

Introduction to 2021 Redistricting Process & Criteria

By

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Why Are We Doing This Again So Soon?

- Elections Code § 21601(a):

Following a city's decision to elect its council using district-based elections, or following each federal decennial census for a city whose council is already elected using district-based elections, the council shall, by ordinance or resolution, adopt boundaries for all of the council districts of the city so that the council districts shall be substantially equal in population as required by the United States Constitution.

- *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964).

Though the current districts were only adopted in 2016, they were drawn using 2010 Census data.

Key Dates – Deadline for Completion

- State law deadline to adopt final, readjusted map:
April 17, 2022
 - Failure to meet this deadline permits an interested party to petition the San Diego County Superior Court to adopt a new map
 - Practical deadline may be earlier, for implementation by Registrar

Key Dates – Availability of the Data

- **August 12, 2021**, is the announced date for the Census Bureau to release redistricting data (total population, voting age population by race/ethnicity)
 - The deadline in federal law for the release was April 1, but the Bureau announced that in 2021 it will not meet the statutory deadline due to the need to correct data anomalies
- **Late September/early October**: estimated release of adjusted data by California Statewide Database
 - Once the Census data are released, the California Statewide Database is required to adjust those data to reassign inmates incarcerated in state correctional facilities back to their last known place of residence
- Under state law, the City and its consultants cannot publish draft district maps until **three weeks** after the SWDB releases the adjusted data, at the earliest

Process: Informational Website

- **Elections Code § 21508(g):** The Board shall establish, and maintain for at least 10 years after the adoption of new district boundaries, an internet web page dedicated to redistricting, containing the following:
 - An explanation of the redistricting process
 - Procedures for testifying or submitting written testimony
 - Calendar of all hearings and workshops
 - Notice and agenda for each hearing and workshop
 - Recording or written summary of each hearing and workshop
 - All draft maps & adopted map
- www.encinitasca.gov/redistricting

2021-2022 Proposed* Redistricting Timeline

June 9, 2021 Council Meeting	Presentations at Council meeting re redistricting process; Council adopts tentative calendar/process for redistricting, etc.
By July 1, 2021	City's redistricting website to go public with tentative calendar and SOS templates containing a general explanation of the redistricting process and procedures for public to testify during public hearing or submit written testimony and—when available—presentations, criteria, meeting notices, agendas and minutes, demographic data, and draft plans. Provide for online submission of comments from the public.
August 16, 2021	<p>Announced date for federal government to release PL 94-171 demographic/redistricting data to states.</p> <p>Consultants/staff to conduct informational workshop to educate the public regarding online mapping tools, estimated demographics, process and criteria, and receive public testimony regarding the process and regarding communities of interest.</p>
September 22, 2021 Council Meeting	Council conducts public hearing to solicit testimony regarding criteria to be used for redistricting, especially communities of interest. <i>(Public Hearing #1)</i>

*** Most dates are subject to change; only bold items are legal deadlines**

2021-2022 Proposed* Redistricting Timeline

October 1, 2021	Estimated date for release of prisoner-adjusted population data.
October 16, 2021 Council Meeting	Informational meeting for the public to demonstrate online mapping tools, ways to participate, solicit feedback on communities of interest, etc.
November 17, 2021 Council Meeting	Demographer provides updated demographic analysis of existing districts with final adjusted Census numbers; Council conducts public hearing to solicit testimony regarding criteria to be used for redistricting, especially communities of interest; Council adopts criteria for redistricting, identifies communities of interest, instructs demographic consultant to prepare draft district plans. <i>(Public Hearing #2)</i>
January 5, 2022	Deadline for submission of maps by the public for consideration at the January 19 Council public hearing.
January 19, 2022 Council Meeting	Demographic consultant to present initial draft district plan(s). Council holds public hearing on draft plan(s). Council may order modifications to any of the plan(s). <i>(Public Hearing #3)</i>

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2021-2022 Proposed* Redistricting Timeline

February 17, 2022	Final deadline for submission of public plans for consideration as part of the process.
March 2, 2022	Deadline to post final proposed map(s) on City redistricting website.
March 9, 2022 Council Meeting	Demographer presents one or more additional draft plans and modified plans, incorporating public testimony as appropriate; Council holds public hearing on draft plans, votes to choose one plan, adopts resolution setting actual boundaries. If the Council instead orders modifications to any of the plans, another public hearing will be required. <i>(Public Hearing #4)</i>
April 13, 2022	Last regularly scheduled Council meeting prior to deadline for adopting redistricting plan.
April 17, 2022	Legal deadline for Council to adopt redistricting plan.
June 7, 2022	Election Day Using New Districts

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Federal Criteria:

- Equal Population
- Voting Right Act
- No Racial Gerrymandering

Statutory Criteria:

1. Geographically contiguous
2. Minimize division of neighborhoods and “communities of interest” to the extent practicable
3. Easily identifiable boundaries (major streets, etc.)
4. Compactness of population

Traditional Criteria:

- Keep incumbents in their current districts/respect voters’ choices/avoid head-to-head elections
- Minimize election year changes
- Future population growth

Communities of Interest: What Are They?

- State Law Definition: “a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation”
- What could this include?
 - Lifestyle: e.g., community character, recreation, shared social gatherings
 - Economy: e.g., major employer/industry, commercial areas
 - Demography: e.g., race*, income, education, language, immigration status, housing, etc
 - Geography: e.g., urban/suburban/rural, mountainous, coastal
 - Political subdivisions: school districts, planning areas, etc.
 - Place-based issues/needs: e.g., public safety (wildfire concerns), environmental (air pollution)

Communities of Interest: Identifying Them

- Demographic data: *e.g.*, American Community Survey data, etc.
- Official city neighborhood maps/business districts/redevelopment areas
- Neighborhood groups/neighborhood watch groups/NextDoor groups/HOA Associations
- Welcome signs/gateway monument signs
- Online mapping tools (National Demographics Corporation)

- **Community testimony**

☒ What bonds your community – what do you see as the common links in your community?

☒ Where is your community located – what are the boundaries of your community?

☒ Why should the community be kept together – or separate from another area?

Questions?