

San Joaquin County  
2021 RAC  
Outreach Workshop

September 15, 2021



# Welcome

# Agenda

Things we will cover:

- Redistricting Basics
- Traditional Redistricting Principles
- 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.

- San Joaquin County 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.

# Redistricting Advisory Committee

## Structure

The Board appointed a 10-member Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) to assist them in conducting community outreach and a recommended district map based on public input.

The goals of RAC are:

- Conduct Community Outreach Workshops
- Identify communities of interest from public input
- Create a set of draft district maps based upon public input
- Recommend one district map to the Board of Supervisors

# Redistricting Timeline



Public Workshops



Census Data



Public Meetings



Draft Maps  
Published



Adoption  
Hearing

Public Outreach and Education

Community Meetings

Public Hearings

AUG

AUGUST 17  
Outreach #1

SEPT

SEPTEMBER 15  
Outreach #2

SEPTEMBER 29  
Outreach #3

OCT

OCTOBER 13  
Meeting #1

OCTOBER 27  
Meeting #2

NOV

NOVEMBER 10  
MEETING #3

NOVEMBER 16  
Present Final Maps

DEC

DECEMBER 7  
Approve Final Map

# Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Redistrict 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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- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- **Maintain “*communities of interest*”**
- Follow city/county/local government lines
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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

Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act:

- 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

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped? What are your community's geographic boundaries?
- 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 in downtown Stockton testifies to the county's redistricting committee.

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?

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's redistricting committee 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's redistricting committee 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.

# Is this a Community of Interest?

A group of almond and walnut farmers, concentrated in the rural unincorporated areas of the county, focused on ensuring they have enough water for their orchards.

Would their committee consider this a community of interest?

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A group of almond and walnut farmers, concentrated in the rural unincorporated areas of the county, focused on ensuring they have enough water for their orchards.

Would their committee 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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A statewide group of people who are fans of the Giants testifies to the local redistricting committee.

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A statewide group of people who are fans of the Giants testifies to the local redistricting committee.

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

DistrictR, a public mapping tool is now available, to all residents to begin drawing their Community of Interest or full Supervisorial Maps.

Two types of expected input:

- Community of Interest Maps (now – 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 San Joaquin will be using DistrictR as a public mapping tool to allow residents to draw their own Communities of Interest.



*You draw the lines.*

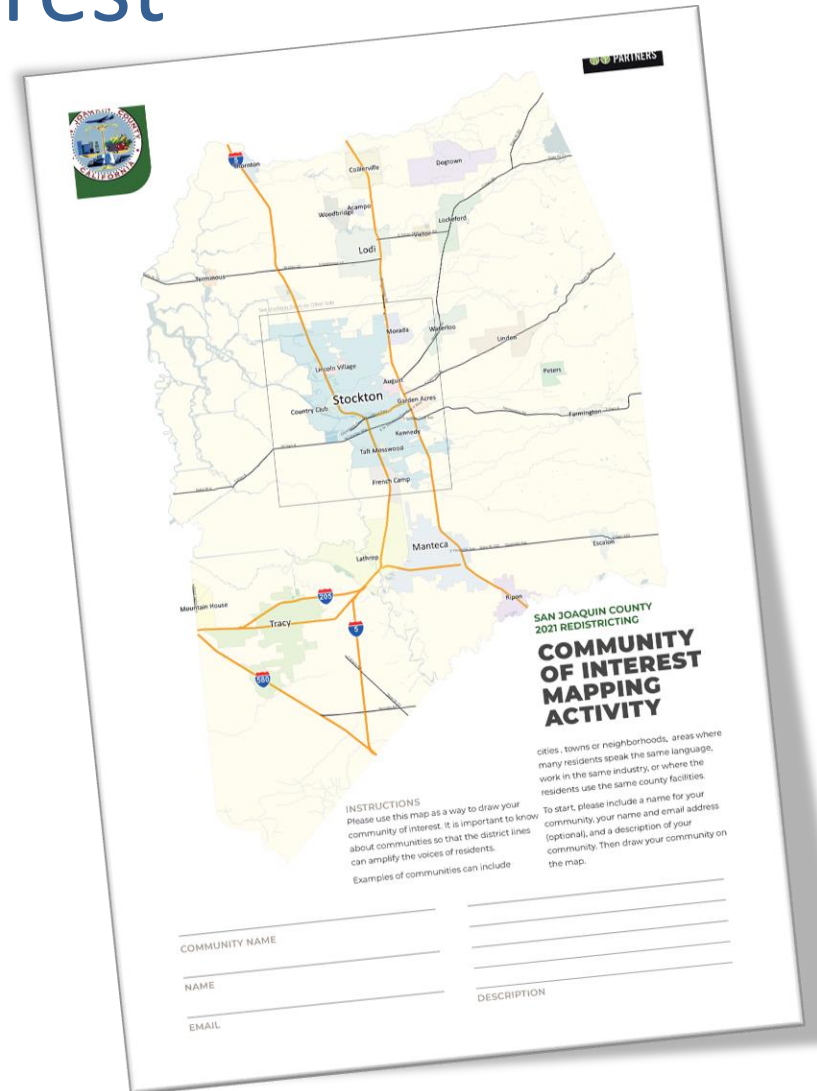
[https://districtr.org/event/San\\_Joaquin](https://districtr.org/event/San_Joaquin)



# Communities of Interest

## Drawing YOUR Community

There is a laminated paper maps for the public to use to draw their own community of interest. We hope you'll submit your community map tonight!



# San Joaquin County Redistricting Timeline

## Timeline for Upcoming Meetings

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Sept. 15               | RAC Outreach Workshop #2<br>3 to 5 PM @ Tracy City Hall, Council Chambers          |
| <b><i>Sept. 20</i></b> | <b><i>Probable Release of the final 2020 Census</i></b>                            |
| Sept. 29               | RAC Outreach Workshop #3<br>4 to 6 PM @ Hutchins Street Square, Kirst Hall in Lodi |
| Oct. 13                | RAC Meeting on Draft Maps  |
| Oct. 27                | RAC Meeting on Draft Maps  |
| Nov. 10                | RAC Meeting to Recommend a Map   |

# San Joaquin County Redistricting Website

<https://wedrawthelines.sjgov.org/>



**REDISTRICTING  
PARTNERS**