

Stanislaus County
Redistricting Workshop:
Public Participation and Communities of Interest

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Roadmap

- Introduction & Background
- Laws Governing Redistricting
- Criteria for Redistricting
- Communities of Interest
- Process Timeline
- How to Get Involved

Introduction & Background

- The County of Stanislaus has 5 Board of Supervisor districts
- Members of the County Board of Supervisors must live in their district to be eligible to represent it
- Voters in each district elect the County Supervisor for their district
- The Board of Supervisors oversees the redistricting process and is responsible for adopting the new districts

Districting versus Redistricting

- Districting is the process of creating districts where there were none before
- Redistricting is the process of adjusting the existing district boundaries
- Redistricting usually happens every 10 years after the release of the decennial Census
- Decennial Census data are used to equalize the populations of the districts
- Redistricting provides the opportunity to bring the existing districts into compliance with all redistricting criteria

Who is involved?

- **Ad Hoc Citizens Advisory Redistricting Commission**
 - 11 registered voters from the five supervisorial districts were selected to draw the new district lines
- **Redistricting Steering Committee**
 - County Staff Team that supports the Commission in finalizing map options for the Board
- **Project Team**
 - Provides technical coordination of project
- **Board of Supervisors**
 - Votes to adopt the final map
- **Members of the Stanislaus community - YOU!**
 - Provide public testimony about your community and feedback about the map drafts

Laws Governing Redistricting in California

- U.S. and CA Constitutions
- Federal Law
 - Voting Rights Act
- California Elections Code
 - FAIR MAPS Act

FAIR MAPS Act — The Process

The FAIR MAPS Act has strict timelines and requirements for the process

- There are a minimum of 4 hearings that must take place before adopting the new district boundaries:
 - At least 1 hearing must be held prior to creating a draft map
 - A workshop led by staff or consultant may be held in lieu of 1 pre-draft hearing
 - 2 hearings must be held after creating a draft map
- Draft map(s) must be posted for feedback
- There are specific timelines for posting Hearing Agendas and Drafts

What are the mapping criteria?

Criteria Ranked in Order of Priority (“to the extent practicable”)

1. Compliance with US and CA Constitution (**equal population**)
2. Compliance with **Federal Voting Rights Act** (race and language minorities)
3. Contiguity
4. Respect for* local **neighborhoods** and **Communities of Interest** (COIs)
 - COIs may not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
5. Respect for* **Cities** and **Census Designated Places**
6. Boundaries should be **easily identifiable and understandable** by residents
7. Compactness: If it doesn't conflict with preceding criteria
8. Do not favor or discriminate against political parties

* *“Respect for” means minimize divisions*

Today, we will focus on Criterion 4: Local Neighborhoods & Communities of Interest (COIs)

Neighborhoods are specific to each jurisdiction

They are sometimes defined by the jurisdiction and more frequently by the residents that live in a certain area.

The concept of “**Community of Interest**” is generally described as a geographic area comprised of residents who share similar interests COIs are defined by those familiar with the community...

- Law does not limit the kinds of interests that may bind a community.
- It is up to those who live in or work with a community to identify and establish the interests that unite it.
- Interests need not be limited to current situation but can also include common goals.

What common interests unite a COI?

➤ **Economic interests:**

- *Current situation* — common employment or economic opportunities (or lack thereof).
- *Goals* — expanding opportunities, development, bringing in jobs & businesses, etc.

➤ **Social interests:**

- *Current* — schools, culture, transportation, parks
- *Goals* — improving recreation opportunities or public safety, etc.

Documenting a COI

Please answer the following questions:

- **Outline what defines your COI:**
 - What bonds your community?
 - What is your mission or commonality?
 - You may also explain what is different outside of the boundaries of your Community of Interest
- **Where is your community located in the County?**
 - Create a map of the boundaries (use the county's COI mapping tool, drawmycacomcommunity.org, Google maps, GIS/mapping program, paper, etc.) or
 - Write down the boundaries

Access Tools

- The County designed a **free, online mapping application** that the public can use to define and submit their Communities of Interest.
- COIs developed with the online mapping tool will be automatically submitted to the Board for consideration
- The tool will allow users to view census geography and data for any area of interest within the County boundaries

Timeline Overview

- **7 Pre-Draft Community Workshops:**
 - September 7, 6-8pm - Oakdale Public Library
 - September 15, 6-8pm - Modesto Center Plaza
 - September 18, 12-2pm - Empire Public Library
 - September 22, 6-8pm - Patterson Public Library
 - September 25, 11am-1pm - Salida Library
 - September 30, 6-8pm - Virtual Meeting
 - To access the workshop, visit:
www.stancounty.com/redistricting/workshops.shtm
 - October 2, 12-2pm - Turlock Public Library
- **6 Draft Map Drawing Meetings - *Commission members and staff only***
 - October 4, 6-7pm - Veterans Center
 - October 7, 6-7pm - Veterans Center
 - October 18, 6-7pm - Veterans Center
 - October 21, 6-7pm - Veterans Center
 - October 25, 6-7pm - Veterans Center
 - October 28, 6-7pm - Veterans Center

Timeline Overview

- **3 Public Hearings to Gain Feedback on Draft Map Proposals**
 - November 8, 6-8pm - Board Chambers
 - November 23, 6-8pm - Board Chambers
 - December 6, 9-11am - Board Chambers
- **Board Votes to Adopt Final Map**
 - December 13, 9-11am - Board Chambers

Why should you participate?

- To make sure we know about your Community of Interest.
- To give your community a voice and make sure it has equal access to the political process.
- To encourage citizens to register, vote, and remain politically engaged.
- To help shape a redistricting plan that provides communities a meaningful opportunity to elect candidates who represent their interests on issues that are important to their lives.

Get Involved & Learn More

➤ What should you share?

- What is your Community of Interest? What ties your community together?
- Where is your COI? Be specific in your geography

➤ How to submit your input?

- Online COI Tool – <http://www.stancounty.com/redistricting/coi.shtm>
- During a hearing – *see schedule on our website with details*
- Written:
 - By Email at cobsupport@stancounty.com
 - By Written correspondence to: Clerk of the Stanislaus Board of Supervisors, 1010 10th Street, Suite 6700, Modesto, CA 95354
- By Telephone - (209) 525-4494

➤ Where to learn more & find these resources?

- <http://www.stancounty.com/redistricting/>

Please tell us about your Community or Neighborhood

What is your Community of Interest? What ties you together? What common interests do you share?

Where is your Community of Interest? What are the boundaries? Where is it on the map? What is different or the same about the areas around your community?

Why is it beneficial to be kept together in one district?
Why would it be a problem to split your community?

Where is your Community?

