



CITY OF MERCED

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

Meeting Agenda

Redistricting Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

6:00 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic
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 COMMITTEE 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.

To view video (if available) or listen to the Committee meeting live, go to the City's website www.cityofmerced.org or Facebook Live.

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. [21-959](#) **SUBJECT:** Redistricting Advisory Committee Minutes of September 15, 2021

REPORT IN BRIEF

Redistricting Advisory Committee Minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Redistricting Advisory Committee - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Redistricting Advisory Committee minutes of September 15, 2021.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Members of the public who wish to speak on public hearings listed on the agenda will be heard when the Public Hearing is opened, except on Public Hearing items previously heard and closed to public comment. After the public has commented, the item is closed to further public comment and brought to the Committee for discussion and action. Further comment will not be received unless requested by the Committee.

F.1. [21-958](#)

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

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. [21-960](#)**

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.

H. ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF MERCED

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

File #: 21-959

Meeting Date: 12/1/2021

Report Prepared by: Jennifer Levesque, Assistant City Clerk

SUBJECT: Redistricting Advisory Committee Minutes of September 15, 2021

REPORT IN BRIEF

Redistricting Advisory Committee Minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Redistricting Advisory Committee - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Redistricting Advisory Committee minutes of September 15, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Redistricting Advisory Committee minutes of September 15, 2021



CITY OF MERCED

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

Minutes Redistricting Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Member ABONG called the Redistricting Advisory Committee to order at 6:01 PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Clerk's Note: When the Chair and Vice Chair are both absent, the next person to run the meeting is chosen alphabetically. Committee ABONG was the Acting Chair for this meeting.

Present: 6 - Member Hubert Walsh, Member Jennifer Jones, Member Lisa Sykes, Member Janet Kasper, Member Ronnie DeAnda, and Member Sabrina Abong

Excused: 2 - Member Cindy Morse, and Member Ryan Heller

Absent: 0

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Clerk's Office received an email from Jennifer SARALEGUI regarding the Redistricting process.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

E.1. **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.

A motion was made by Member Walsh, seconded by Member DeAnda, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Member Walsh, Member Jones, Member Sykes, Member Kasper, Member DeAnda, and Member Abong

No: 0

Absent: 0

Clerk's Note: The Committee took a break at 6:05 PM to wait for the 6:15PM Public Hearing.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

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

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.

Clerk's Note: The Committee reconvened the meeting at 6:15 PM for the Public Hearing Item.

National Demographics Corporation Consultant Jeff TILTON gave a slide show presentation on the Redistricting Process.

Committee Member ABONG opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 PM.

Hannah NIANE, Merced - asked how the City will help those who may not understand or have access to a computer to participate in the redistricting process.

Nicola ADAMS, Merced - asked about the dates for the Redistricting Workshops.

Committee Member ABONG closed the Public Hearing at 6:41PM.

Committee Members, Mr. TILTON, and City Manager Stephanie DIETZ discussed the existing city limit map, County islands, influence of school districts, workshop dates, demographic summary of current district makeup, variance number determined, mapping tools, and languages

available.

Clerk's Note: This item was an information-only item.

G. BUSINESS

G.1.

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.

Committee Member ABONG discussed the Mercado.

Committee Member JONES discussed the redistricting outreach she has done.

Committee Member WALSH discussed the questions he received from members of the public and shared those questions at the meeting.

Committee Member KASPER discussed the redistricting outreach she has done.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk's Note: The Redistricting Advisory Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

A motion was made by Member Sykes, seconded by Member Kasper, to adjourn the Redistricting Advisory Committee Meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Member Walsh, Member Jones, Member Sykes, Member Kasper, Member DeAnda, and Member Abong

No: 0

Absent: 0



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

File #: 21-958

Meeting Date: 12/1/2021

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

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

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:

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

December 1, 2021

Dr. Jeff Tilton, Senior Consultant
National Demographics Corporation

Redistricting Process

Step	Description
City Council Public Hearing June 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held prior to release of draft maps • Educate, solicit input on the communities in the Districts
Census Data Releases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census Bureau releases official 2020 Census population data – Aug. 12 • California’s official ‘prisoner-adjusted’ 2020 redistricting data – Sept. 21, 27
RAC Public Hearings September 15 & December 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held prior to release of draft maps • Educate, solicit input on the communities in the Districts
Public Workshops November 6 & January 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather data on communities of interest, neighborhoods • Learn more about the public mapping tools
Draft-Maps RAC Public Hearing January 22, 10 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of draft maps • Recommend draft maps to City Council • Deadline to submit maps: January 7, 2022, 5 p.m.
City Council Public Hearing February 7, 6 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss, revise draft maps • Deadline to submit draft maps: January 24, 2022, 5 p.m.
City Council Public Hearing March 7, 6 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Redistricting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

