

Organization
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California

1. Advocacy activity name
Independent Redistricting Commission (AB 1248)

2. Advocacy activity status
Completed

3. Advocacy type
Legislative

4. Advocacy level
State

5. Total Staff Hours

Report total staff hours spent on this activity in the evaluation year

875

6. Total Volunteer Hours

Report total volunteer hours spent on this case in the evaluation year. Enter 0 if there were no volunteer hours.

0

7. Do you believe this to be an IOLTA qualifying activity as defined by B&P 6213 and State Bar Rule 3.672?

If you answered no, remember to deduct expenditures related to this non-qualifying activity in the next IOLTA/EAF grant application cycle.

Yes

5. Partner
Organizations:

Partner Organizations		
State Bar Grantees		
Other Organizations		
Other Partner Organization Type	Other Partner Organization Name	Partner Type
Community-Based Organization	Common Cause	Collaborative Partner
Community-Based Organization	League of Women Voters	Collaborative Partner

9. Counties Impacted

Check all that apply

*Statewide

10. Area of Law

Check all that apply

Miscellaneous

Describe "Miscellaneous"

Voting Rights

11. Constituencies Impacted

Check all that apply

Other (Explain)

a. Other
Constituencies:

If the constituencies impacted are not included, please list them.

Communities of color

12. Who benefitted from this advocacy

The redistricting process in California has long been plagued by issues of gerrymandering, leading to unfair representation for voters and communities, particularly low-income Californians. Independent redistricting commissions (IRCs) have emerged as a solution to this problem, ensuring that district boundaries are drawn fairly and transparently, allowing historically disenfranchised communities to have a genuine voice in choosing their representatives.

Despite successful implementations at the state level and in some local jurisdictions, the majority of areas have not adopted IRCs, leaving many communities vulnerable to unfair practices. Political incumbents, motivated by self-interest, often resist relinquishing their power to manipulate boundaries, perpetuating gerrymandering and disenfranchisement.

To address this issue, AB 1248 proposed mandating the use of IRCs in larger counties, cities, and educational districts. By requiring the establishment of IRCs, the bill aims to level the playing field, ensuring that all communities, including low-income ones, have equal access to fair representation. Provisions such as prohibiting ex parte communications and providing stipends for commissioners aim to further enhance transparency and accountability within the redistricting process. In addition, the bill outlined detailed procedures for establishing IRCs and ensures diversity in commission membership to better reflect the state's population. By promoting large and diverse commissioner pools, the legislation seeks to empower marginalized communities and strengthen democratic principles. Ultimately, the use of IRCs benefits low-income Californians by giving them a voice in the political process and protecting their right to fair representation.

13. Explain how the majority of those impacted by this advocacy activity are indigent, as defined in B&P §6213(d)

If the majority of persons impacted are not indigent, type n/a.

n/a

14. If the majority of those impacted are not indigent, describe how this advocacy activity will have a disproportionate impact on indigent persons based on the nature of the activity and the specific anticipated outcomes for indigent persons if the activity succeeds.

Gerrymandering produces and maintains racial and economic inequalities. Left unchecked, local government redistricting practices are a tool for preserving racial and economic political hierarchies that harm low-income individuals and families. This bill would apply to cities with more than 300,000 residents and in many of California's expensive urban centers, there are more people living in poverty than the official poverty measure implies.

