

## Talking Points for Committee Members

### What is Redistricting?

- Simply put: Redistricting is the process of adjusting district boundary lines every 10 years based on the results of the U.S. Census.
  - Districts must be substantially equal in population, so if the make up or number of residents have changed since the last census then the district must be redrawn.
  - The release of the new U.S. Census data has been delayed due to Covid-19; it is expected in late August 2021.
- 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.
- Redistricting is critical in ensuring fair districts for all San Joaquin County 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 you and your communities' public needs met or overlooked.
  - What is a "community"? In redistricting, a "community" or a "community of interest" is a group of people who have common concerns that would benefit from being together in a single district.<sup>1</sup> Three critical questions to determine whether a group is a "community of interest" for redistricting purposes are:
    1. Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics, or bond?
    2. Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped? What are the community's geographic boundaries?
    3. What is the community's relationship with the jurisdiction being redistricted? How is it affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials?
- The purpose of the Redistricting Advisory Committee is to help redraw the supervisorial districts' boundaries without bias or discrimination; it completely removes politics from the process.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of bonds that may create a communities of interest that benefit from being maintained in one district are: Historical communities, Economic interests, Racial composition, Ethnic Areas, Cultural amenities, Religion or 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, and *many, many more*.

- The outcome of the redistricting process is a redrawn map of San Joaquin County's supervisorial districts that represents equal and equitable representation for everyone in our county.
- For those communities that have been historically underserved by the political process, this is the perfect time to speak up and tell the Redistricting Advisory Committee *why* your community needs to be kept together and united in one district so your voices are better amplified to get your communities' needs met.

How can the public get involved in supervisorial and State level redistricting?

- There are numerous ways the public can get involved!

#### *Supervisorial Redistricting*

- 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.
- The Redistricting Advisory Committee will be hosting public meetings on supervisorial redistricting. At these meetings, you can ask experts questions, learn more about the process, testify about your own community, and provide input on redistricting.
  - RAC Outreach Workshop #1, August 17, 2021, 5:30 to 7:30 PM  
SJC Administration Building, Board Chambers
  - RAC Outreach Workshop #2, September 15, 2021, 3:00 to 5:00 PM  
Tracy City Hall, Council Chambers
  - RAC Outreach Workshop #3, September 29, 2021, 4:00 to 6:00 PM  
Lodi: Hutchins Street Square, Kirst Hall
- Additional resources where you can participate in the Supervisorial Redistricting process include:
  - Website [wedrawthelines.sjgov.org](http://wedrawthelines.sjgov.org) - fill out the community of interest form, sign up for notifications of meetings and hearings, see a video describing County redistricting efforts, and go through a step-by-step process to draw maps you can provide to the Committee.
  - Facebook page at San Joaquin County Supervisorial Redistricting 2021 (be sure and like the page to get updates).
  - Email at [redistricting@sjgov.org](mailto:redistricting@sjgov.org) - send us an email or attach documents describing your community and where it is physically located.

#### *State Level Redistricting (Congressional, Assembly, etc.)*

- The California Citizen's Redistricting Commission (California Commission) is responsible for drawing the lines for Congressional, State Assembly, State Senate, and Board of Equalization districts.
  - Information on the California Commission can be found at:  
[www.wedrawthelinesca.org](http://www.wedrawthelinesca.org)

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- The California Commission is made up of 14 Commissioners; no elected officials, paid lobbyists, or paid staff are allowed on the commission.
- The California Commission is currently holding Community of Interest hearings around the State (via Zoom). Information on meetings and the link to participate is available at <https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/meetings>.

Two California Commission meetings focused on the Central Valley will be held on:

- August 4, 2021, from 4:00 – 8:00 PM
- August 25, 2021, from 3:00 – 7:00 PM
- While there are specific dates for certain zones (areas of the State), anyone can participate at any hearing.
- Additionally, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors has created a State Redistricting Advisory Group.
  - The State Redistricting Advisory Group is made up of community partners and business groups. It will serve as a facilitator to bring communities together, increase outreach to community residents about this important process, and to provide information to the California Commission.
  - The State Redistricting Advisory Group will be hosting public meetings on State redistricting.
    - Advisory Group Workshop #2, August 11, 2021, 1 to 2:30 PM  
SJC Administration Building, Room 146
    - Public Outreach Meeting #1, August 17, 2021, 4 to 5 PM  
SJC Administration Building, Board Chambers
    - Public Outreach Meeting #2, September 15, 2021, 5:30 to 6:30 PM  
Tracy City Hall, Council Chambers
    - Public Outreach Meeting #3, September 29, 2021, 2:30 to 3:30 PM  
Lodi: Hutchins Street Square, Kirst Hall

San Joaquin County is also conducting an on-line survey which will soon be available to all San Joaquin County residents. This survey will allow residents to provide feedback on the main issues and concerns as Communities of Interest, as well as help to provide feedback on the drawing of the Assembly, Senate, and Congressional district lines.

### Conclusion

- Please visit our website [wedrawthelines.sjgov.org](https://www.wedrawthelines.sjgov.org), for more information on supervisorial redistricting, the State Redistricting Advisory Group, and a link to the California Commission, the dates, times, and locations of public meetings and hearings, community of interest forms, and for more information on the redistricting process in San Joaquin County.

- This process relies heavily on public participation. Data doesn't tell us about what makes us *us*- YOU do! Don't let the maps get drawn without sharing the story of your community so it can be recognized.