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



2. California Criteria for Cities

1. Geographically contiguous
2. 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

2020 Census

City of Merced - Current Plan

Category	Field	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	15,145	13,783	12,762	14,039	14,211	16,741	86,681
	Population Deviation	698	-664	-1,685	-408	-236	2,294	3,979
	Pct. Deviation	4.83%	-4.60%	-11.66%	-2.82%	-1.63%	15.88%	27.54%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	66%	81%	59%	46%	49%	40%	56%
	NH White	14%	6%	24%	36%	28%	32%	24%
	NH Black	5%	4%	6%	5%	7%	6%	6%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	12%	8%	8%	10%	14%	20%	12%
	NH Native Amer.	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	6,064	5,206	7,763	8,925	10,085	10,010	48,053
	Hisp	51%	62%	50%	39%	39%	42%	45%
	NH White	27%	14%	37%	46%	35%	37%	34%
	NH Black	8%	8%	6%	7%	11%	5%	7%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	15%	16%	7%	8%	14%	16%	13%
	Native Amer.	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%

Ideal population per District: 14,447

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, creeks, 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 not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Public Mapping and Map Review Tools

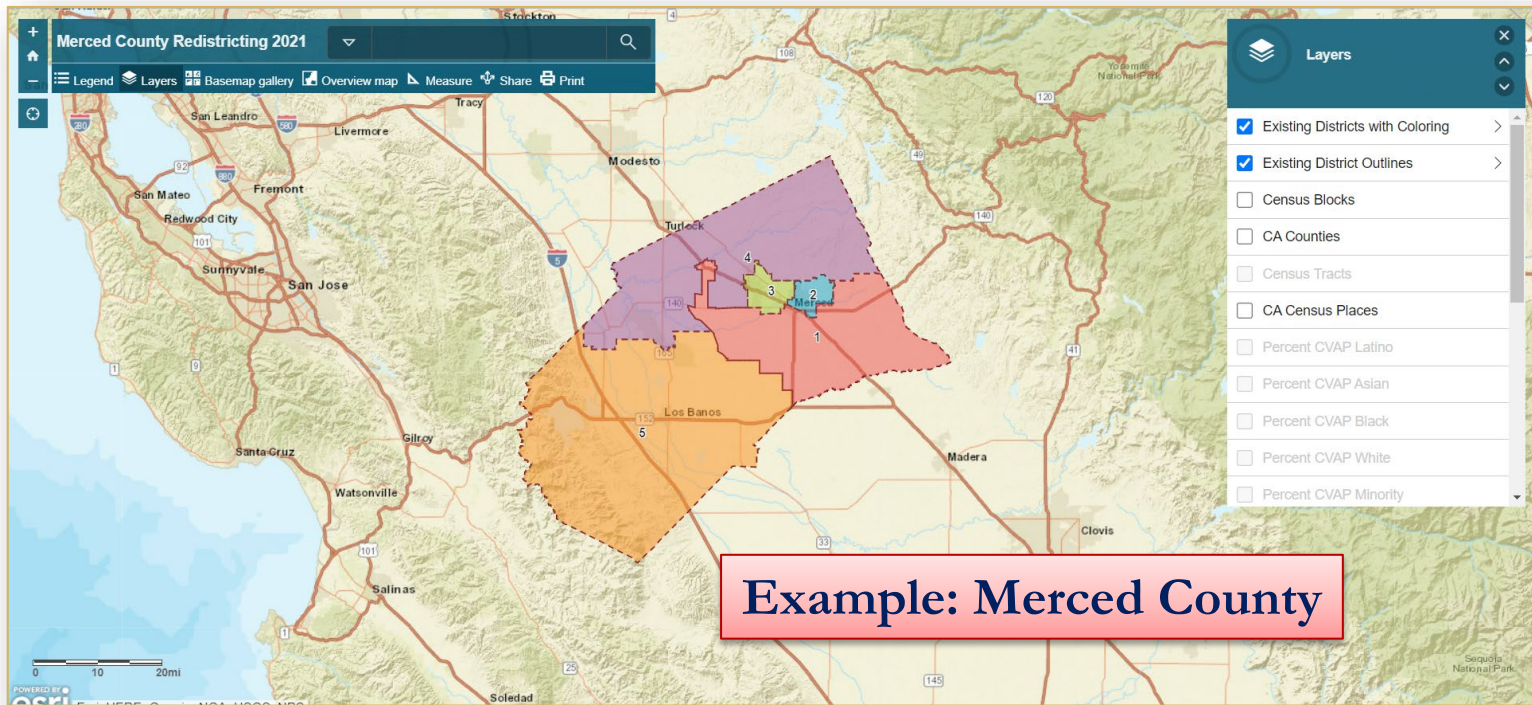
- Different tools for different purposes
- Different tools for different levels of technical skill and interest
 - Simple “review draft maps” tool
 - Easy-to-use “Draw your neighborhood” tool
 - Paper- and Excel-based simple “Draw a draft map” tools
 - Powerful, data-rich “Draw a draft map” tool
 - **NEW OPTION:** Submit using your own mapping software