15. Briefly describe the advocacy activity and the overall goal(s)

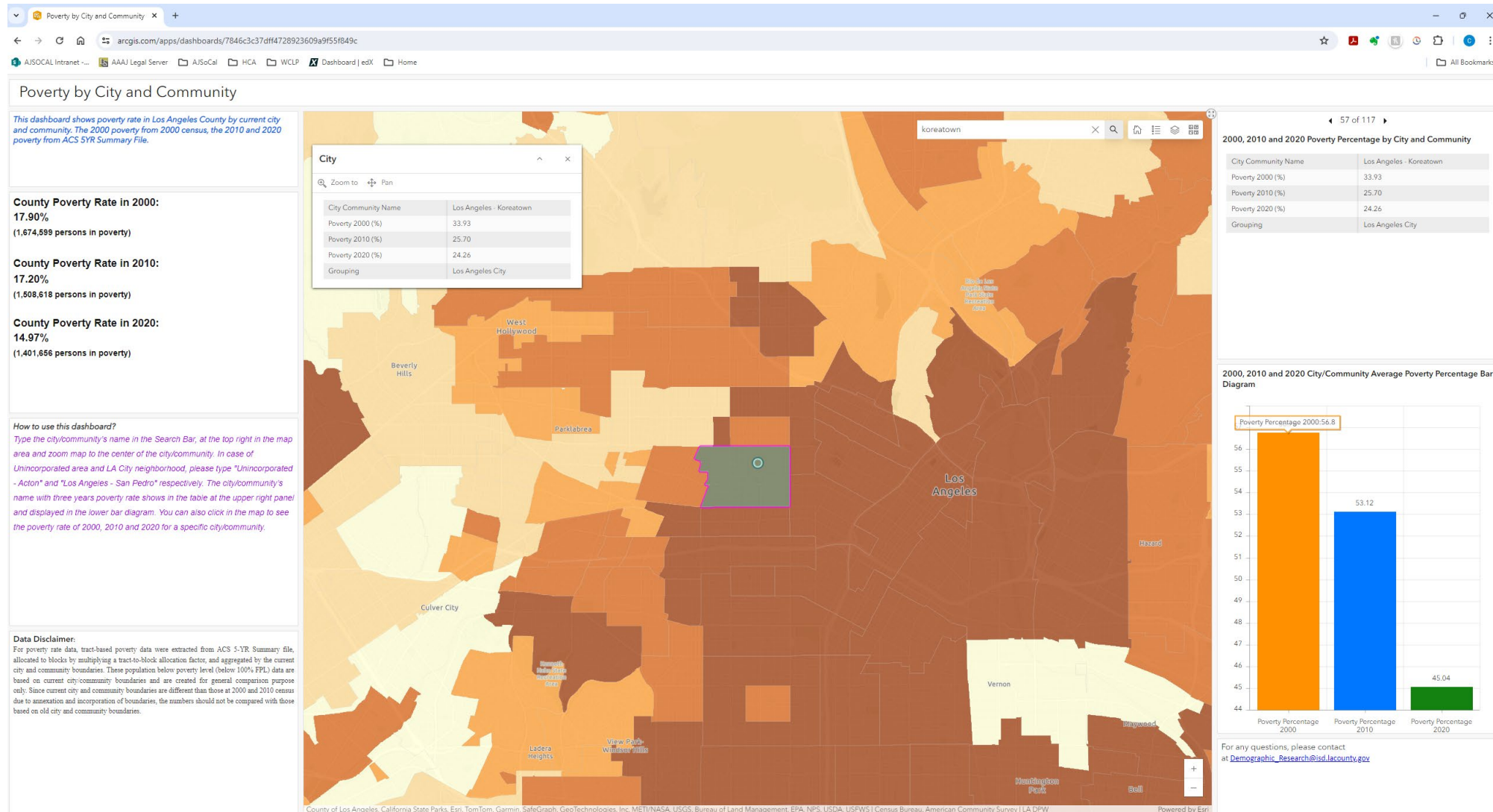
Include specific legislation, regulations, or agencies involved.

Our advocacy efforts included: research, community outreach and education, legislative advocacy via legislative visits, support letters, budget committee public comments, and social media outreach/education campaigns, administrative advocacy to California Secretary of State, and Governor's Office.

Supplemental information provided by Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California via email regarding ILAW Activity *Independent Redistricting Commission (AB 1248)*

