

*Your
Voice,
Your
Power*

Redistricting in the City of Los Angeles



The Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission

Why Are We Here?

- Help you understand what redistricting is and explain why it matters.
- Hear from you and learn more about your community.
- Explain the redistricting process, and how you can participate.



About Redistricting



It Starts with Districts!



***Every person in the
City of LA lives in
a City Council
District.***

- There are 15 Council Districts – each made up of and defined by different neighborhoods and a map with certain boundaries.
- You elect a city council member based on the district you are in – not everyone gets to vote for the same people.
- Examples:
 - ◆ Boyle Heights – District 14
 - ◆ Pacoima – District 7
 - ◆ Venice – District 11
 - ◆ South LA – Crenshaw – District 9



What is Redistricting?

- Every 10 years, the entire country goes through a process called “redistricting” to redraw the district maps.
- Ultimately, each district needs to be fair, equal and representative.
- The reasons that we have to define new district boundaries include:
 - ◆ Population changes – people moving in and out, births, deaths.
 - ◆ Districts become unequal in number of people – U.S. Constitution requires districts to be of equal population size.
 - ◆ Communities change (priorities, interests, goals, make up of community).



Redistricting: *Why it Matters*

- Participating in the redistricting process can be as important as voting.
- Where district lines are drawn can decide who you get to vote for on the City Council.
- Decisions made now will impact all of us for the next 10 years!
- Fair and inclusive representation on the Council is power.
 - ◆ Make decisions about resources that are provided to your neighborhood
 - ◆ Can mean more or less affordable housing, cleaner streets and better parks



Looking Back in History

- In the past, districts were drawn to purposely make sure that Black, Latino and Asian communities couldn't elect their own representatives.
- Lawsuits and protests mandated that districts get drawn fairly – and ultimately allowed people of color to be elected to the City Council.
- Do your part to make sure that your community is represented right.



Redistricting: *How it works*



Who's in Charge of the Process?

LA City Council Redistricting Commission (LACCRC)

- In 1999, the voters wanted and approved the formation of an independent, appointed commission to draw and recommend maps for the Council districts.
- 21-member commission is made up of diverse leaders from throughout the City.

The Commission is responsible for...

- Proposing recommendations on how districts should be drawn.
- Listening and learning from community members like you to guide and inform these recommendations.
- Accounting for the unique **histories, experiences and interests of communities**
- Making sure that all community members have fair and equal representation on the City Council.



The LACCRC Mission Statement

Vision:

To strengthen the governance of the City of Los Angeles by empowering its communities to have their diverse needs served through fair and inclusive representation.

Core Values:

Equity

Dignity

Integrity

Data-driven

Transparency

Solution-oriented

Respect





Process Overview

- STEP 1** 19 Public Hearings to be held in every part of the City to gather information from community members – 7/1 to 9/25.
- STEP 2** Develop draft district maps based on community input and census information.
- STEP 3** Present maps to community for input and feedback.
- STEP 4** Make changes to the district maps and present to City Council for review and approval.



Drawing District Maps: *The Rules*

The Commission must follow these criteria. Districts must be:

- ◆ Of nearly **equal population size**.
- ◆ Comply with the **Voting Rights Act** to ensure that people of color have a fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
- ◆ Drawn in a way that allows all parts of the district to **connect with each other**.
 - *For example, Wilmington and Chatsworth cannot be in the same district because they are physically too far away from each other*
- ◆ **Minimize the splitting** of neighborhoods and communities into multiple districts, and keep such neighborhoods whole.
- ◆ **Geographically compact** such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant populations and utilize natural boundaries or street lines.



“Communities of Interest”

Communities of Interest (COIs) are defined as a concentrated population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

Examples: *Income level, education background, housing patterns (urban, rural, suburban), cultural and language, employment and economic patterns (e.g., transportation, work), health and environmental conditions.*

A **Community of Interest** is not the same as a district, but COIs are key building blocks of districts. Some ways to describe your community:

- Geographic (waterways, rural, urban, mountains).
- Community or Service Boundaries (neighborhoods, school areas).
- Things you have in common.



Redistricting: *Making Your Voice Heard*



We Need Your Voices



DESCRIBE



DRAW



DELIVER

Your ideas and perspective are necessary to draw the right district maps and to ensure your neighborhood gets treated fairly and gets the resources it needs and deserves.

Here are three simple steps to participate:

DESCRIBE your community.

- What are the schools, churches, parks and businesses that make it special?
- Who are the people that live in your community?
- What neighborhoods must be included or not?
- What streets define your community?

DRAW your community on a map with new user-friendly software.

DELIVER your testimony directly to the Commission.



Thank You!

Get ready to **DESCRIBE, DRAW,** and **DELIVER.**
Make Your Voice Heard. Empower Your Community.
Tell us what makes your community so special.

LACCRC website at:

laccrc2021.org

Email the Commission at:

redistricting.lacity@lacity.org

Contact:

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