

The County of Orange Report

Prepared for the Mesa Water District

November 12, 2021
by Lewis Consulting Group



On the Agenda

AGENDA #8 - COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

a.) **FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 OC LAFCO AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
The Commission will receive a report on the agency's audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2020-21 prepared by independent auditor, Davis Farr LLP.

b.) **2021 ORANGE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN (Continued from October 13)**
The Commission will consider adoption of the 2021 Strategic Plan.

c.) **ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER WITH CAROLYN EMERY**

The Commission will consider adopting a resolution approving the Second Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement for the Position of Executive Officer.

AGENDA #9 - COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

This is an opportunity for Commissioners to comment on issues not listed on the agenda, provided that the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No discussion or action may occur or be taken except to place the item on a future agenda if approved by Commission majority.

AGENDA #10 - EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Executive Officer's announcement of upcoming events and brief report on activities of the Executive Officer since the last meeting.

AGENDA #11 - INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a.) **PROTEST HEARING RESULTS FOR THE SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT ANNEXATION OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO'S WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES (DA 20-01)**

The Commission will receive an update on the Protest Hearing results of the Santa Margarita Water District Annexation of the City of San Juan Capistrano's Water and Wastewater Utilities held on October 28, 2021

b.) **WEBSITE REDESIGN**

The Commission will receive a digital tour of the agency's new website.

The LAFCO meeting was crisply conducted -

- a.) The annual audit was presented and LAFCO passed with "flying colors". The noted major change in financials was an increase of \$169,000 in revenue and a decrease of \$150,000 in pension liability.
- b.) After discussion brought about by Commissioner Jim Fidler's explanation of proposed amendments of the Strategic Plan by Mesa Water District, two of the amendments were accepted and incorporated into the plan. The first was identifying LAFCO as OCLAFCO and the second involved the use of analytics for the OCLAFCO website.
- c.) The Executive Director's contract was extended by a year and a 3.7% salary increase was unanimously approved.

It was announced that the protest period related to Santa Margarita Water District's annexation of San Juan Capistrano Water and Wastewater Utilities had expired without protest and with just needing a minor State sign-off, it is now finalized.

LAFCO will be dark in December and the next meeting will be January 12, 2022.



Redistricting Dominates Board's Discussions

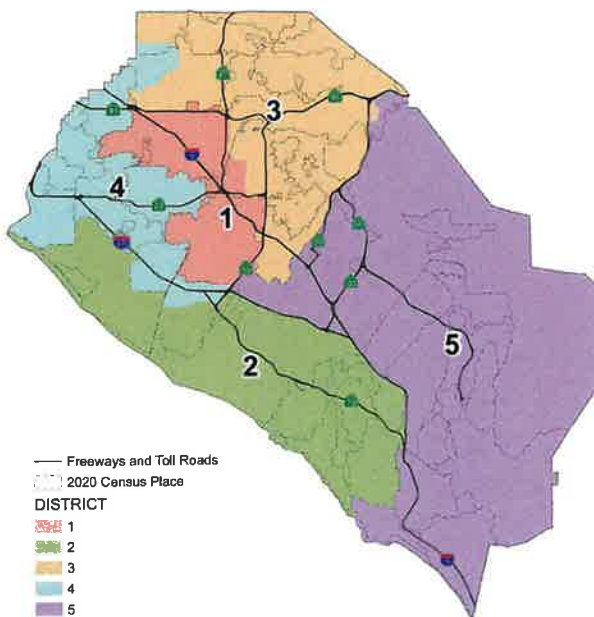
On November 2, 2021, after lengthy discussions and public testimony, the Board voted to narrow down the publicly submitted maps for ultimate consideration to three. One map supported by numerous social justice organizations would have the effect of creating districts which would likely secure a Democratic majority on the Board. The second map, favored by Asian leaders (Vietnamese in particular) creates a district which heavily favors the election of an Asian Supervisor. The third map plan appears to be more of a status quo, but amendments could be made to any of these plans creating ongoing uncertainty.

