California Redistricting Basics

Wedrawthelines.ca.gov

What is Redistricting?

Drawing (and redrawing) the boundaries that determine which voters are represented by each electoral district.

Different Redistricting Efforts

State—Congressional, Board of Equalization, Senate and Assembly.

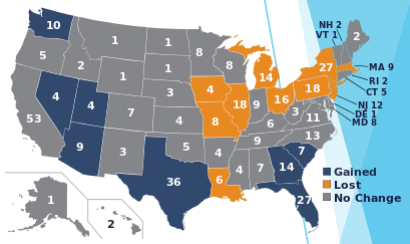
Counties—58 counties with their own process.

Cities—482 cities with their own process.

School Districts—977 school districts with their own process.

Redistricting Factors

- **Census**—Every ten years the entire U.S. population is counted, and that data is used to draw new maps to account for population shifts across the states and districts.
- **Reapportionment** –The federal reallocation of House seats among the states, done after each national census to ensure seats are held by the states in proportion to the size of their population.
- **Fair Representation**—Historically, legislators have drawn maps that allowed them to choose their voters rather than enabling voters to choose their representatives. This former system undermined the concept of fair representation.



Why We Redraw District Maps

- People are born, die, and move.
- Communities grow and shrink.
- Areas where there were once roughly the same number of people become lopsided.
- Communities change.

Who we are

2020 Commissioners: 14 Members

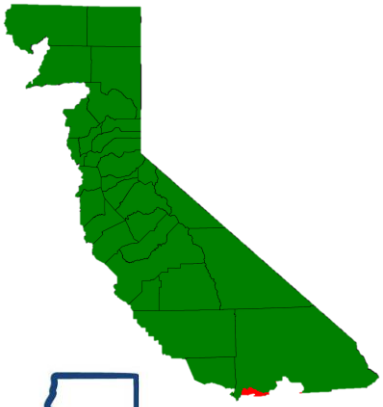
•**Isra Ahmad**, San Jose, No Party Preference	•**Sara Sadhwani**, La Cañada Flintridge, Democrat
•**Linda Akutagawa**, Hungtington Beach, No Party Preference	•**Patricia Sinay**, Encinitas, Democrat
•**Jane Andersen**, Berkeley, Republican	•**Derric Taylor**, Los Angeles, Republican
•**Alicia Fernández**, Clarksburg, Republican	•**Pedro Toledo**, Petaluma, No Party Preference
•**Neal Fornaciari**, Tracy, Republican	•**Trena Turner**, Stockton, Democrat
•**J. Ray Kennedy**, Morongo Valley, Democrat	•**Angela Vázquez**, Los Angeles, Democrat
•**Antonio Le Mons**, Studio City, No Party Preference	•**Russell Yee**, Oakland, Republican

Commissioner Duties

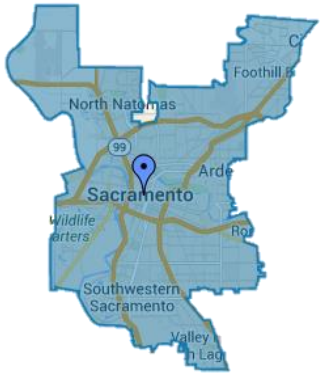
- **Community Outreach/Public Input Meetings**
- **Drawing Maps--**draft and final maps for Congress (~53), Board of Equalization (4), Senate (40) and Assembly (80)

EXAMPLE: SACRAMENTO

BOE
(9 million people)

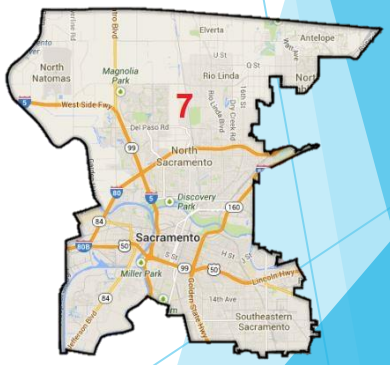


CONGRESS
(700,000 people)



SENATE
(931,000 people)

ASSEMBLY
(466,000 people)



6 Line Drawing Criteria

The Commission must follow these criteria when drawing district maps:

1. **Equal population**
2. **Comply with the Voting Rights Act**
3. **Contiguous districts**
4. **Respect the boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest**
5. **Geographically compact**
6. **Nesting districts**

