All Asians are Not Alike:
Using ACS and Administrative Data Estimates of Asian Subgroups in Political Districting / Redistricting

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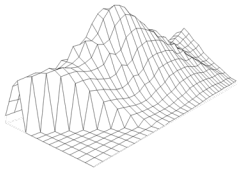

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Silicon Valley (California) Asian Subgroups:

Recent increase of Asian high-tech immigrant workers

- from China and India
- well-educated
- naturalized & politically involved

Asian subgroups want separate recognition during redistricting

- like separate COIs for Cubans and Mexicans within the "Hispanic" category

Silicon Valley Asian Subgroups:

Recent increase of Asian high-tech immigrant workers

from China and India
well-educated
naturalized & politically involved

Asian subgroups may want separate consideration during redistricting (separate communities of interest)

- **Afghans**
- **Similar to separate consideration of Cubans/Central Americans/Puerto Ricans/Mexicans within the "Hispanic" category**

Two Silicon Valley case studies: Asian Subgroups

Redistricting Data on Race/Ethnic subgroups: PL data aren't enough

2020 Census official counts (PL 94-171)

NO ASIAN SUBGROUPS

2010 Census data (SF2) for Asian subgroups

- **2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates:**

  Citizenship Voting Age Population (CVAP) rates by race and ethnicity (including separate Asian subgroups)

Voter registration & turnout estimates, by surname

California Statewide Database

Two Case Studies involving Asian Subgroups:

1. City of Fremont, Calif, moved from at-large to District elections

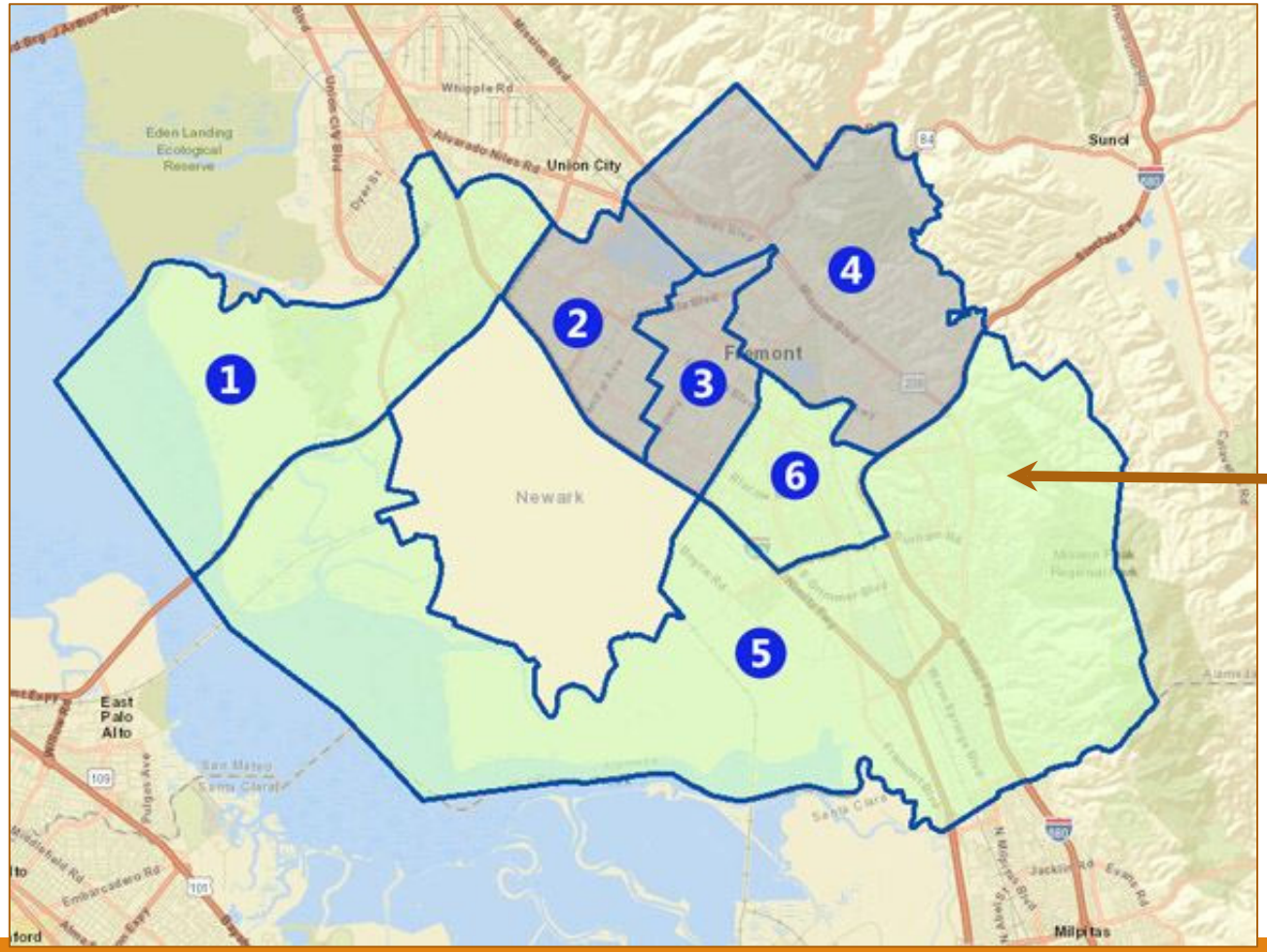
Afghan population wanted recognition as a distinct community of interest (mostly their downtown business locations)