On November 5th, six new plans were received from Board offices, increasing the total to nine plans under consideration. However on November 12th Board offices can each propose one new map, bringing the total to 14 maps from which the final version will be selected.

The original three maps selected from the public maps (#2, #4 and #5) are the building blocks from which other maps are drawn. Below are the original three maps which give a sense of decisions the Board must make.

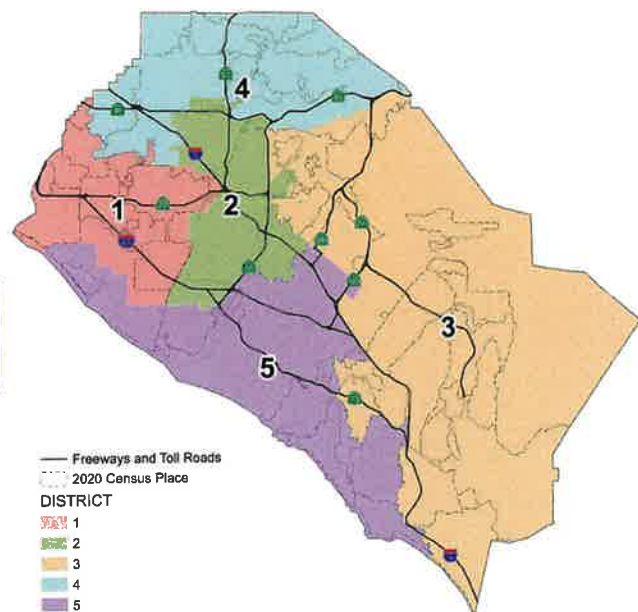
County of Orange 2021 Redistricting

Proposal 2 Map



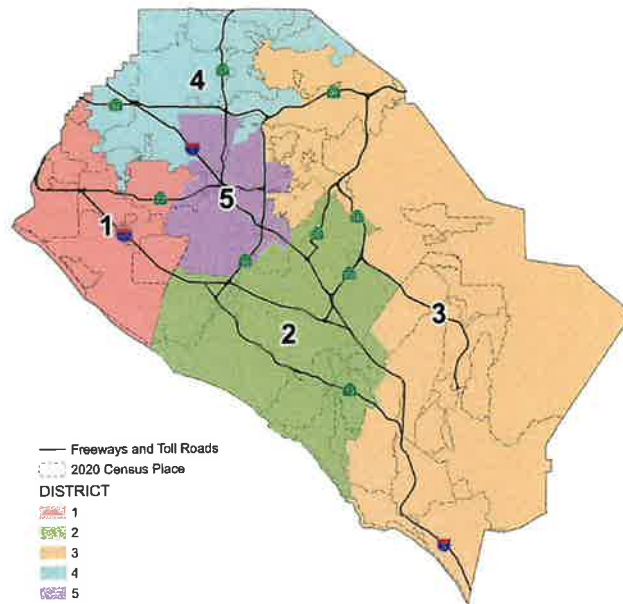
County of Orange 2021 Redistricting

Proposal 4 Map



County of Orange 2021 Redistricting

Proposal 5 Map



Orange County COVID-19 Update

ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS	11/12/2021 ^^	10/21/2021
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	308,540	302,631
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	5,643	5,550
DEATHS REPORTED TODAY	9	12
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	5,602,584	5,333,647
TESTS REPORTED TODAY	29,829	14,047
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	219 *	200 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU	57	42
CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE	296,484 *	291,100 *

* = INCLUDES *ICU* CASES

^^ = INCLUDES DATA FROM 11/11/2021 - VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY