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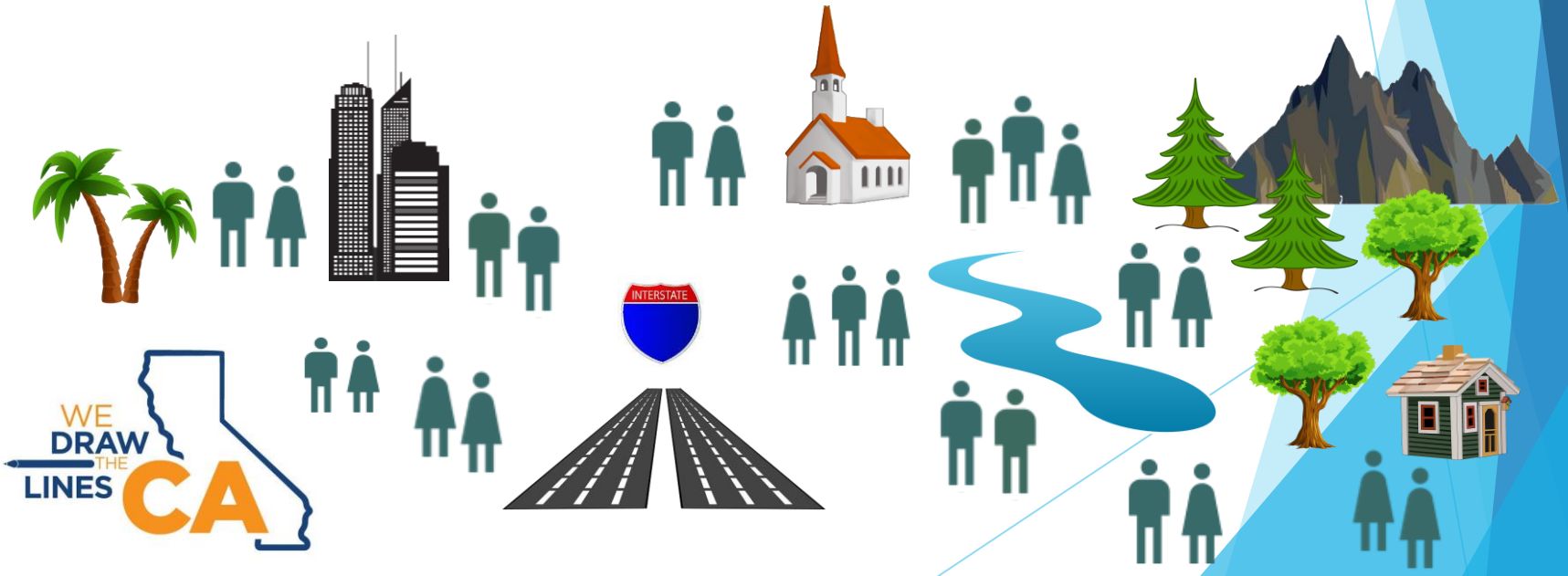
Communities of Interest (COI)

- **Communities of Interest (COI)**--A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and/or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Examples include areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media.
- **How do you define your community?**
  - Geographic
  - Boundaries
  - Landmarks



Participating in the Process

- Familiarize Yourself with Criteria
- Organize Your Community
- Clarify Your Goals
- Testify at Hearings and/or submit your comments to the Commission
- Advocate for Your Community

DEFINE YOUR COMMUNITY OR SOMEONE ELSE WILL!

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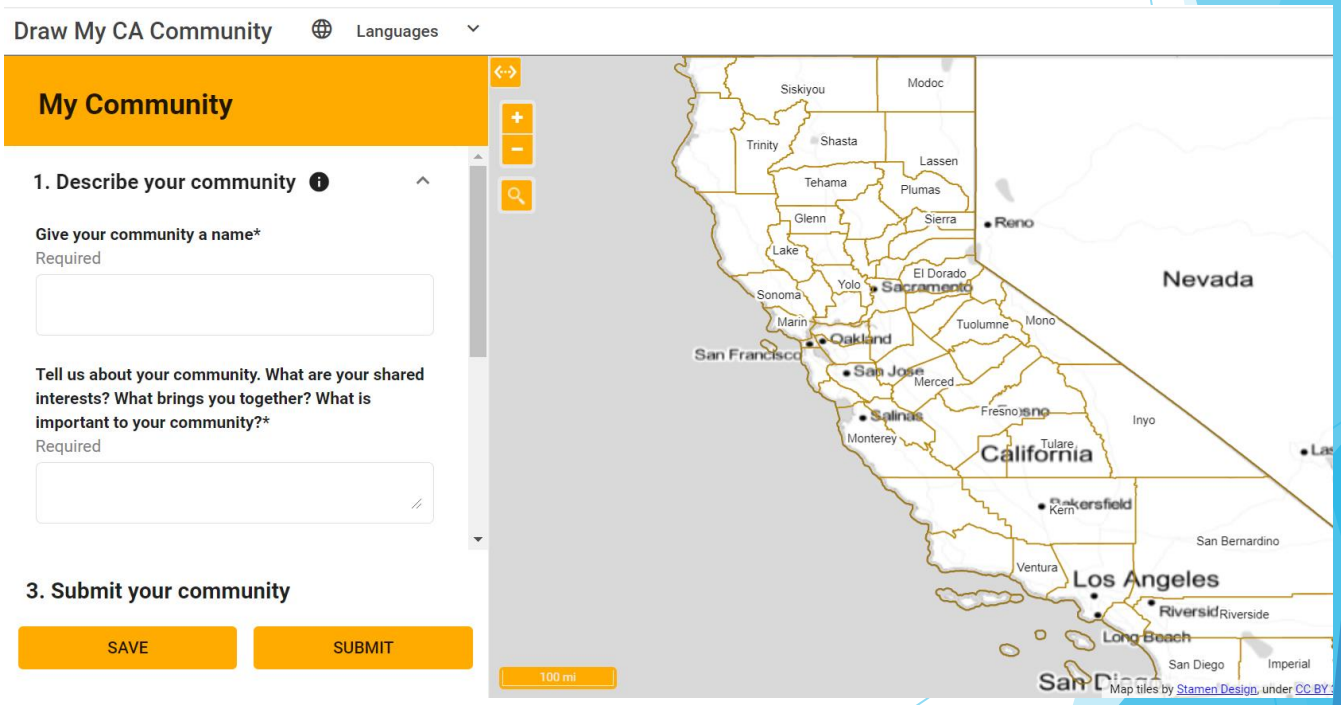
Draw My Community Tool / COI Tool

- Communities of Interest (COI) Mapping Tool
- Submit Your COI Directly to the Commission



Timeline

- **February-March**: Education Meetings
- **March-June**: Public Input Meetings (COI)
- **June**: Line Drawing Sessions (Pre maps)
- **June**: Draft Maps Released
- **July-August**: Public Input Meetings (COI)/Line Drawing Sessions
- **August 15**: Final Maps to Secretary of State*

*May change due to census data delays.

Contact Us

To request an informational session, please contact the Commission.

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For more information about the Commission, please visit:
Wedrawthelines.ca.gov

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