

Talking Points for Committee Members

What is Redistricting?

- Simply put: Redistricting is the process of adjusting district lines every 10 years after the release of the U.S. Census. Districts must be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population.
- While most people are familiar with redistricting at the Congressional and state levels, local counties, cities, school districts and special districts need to redistrict, too.
- For us in San Joaquin County, redistricting is critical in ensuring fair districts for all of our residents and elected officials.

Why is it important to you and your community?

- How the district boundaries are drawn can make the difference between empowering and maximizing the voters' voices or minimizing those voices.
- It could be the difference between getting your public needs met or overlooked.
- The purpose of the Committee is to help redraw the districts' boundaries without bias or discrimination, while completely removing politics from the process. The outcome of the redistricting process is a redrawn map of San Joaquin County that represents equal and equitable representation for everyone in our county.
- And for those communities who have been historically underserved by the political process, this is the perfect time to speak up... to tell the Committee *why* your community needs to be kept together and united in one district, so your voices are better amplified and your needs are better addressed.

How can the public get involved?

- There are numerous ways the public can get involved!
- Under the Fair Maps Act, cities and counties are required to reach out to the public and host public hearings and workshops on the redistricting process. All members of the community, including non-English speaking communities, are encouraged to participate and give their input.
- At these meetings, you can ask experts questions, learn more about the process, and testify about your own community.
- You can go to our website and fill out our community of interest form, which will take you step-by-step through all the questions that the Committee needs.
- And, of course, you can write us an email (redistricting@sigov.org), describing your community and where it is physically located.
- Please visit our website, wedrawthelines.sjgov.org, for more information on public hearing dates, community of interest forms, and for more information on the redistricting process in our district.
- This process relies heavily on public participation. Data doesn't tell us about what makes us *us*. Don't let the maps get drawn without sharing the story of your community first.