

**Voting Rights Cases in California and Settlement Costs**

**Rev: 5/7/15**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Attorneys Fees to Plaintiffs</b>
City of Anaheim	1/2014	The settlement calls for the city to put two charter amendments to voters in November. Voters will be asked if they want to increase the city's four-member council to six members. And they will be asked if they want to elect council members by district.  Read more here: <a href="http://www.scpr.org/blogs/politics/2014/01/07/15555/anaheim-council-settles-voting-rights-act-lawsuit/">http://www.scpr.org/blogs/politics/2014/01/07/15555/anaheim-council-settles-voting-rights-act-lawsuit/</a>	<b>\$2 million</b>
City of Bellflower	7/14	Read more here: <a href="http://www.presstelegram.com/general-news/20140715/bellflower-sued-for-alleged-california-voting-rights-act-violations-barring-minority-candidates-from-city-council">http://www.presstelegram.com/general-news/20140715/bellflower-sued-for-alleged-california-voting-rights-act-violations-barring-minority-candidates-from-city-council</a>	Pending:  N/A
City of Compton	12/2010	Read more here: <a href="http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/02/compton-latino-voting-rights-lawsuit-settlement.html?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+lanowblog+%28L.A.+Now%29">http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/02/compton-latino-voting-rights-lawsuit-settlement.html?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+lanowblog+%28L.A.+Now%29</a>	Confidential, but subject to PRA request.
Compton Community College District	6/2011	Read more here: <a href="http://district.compton.edu/district_information/docs/Laneros-vs-CCCD-settlement-agreement.pdf">http://district.compton.edu/district_information/docs/Laneros-vs-CCCD-settlement-agreement.pdf</a>	<b>\$40,000</b>
City of Escondido	3/2013	Council members said they agreed to settle the suit because the state's Voting Rights Act makes it nearly impossible for cities to defend themselves against	<b>\$585,000</b>

		<p>charges of racially polarized voting.</p> <p>Read more here:</p> <p><a href="http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/mar/20/escondido-voting-rights-settlement-latino/">http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/mar/20/escondido-voting-rights-settlement-latino/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.escondido.org/Data/Sites/1/media/PDFs/VotingDistrictsSettlement.pdf">https://www.escondido.org/Data/Sites/1/media/PDFs/VotingDistrictsSettlement.pdf</a></p>	
City of Fullerton	3/2015	<p>Read more here:</p> <p><a href="http://www.latimes.com/local/orange-county/la-me-0319-voting-rights-20150319-story.html">http://www.latimes.com/local/orange-county/la-me-0319-voting-rights-20150319-story.html</a></p>	Pending. N/A
Hanford Joint Union School District		<p>Read more here:</p> <p><a href="http://www.santaclaraweekly.com/2011/Issue-37/California_Voting_Rights_Act_An_8_Million_Bill_for_Taxpayers.html">http://www.santaclaraweekly.com/2011/Issue-37/California_Voting_Rights_Act_An_8_Million_Bill_for_Taxpayers.html</a></p>	<b>\$110,000</b>
City of Highland	7/2014	<p>The lawsuit was filed July 18 in San Bernardino Superior Court by a Lancaster-based law firm, R. Rex Parris Law Firm, on behalf of Lisa Garrett, a Latino resident of Highland, according to the suit.</p> <p>Malibu-based law firm Shenkman &amp; Hughes and Los Angeles-based Law Office of Milton C. Grimes are also listed as attorneys representing Garrett in the lawsuit, which was delivered to the city on Monday.</p> <p>Read more here:</p> <p><a href="http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/government-and-politics/20140724/lawsuit-prompts-highland-council-to-place-voting-districts-on-ballot">http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/government-and-politics/20140724/lawsuit-prompts-highland-council-to-place-voting-districts-on-ballot</a></p>	<p>Pending. N/A; Cost to put district voting on ballot: <b>\$30,000</b></p>
Lancaster School District, Lancaster	2/6/14	<p>Kevin Shenkman, without Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris, sued Lancaster School District. Shenkman represented plaintiff Douglas Parker in the Lancaster School District lawsuit, brought against the district last</p>	The terms of the agreement, including the allegations

