

West Davis
9,780

113 Corridor
Minority Renter
Student
9,330

North-Central
Davis
10,060

Cannery - Wildhorse
7,340

J St - Downtown
Minority Renter
Student
9,760

East Davis - Mace
9,370

South Davis - El Macero
9,730

Color	District	Total Pop	Area1	Area2	Area3	Area4	Area5	Area6	Area7	Area8	Area9	Area10	Area11	Area12	Area13	Area14	Area15								
Green	West Davis	9780	800	630	1520	900	360	400	970	350	280	970	490	240	250	1100	520								
Yellow	CA-113 MMRS	9330	420	640	600	670	540	800	400	1500	1080	470	620	1590											
Blue	North-Central	10060	630	170	450	100	500	190	1770	410	970	210	190	570	670	530	510	360	540	290	560	300	140		
Pink	J Street - Downt	9760	700	1310	340	900	450	470	990	600	470	650	1000	1090	790										
Orange	South Davis	9730	50	1000	1450	1240	1120	890	460	1310	1870	340													
Turquoise	Cannery/Wildho	7340	1980	300	850	220	340	460	360	490	610	670	210	190	660										
Pink	Mace	9370	580	780	680	380	1000	450	1630	750	1390	830	120	780											

Needed for 7 Member Council

Mean	Low	High
9,374	8436.6	10311.4

It's Time for a Student Council District

By moving to district elections, Davis has a real opportunity to ensure greater integration and representation for all voices of the Davis community on the City Council. This is particularly crucial for students. It has been 13 years since a UC Davis student or recent graduate has been elected to council, although undergraduate and graduate students represent 32% of all residents or approximately 21,000 individuals in the City of Davis. The student population is more diverse than the average population of Davis thus a student district is likely to be a majority minority district. Below I am proposing a seven-member council with two districts. I've designed these districts with underrepresented, renter heavy neighborhoods in mind, thus likely creating majority minority, renter, and student districts.

Although each individual student may not live in Davis beyond their few years as an undergraduate, other students will sit in those very same classroom seats, rent the same apartments, and face the same if not worse problems, if nothing changes.

Traditionally engagement from the undergraduate population in City Council elections has been relatively minor. This is not from a lack of caring for their community or fellow students; just look at the hundreds of clubs and support networks formal and informal students develop. But unfortunately, voting and learning about the community can be difficult. Many of the steps required to cast your ballot are still new to many students because college is often the first chance for many of us to cast a vote. Developing districts focused on the student community can help cultivate leaders, including current and recent graduates, to focus on developing support from this underserved community.

Students need a voice on council. I have personally been supportive of many of the recent actions by the council and happy to see it function productively. However, there is still a clear disconnect between some members of the community and students, whose experience in Davis is different.

After the approval of three student designed apartment complexes in 2018, a City Councilmember said, in essence, "we have done enough for student housing". Yet due to litigation, two of the three projects have been delayed, and Davis is still expected to have a major housing deficit for years to come.

The renter's rights ordinances are another example of progress for the City of Davis, but they still do not solve the problem renter's face. Weak enforcement measures, limited staff support, and no additional protections beyond what state law requires have made this ordinance something that will have a minor impact, preventing some of the worst abuses. A council member with recent experiences as a student renter would be able to share and advocate for specific issues, such as the need to renew leases at times 8 months before the expiration, Craigslist scammers, and the sheer difficulty of finding a room on last minute notice.

Using data provided by the districting vendor, I drafted 7 districts including 2 which are likely to be majority minority, renter, and student.

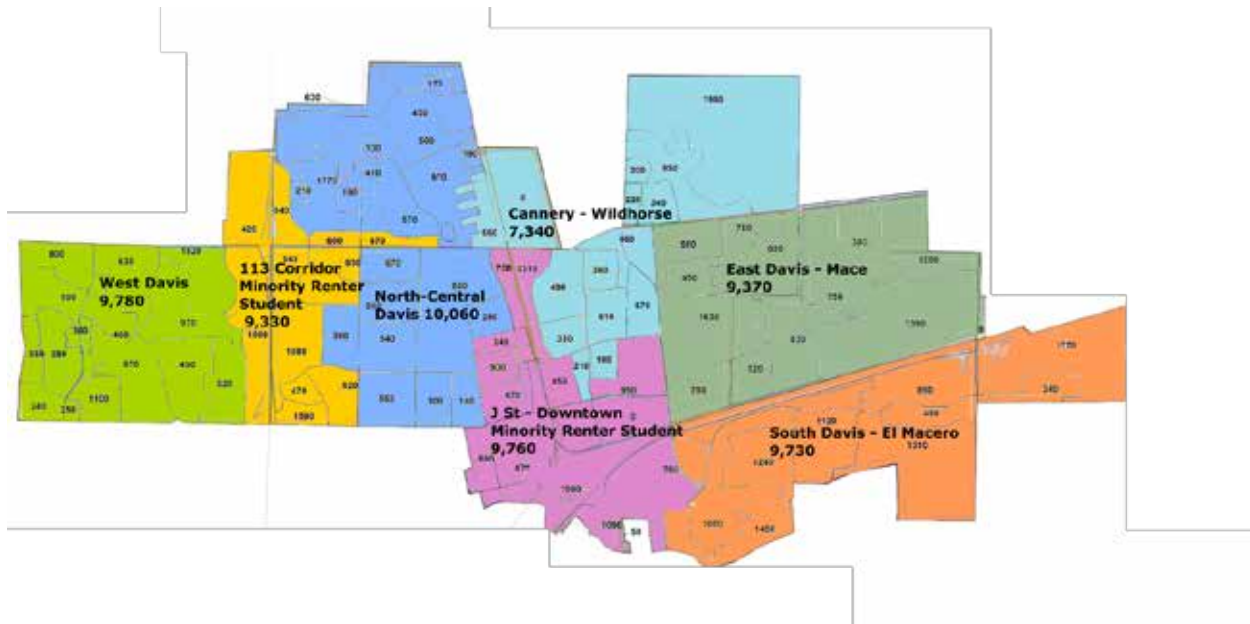


Figure 1:

Color	District	Estimated 2010 Pop
Lime Green	West Davis	9,780
Yellow	113 Corridor Minority – Renters - Student	9,330
Blue	North-Central	10,060
Pink	J Street - Downtown - Minority – Renters - Student	9,760
Turquoise	Cannery Wildhorse	7,340
Olive	East Davis - Mace	9,370
Orange	South Davis – El Macero	9,730

For a seven-member district, the mean population should be 9,374 with a 10% deviation being acceptable. Noting the numbers for the estimated population of Cannery was 0 in 2010, the real population will likely be within this acceptable range.

Davis is a wonderful city in large part because of the integration of the University community and all of Davis. Spreading apartments all over the city allowed for the mixing of different parts of our community, longtime residents, new residents, and students. This is in contrast to other communities that are home to a UC campus. One can look at UC Santa Barbara to see how the segregation of their student population led to the creation of Isla Vista, and students not being welcome in the main part of the city of Santa Barbara.

Let's embrace a progressive attitude that supports all voices of our community being represented on council. We should design our districts so that our student community can have the opportunity to share their issues at the highest level as peers. The student population is an important part of the City of Davis and deserves to be represented within City Council.

- Don Gibson, PhD Candidate, Integrative Genetics & Genomics at UC Davis.
Chair, Joint ASUCD-GSA Housing Task Force