

From: Baker
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 9:51 PM
To: ROV Communications <Communications.ROV@rov.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: Public Polling Places Proposal

To: San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters
From: Baker
Subject: Proposed Public Polling Places

I have reviewed the proposal and analysis for polling places at your website at <https://sbcounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=dabf30dc241d4766899e72f52ac12e82>. As a resident of the Victor Valley, my primary interest was in the area of Apple Valley, Adelanto, Hesperia and Victorville.

Overall the distribution of polling places seems relatively well laid out. However, I would like to point out a couple of glaring gaps in the placement of polling places. The attached screen shot was taken from the "Overall Suitability" map of your website. The first area of concern is in central Victorville, in the northern section of the attached map. Census tracts 06071009800 and 06071009912 have the highest suitability ratings in the City of Victorville. Yet they have been allocated no polling places. While there are polling stations in adjacent tracts, those polling places are up to two miles from locations in the two high-suitability tracts. As your analysis shows, a high proportion of the residents in these tracts have no access to private cars, and public transportation in the region is not good.

The second area of concern is in central Hesperia, towards the southern portion of the attached screen-shot map. Similar to the case with Victorville, the three tracts with the highest suitability scores in Hesperia have no polling places planned (06071010015, 06071010014 and 06071010020). As with the Victorville case, these are areas with high population density, large numbers of eligible unregistered voters, relatively low income and low vehicle availability. These are areas that deserve our efforts to provide greater opportunities for participation in our democracy.

And it is not that these areas have no suitable locations for polling places. The Hesperia Library and City Hall are located in tract 06071010015, for instance, and several schools and churches are in the two Victorville tracts. I urge the Registrar of Voters to consider adding polling places in these underserved but deserving locations.