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

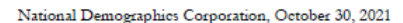
Online Interactive Review Map

- 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



Paper “Public Participation Kit”

- 



Simple Map Drawing Tool + Excel Supplement

“Public Participation Kit”

- For those who know Excel and do not wish to use online tools
- Adds CVAP data
- Excel does the math

Merced Redistricting 2021

Public Participation Kit

Total Population by ID Number

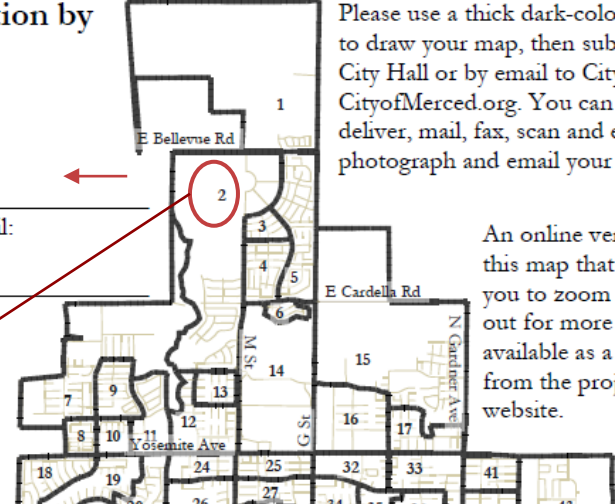
Name: _____

Phone and/or Email: _____

Use this map with Microsoft Excel




Please use a thick dark-colored pen to draw your map, then submit it at City Hall or by email to CityClerk@CityofMerced.org. You can hand deliver, mail, fax, scan and email, or photograph and email your map.


An online version of this map that allows you to zoom in and out for more detail is available as a link from the project website.




Sums by District Assigned													Ideal population: 15,314						
City of San Buenaventura 2017 Public Participation Kit																			
enter your name here																			
Group	Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Unassigned	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Unassigned	Total
Total Population	Tot. Pop.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	107,197	107,197	0	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	0.00%
	Deviation from Ideal	-15,314	-15,314	-15,314	-15,314	-15,314	-15,314	-15,314	-15,314	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34,182	34,182	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32%
	NH White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64,294	64,294	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60%
Voting Age Population	NH Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,919	1,919	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2%
	NH Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,530	4,530	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4%
	Total CVAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83,090	83,090	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21%
	Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,928	22,928	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28%
Citizen Voting Population	NH White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53,657	53,657	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59%
	NH Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,401	3,401	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3%
	NH Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,763	7,763	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9%
	Total CVAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,936	18,936	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20%
Nov. 2014 Registration	Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,843	5,843	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31%
	NH White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,675	1,675	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9%
	NH Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,630	2,630	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14%
	NH Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63,996	63,996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	338%
Nov. 2014 Votes	Total Reg.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13,574	13,574	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1%
	Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,100	1,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8%
	NH White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	463	463	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3%
	NH Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30,448	30,448	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	238%
Nov. 2014 Votes	Total Votes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,317	4,317	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11%
	Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	461	461	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8%
	NH White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181	181	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4%
	NH Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	164	164	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4%


Submitter's Comments about the plan:
I think this map makes sense because ...