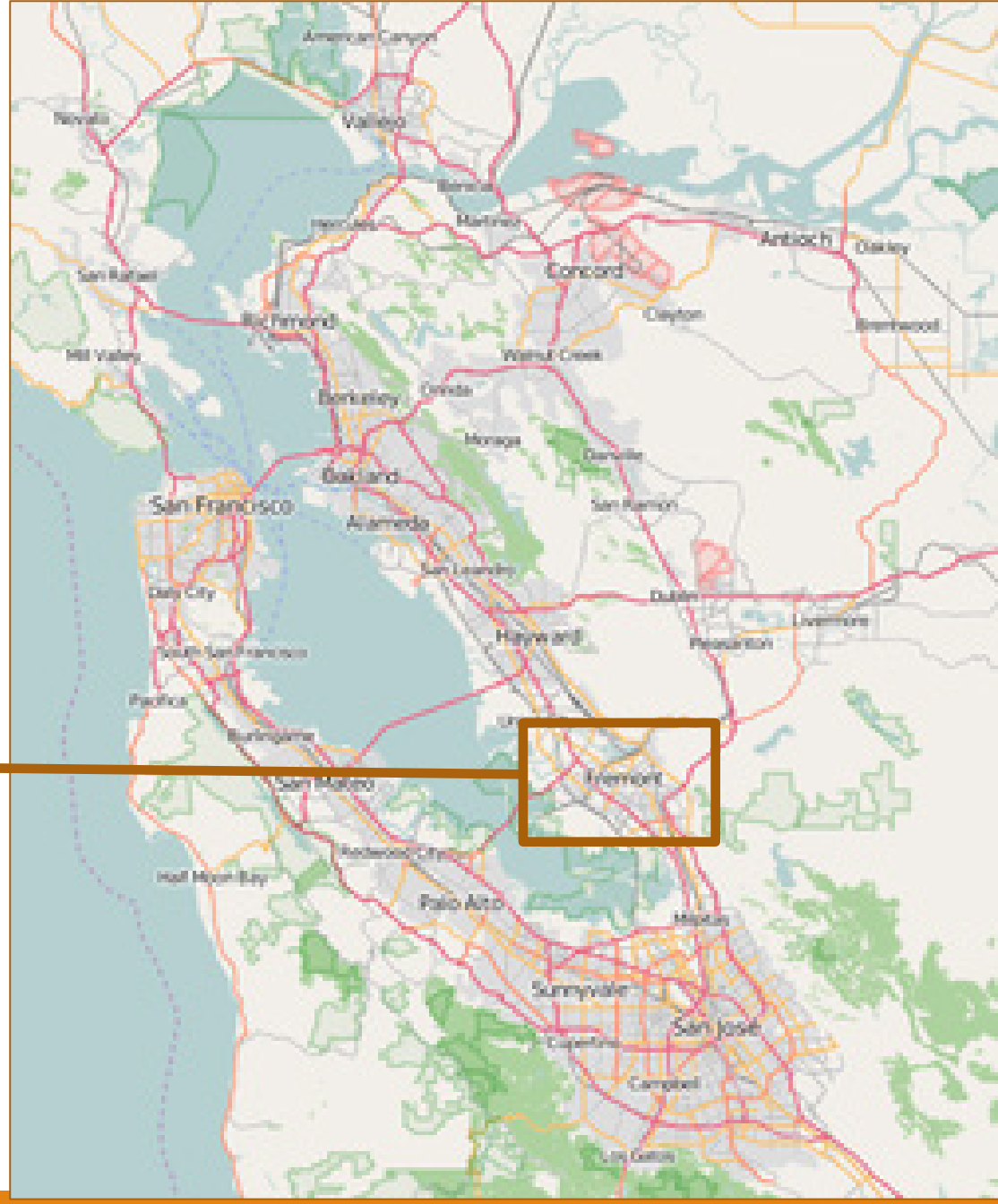
2. Client considering whether to move to by-district elections

Board members want to treat Chinese and Asian Indians as separate communities of interest (COIs)

