



Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office
1010 10th Street, Suite 6800
Modesto, CA 95354

STANISLAUS COUNTY REDISTRICTING 2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. Why is the County of Stanislaus enacting the redistricting process now?

All jurisdictions that have electoral districts, including counties with Supervisorial districts, must equalize the populations of their respective districts every 10 years following the decennial federal census. Redistricting is the process of adjusting the district boundaries to ensure that all districts have equal populations and are in compliance with all state and federal laws.

2. How can I get involved in the redistricting process?

The Stanislaus redistricting process is designed to be as transparent and accessible as possible. You are invited to attend community workshops and public hearings to provide input throughout this process. You can also provide input through our online form, postal mail, email, phone, or by dropping off materials. Please see below for the contact information.

3. How are the districts drawn?

Generally, the following criteria are used to redraw supervisorial districts:

- Districts shall contain nearly the same number of people;
- Boundaries shall be drawn in a manner that complies with the United States Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965;
- Districts shall consist of contiguous territory in as compact form as practicable;
- Districts shall follow visible features and boundaries when possible;
- Districts shall respect Communities of Interest as much as practicable. A Community of Interest generally refers to a contiguous population which shares common social and/or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of fair and effective representation;
- The board shall not adopt supervisorial district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

In summary, this means the following:

- We will use a mapping program to construct districts after public input has been received.
- We will use census data to find out how many people live in each part of the County and ensure that each district contains roughly the same number of people.
- We will use census geography to ensure that the districts are compact and contiguous.
- We will collect and utilize Community of Interest data from the Stanislaus community.
- We will not use information on political party affiliation when drawing districts.

4. What is a Community of Interest (COI)?

A Community of Interest is a group of people in a defined geographic location that share a common bond or interest. COIs are generally defined as a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of fair and effective representation. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Because there are no datasets available for Communities of Interest, we appreciate your help to define them for Stanislaus County. Please tell us what interests your Community of Interest shares, where it is located, and what brings it together. Please share your COI at a community workshop or public hearing, by email, phone, or postal mail, or by using the County's online COI form found here: <http://www.stancounty.com/redistricting/coi.shtm>.

5. Why should I get involved in the redistricting process?

We would like to hear from you so we can make informed decisions about where to draw district lines. Specifically, we need information from you about your neighborhoods and communities of interests. You are the expert of your community and neighborhood! If we know the geographic locations of the Communities of Interest in Stanislaus County, we will consider them when drawing lines and we won't accidentally split them. Keeping communities together in the same district can help them get more responsive representation.

6. How can a community member locate their community of interest?

Options:

- A. Visit <http://www.stancounty.com/redistricting/> and navigate to Mapping to view:
 - Current supervisorial map
 - Find your current district
- B. Visit a local County library to request assistance
- C. Contact the Chief Executive Office @ 209-353-6435 to request assistance

7. Can anyone outside of the community provide input on a Community of Interest?

Yes, technically, any member of the public can submit input on a Community of Interest. The Commission, however, will thoroughly evaluate and vet Communities of Interest and other input; and use the Census data to draw draft maps, which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval and final adoption.

8. Do we use the number of voters to draw districts?

Districts are drawn using the total population as counted by the 2020 census. Everyone who was counted, regardless of age, residency status, or other demographics has to be assigned to a district. Districts are not equalized using voters, registered voters, or citizens.

9. How does the Stanislaus County redistricting process impact congressional redistricting?

The Stanislaus County redistricting process runs separately from congressional redistricting. The maps will be initially drawn by the Advisory Commission. The State has concluded its public input process and is currently drawing congressional lives.

10. Can more districts be added in this process?

No, Stanislaus County will only have 5 districts. Government Code 25000 requires each County to have a Board of Supervisors consisting of 5 members, and the County Charter does not provide an exception.

11. When will the final Census data be released?

The Statewide Database dataset will be released to Stanislaus County on September 20, 2021. The final Census data will be available for viewing on a map through the Redistricting website within 10 days after the State releases the data.

12. How do I get answers to additional questions?

If you have more questions, we are available to answer them!

- You can attend any of the community workshops or public hearings
- Email your question to cobsupport@stancounty.com
- Mail your question to:
Clerk of the Stanislaus Board of Supervisors
1010 10th Street, Suite 6700
Modesto, CA 95354
- Call us at: (209) 525-4494
- Please also see our website for additional information or to fill out our online COI form: <http://www.stancounty.com/redistricting/>

9/15/2021