

Kern County
2021 Redistricting
Community Outreach
Meetings



Welcome

Agenda

Things we will cover:

- Redistricting Basics
- Traditional Redistricting Principles
- Redistricting Timeline
- Communities of Interest
- Map Tool Demonstration
- Public Testimony on Communities of Interest
- Public Hearing Schedule

What is Redistricting

Definition

Redistricting is the process of adjusting district lines every 10 years after the release of the U.S. Census. The well-known examples are Congressional and State Legislative Districts, but local governments also must do redistricting.

- The County of Kern also must go through this process, as it did in 2011, to ensure the supervisorial districts are rebalanced after the decennial census.
- Beyond creating districts of equal population, redistricting also serves to empower local communities and preserve voting rights.

Kern County Redistricting

Structure

The redistricting is completed by the Board of Supervisors. The **Fair Maps Act (2019)** requires at least four public hearings, outreach to the community, and that all public information and meetings are available online.

The process will include:

- Community Outreach Hearings
- Multiple ways to submit community of interest input
- Multiple draft maps with the opportunity for the public to comment

Redistricting Timeline

April 21, 2021

First Public Redistricting
Hearing

September 23, 2021

Expected date of the final
prisoner reallocated
census data released

July 19, 2021

First Public Outreach
Hearing

December 15, 2021

Deadline for Board
of Supervisors to
pass final district
plan.

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a District from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Drawing New Board of Supervisor Lines for Fair Representation

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Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

Communities of interest are the building blocks of districts.

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Subjective
- Open-ended to be as inclusive as possible

Examples of Voting Rights Act Communities

- Latinos
- Asians
- African Americans

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While communities of interest may include race, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing district boundaries.

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

- Historical communities
- Economic interests
- Racial composition
- Ethnic Areas
- Cultural amenities
- Religious facilities
- Immigrant communities
- Languages spoken
- Geographic features
- Neighborhoods
- Economic opportunity zones
- Tourism Areas
- School districts
- Outdoor recreation areas
- Communities defined by natural resource features
- Downtown / Urban
- Rural or Agricultural
- Homeowner or Renters
- Creative arts communities
- Media markets
- *Many, many more*

What is NOT a Community of Interest

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

The Fair Maps Act explicitly prohibits these groups from being considered as communities of interest

- Political party affiliation
- Incumbents
- Political candidates

It also is hard, in redistricting to truly consider:

- Groups of similarly minded people who do not share a similar geographic location.
- Communities of Interest that are county-wide.

Communities of Interest

Three Critical Questions in Defining YOUR Community

Communities can be best described by answering these three questions:

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped?
- What is the community's relationship with the jurisdiction being redistricted? How is it affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials?

Is this a Community of Interest?

A group of renters who live downtown testifies to the Board of Supervisors.

Would this be considered a *Community of Interest*?

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Would this be considered a *Community of Interest*?

YES! This group of residents can easily to be mapped in a distinct area AND they share a common policy interest, which can be addressed through legislation or public services.

Is this a Community of Interest?

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Should the County Board of Supervisors prioritize this historical town when drawing their maps?

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A historically-recognized town dating back to the late 1800s but now has a minimal population is within the lines of a county.

Should the County Board of Supervisors prioritize this historical town when drawing their maps?

YES! Historical communities are recognized as a community of interest and should be considered when drawing maps.

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A group of dog-owners, living in the suburbs banded together to push their local elected officials to put in a dog water fountain in their dog park.

Would their Board of Supervisors consider this a community of interest?

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Would their Board of Supervisors consider this a community of interest?

YES! This is a group of people in a shared geographic location who have similar needs for public services.

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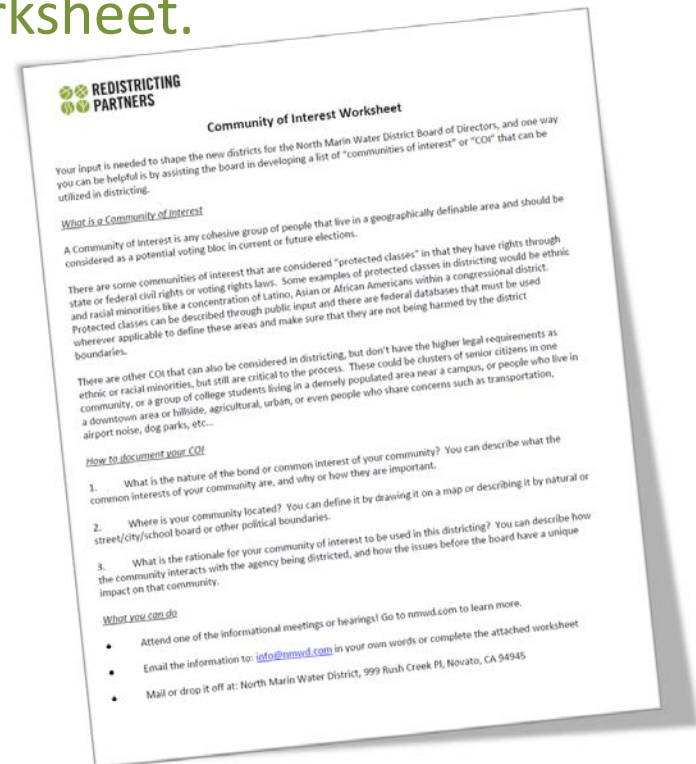
Is this a Community of Interest?