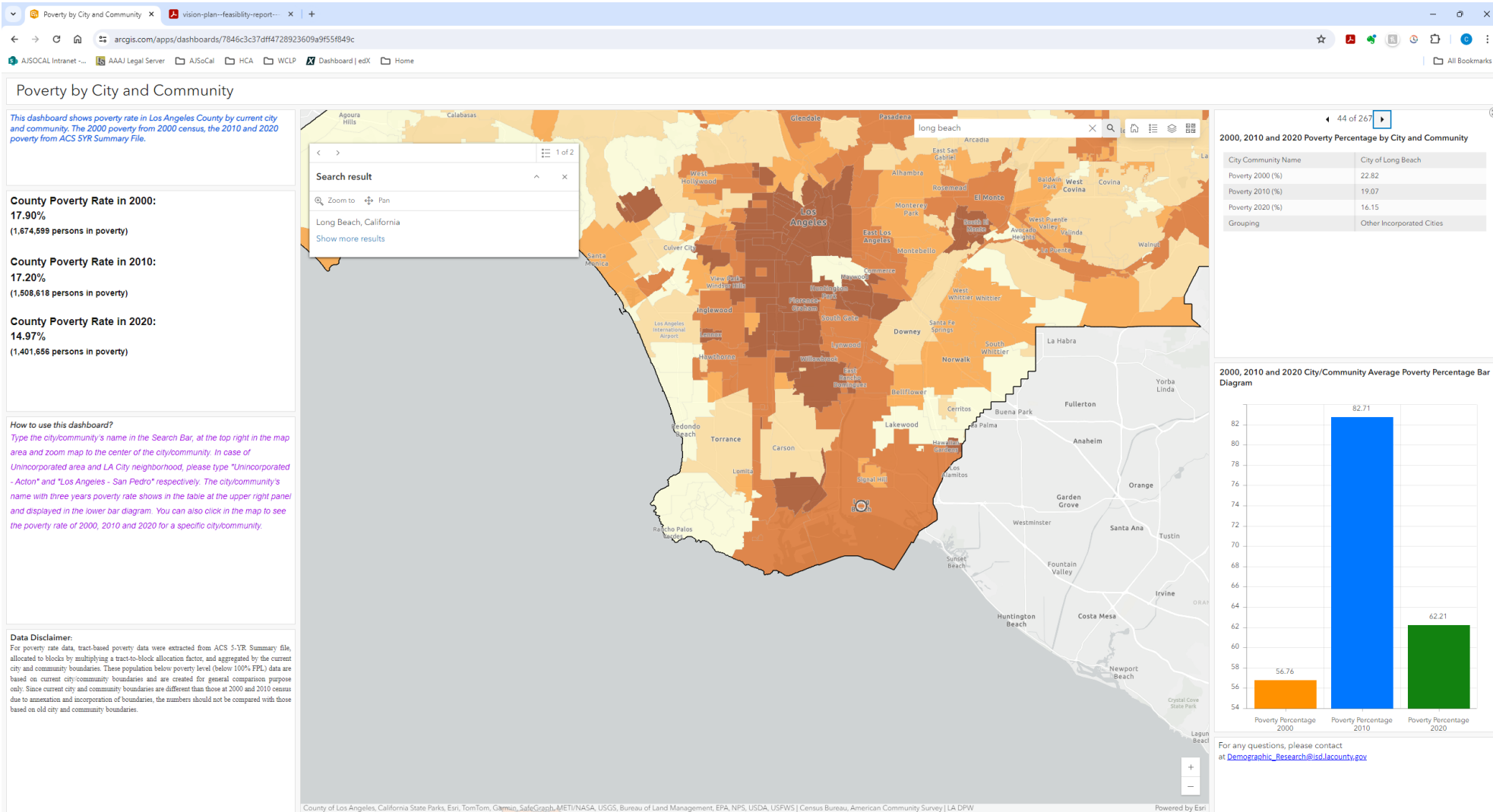
The 2020 poverty rate in Koreatown is 24.26% compared to an LA County poverty rate of 14.97%

Source: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/7846c3c37dff4728923609a9f55f849c>



While the City of Long Beach has overall slightly higher poverty rates (16.5%) than the average LA County poverty rate (14.97%), the Cambodian communities have significantly lower income.

Map: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/7846c3c37dff4728923609a9f55f849c>