		<p>summer</p> <p>Shenkman and Parris also represent plaintiffs in lawsuits against the city of Santa Clarita, College of the Canyons and Sulphur Springs School District in the Santa Clarita Valley.</p> <p>AV Press – 2/6/2014</p>	<p>of the complaint and amount of the settlement, were not disclosed</p>
Eastside Unified School District, Lancaster	1/2014	<p>Eastside officials said they received a letter from attorney Kevin Shenkman, who with Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris, an attorney.</p> <p>Antelope Valley Press, 1/15/2014</p>	Unknown
City of Los Banos	2014	<p>Community Advocacy Coalition threatened to sue city</p> <p>Read more here:  <a href="http://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/local/local-election/article3574085.html">http://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/local/local-election/article3574085.html</a></p>	<p>Pending. N/A</p> <p><b>\$30,000</b> to put on ballot</p>
Madera Unified School District	8/2010	<p>The Madera Unified School District did not contest the 2008 lawsuit, but lawyers billed the district for \$1.2 million, a fee later increased to \$1.8 million, according to district officials. The district called the attorneys' bill a money grab and feared it would force administrators to cut money for books and lunches to pay it.</p> <p>Superior Court Judge James Oakley reduced the amount to \$162,500 for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, law professor Joaquin Avila and the firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, which sought the fees.</p> <p>The case involved the California Voting Rights Act, which was drafted mainly by Avila. An Associated Press investigation last year found that all the cases filed under the 2002 law could be traced to Avila or an attorney for the committee, Robert Rubin, who also helped write the law. At that time, Avila, Rubin's committee and lawyers working with them had collected or billed local governments about \$4.3 million in several cases.</p> <p>Read more here:</p>	<p><b>\$162,500</b></p> <p>(reduced by judge from <b>\$1.8 million</b>)</p>

		<a href="http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2010/aug/26/judge-slashes-calif-election-case-attorney-fees/all/?print">http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2010/aug/26/judge-slashes-calif-election-case-attorney-fees/all/?print</a>	
City of Merced	2014	Read more here: <a href="http://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/local/local-election/article3574085.html">http://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/local/local-election/article3574085.html</a>	N/A
City of Modesto	6/2008	Settled after taking case to US Supreme Court and settle after Modesto voters approved a ballot measure in February that set a course for district elections by 2009.  Read more here: <a href="http://www.modbee.com/news/local/article3108787.html">http://www.modbee.com/news/local/article3108787.html</a>	<b>\$3 million</b> Modesto also paid <b>\$1.7 million</b> to its own lawyers
City of Palmdale	2013	Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris joins Kevin Shankman in lawsuit.  Read more here: <a href="http://theavtimes.com/2014/06/11/palmdale-to-continue-fighting-voting-rights-act-ruling/">http://theavtimes.com/2014/06/11/palmdale-to-continue-fighting-voting-rights-act-ruling/</a>	<b>\$3.5 million on appeal</b>
City of Santa Barbara	2/2015	Under the terms of the settlement, the City will conduct by-district elections beginning in November 2015. However, the City Council retains the power to draw the new district electoral boundaries.  Read more here: <a href="http://www.keyt.com/news/Settlement-Reached-in-District-Elections-Lawsuit/31461552">http://www.keyt.com/news/Settlement-Reached-in-District-Elections-Lawsuit/31461552</a>	<b>\$599,500</b>
City of Santa Clarita	3/2014	Settled before going to trial. The city moved City Council elections to even-numbered years and employed cumulative voting.  Read more here: <a href="http://www.hometownstation.com/santa-clarita-news/santa-clarita-votes-to-settle-california-voting-rights-act-lawsuit-40805">http://www.hometownstation.com/santa-clarita-news/santa-clarita-votes-to-settle-california-voting-rights-act-lawsuit-40805</a>	<b>Between \$400,000 and \$600,000</b>
College of	7/2013	Read more here:	N/A

