

San Joaquin County
2021 RAC
Outreach Workshop

September 29, 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

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

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

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

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*?

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*?

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?

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?

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?

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?

YES! This is a group of people in a shared geographic location who have similar needs for public services.

Is this a Community of Interest?

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

Is this a Community of Interest?

Is this a Community of Interest?

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

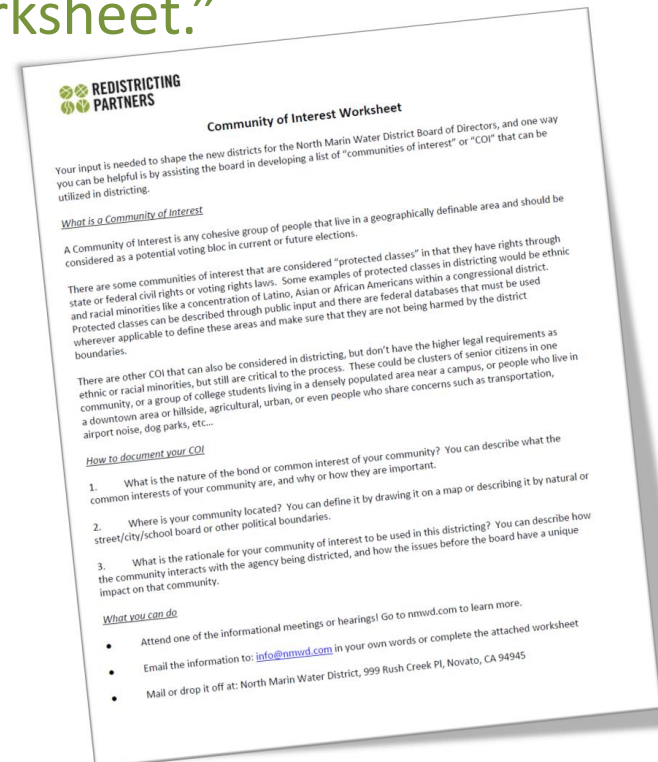
Is this a Community of Interest?

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

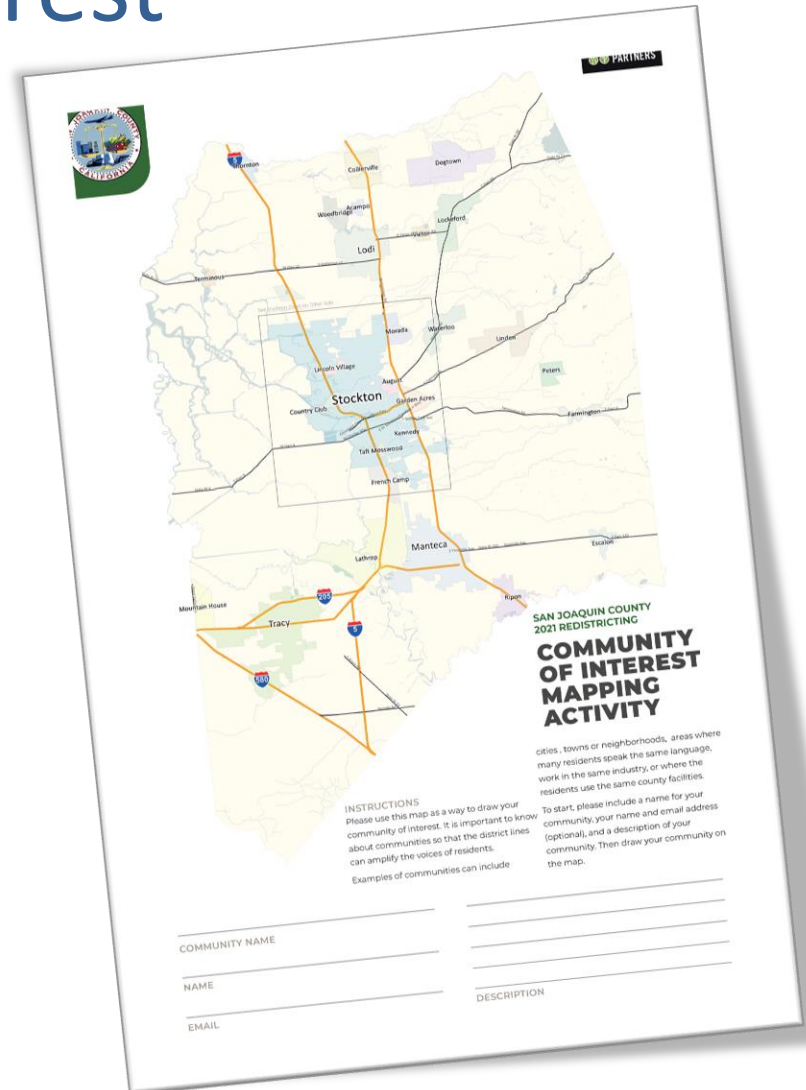
Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

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



San Joaquin County Redistricting Timeline

Timeline for Upcoming Meetings

Sept. 15	RAC Outreach Workshop #2 3 to 5 PM @ Tracy City Hall, Council Chambers
<i>Sept. 20</i>	<i>Probable Release of the final 2020 Census</i>
Sept. 29	RAC Outreach Workshop #3 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**