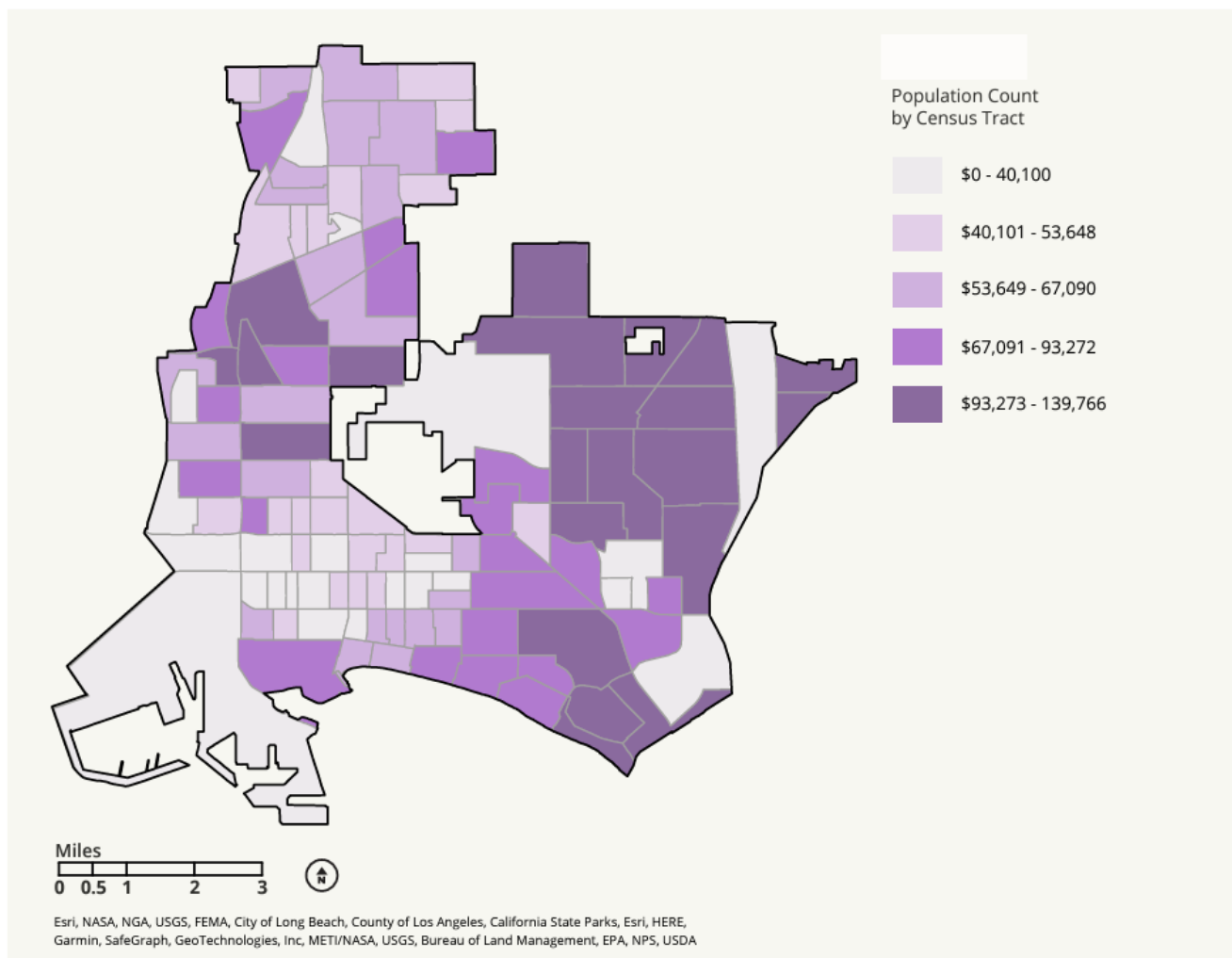
The Cambodian community has significantly lower income than surrounding areas of Long Beach

Source: City of Long Beach, Cambodian American Cultural Center of Long Beach Vision Plan (May 2023)

<https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/iteam/media-library/documents/priorities/cambodian-american-cultural-center/vision-plan--feasiblity-report---may-2023web>