AutoSave Off   


Lake Forest 5-district Kit_ENG.xlsx  Search

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
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
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





























































































































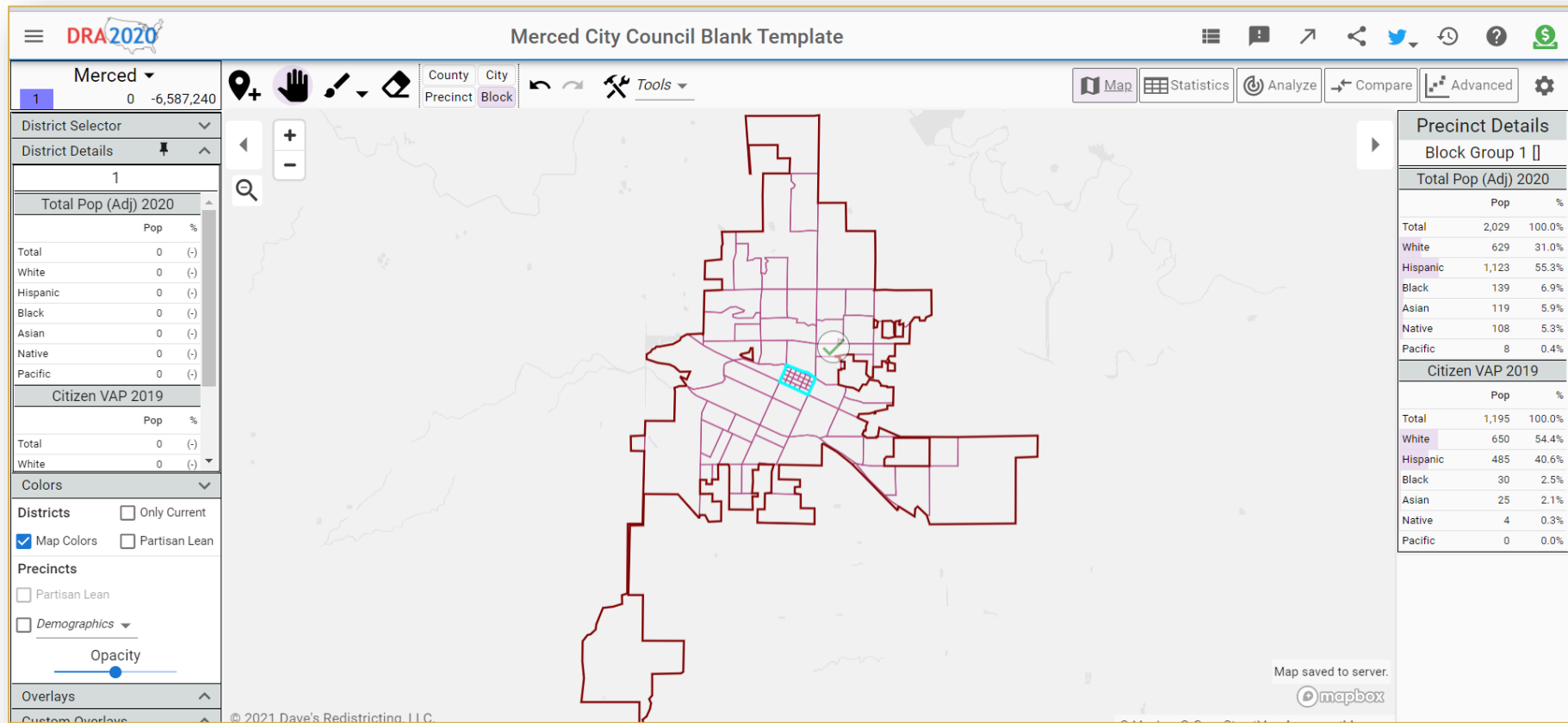




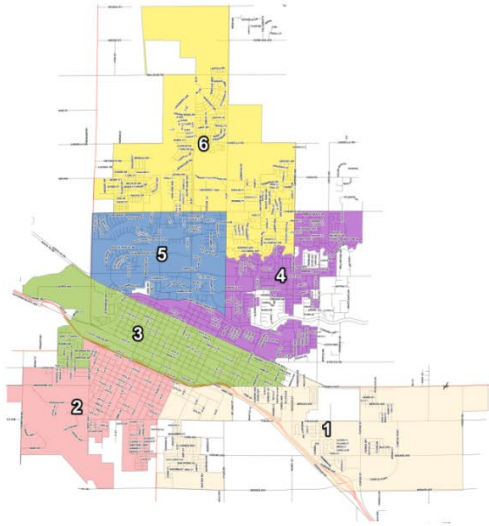
Dave's Redistricting

“Draw Your Districts” focus

- DavesRedistricting.org



Stay connected



City of Merced Redistricting

[Click Here For More Information](#)

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.”



CITY OF MERCED

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

File #: 21-960

Meeting Date: 12/1/2021

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.