

2021 Redistricting Process

April 13, 2021
Board of Supervisors



Agenda

- Redistricting Background Information
- Legislative Changes/Requirements
- Redistricting Timing
- Redistricting Options
- Board Direction

Redistricting Background

- Redistricting is a process where every ten years following the conclusion of the United State Census work, local jurisdictions are required to analyze local population data to ensure there is approximately equal representation throughout each district.
- Adjustments made will determine which district a citizen will vote in during the next primary election.
- The traditional process includes comparing existing boundaries with population data overlays to assess where the population shifts have taken place.
- The Camp Fire has led to significant shifts in population.
- There have been legislative changes which impact both the timing and the redistricting process (AB 849 – FAIR MAPS Act).
- Traditional timelines include the selection of draft district maps by the Board by July 1, followed by enacting of those maps by August 15. Delays in obtaining United States Census data has lead to extensions to these timelines (November 1 and December 15).

Legislative Changes

- Assembly Bill 849 (Fair Maps Act) and Assembly Bill 1276 specifically outline the redistricting process requirements
- Specific District Boundary Requirements Include:
 - Districts shall be geographically continuous
 - Districts must have a “substantially equal” number of residents (+/-5% differential)
 - Local neighborhood integrity/community of interest intact
 - Districts easily identifiable and understandable
 - Districts must not favor or discriminate against any political party
- Elections
 - Term of office for incumbents whose term has not expired shall not be effected
 - Elections following adoption of new boundaries shall be based upon the new boundaries

Legislative Changes

Public Meetings

Must hold a minimum of 4 public meetings (posted for a minimum of 5 days prior to the meeting)

- A minimum of one public meeting must be held prior to the development of any new draft map
- A minimum of two public meetings must be held after draft maps have been drawn
- At least one of the public meetings must be held on a Saturday, Sunday or after 6:00pm Monday – Friday
- Meetings can be part of the regular Board Meeting – or a stand alone meetings.

Legislative Changes

Required Outreach

- Efforts must be made to encourage input from underrepresented communities and non-English speaking communities
- Extensive record keeping requirements
- Draft maps must be published on the internet and be posted a minimum of seven days before being adopted
- Each draft map must include: total population, voting age population and racial/ethnic characteristics
- The Board must maintain an internet page for a minimum of 10 years after the adoption of new districts dedicated to redistricting (hosted on the county's existing website)

Redistricting Timing

- Federal Census data isn't anticipated to be received by the State until September 30
 - The State then has 30 days to adjust the federal data (making adjustments to those incarcerated). The County is not likely to have data until the end of October.
- Traditional timelines required district boundaries to be enacted by August 15
- The California Supreme Court granted a four-month extension to these timelines based on the delay in receiving census data
- District maps must be certified no later than December 15 (174 days before next election - June 7, 2022) – unless the primary election date is moved
- Should the Board not adopt new district boundaries by the deadlines, the Board shall petition the superior court for an order adopting supervisorial district boundaries

Redistricting Options

- There are four options the Board of Supervisors has for redistricting. All of these options can be done through staff or with the assistance of a consultant:
 - The Board of Supervisors may direct staff or a consultant to coordinate public meetings and prepare options for Board consideration and input and the Board approves the district boundary map decisions.
 - The Board may establish an advisory commission (EC 23002) to gather input and conduct some of the public hearings. The Board retains the final decision on the map. Local jurisdiction prescribes the manner members are appointed (with some restrictions).

Redistricting Options

- The Board may establish an independent commission (EC 23003) to manage the entire process and make district boundary decisions (following a similar process as discussed previously). Here the County would need to recruit, appoint and educate commission members. Requires the adoption of an ordinance or resolution setting out the appointment process. *Appointment to commission very restrictive.*
- Hybrid process – similar to the independent commission, however, the commission approved two or more map options, and the Board would make the final decision based upon those maps presented.

Action Requested

Authorize staff to retain a consultant to manage and guide the redistricting process.