Case Study 1

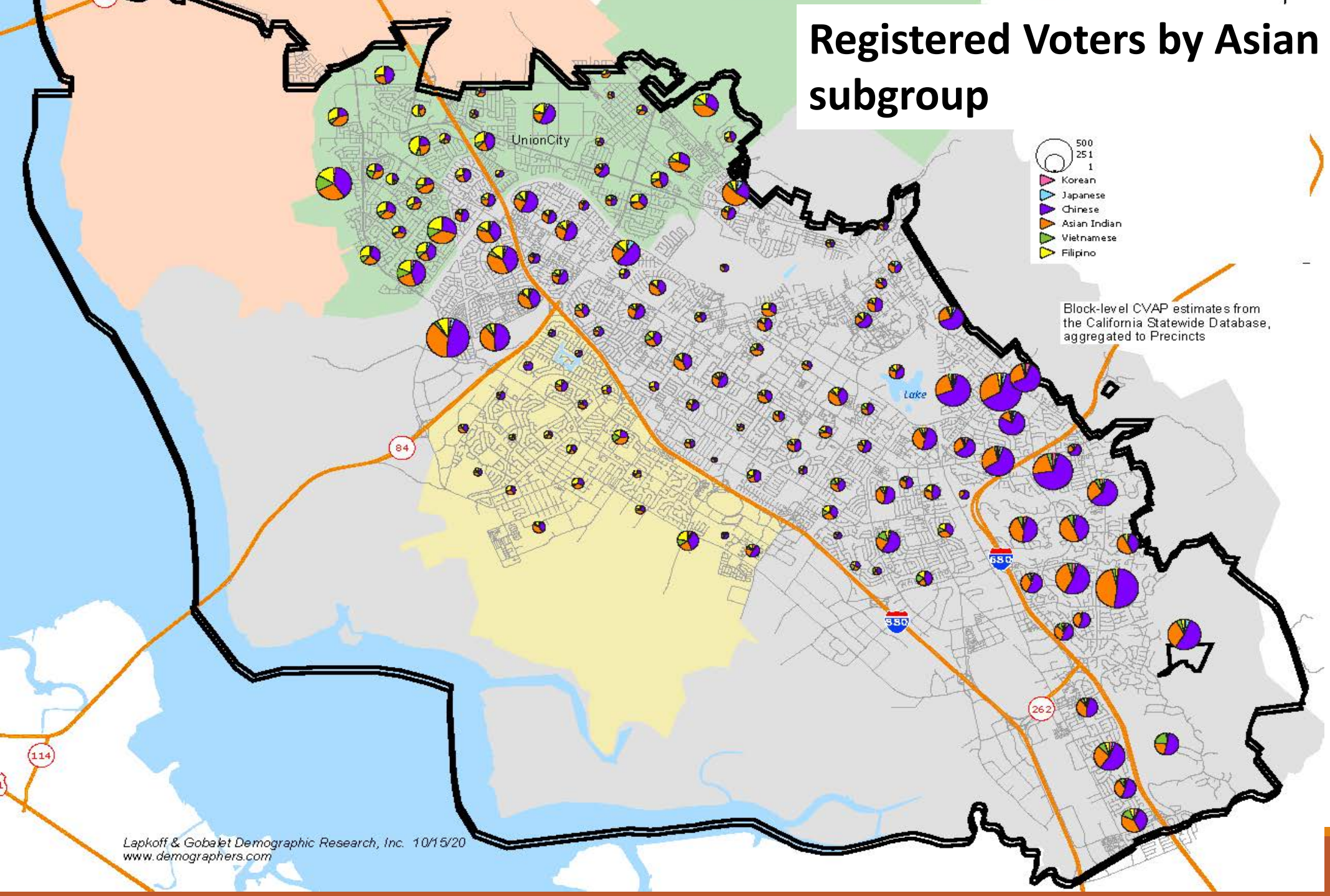
City of Fremont, California





LGDR's 2017 districting work for the city of Fremont, CA

Registered Voters by Asian surname subgroup

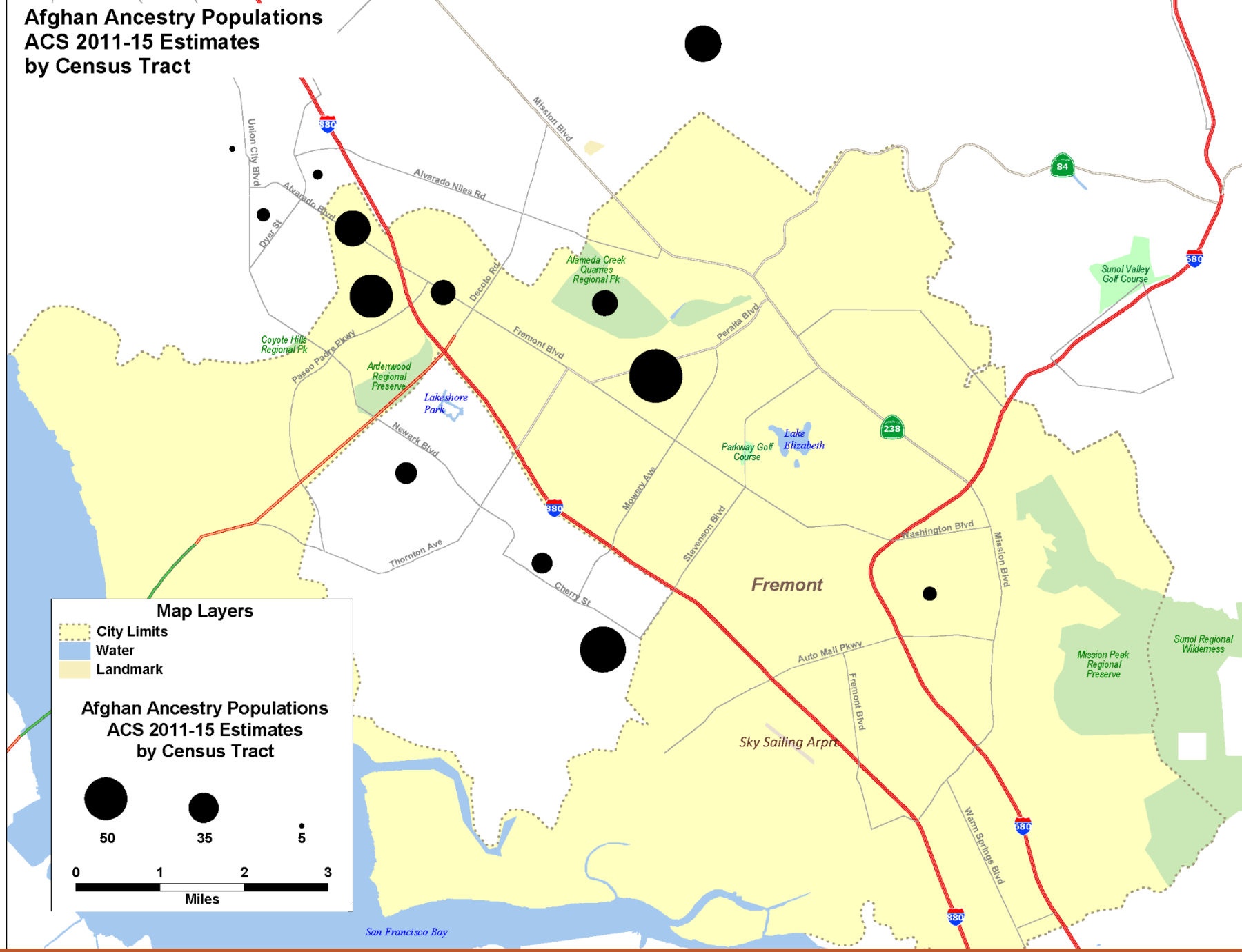


Afghan ancestry population estimates from ACS

(self-identified community of interest)

Caveat:
Afghan populations are much smaller than those of other groups.

