VOTING IN CONTRA COSTA

A Town Hall Hosted by

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

Debi Cooper, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar

Tommy Gong, Deputy Clerk-Recorder

Helen Nolan, Assistant Registrar

February 18, 2022

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Upcoming Elections in 2022

Redistricting

Election Safety and Security

Outreach and Education

2022 Elections

(Much the same as 2020 and 2021)

All Voters will Receive a Vote by Mail Ballot!

Secure Drop Boxes (37)
- In 2020, we added over 20 more
- Most are available 24/7
- Serviced daily by 2 Elections staff

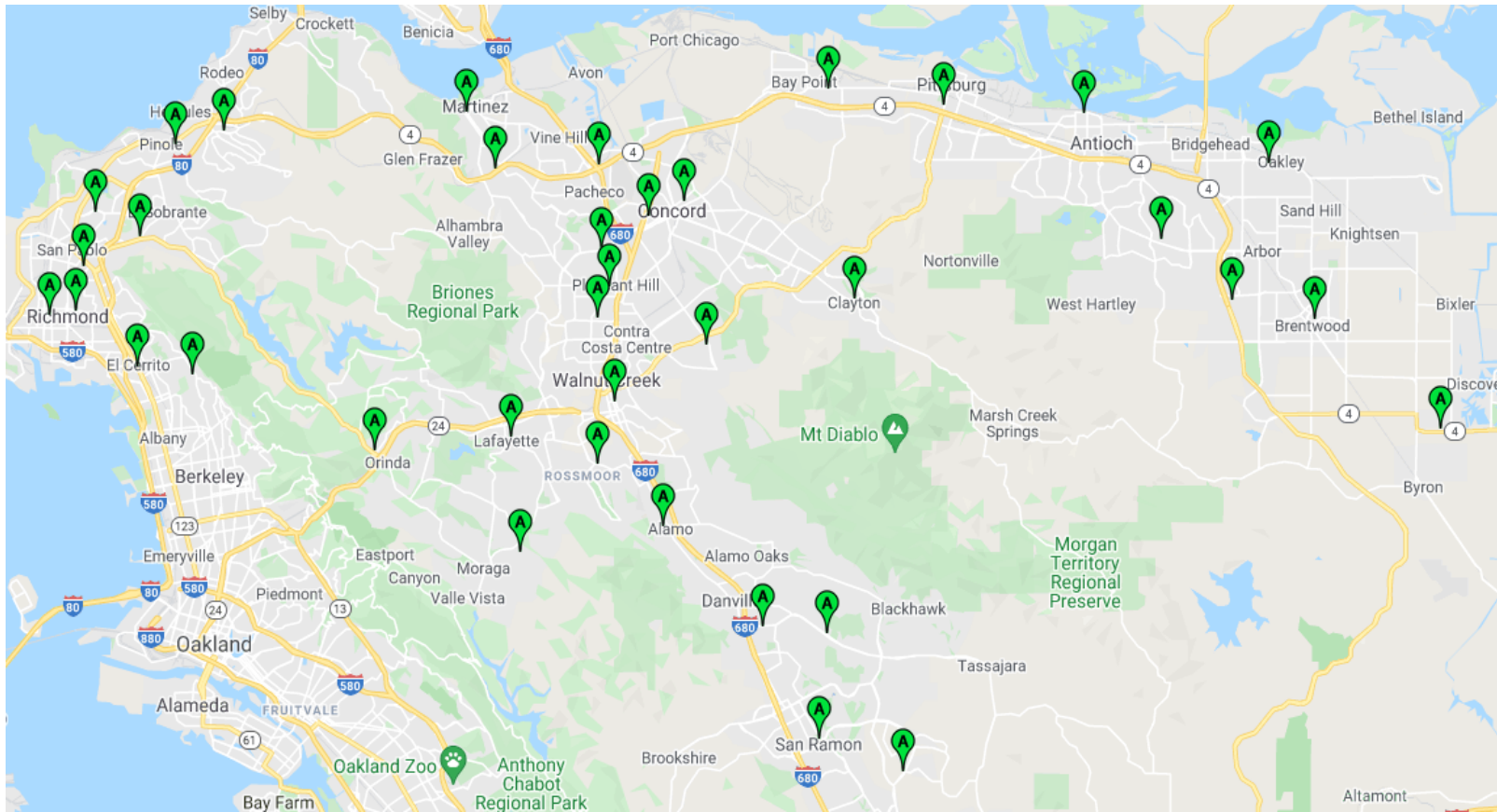**Early Voting locations (5+ our office)**
- Open 4 days (Fri., Sat., Mon., Election Day)
- All Services: Registration-Voting-Language-Accessibility

