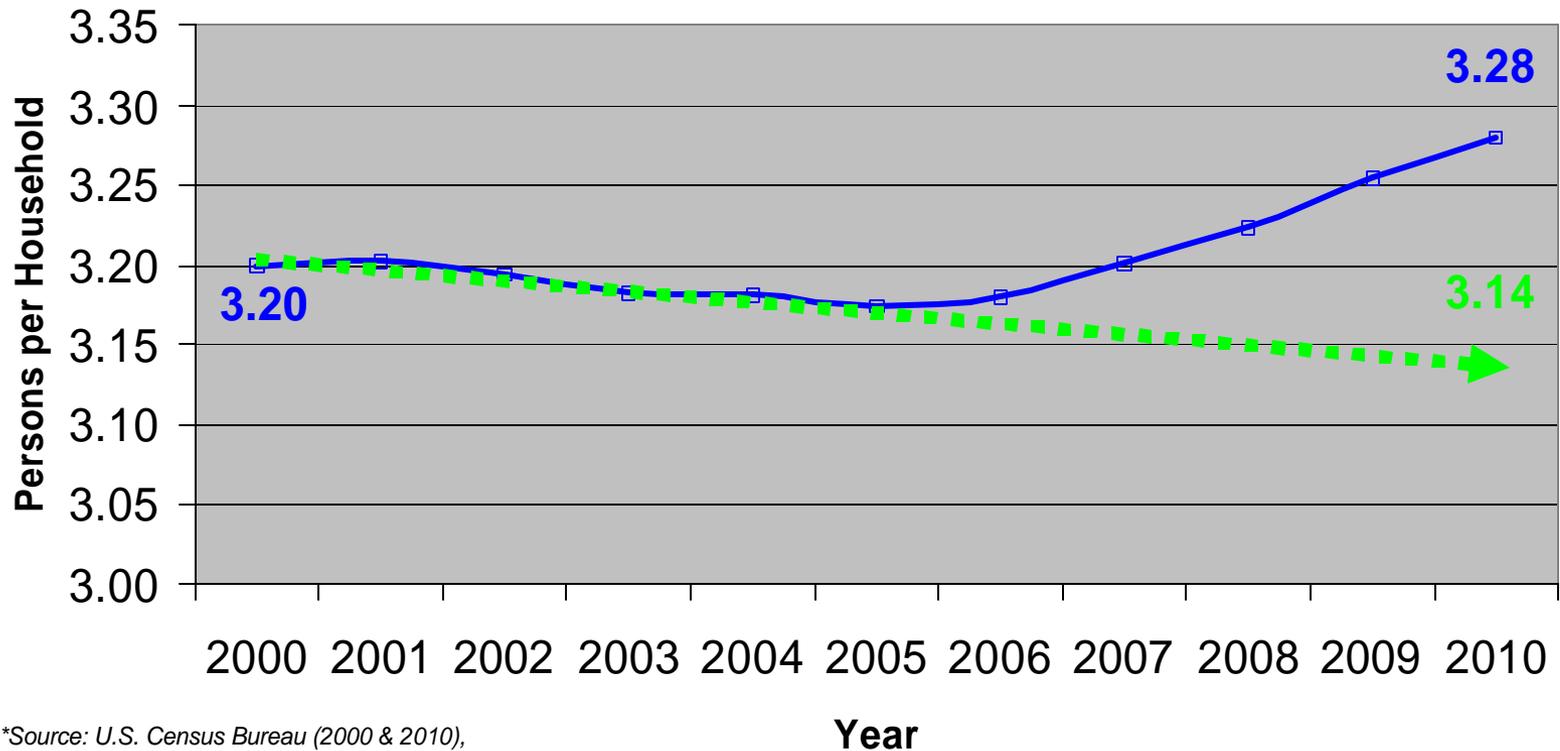


## City of San Jose New Housing Issued Building Permits by Council District, 2000-2010\*



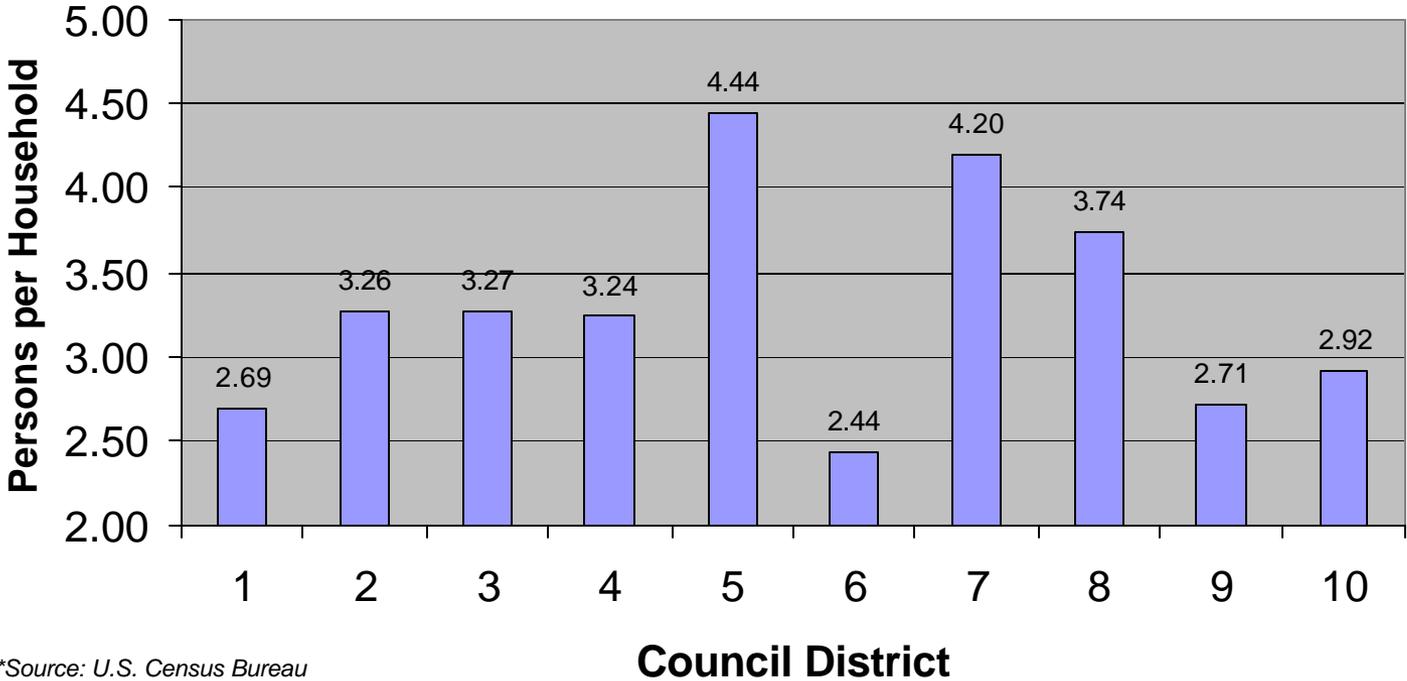
\*Source: San Jose Planning Division

## City of San Jose Average Household Size, 2000-2010\*



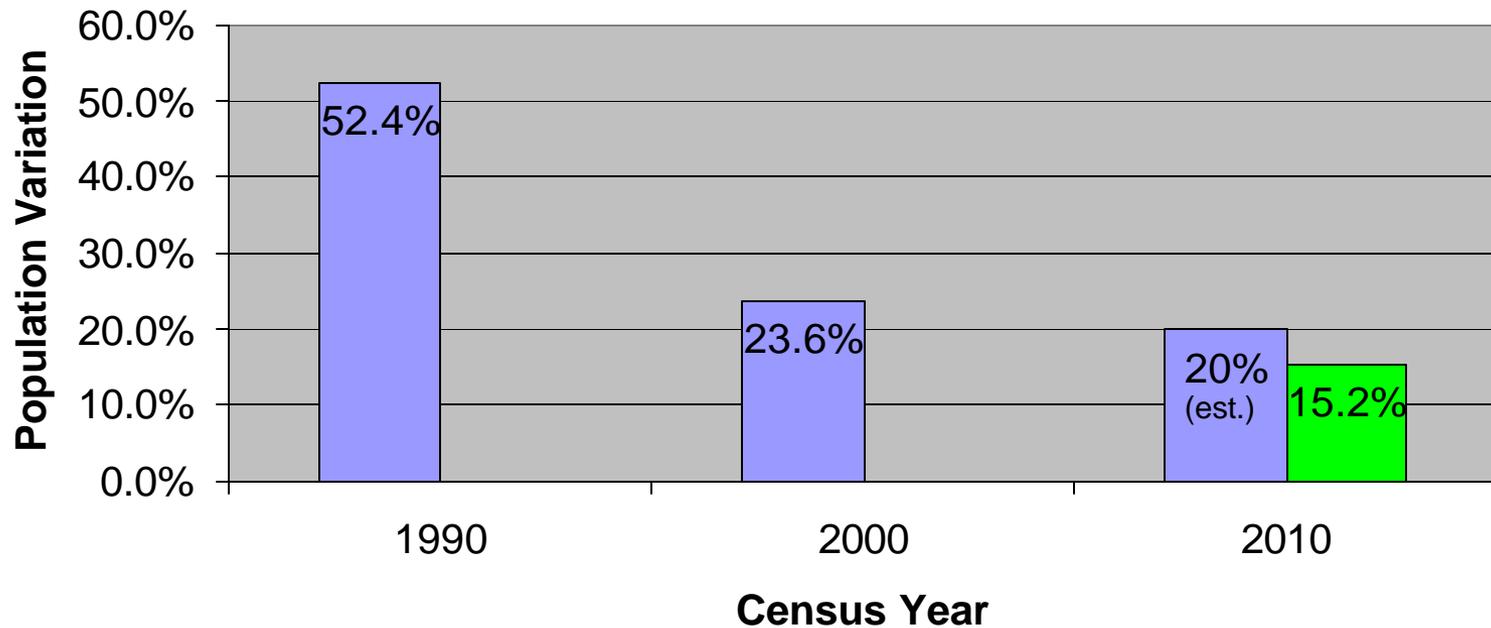
\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000 & 2010),  
Calif. Dept. of Finance (2001-2010)

# City of San Jose Household Size by Council District, 2000\*



\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## City of San Jose Range of Population Variation Among Council Districts Before Redistricting, 1990-2010\*



\*Source: San Jose Planning Division

# Key Commission Outcomes

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- **Follow City Charter and Federal law**
- **May 31 – Commission’s Report and Recommendations due to the City Council**
- **October 31 – Deadline for City Council to adopt Redistricting Ordinance**

# Stay Involved!

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**Visit us at:**

[www.sanjoseca.gov/redistricting/2011redistricting.asp](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/redistricting/2011redistricting.asp)

**E-mail us at:**

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