



PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS ROUND TWO

Now the Commission is beginning a new series of public input hearings to receive additional testimony from the public. On June 10, 2011, the Commission released its first set of Draft Maps for Assembly, Senate, Congress and the Board of Equalization districts.

➤ **How did the Commission decide where to draw the lines?**

The Commission followed the prioritized criteria found in the California Constitution:

1. Draw districts with equal population, based on the U.S. Constitution
2. Comply with the federal Voting Rights Act to ensure minority voters have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.
3. Draw districts that are contiguous, so that a district is connected at all points.
4. Respect cities, counties, communities of interest and neighborhoods to the extent possible without violating the requirements of the preceding criteria.
5. Draw districts to be compact, where practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria.
6. Draw districts to nest within each other, where practicable. For example, one Senate district contains two Assembly districts, or one Board of Equalization district contains ten Senate districts.
7. Do not consider an incumbent or political candidate's residence in creating a district.

In addition, the Commission relied on testimony provided by the public at 23 input hearings, online, by fax and mail, describing their “communities of interest.” This testimony included descriptions of shared common social and economic interests such as similar living standards, similar work opportunities, shared transportation, education systems and health facilities. It also included descriptions of geographic features such as watersheds, mountains, agricultural areas and environmental concerns.

➤ **What information is the Commission looking for in Round Two?**

The Commission needs to hear what the public thinks of the first Draft Maps.

- Do you think the Commission understood your testimony about your community of interest? Do you think we did not have enough testimony about your community of interest?
- Do you have a suggestion that would make your district better reflect the interests of its residents, for example by moving the boundaries to include (or exclude) certain areas?

➤ **How should testimony be given at Round Two Input Hearings?**

Depending on the number of people wishing to speak, the Commission Chair will announce the time available for each speaker. This has generally been up to two minutes. If you have written materials for the Commission, they may be handed to staff. In all cases, the more you can describe “why” a community should be together, the more valuable your testimony will be.