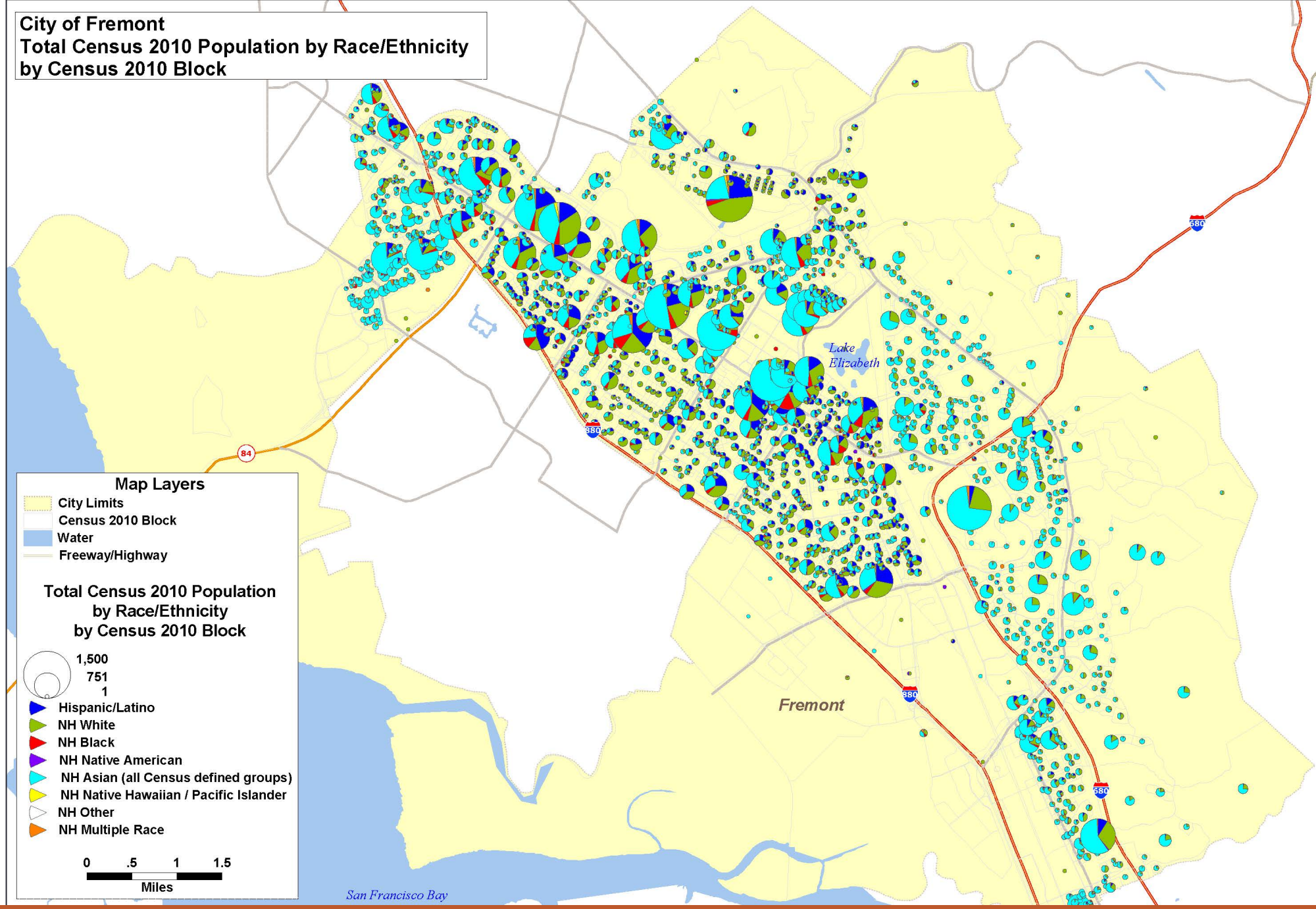
Proportional symbols are a different scale than previous maps:



