



## Agenda

#### Things we will cover:

- Redistricting Basics
- What is the Voting Rights Act?
- Required Redistricting Criteria
- Communities of Interest
- Public Testimony on Communities of Interest
- Census Data
- Public Hearing Schedule
- Q&A
- Map Tool Demonstration



#### What is Redistricting

#### Definition

Redistricting is the process of adjusting district lines every 10 years after the release of the U.S. Census. The well-known examples are Congressional and State Legislative Districts, but local governments also must do redistricting.

- Even though the City of Riverside districted only a few years ago, we must go through this process again to rebalance the city council districts using the 2020 Census Data.
- Beyond creating wards of equal population, redistricting also serves to empower local communities and preserve voting rights.



### What is the Voting Rights Act?

<u>The Voting Rights Act</u> is federal law that seeks to remedy racial disenfranchisement. It has two sections impacting redistricting:

Section 2 – Majority Minority Districts

**Section 5** – Preclearance (inactive)

<u>The California Voting Rights Act</u> does not apply to the City of Riverside as it deals only with agencies with "at large" elections.



#### Required Redistricting Criteria

Ranked criteria that must be followed in city redistricting

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

- Relatively equal size people, not citizens
- Contiguous districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain "communities of interest"
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following city, natural, and man-made boundaries
- Keep districts compact appearance/function



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Bringing like people together for representation

<u>Communities of interest</u> are the building blocks of wards. A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Subjective
- Open-ended to be as inclusive as possible

Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act

- Latinos
- Asians
- African Americans



## Communities of Interest

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While communities of interest may include race, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing ward boundaries.



Bringing like people together for representation

- Historical communities
- Economic interests
- Racial composition
- Ethnic Areas
- Cultural amenities
- Religious facilities
- Religious facilities
  Immigrant communities
  Rural or Agricultural
- Languages spoken
- Geographic features
- Neighborhoods
- Economic opportunity zones

- Tourism Areas
- School districts
- Outdoor recreation areas
- Communities defined by natural resource features
- Downtown / Urban
- Homeowner or Renters
- Creative arts communities
  - Media markets
  - Many, many more



#### What is NOT a Community of Interest

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

The Fair Maps Act explicitly prohibits these groups from being considered as communities of interest

- · Political party affiliation
- Incumbents
- Political candidates

It also is hard, in redistricting to truly utilize:

• Groups of similarly minded people who do not share a similar geographic location or are citywide.



Three Critical Questions in Defining YOUR Community

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped?
- How would you describe the community's relationship with the jurisdiction and how it is affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials?



## Is this a Community of Interest?

A group of renters who live downtown testifies to the City.

Would this be considered a *Community of Interest*?



## Is this a Community of Interest?

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Would this be considered a Community of Interest?

YES! This group of residents can easily to be mapped in a distinct area AND they share a common policy interest, which can be addressed through legislation or public services.



## Is this a Community of Interest?

A part of town that has a historic nature, either as a former hub of business, community, or as an area that had been discriminated against through redlining or racially restrictive covenants.

Should the City prioritize this historical area when drawing their maps?



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Should the City prioritize this historical area when drawing their maps?

YES! Historical communities and areas with historic discrimination can and should be recognized as a community of interest when drawing maps.



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Is this a Community of Interest?

NO! It is important that a community of interest is distinct enough to draw on a map. This group overlaps throughout the entire state, and it is unlikely that a governing agency has any say over these issues.



### **Community of Interest Tools**

**Submitting Your COI Testimony** 

#### Verbal testimony

- At public hearings, including public outreach meetings
- Interpreters will be available at all meetings

#### Written testimony

- COI Forms
  - English and Spanish
- Email the City Clerk: ReshapeRiverside@riversideca.gov





# Community of Interest Forms

**Submitting Your COI Form** 

Input can be provided in public hearings or using our "Community of Interest Survey Form" on the City's website.





# **Map Submissions**

Online Map Submissions will be available in the coming month.

Two types of expected input:

- Community of Interest Maps
- District Plans Based on 2020 Data



**Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest** 

The City of Riverside will be using DistrictR as a public mapping tool to allow residents to draw their own Communities of Interest.



You draw the lines.

https://districtr.org/event/riverside