NO! It is important that a community of interest is distinct enough to draw on a map. This group overlaps throughout the entire state, and it is unlikely that a governing agency has any say over these issues.

Community of Interest Forms

Submitting Your COI Form

- Input can be provided in public hearings or using our “Community of Interest Worksheet.”
- This can be provided on the website as a part of overall community engagement strategy.
- Some agencies convert these to a webform or survey instrument.



Map Submissions

Online Map Submissions will be available in the coming month after the County completes development / hosting of the Online Redistricting software

Two types of expected input:

- Community of Interest Maps (May – End of Process)
- District Plans Based on 2020 Data (Release of Data – Final Adoption)

Communities of Interest

Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

The County of Kern will be using DistrictR as a public mapping tool to allow residents to draw their own Communities of Interest.



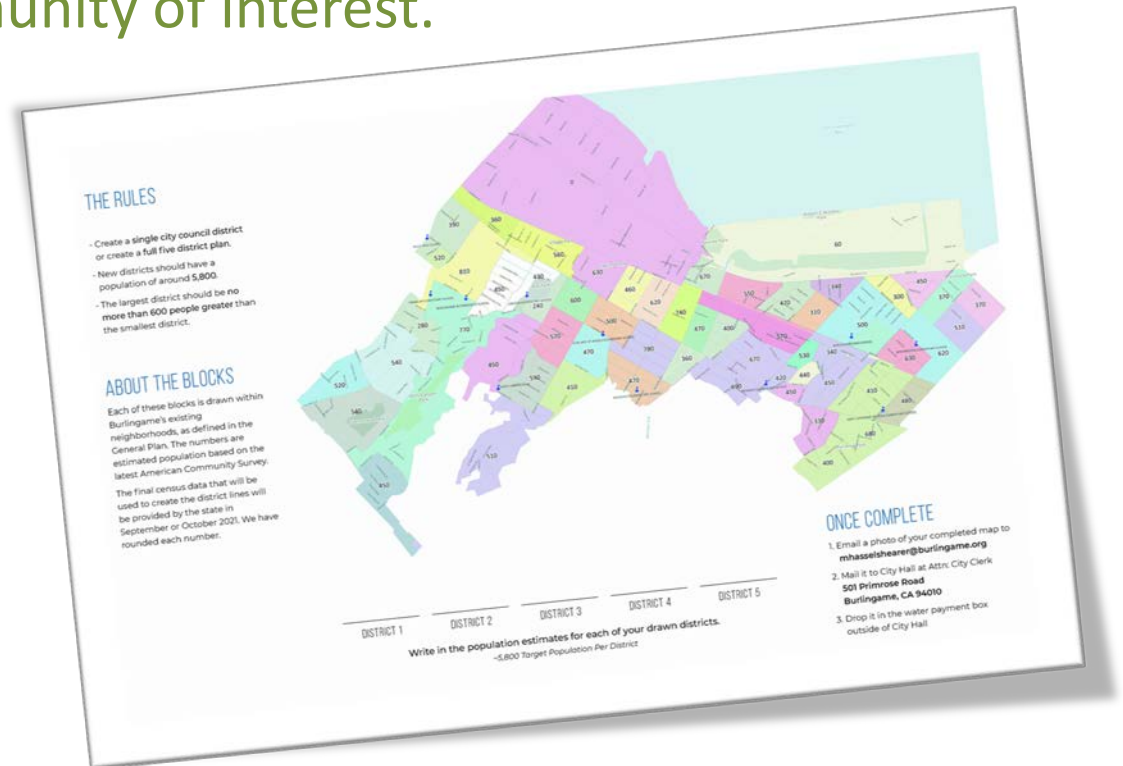
You draw the lines.

<https://districtr.org/california>

Communities of Interest

Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

There will also be paper maps for the public to use to draw their own community of interest.



Kern County Board of Supervisors

Timeline for Upcoming Outreach Meetings

- | | |
|---------|---|
| July 19 | Virtual Informational Meeting |
| July 20 | Virtual Informational Meeting (Spanish) |
| July 31 | Hybrid In-person / Virtual First Public Hearing |

Kern County Redistricting Website

<https://www.kerncounty.com/government/2021-redistricting-menu>



**REDISTRICTING
PARTNERS**