Fremont's 2010 race/ethnic populations

by 2010 Census block

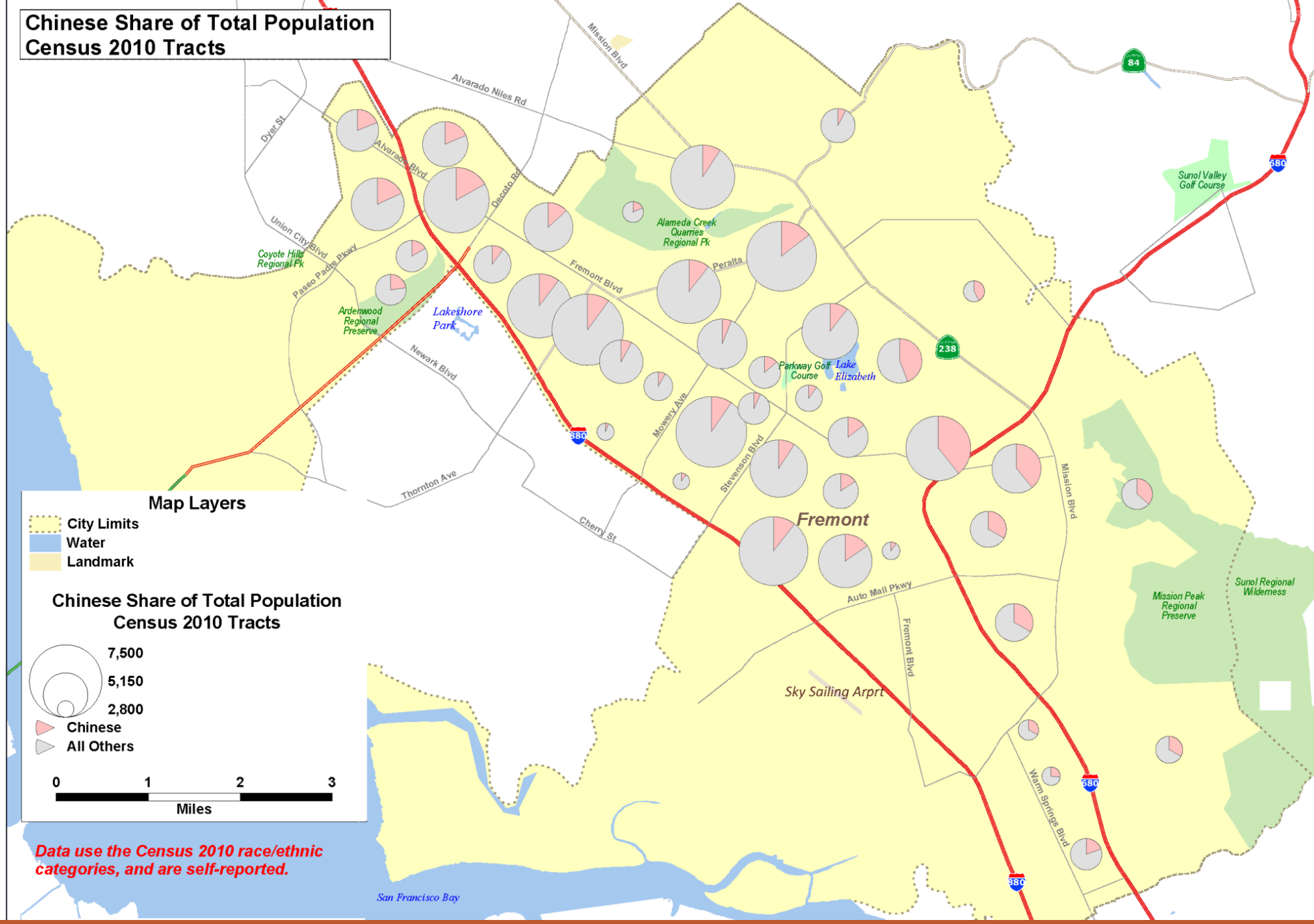
PL 94-171 redistricting categories



Chinese subgroup population

2010 Summary File 2 population counts

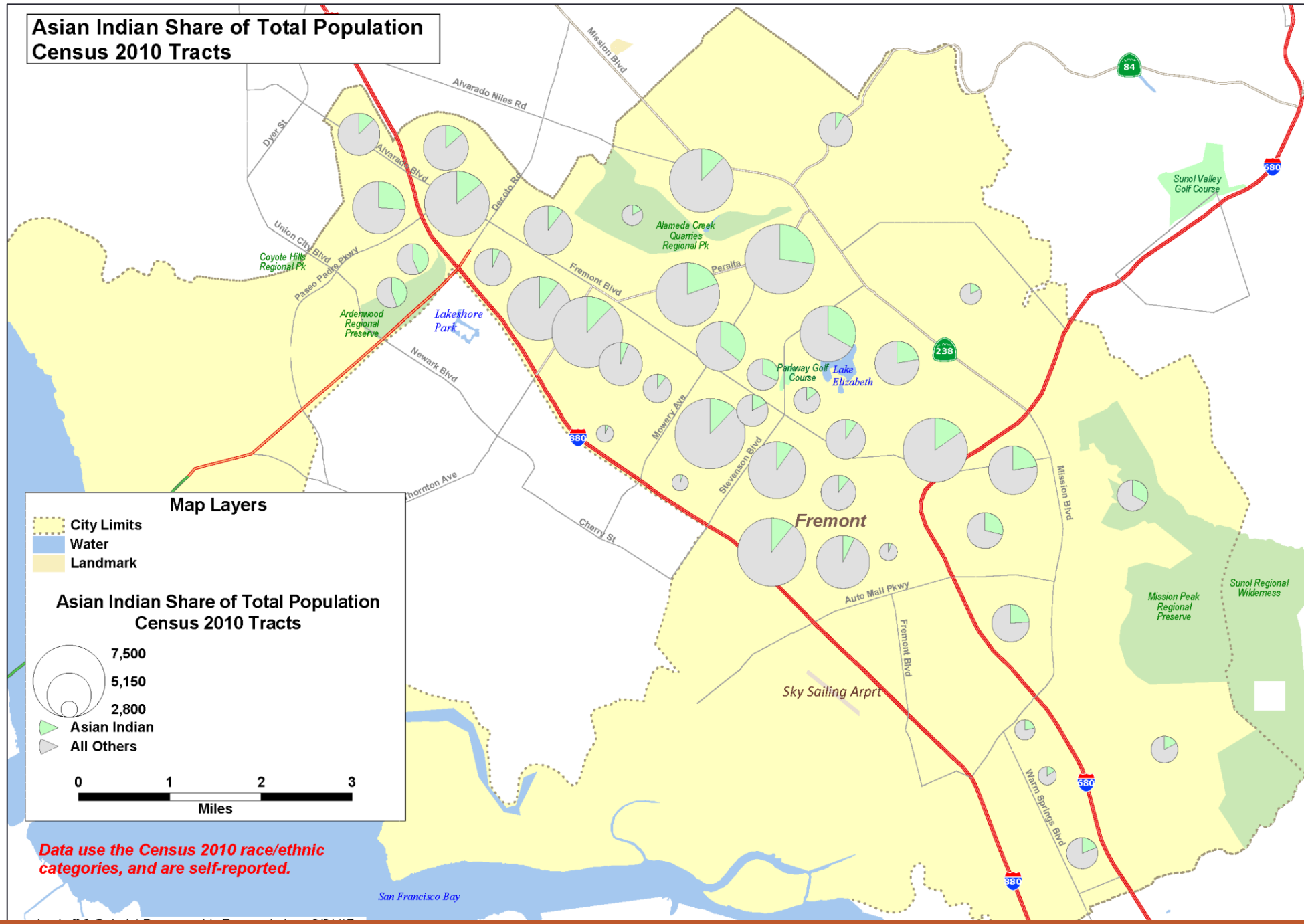
(self-identified community of interest)