Polling Places (153)
- Electronic check-in eliminates the need for most provisional ballots
- All ballots will be transported back to our central office to be counted

2022 Elections

37 Drop Boxes

2022 Elections

Things to Remember:

- Return your ballot by US Mail or secure drop box (return postage is prepaid)

- County Public Health and the Elections Division recommend voting by mail

- Return your ballot **early!** so it can be included in our Election Night count

- All precinct ballots will be transported to our main office in Martinez to be counted on Election Night

- In-person services are available at our office (29 days) at early voting sites (3 days) and at polling places on Election Day
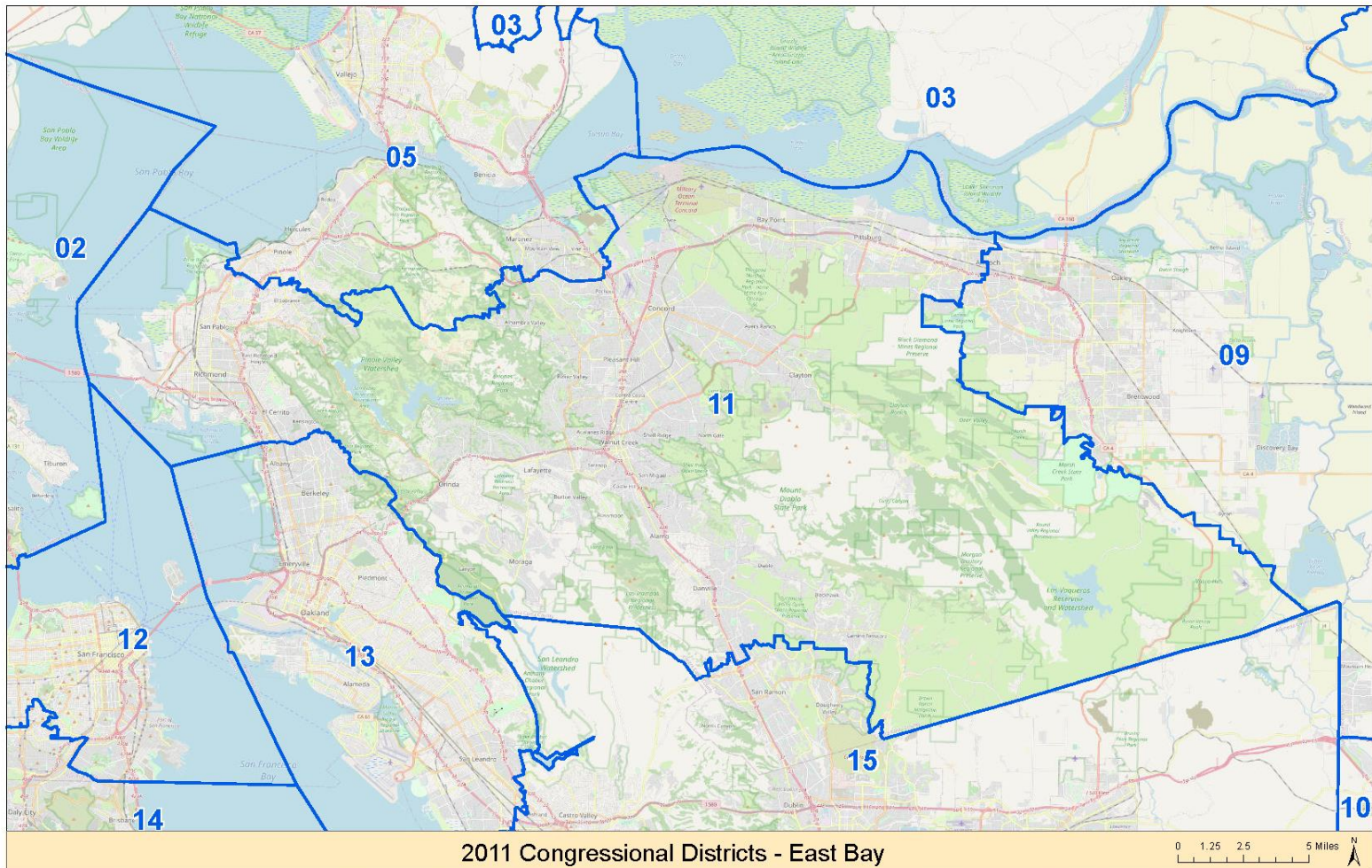
What is Redistricting?

- Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district for purposes of electing a representative. As populations shift, the lines must shift as well, to assure equal representation.

- Redistricting was more complicated this time because the census data was received so late.

- Guiding Principles: When possible, maintain communities of interest together in a single district and avoid splitting communities.