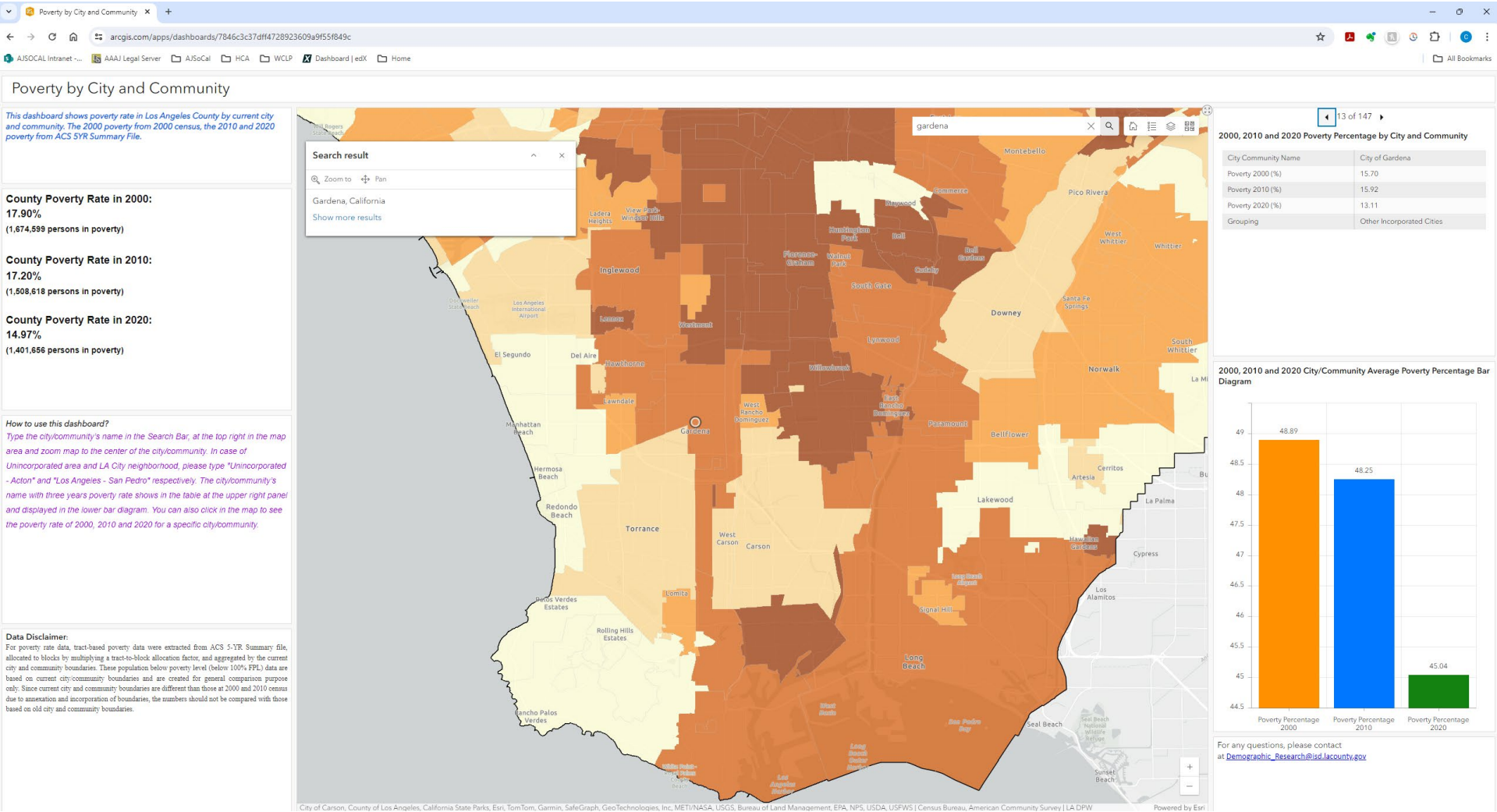
Median Income

- The **census tracts of Long Beach** with the **highest population of Cambodian residents** [570502, 570602, 573201, 573202, 573300, 575201, 575202, 576302, and 576901] have significantly lower median income levels [\$0-67,000] than surrounding census tract areas [\$67,091 - 139,766].
- These comparisons show the **drastic income disparities** within Long Beach, and access to **free programs** will be important to the development of the Cambodian American Cultural Center.



The publicly available information is not specific enough to measure poverty for Samoans in Gardena. However, we know that Samoans in LA County average a 18.65% poverty rate and Gardena has a 13.11% poverty rate:

Gardena poverty map source: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/7846c3c37dff4728923609a9f55f849c>



The census data for Samoans in LA County show an 18.5% poverty rate for all families and 18.8% poverty rate for all people.