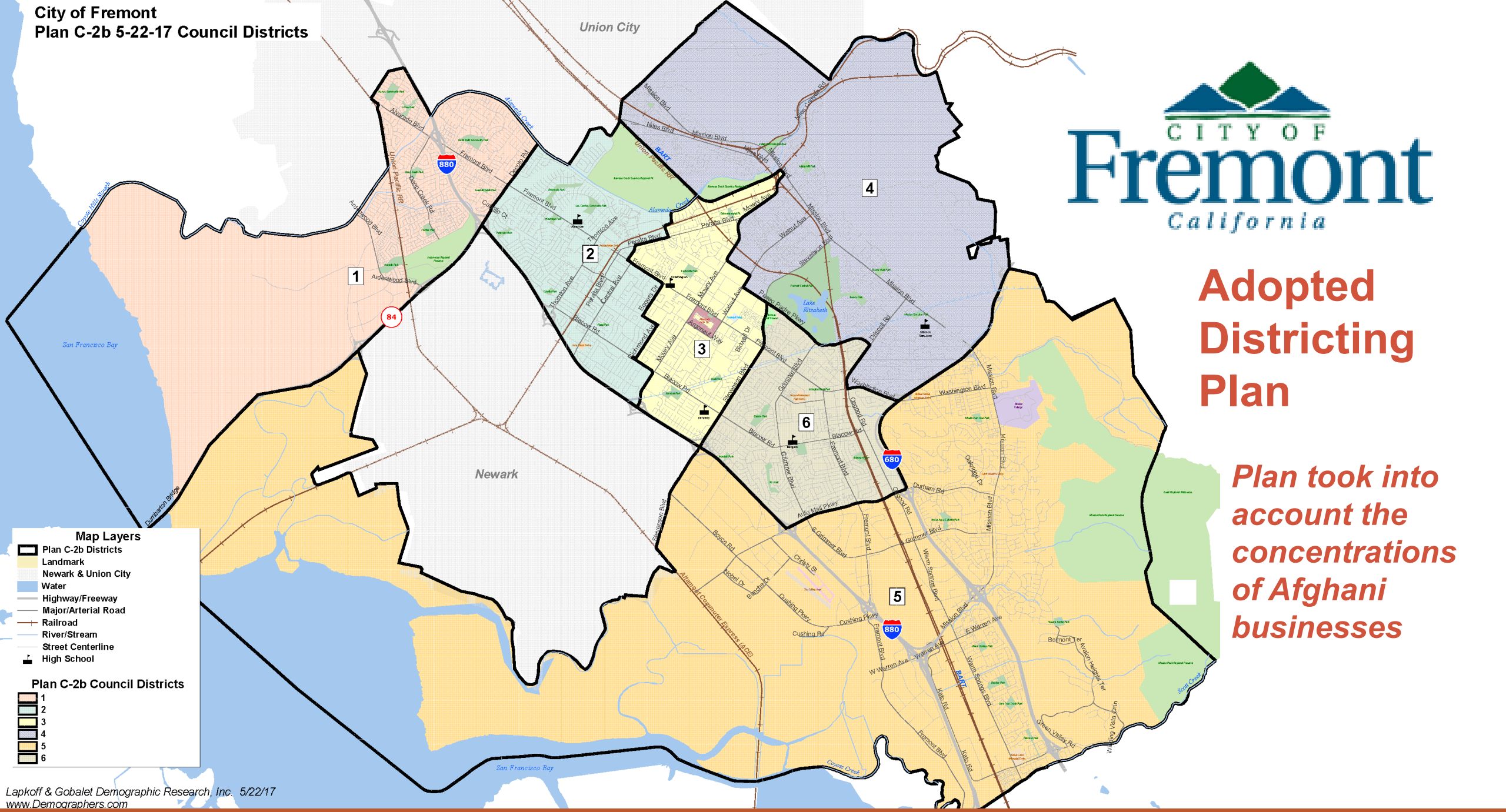


(Asian) Indian subgroup population

2010 Summary File 2 population counts

(self-identified community of interest)





CITY OF Fremont California

Adopted Districting Plan

Plan took into account the concentrations of Afghani businesses

Case Study 2: Do data support separate communities of interest for Asian subgroups?

Another Silicon Valley jurisdiction:

Search for evidence that supports consideration of Chinese and Asian Indians as separate Communities of Interest using racially polarized voting analysis

Step 1: Identify geographical concentrations of subgroup voters (registered and actual) in the jurisdiction, by voting precinct

Step 2: Study voting patterns of subgroups, by voting precinct (Ecological Regression + Ecological Inference)

Step 2: Racially Polarized Voting analysis (using EI and ER) show that Chinese and (Asian) Indian voters sometimes support different candidates

***Chinese Surname* Voters in 2018 Election:**

Moderate Evidence of RPV

candidate	ER Est % of Chinese Surname Vote	ER Est % of non-Chinese Surname Vote	ER Chinese Surname R^2	EI Est % of Chinese Surname Vote	EI Est % of non-Chinese Surname Vote	EI Chinese Surname p-value
Chinese surname female candidate	67	40	0.22	66	40	2.24e-38
Asian Indian surname male candidate	19	56	0.51	18	56	1.87e-63
Chinese surname male candidate	67	24	0.65	65	25	4.54e-90

***Asian Indian Surname* Voters in 2018 Election:**

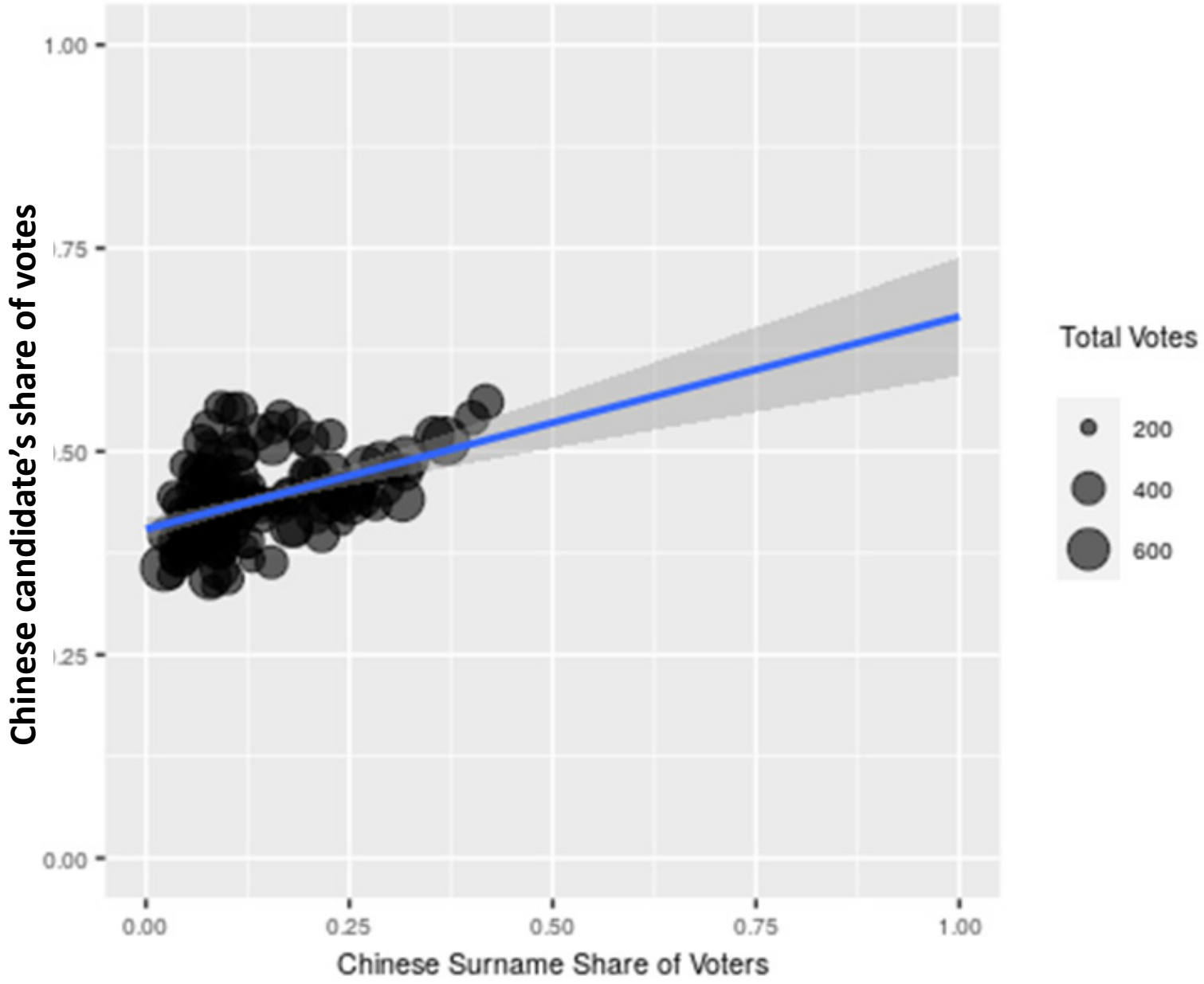
Little Evidence of RPV

Candidate	ER Est % of Asian Indian Surname Vote	ER Est % of non-Asian Indian Surname Vote	ER Asian Indian Surname R^2	EI Est % of Asian Indian Surname Vote	EI Est % of non-Asian Indian Surname Vote	EI Asian Indian Surname p-value
Chinese surname female candidate	58	43	0.031	52	43	4.32e-02
Asian Indian surname male candidate	**18**	55	0.195	**22**	54	1.48e-15
Chinese surname male candidate	76	25	0.371	72	26	1.40e-38