Yes Virginia, 2021 Marks Political Upheaval

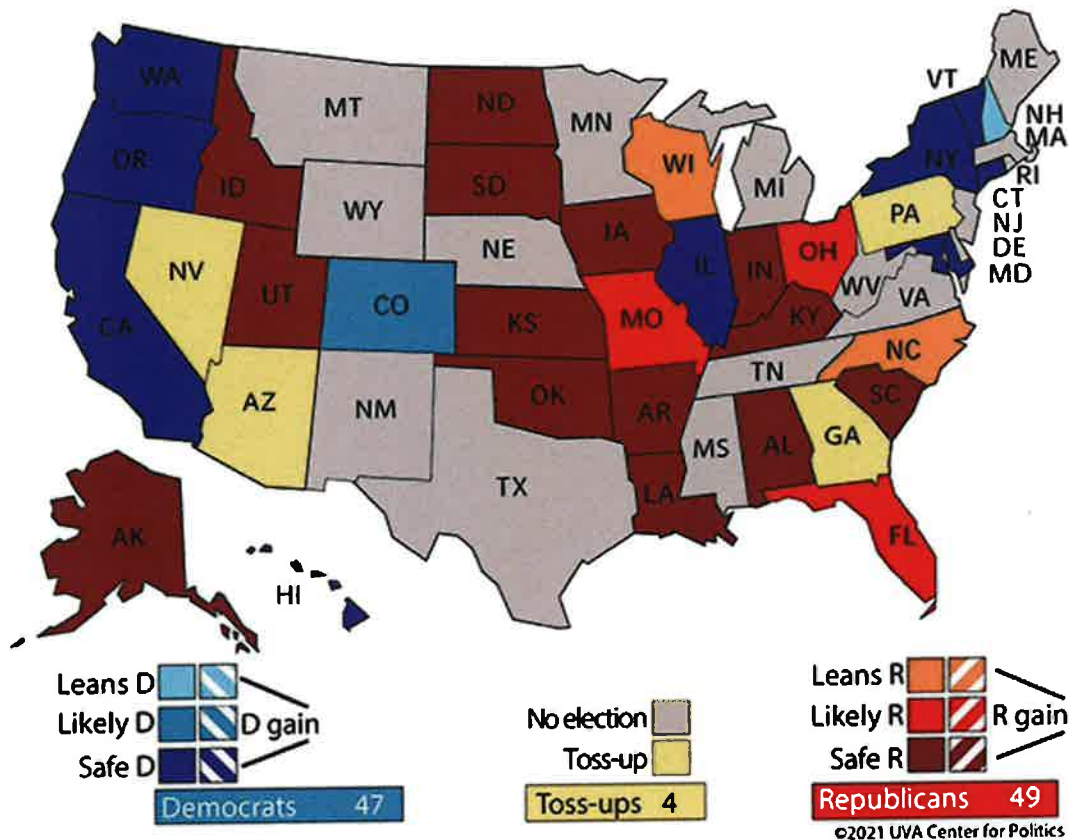
Virginians sent shockwaves with its election of Republican Glenn Youngkin as the Commonwealth's Governor-elect. To add to the election shock, reliably blue New Jersey narrowly averted a complete meltdown when incumbent Democrat Governor Philip Murphy was re-elected by a 51%-48% margin.

Both of these election results were in stark contrast to the September 14, 2021 California Recall election in which Governor Gavin Newsom easily defeated GOP front-runner Larry Elder. It should be noted that the California election was held prior to a precipitous drop in President Biden's popularity. Historically, the political party which holds the White House fares poorly in mid-term elections.