- Communities of interest may be defined by existing boundaries for cities, school districts, special districts, and unincorporated communities, or by other demographics.

Contra Costa Elections maintains boundaries of nearly 100 districts
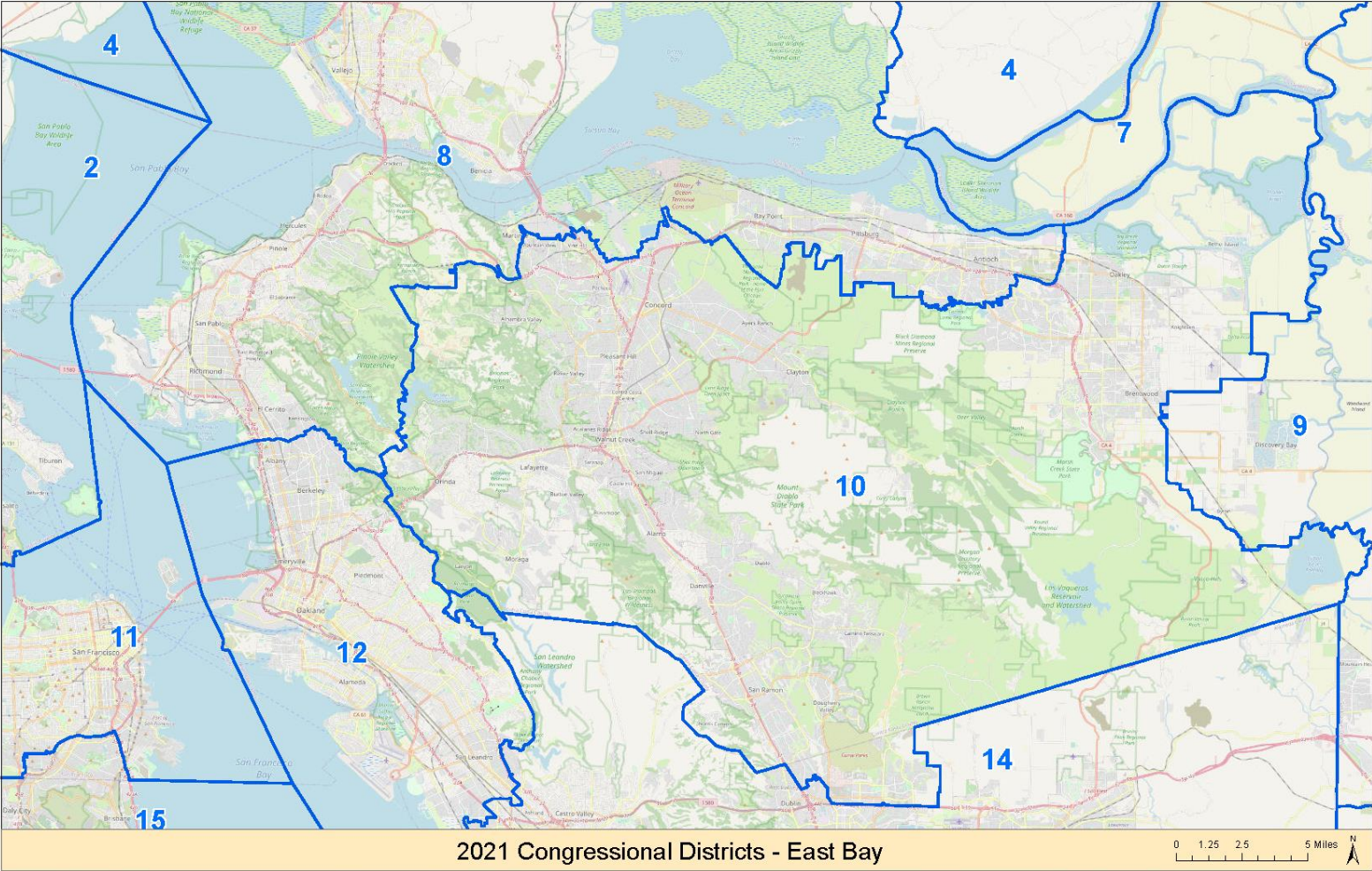## 30 districts will be redistricting for the November 2022 elections.