Chinese surname candidate preferred by Chinese surname voters

Ecological Inference

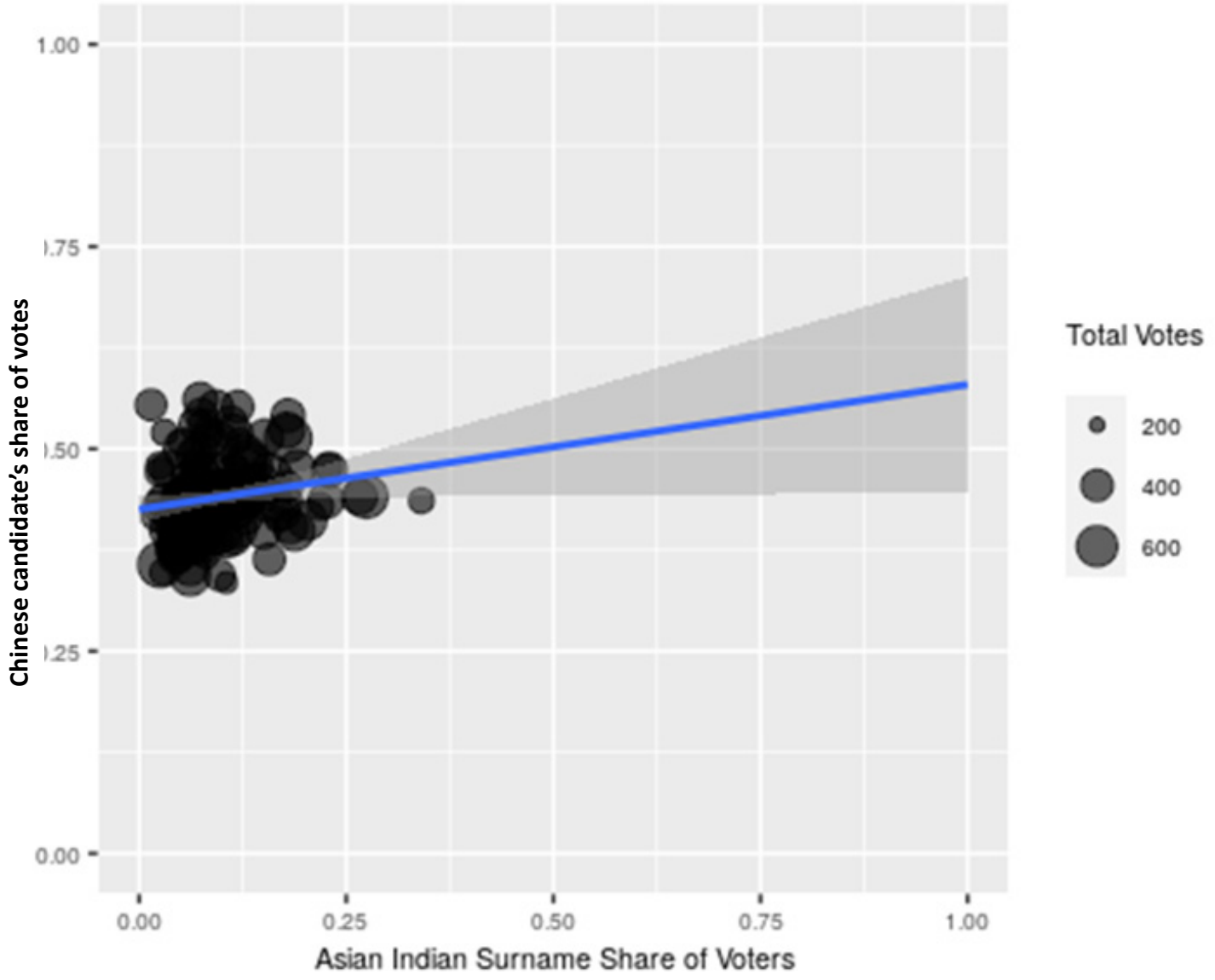
by voting precinct

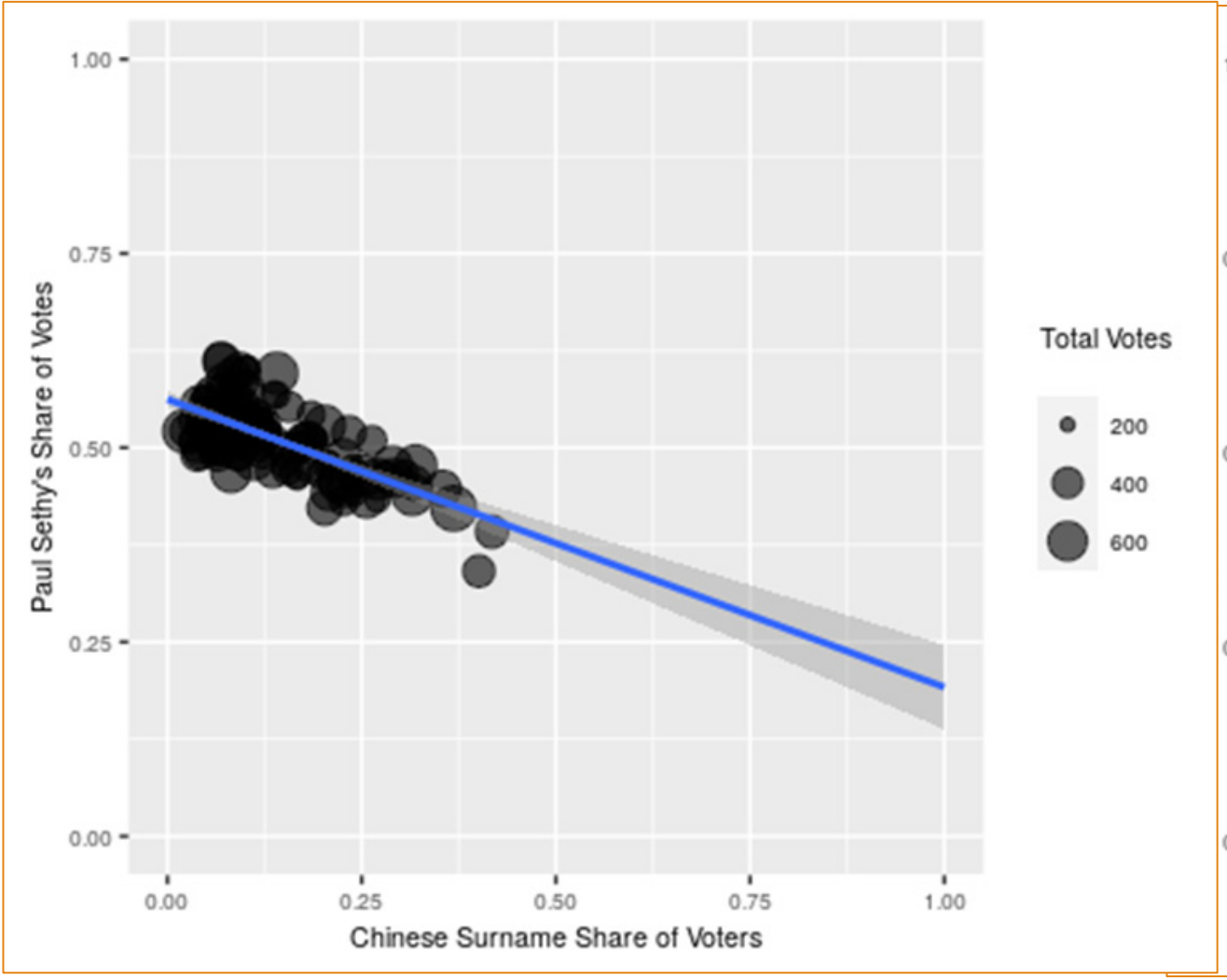


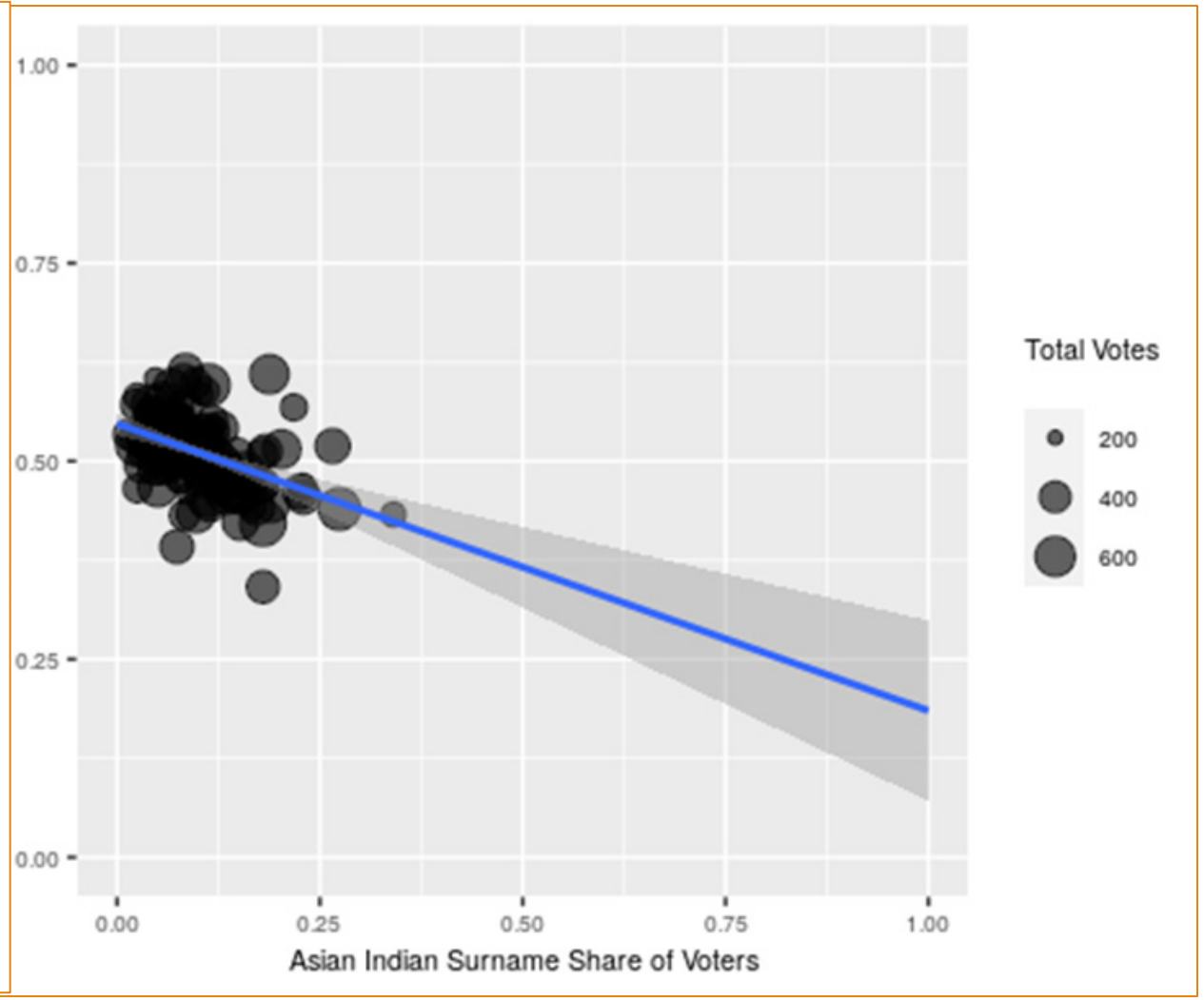
Chinese surname candidate slightly preferred by (Asian) Indian surname voters

Ecological Inference

by voting precinct







Asian Indian Candidate NOT preferred by Chinese- or (Asian) Indian-surname voters

Conclusions:

- **Sometimes it's important to distinguish among race/ethnic subgroups when redistricting**
  - In Silicon Valley, California, Chinese and (Asian) Indian surname residents consider themselves to be separate communities of interest.
  - Voting behavior and testimony by subgroup members support treating Asian subgroups as separate communities of interest in Silicon Valley.
- **We need ACS estimates + local administrative data (voter records) to distinguish among these subgroups because they are separate communities of interest.**

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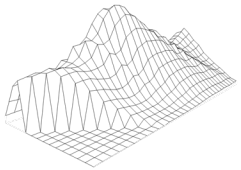
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