Thursday, November 11

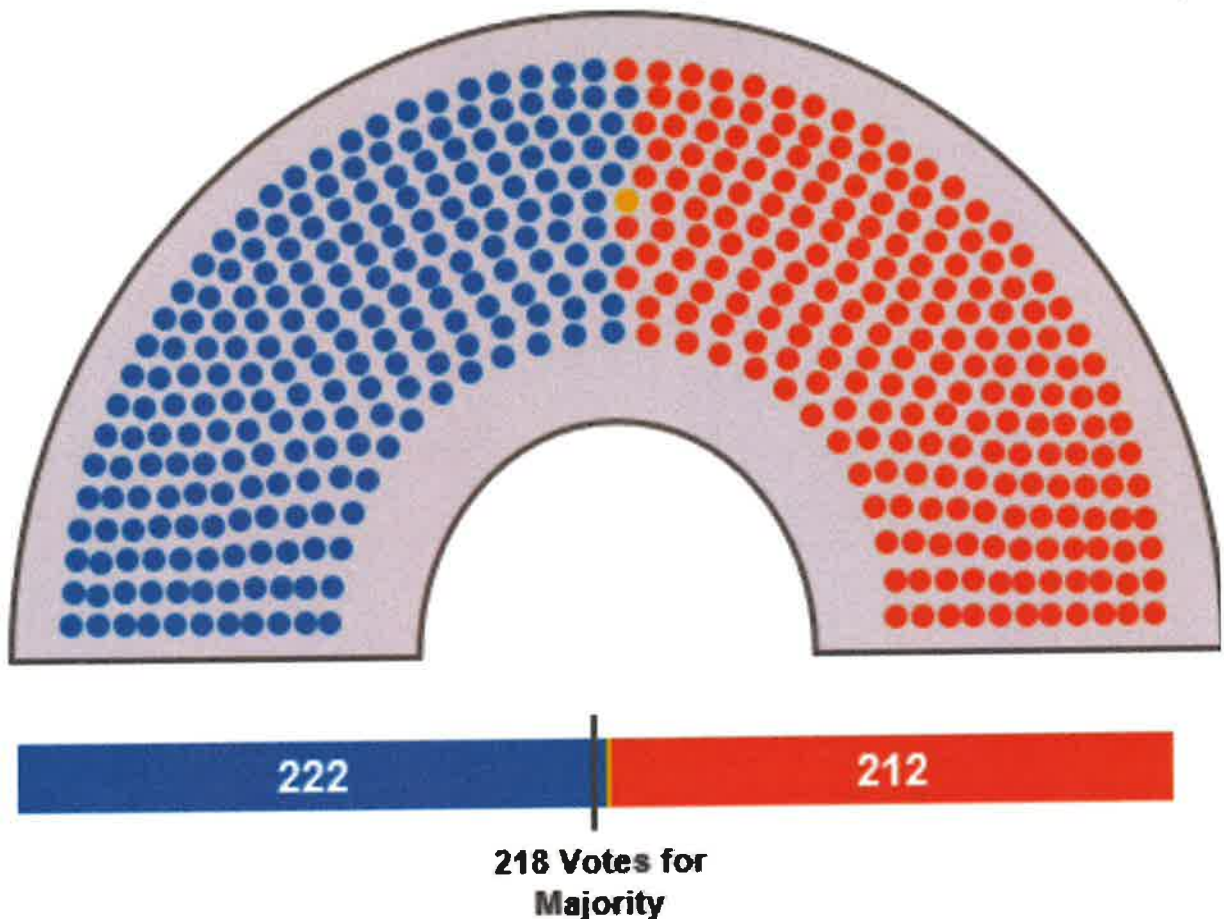
Race/Topic (Click to Sort)	Poll	Results	Spread
President Biden Job Approval	Reuters/Ipsos	Approve 46, Disapprove 49	Disapprove +3
President Biden Job Approval	Federalist/Susquehanna	Approve 36, Disapprove 52	Disapprove +16
President Biden Job Approval	Rasmussen Reports	Approve 41, Disapprove 58	Disapprove +17

What the experts predict for November 2022



As a result of the recent election, expert political analyst Professor Larry Sabato has changed the prognoses from by moving Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada from "lean Democrat" to "toss-ups". He also moved Colorado from "safe Democrat" to "leans