June 2022	November 2022		
State/County **December 15**	**Cities** **April 17**	**Special Districts** **May 12**	**School Districts** **March 1**
Congressional	Antioch	Dublin San Ramon Services District	Contra Costa County Board Of Education
State Assembly	Brentwood	Contra Costa Water District	Contra Costa Community College District
State Senate	Concord	Diablo Water District	Chabot-Las Positas Com. College District*
Supervisorial	Martinez	East Bay Municipal Utility District	Antioch Unified School District
	Oakley	Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection	Martinez Unified School District
	Richmond	Bay Area Rapid Transit District	Mt Diablo Unified School District
	San Ramon	Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District*	Oakley Union Elementary School District
		Byron Bethany Irrigation District	West Contra Costa USD
		East Contra Costa Irrigation District	San Ramon Valley USD
		East Bay Regional Park District	
		West County Wastewater District	

Done

* Districts shared with Alameda County

2011 Congressional Map (before Redistricting)

2011 Congressional Districts - East Bay

2021 Congressional Map (after Redistricting)

2021 Congressional Districts - East Bay

Elections Safety and Security

- Elections are designated as critical infrastructure of this country by the Department of Homeland Security

- We coordinate with Federal/State agencies to assure highest security
  - During election time, we have regular meetings and briefings with the FBI, Homeland Security, Secretary of State

- Contra Costa Elections is member of, and participates in, several IT security groups at the national, state, and local levels

- We work with Federal CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency)
  - Security planning, safeguards, incident detection
  - 4 Primary areas: Networks, Facilities, Processes, People

- Recently received County approval for a dedicated IT position to oversee cybersecurity and network security for the department

Securing our Networks

- Voting Systems are not connected to the Internet

- All systems and updates must be approved by the Secretary of State

- All staff receive initial and ongoing training of how to secure networks and data

- We haven multiple firewalls and 24/7 intrusion monitoring

- Recently received .gov top level domain for our websites; we are implementing now for June

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Securing our Facilities

- All facilities are locked and access is only as needed

- Proxy access cards monitor who enters areas

- Only top level management have access to high security systems and areas

- Each voting location has a security assessment conducted as part of selection process

- Upgrading our video monitoring system

- Law enforcement on site on Election Night at both main facility and warehouse

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Securing our Processes

- All vote by mail ballots must be signed by the voter. Every signature is checked by a staff member and compared to the voter's known signature in our system, to assure a match

- Only the first ballot we receive is counted (the system intercepts others)

- At polling places, electronic poll books are connected in real time

- We create and submit a security plan to the SOS each election

- Chain of custody is maintained for ballots and equipment

- All equipment goes through logic and accuracy testing before use

- Post election audits ensure equipment performed as expected

- All election processes and audits available for the public to view

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Securing our People

- All staff (permanent and temporary) must pass a background check before hire

- All staff have ID badges

- All staff have access to only those areas and times appropriate for their assignment

- Only top level management have access to the most secure areas

- All staff and poll workers are trained in appropriate response to various safety or security incidents

Outreach and Education

- Continue to increase our outreach activities, particularly to areas and demographics that are historically underrepresented

- Developed, implementing a new strategic communication plan
  - Social media policy and program
  - YouTube videos explaining what we do

- Expanding our services into the communities
  - "So you want to run for office?" potential candidate workshops
  - Candidate Forums for June and November (coordinated with LWV)
  - Monthly community pop-up services in East and West County
  - Quarterly Elections Citizens Engagement (ECE) meetings with community partners and interested citizens
  - Ballot drop-off and voter registration drives in our schools, colleges, and communities

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Outreach and Education Trailer

Elections Officials:
Your trusted source for elections information

- Continually combatting false and misleading information
- Mis-, Dis-, and Malinformation
  - Misinformation – false but not created or shared with harmful intent
  - Disinformation – deliberately created to mislead, harm, or manipulate
  - Malinformation – based on fact, but used out of context to mislead, harm, etc.
  - All 3 can undermine confidence in elections

- "Prebunking" vs. Debunking
  - Providing accurate information before negative information surfaces

- Coalition of Bay Area Election Officials
  - Share media markets (TV, print, radio)
  - Goal - educate Bay Area voters
  - Provide accurate, timely information about voting processes
  - Transparent views of the elections processes
  - Be the trusted source of election information

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What's Ahead?

- April 5, 2022 Special Election 11th Assembly District
  (with Solano and Sacramento Counties -155,000 voters)

- May 3, 2022 Special Election
  (with Alameda County - 150 voters)

- June 7, 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election
  (Statewide)

- Redistricting - all spring and summer
  (25-50 Cities, Schools, and Special Districts)

- November 2022 General Election
  (Statewide)

Stay in Touch

Website: **www.ccclerkrec.us**

Email: debi.cooper@cr.cccounty.us
             tommy.gong@cr.cccounty.us
             helen.nolan@vote.cccounty.us

Check out our Social Media sites:

Facebook: @ContraCostaElections

Twitter: @cocoelections

Youtube: Contra Costa County Clerk Recorder Elections

Instagram: contra_costa_elections

Thank you!

QUESTIONS?