the Canyons School District, Santa Clarita		<a href="http://www.hometownstation.com/santa-clarita-news/sulphur-springs-coc-district-hit-with-discrimination-lawsuit-over-elections-36161">http://www.hometownstation.com/santa-clarita-news/sulphur-springs-coc-district-hit-with-discrimination-lawsuit-over-elections-36161</a>	
Sulphur Springs School District, Santa Clarita	7/2013	Read more here: <a href="http://www.hometownstation.com/santa-clarita-news/sulphur-springs-coc-district-hit-with-discrimination-lawsuit-over-elections-36161">http://www.hometownstation.com/santa-clarita-news/sulphur-springs-coc-district-hit-with-discrimination-lawsuit-over-elections-36161</a>	<b>N/A</b>
Saugus Union High School District, Santa Clarita	4/2015	<p>SUSD is one of the only school districts locally that hasn't changed its elections after several lawsuits challenging Santa Clarita Valley governing boards were sent out over CVRA violations, according to an attorney involved with the case.</p> <p>"For the last nearly two years, the city and community college district and school districts have been working on changing their dilutive electoral systems with the notable exception of the Saugus Union School District," said Kevin Shenkman of Shenkman &amp; Hughes, which is the firm representing the plaintiff. "And we just couldn't wait any longer hoping that they'll do the right thing on their own."</p> <p>Read more here: <a href="http://www.hometownstation.com/santa-clarita-latest-news/saugus-union-hit-with-complaint-alleging-cvra-violation-150561">http://www.hometownstation.com/santa-clarita-latest-news/saugus-union-hit-with-complaint-alleging-cvra-violation-150561</a></p>	<b>N/a</b>
San Mateo County	2010	<p>San Mateo County switched to district elections which became official when the county agreed to settle a voting-rights suit filed in April 2011 by Asian American and Latino voters that challenged countywide elections</p> <p>Read more here: <a href="http://www.sfgate.com/politics/article/San-Mateo-">http://www.sfgate.com/politics/article/San-Mateo-</a></p>	<b>\$650,000</b>

		<a href="http://www.cvlawblog.com/2010/08/city-of-tulare-sued-for-ca-voting.html">County-shifts-to-district-elections-4295266.php</a>	
City of Tulare	2010	Read more here: <a href="http://www.cvlawblog.com/2010/08/city-of-tulare-sued-for-ca-voting.html">http://www.cvlawblog.com/2010/08/city-of-tulare-sued-for-ca-voting.html</a>	<b>\$225,000</b>
Tulare Regional Medical Center	6/2010	Read more here: <a href="http://www.santaclaraweekly.com/2011/Issue-37/California_Voting_Rights_Act_An_8_Million_Bill_for_Taxpayers.html">http://www.santaclaraweekly.com/2011/Issue-37/California Voting Rights Act An 8 Million Bill for Taxpayers.html</a>	<b>\$500,000</b>
City of Visalia	5/2014	The City of Visalia has been forced to alter the way its residents choose city council members.Tulare County Superior Court Judge Melinda Reed approved a settlement agreement Thursday, mandating that the city conduct its council elections by district. The settlement comes less than two months after the filing of a Voting Rights Act lawsuit which alleged that Visalia’s at-large voting system hinders minority candidates.  Read more here: <a href="https://www.californiacitynews.org/2014/06/visalia-dumps-large-council-elections-part-settlement.html">https://www.californiacitynews.org/2014/06/visalia-dumps-large-council-elections-part-settlement.html</a>	<b>\$125,000</b>
City of Whittier	6/2014	Read more here: <a href="http://www.scpr.org/blogs/politics/2014/06/05/16785/whittier-changes-voting-system-but-legal-challenge/">http://www.scpr.org/blogs/politics/2014/06/05/16785/whittier-changes-voting-system-but-legal-challenge/</a>  <a href="http://conference.cstda.net/ppt/9-30AtLargeVotingAndTheRisingTideOfVRAClaims.pdf">http://conference.cstda.net/ppt/9-30AtLargeVotingAndTheRisingTideOfVRAClaims.pdf</a>	N/A
		<b>Total: \$13,857,000.00</b>	
		<b>ON THE HORIZON</b>	