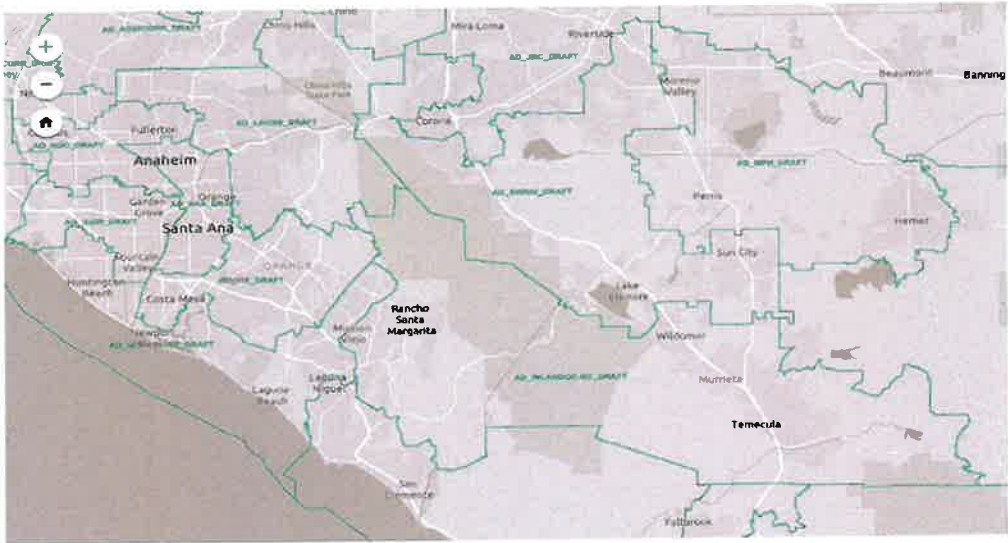
Democrat". Given the 50-50 tie that presently exists in the U.S. Senate, this type of change provides heartburn for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.



According to Nate Silver's 538.com, in the recent election across the country, the Republicans local government base vote increased by 7%. They calculate that if that margin were to hold, it would equate to an approximate net gain of 40 U.S. House seats.

Commission Releases Congressional and Legislative Lines

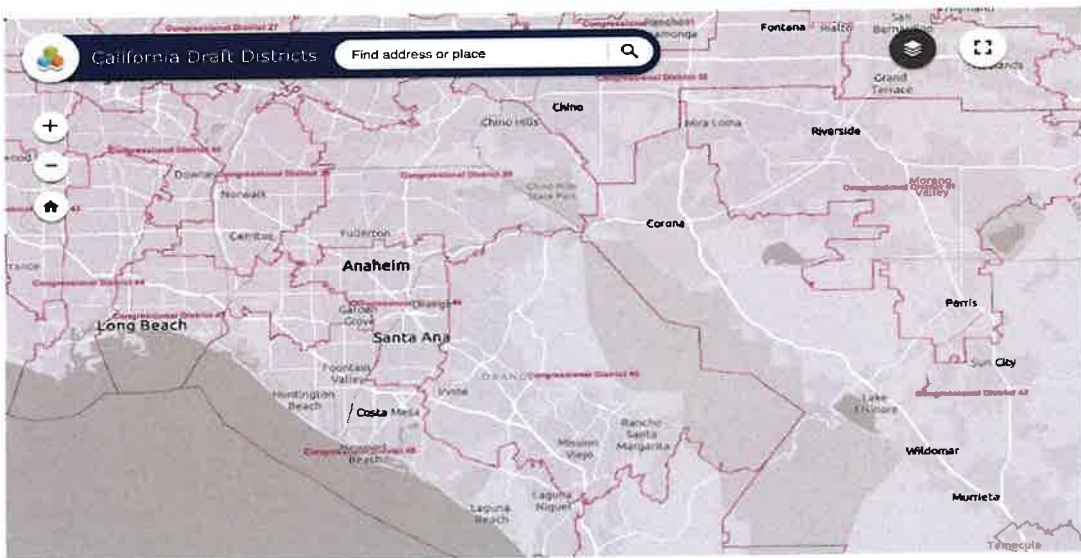
The three maps below are the State's redistricting commission's most recently drawn Assembly, State and Congressional districts. After weeks of work, the maps were publicly released on November 10th. These may or may not be the final maps, notwithstanding, NO CHANGE will be made for two weeks.



PROPOSED ORANGE COUNTY ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS



PROPOSED ORANGE COUNTY STATE SENATE DISTRICTS



PROPOSED ORANGE COUNTY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS