

CITY OF MERCED

Merced Civic Center 678 W. 18th Street Merced, CA 95340

Meeting Agenda

Redistricting Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 15, 2021	6:00 PM	City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic
Weanesday, oeptember 10, 2021		Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

WELCOME

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Committee meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at www.cityofmerced.org or at the City Clerk's Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relation to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Committee will be available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE BOARD/COMMISSION CLERK

Members of the audience who wish to address the Committee are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium in the back of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Committee Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins.

For at risk individuals or those not wanting to attend an in-person meeting during the current Covid-19 pandemic, please submit your public comment to the Redistricting Advisory Committee electronically no later than 1PM on the day of the meeting. Comments received before the deadline will be sent to the Redistricting Advisory Committee and will be part of the record and mentioned as part of the Public Comment portion of the agenda.

Material may be emailed to cityclerk@cityofmerced.org and should be limited to 300 words or less. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Item # or Oral Communications. Your comments will be presented to the Redistricting Advisory Committee at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Redistricting Advisory Committee and retained for the official record.

You may provide telephonic comments via voicemail by calling (209) 388-8688 by no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting to be added to the public comment. Voicemails will be limited to a time limit of three (3) minutes. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Report item # or Public Comment. Your comments will be played during the Committee meeting at the appropriate time.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Accommodation for individuals with disabilities may be arranged by contacting the City Clerk at (209) 388-8650. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 3 minutes. State law prohibits the Committee from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made by one motion of the Committee, provided that any Member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately.

E.1. <u>21-756</u> SUBJECT: <u>Redistricting Advisory Committee Minutes of August 12,</u> 2021

REPORT IN BRIEF

Redistricting Advisory Committee Minutes from the meeting of August 12, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Redistricting Advisory Committee - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Redistricting Advisory Committee minutes of August 12, 2021.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F.1. <u>21-749</u> SUBJECT: <u>Public Hearing (to be Heard at 6:15PM) to Receive a</u> <u>Report from Staff on the Redistricting Process and Permissible Criteria</u> to be Considered to Redraw the Council District Map, to Receive Input from the Community Regarding the Redrawing of Election District <u>Boundaries</u>

REPORT IN BRIEF

Public Hearing to inform the Redistricting Advisory Committee and the public on the redistricting process and allow community input regarding the redrawing of the Council District Map.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive public input on the redrawing of election district boundaries.

G. BUSINESS

G.1. <u>21-760</u> SUBJECT: <u>Committee Comments</u>

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provides an opportunity for the Chair and/or Member(s) to make a brief announcement on any activity(ies) she/he has attended on behalf of the Committee and to make a brief announcement on future community events and/or activities. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the legislative body under this section.

H. ADJOURNMENT



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

File #: 21-756

Meeting Date: 9/15/2021

Report Prepared by: Jennifer Levesque, Assistant City Clerk

SUBJECT: Redistricting Advisory Committee Minutes of August 12, 2021

REPORT IN BRIEF

Redistricting Advisory Committee Minutes from the meeting of August 12, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Redistricting Advisory Committee - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Redistricting Advisory Committee minutes of August 12, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Redistricting Advisory Committee minutes of August 12, 2021

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CITY OF MERCED



Minutes

Redistricting Advisory Committee

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Redistricting Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:34 PM.

Clerk's Note: Prior to the meeting being called to order, Assistant City Clerk Jennifer LEVESQUE delivered the oath of office to the Committee members.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Member Diane Mejia, Member Hubert Walsh, Member Cindy Morse, Member Jennifer Jones, Member Lisa Sykes, Member Janet Kasper, Member Ronnie DeAnda, Member Ryan Heller, and Member Sabrina Abong

Absent: 0

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pangcha VANG, Merced - spoke on the annexation of UC Merced and other areas in the City and asked if the district map will be redrawn to reflect that change.

Diana ODOM GUNN, Downtown Neighborhood Association - spoke on the importance of preserving the historic integrity of Downtown Merced.

E. REPORTS

E.1. SUBJECT: Brown Act Training for Committee Members

REPORT IN BRIEF

Training will include an overview of the Brown Act.

RECOMMENDATION

Information - Only

Deputy City Attorney Kim MADAYAG gave a slide show presentation on the Brown Act Training for Committee Members. Committee Members, Ms. MADAYAG, and Assistant City Clerk Jennifer LEVESQUE discussed the posting of the agenda and criminal prosecutions of Brown Act violations.

F. BUSINESS

F.1.

SUBJECT: Selection of a New Chair and Vice Chair

REPORT IN BRIEF

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

Clerk's Note: This item was moved up to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair.

A motion was made by Member Morse, seconded by Member DeAnda, to appoint Ryan Heller as Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye: 9 Member Mejia, Member Walsh, Member Morse, Member Jones, Member Sykes, Member Kasper, Member DeAnda, Member Heller, and Member Abong
- **No:** 0
- Absent: 0

A motion was made by Member Sykes, seconded by Member Abong, to appoint Cindy Morse as Vice-Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye: 9 Member Mejia, Member Walsh, Member Morse, Member Jones, Member Sykes, Member Kasper, Member DeAnda, Member Heller, and Member Abong
- **No:** 0
- Absent: 0

F.2.

SUBJECT: Redistricting Advisory Committee Roles and Duties

REPORT IN BRIEF

Staff will give an overview of the roles and duties of the Redistricting Advisory Committee.

Assistant City Clerk Jennifer LEVESQUE gave a slide show presentation on the Redistricting Advisory Committee Roles and Duties.

Committee Members and Ms. LEVESQUE discussed City Council dates to approve maps and the Chair presenting the Committee's recommendation to the City Council.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The Redistricting Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 6:03PM.

A motion was made by Member Mejia, seconded by Member Morse, to adjourn the Redistricting Advisory Committee meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye: 9 Member Mejia, Member Walsh, Member Morse, Member Jones, Member Sykes, Member Kasper, Member DeAnda, Member Heller, and Member Abong
- **No:** 0

Absent: 0





ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

File #: 21-749

Meeting Date: 9/15/2021

Report Prepared by: Jennifer Levesque, Assistant City Clerk, City Clerk's Department

SUBJECT: <u>Public Hearing (to be Heard at 6:15PM) to Receive a Report from Staff on the</u> <u>Redistricting Process and Permissible Criteria to be Considered to Redraw the Council District</u> <u>Map, to Receive Input from the Community Regarding the Redrawing of Election District</u> <u>Boundaries</u>

REPORT IN BRIEF

Public Hearing to inform the Redistricting Advisory Committee and the public on the redistricting process and allow community input regarding the redrawing of the Council District Map.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive public input on the redrawing of election district boundaries.

DISCUSSION

Every ten years, cities with by district election systems must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all districts have nearly equal population. The redistricting process must be completed by April 17, 2022.

The City adopted its current district boundaries on October 19, 2015. The current district boundaries are based on 2010 census data as required by law. The districts must now be redrawn using the 2020 census data and be in compliance with the FAIR MAPS Act, which was adopted by the California legislature as AB 849 and took effect January 1, 2020.

Under the Act, the council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the listed order of priority (Elections Code 21621(c)):

- 1. Comply with the federal requirements of equal population and the Voting Rights Act
- 2. Geographically contiguous
- 3. Undivided neighborhoods and "communities of interest" (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
- 4. Easily identifiable boundaries
- 5. Compact (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)
- 6. Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party

Once the prioritized criteria are met, other traditional districting principles can be considered, such as:

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- 1. Minimize the number of voters delayed from voting from 2022 to 2024
- 2. Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
- 3. Future population growth

By law, the City must hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input on the drawing of district maps:

- At least one hearing must occur before the city draws draft maps
- At least two hearings must happen after the drawing of draft maps
- The fourth hearing can happen either before or after the drawing of draft maps
- City staff or consultants may hold a public workshop instead of one of the required public redistricting hearings

To increase the accessibility of these hearings, cities and counties must take the following steps:

- At least one hearing must occur on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6 p.m. on a Weekday
- If a redistricting hearing is consolidated with another local government meeting, the redistricting hearing portion must begin at a pre-designated time
- Local public redistricting hearings should be made accessible to people with disabilities

The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community on what factors should be taken into consideration while creating district boundaries. The public is requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps. A *community of interest* under the relevant Elections Code 21621(c) is "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."

Possible features defining community of interest might include, but are not limited to:

- A. School attendance areas;
- B. Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
- C. Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
- D. Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
- E. Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
 - (1) Similar levels of income and education;
 - (2) Languages spoken at home; and
 - (3) Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

Boundaries cannot be adopted earlier than August 1, 2021 and must be adopted before April 17, 2022. However, the U.S. Census Bureau has indicated they will release data on September 20, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation





City of Merced Introduction to Redistricting

Dr. Jeff Tilton, Senior Consultant National Demographics Corporation

September 15, 2021

Redistricting Process

Step	Description
City Council Public Hearing June 21, 2021	 Held prior to release of draft maps Educate, solicit input on the communities in the Districts
Census Data Release August 12, 2021	Census Bureau releases official 2020 Census population data
RAC Public Hearing September 15, 2021 6 p.m.	 Held prior to release of draft maps Educate, solicit input on the communities in the Districts
California Data Release September 20, 2021	 California Statewide Database releases California's official 'prisoner- adjusted' 2020 redistricting data
Public Workshop November 6, 2021 10 a.m.	 Gather data on communities of interest, neighborhoods Learn more about the public mapping tools



Dates/times subject to change

Redistricting Process (continued)

Step	Description
RAC Public Hearing December 1, 2021 6 p.m.	 Held prior to release of draft maps Educate, solicit input on the communities in the Districts
Public Workshop January 12, 2022 6 p.m.	 Gather data on communities of interest, neighborhoods Learn more about the public mapping tools
RAC Public Hearing January 22, 2022 10 a.m.	 Held prior to release of draft maps Educate, solicit input on the communities in the Districts Recommend communities of interest/neighborhoods, draft maps Deadline to submit maps: January 7, 2022, 5 p.m.
City Council Public Hearing February 7, 2022 6 p.m.	 Discuss, revise draft maps; discuss election sequencing Deadline to submit draft maps: January 24, 2022, 5 p.m. Draft maps posted deadline: January 31, 2022, 5 p.m.
City Council Public Hearing March 7, 2022 6 p.m.	 Discuss, determine final map; discuss, determine election sequencing Deadline to submit draft maps: February 18, 2022, 5 p.m. Draft maps posted deadline: February 28, 2022, 5 p.m.
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Dates/times subject to change

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Redistricting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

- **Equal Population**
- Federal Voting Rights Act
- No Racial Gerrymandering



2. California Criteria for Cities

- 1. Geographically contiguous
- Undivided neighborhoods and "communities of interest"
- 3. Easily identifiable boundaries
- 4. Compact

Prohibited: "Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party." 3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles

- Minimize voters shifted to different election years
- Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
- □ Future population growth
- Preserving the core of existing districts

Defining Neighborhoods

1st Question: What is your neighborhood?

2nd Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- Areas around parks or schools
- Other neighborhood landmarks

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.



Beyond Neighborhoods: Defining Communities of Interest

1st Question: What defines your community?

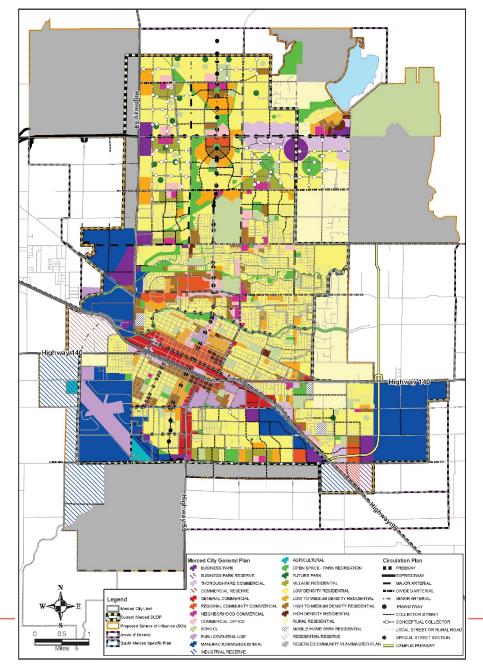
- Geographic Area, plus
- Shared issue or characteristic
 - Shared social or economic interest
 - Impacted by county policies
- Tell us "your community's story"

2nd Question: Would this community benefit from being "included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation"?

• Or would it benefit more from having multiple representatives?

Definitions of Communities of Interest may <u>not</u> include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Possible Neighborhoods / Communities





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Annexations?

If the boundaries of a city expand by the addition of new territory, including through annexation of unincorporated territory or consolidation with another city, the council shall add that new territory to the nearest existing council district without changing the boundaries of other council district boundaries.

Council may adopt new boundaries for each council district under the circumstances described above if both of the following conditions are met:

- 1. There are more than four years until the council is next required to redistrict.
- The population of the new territory being annexed or consolidated is greater than 25 percent of the city's population as determined by the most recent federal decennial census.

Does not apply to a charter city that has adopted, by ordinance or in its city charter, a different standard for adding new territory to existing council districts.

Elections Code 21623

Public Mapping and Map Review Tools

- Different tools for different purposes
- Different tools for different levels of technical skill and interest
 - Simple "review draft maps" tool
 - Easy-to-use "Draw your neighborhood" tool
 - Paper- and Excel-based simple "Draw a draft map" tools
 - Powerful, data-rich "Draw a draft map" tool

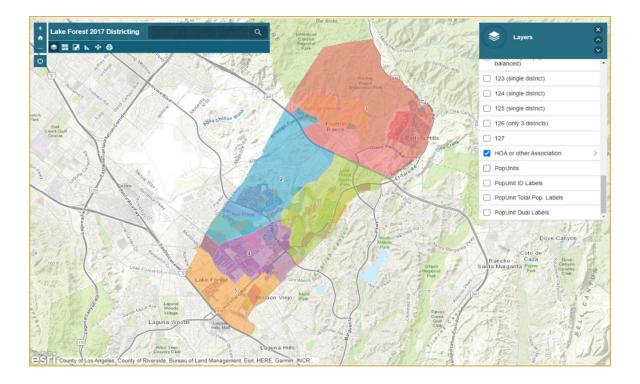
Whether you use the powerful (but complicated) online mapping tool, Excel, the paper kit, or just draw on a napkin, we welcome your maps!



Simple Map Review Tool

Online Interactive Review Map

- ESRI's "ArcGIS Online" similar to Google Maps in ease of use
- Used to review, analyze and compare maps, not to create them
- Includes overlays of "community of interest" and other data

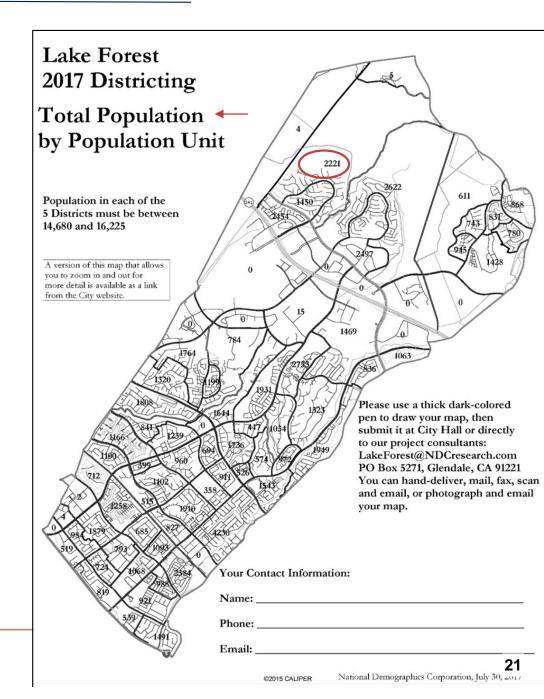




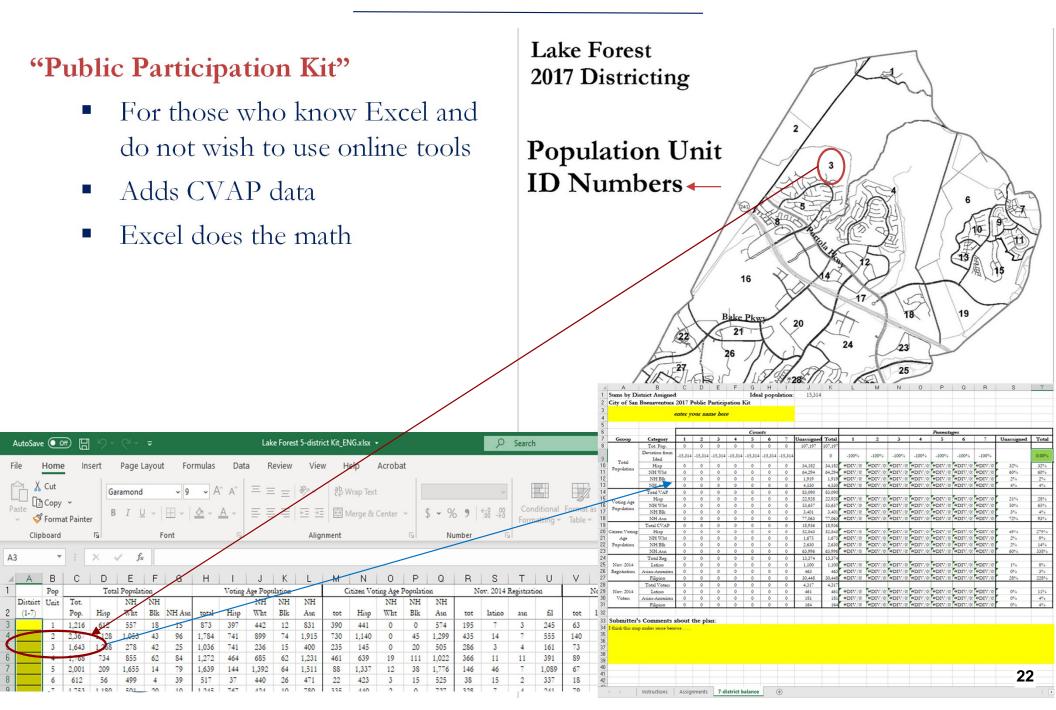
Simple Map Drawing Tool

Paper "Public Participation Kit"

- For those without internet access or who prefer paper
- Total Population Counts only no demographic numbers



Simple Map Drawing Tool + Excel Supplement



DistrictR

"Draw Your Community of Interest" focus

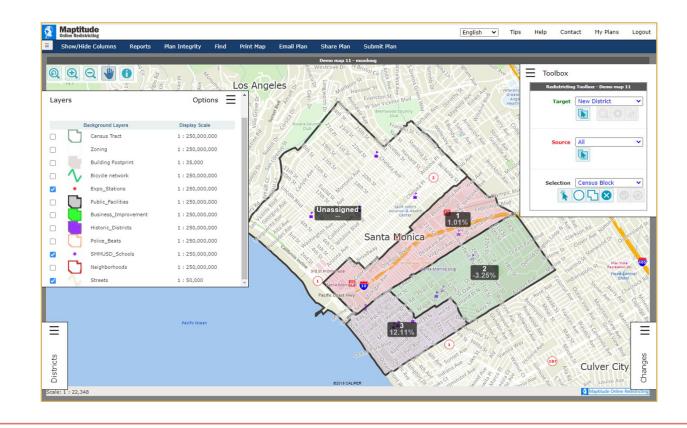
- www.DistrictR.org
- Also includes simple district-mapping tool; Only available in English
- Similar external options: <u>Representable.org</u>, <u>DrawMyCACommunity.org</u>



Caliper's "Maptitude Online Redistricting"

Full Database, Powerful Online Mapping Tool

- Powerful, common, data-rich online tool
- Six language options: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Mandarin and Korean





Your own mapping software?

Feel free to submit using your own mapping software:

- 1) A GIS Shapefile and/or a Census Block equivalency file (w/2020 Census Blocks);
- 2) A description of the choices and key points of your map; and,
- 3) Send to the jurisdiction's listed districting/redistricting email address



Stay connected



www.cityofmerced.org/redistricting 209.388.8650 | cityclerk@cityofmerced.org



Public Hearing & Discussion

- □ What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?
- □ What other notable areas are in the City, and what are their boundaries?
- □ Any questions about the mapping tools?

Discussion on:

- "neighborhoods"
- "communities of interest . . . that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation."



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

File #: 21-760

Meeting Date: 9/15/2021

SUBJECT: Committee Comments

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provides an opportunity for the Chair and/or Member(s) to make a brief announcement on any activity(ies) she/he has attended on behalf of the Committee and to make a brief announcement on future community events and/or activities. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the legislative body under this section.