

City of Santa Rosa
Communities of Interest
& Public Outreach

December 7, 2021



Welcome

Agenda

Things we will cover:

- Redistricting Basics
- Redistricting Commission
- Traditional Redistricting Principles
- Communities of Interest
- Map Tool Demonstration
- Public Testimony on Communities of Interest
- Public Hearing Schedule

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 Santa Rosa 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 districts of equal population, redistricting also serves to empower local communities and preserve voting rights.

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a District from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Drawing New City Council Lines for Fair Representation

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Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

Communities of interest are the building blocks of districts.

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

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

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

- Historical communities
- Economic interests
- Racial composition
- Ethnic Areas
- Cultural amenities
- Religious facilities
- Immigrant communities
- Languages spoken
- Geographic features
- Neighborhoods
- Economic opportunity zones
- Tourism Areas
- School districts
- Outdoor recreation areas
- Communities defined by natural resource features
- Downtown / Urban
- Rural or Agricultural
- 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.*

Communities of Interest

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?
- 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*?

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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?

Is this a Community of Interest?

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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.

Is this a Community of Interest?

A statewide group for people who are fans of the San Francisco Giants testifies to the City of Santa Rosa.

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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 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

Communities of Interest

Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

The City of Santa Rosa 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/>

Communities of Interest

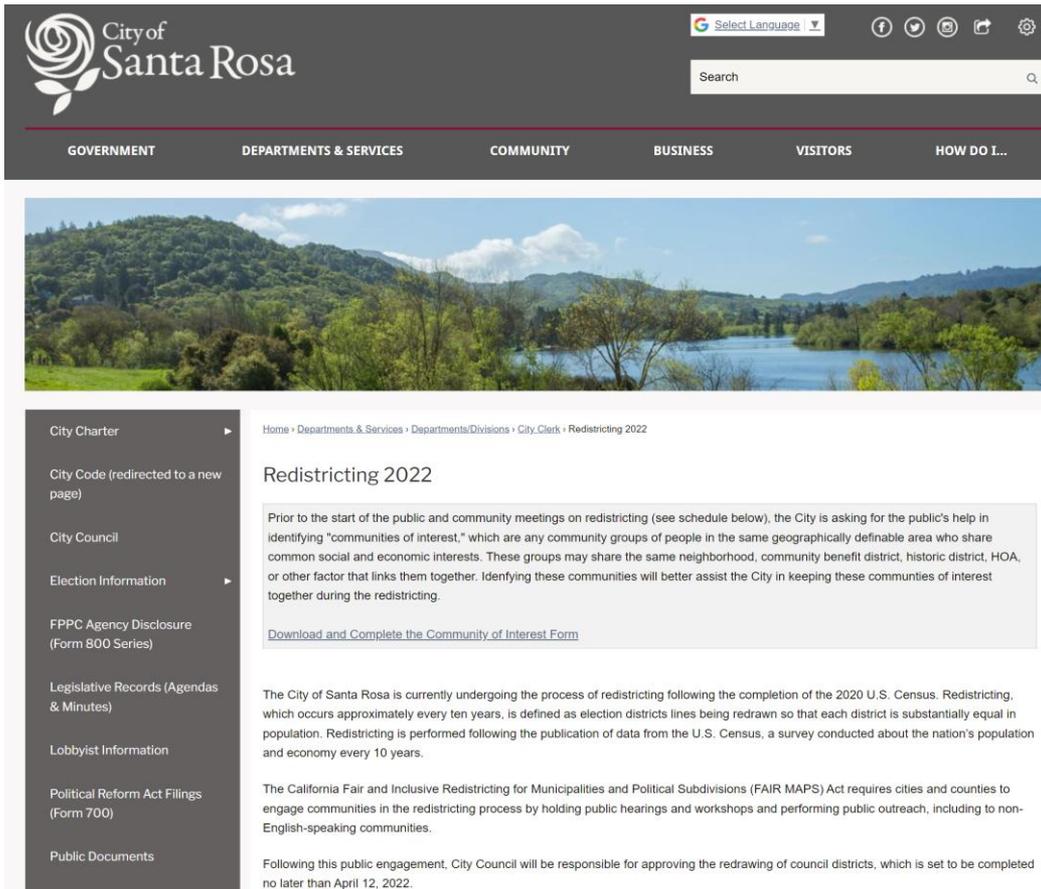
Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

There will also be laminated paper maps for the public to use to draw their own community of interest.

City of Santa Rosa's Redistricting Timeline

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Oct. 12 | Study Session (101 Presentation) |
| Dec. 7 | 1st Public Hearing (pre-map hearing) |
| Jan. 2022 | Community Outreach Meeting (in-person and online) |
| Jan. 25 | 2nd Public Hearing (draft maps) |
| Mar. 1 | 3rd Public Hearing (Revision / Passage (draft maps revision)) |
| Mar. 29 | Final Passage |
| April 12 | Extra Meeting (if needed) |
| April 15 | Deadline for Final Passage of District Lines |

City of Santa Rosa Redistricting Website



The screenshot shows the City of Santa Rosa website's navigation and content for the 2022 redistricting process. The top navigation bar includes links for GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENTS & SERVICES, COMMUNITY, BUSINESS, VISITORS, and HOW DO I... A search bar and social media icons are also present. The main content area features a large landscape image of a river and hills. A left sidebar lists various city resources. The main text area is titled 'Redistricting 2022' and contains introductory text, a link to a community interest form, and detailed information about the redistricting process and the California Fair and Inclusive Redistricting Act (FAIR MAPS).

City of Santa Rosa

Select Language

Search

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS & SERVICES COMMUNITY BUSINESS VISITORS HOW DO I...

City Charter

City Code (redirected to a new page)

City Council

Election Information

FPPC Agency Disclosure (Form 800 Series)

Legislative Records (Agendas & Minutes)

Lobbyist Information

Political Reform Act Filings (Form 700)

Public Documents

Home » Departments & Services » Departments/Divisions » City Clerk » Redistricting 2022

Redistricting 2022

Prior to the start of the public and community meetings on redistricting (see schedule below), the City is asking for the public's help in identifying "communities of interest," which are any community groups of people in the same geographically definable area who share common social and economic interests. These groups may share the same neighborhood, community benefit district, historic district, HOA, or other factor that links them together. Identifying these communities will better assist the City in keeping these communities of interest together during the redistricting.

[Download and Complete the Community of Interest Form](#)

The City of Santa Rosa is currently undergoing the process of redistricting following the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census. Redistricting, which occurs approximately every ten years, is defined as election districts lines being redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. Redistricting is performed following the publication of data from the U.S. Census, a survey conducted about the nation's population and economy every 10 years.

The California Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions (FAIR MAPS) Act requires cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and workshops and performing public outreach, including to non-English-speaking communities.

Following this public engagement, City Council will be responsible for approving the redrawing of council districts, which is set to be completed no later than April 12, 2022.

<https://srcity.org/3624/Redistricting-2022>



**REDISTRICTING
PARTNERS**