Source: https://data.census.gov/table?t=-05:Income%20and%20Poverty&g=040XX00US06_050XX00US06037

Census Bureau Tables

data.census.gov/table?t=-05:Income%20and%20Poverty&g=040XX00US06_050XX00US06037

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An official website of the United States government

United States Census Bureau

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S0201 Selected Population Profile in the United States

American Community Survey 2022 ACS 1-Year Estimates Selected Population Profiles

Notes Geos Topics Codes Dataset Year Columns Transpose Margin of Error Restore Excel CSV ZIP Cite Share Print API Map

	California							
	Polynesian alone		Polynesian alone or in any combination		Native Hawaiian alone or in any combination		Samoan alone or in any combination	
Label	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
> INDUSTRY								
> CLASS OF WORKER								
> INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2...								
> HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE								
> POVERTY RATES FOR FAMILIES AND PE...								
> All families	14.6%	±5.3	11.7%	±3.5	6.9%	±3.4	18.5%	±7.9
> With related children of the house...	18.6%	±7.6	15.8%	±5.3	11.8%	±6.2	22.4%	±10.0
> With related children of the hous...	26.2%	±19.7	12.8%	±9.8	N	N	N	N
> Married-couple family	6.9%	±4.8	4.7%	±2.8	2.2%	±2.8	5.8%	±4.8
> With related children of the hou...	8.0%	±7.0	6.4%	±4.4	N	N	6.5%	±6.1
> With related children of the h...	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
> Female householder, no spouse pr...	28.0%	±12.6	24.0%	±8.9	15.6%	±8.4	44.0%	±26.1
> With related children of the hou...	38.9%	±16.5	29.8%	±11.8	20.7%	±12.3	50.6%	±30.7
> With related children of the h...	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
> All people	16.3%	±4.0	13.1%	±2.5	9.5%	±2.2	18.8%	±5.6
> Under 18 years	22.3%	±8.1	13.9%	±4.1	7.0%	±3.7	22.9%	±8.3
> Related children of the househo...	22.3%	±8.1	13.9%	±4.1	7.0%	±3.8	23.0%	±8.4
> Related children of the house...	25.7%	±15.8	18.9%	±8.2	10.1%	±9.1	26.4%	±13.6
> Related children of the house...	21.3%	±7.7	12.3%	±3.9	6.4%	±3.5	21.5%	±8.3
> 18 years and over	14.5%	±3.6	12.7%	±2.4	10.4%	±2.3	16.4%	±5.0
> 18 to 64 years	14.6%	±3.9	12.7%	±2.5	10.6%	±2.5	17.6%	±5.5
> 65 years and over	13.4%	±7.1	12.4%	±5.0	9.4%	±4.9	5.6%	±7.1
> People in families	13.5%	±4.2	10.2%	±2.8	6.0%	±2.3	17.1%	±5.9
> Unrelated individuals 15 years and ...	32.4%	±9.2	28.4%	±6.1	24.2%	±6.8	30.8%	±11.9
> HOUSING TENURE								
> UNITS IN STRUCTURE								
> YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT								
> VEHICLES AVAILABLE								
> HOUSE HEATING FUEL								
> SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS								
> SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS A...								
> OWNER CHARACTERISTICS								
> GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HO...								
> GROSS RENT								
> COMPUTERS AND INTERNET USE								

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Here is the breakdown of attorney vs non-attorney time for our redistricting activity. I can't quite tell from guidance how to categorize the time spent by our policy/legislative advocates. Their primary purpose is to advocate for policies that primarily impact indigent Californians especially API communities.

Legal and policy staff

- Attorneys: 86.25
- Paralegals: 17.25
- Legislative advocates: 691.5

Non-legal staff:

- Communications: 60
- Demographic research team: 20

I have also attached some data that show that the API communities where we worked are in predominantly low-income areas. We highlighted work in Koreatown, with Cambodians in Long Beach, and with Samoans in Gardena.

We appreciate the committee's careful consideration of our activities, and we acknowledge the imprecision of quantifying the number of indigent persons served by our activity. In light of that, we are open to designating 50% of our redistricting time as a non-qualifying expenditure. Please let us know if the committee is amenable to that. And for their information, we are not currently engaging in any redistricting work in 2024.

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I would add that this [2021 Study from Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy](#) showed that for every \$100 awarded by foundations for work in the United States, only 20 cents were designated for AAPI communities (0.20%). I think one could argue that the same structural racism and stereotypes about the model minority myth that led to AAPIs being historically so woefully underfunded would apply not just to private foundations, but all funders, including public funders. So when the Committee considers AJSOCAL's eligibility, I would ask that they look critically at whether the State Bar's past precedent of disallowing AJSOCAL's activities is truly the most equitable approach. I would encourage them to look at our activities from a fresh DEI lens that keeps an open mind to whether these activities are eligible as opposed to giving weight to past precedent on how State Bar has treated this work in the past.