



## Outreach Script

### **SLIDE 1**

Thank you for inviting the CA Citizens Redistricting Commission to present at your meeting. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am one of the fourteen commissioners selected to draw the new lines following the 2020 Census.

***Before I begin with the formal presentation, I want to share a bit about myself and why I chose to apply to be on the commission. (30 seconds)***

Throughout the redistricting process, we will be asking you to define your community to better inform how we draw the new lines for CA's Congressional, Board of Equalization, State Senate and Assembly districts.

### **SLIDE 2—What is Redistricting**

***How many people in the room are familiar with redistricting?***

Redistricting is defined as drawing (and redrawing) the lines that determine which voters are represented by each legislative seat.

### **SLIDE 3—Why We Redraw District Lines**

You might be wondering why we have to redraw districts every ten years. It's important to note that a lot changes in ten years.

- Communities grow and shrink.
- People are born, and die, and move (within CA and out of and into CA)
- Areas where there were once roughly the same number of people become lopsided.

These are some of the reasons districts need to be redrawn. We experience demographic shifts and districts need to be of relatively equal population.

### **SLIDE 4—Why Redistricting**

There's another thing that happens every ten years, the Census. Every 10 years, after the federal government publishes updated census information, California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization districts, so that the districts correctly reflect the state's population. In most states the legislature draws the lines.

Redistricting is based on the idea that each of our voices should be represented fairly by creating districts that have the same number of people. Census data are used to draw new maps to account for the ways that populations have changed and moved across the states and districts.

At the federal level, reapportionment takes place to relocate House seats among states. This too is done after each national census to ensure that seats are held by the states in proportion to the size of their population.



Historically, legislators have drawn maps that allow them to choose their voters rather than enabling voters to choose their representatives. This former system undermined the concept of fair representation—giving people the power to choose their representatives.

**SLIDE 5—History**

Prior to 2010, in CA legislators drew the lines. ***What would be the problem with that system?***

California voters authorized the creation of the Commission when they passed the VOTERS FIRST Act (Act) in 2008, also known as Proposition 11. It authorized the independent Commission to draw new district lines. In 2010, Proposition 20--the Voters FIRST Act for Congress, added the responsibility of drawing Congressional districts to the Commission.

Our responsibility as a Commission is to spread the word that our work did not end with being counted in the Census, we still need to draw the lines.

The 2010 Redistricting Commission was CA’s inaugural independent commission. The 2020 Redistricting Commission is building upon that work and will leave behind detailed documents for the 2030 Commission when they perform their duties.

Other States Following Suit—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Montana and Washington use independent commissions to draw the lines.

**SLIDE 6—Who We Are**

Meet the 2020 Commission. We are a 14-member Commission made up of five Republicans, five Democrats, and 4 not affiliated with either of those two parties but registered with another party or as decline-to-state.

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

The Commissioners are diverse in geography as they are in opinions and expertise.

**SLIDE 7—Commissioner Selection/Duties**

The Commissioners all went through a lengthy application process that attracted 20,000 applicants. 120 applicants were screened and invited to interview. The CA legislature got to strike a certain number of candidates from consideration. The first eight members were selected



through a lottery system. The final six members were then carefully selected by the first eight commissioners, taking several considerations into account, including political party, geography, race, gender, and expertise.

The Commission will hold public hearings and accept public testimony to assist in drawing the new maps. We have one year to determine and approve the district maps by August 15, 2021 when we must present final maps to the Secretary of State for certification. This date may change due to delays in receiving Census data.

The Community outreach and input meetings are your opportunity to help us create fair and transparent district boundaries that serve the best interest of your community.

### **SLIDE 8—Outreach Zones**

From February to March, we are conducting these Redistricting 101 sessions to educate the public about the redistricting process. From April through July, we will take public testimony at public hearings and begin map drawing sessions.

We have divided the state up into 11 outreach zones to better manage our outreach efforts and create inroads with community groups.

### **SLIDE 9—Line Drawing Criteria**

The Commission must follow this criteria when drawing district maps:

- Districts must be of equal population to comply with the US Constitution.
- Districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minorities have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
- Districts must be contiguous so that all parts of the district are connected to each other.
- Districts must respect the boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest, and minimize their division, to the extent possible.
- Districts should be geographically compact, that is, have a fairly regular shape.
- Where practicable each Senate District should be comprised of two complete and adjacent Assembly Districts and Board of Equalization districts shall be composed of 10 complete and adjacent State Senate Districts.
- Districts shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against an incumbent, candidate, or political party.

### **SLIDE 10—Communities of Interest**

When drawing maps we also have to be mindful of Communities of Interest.

Communities of Interest are defined as a contiguous 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 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.



***What would be examples of communities of interest in your neighborhood?  
How do you define your community? (30 sec)***

- ***Geographic***
- ***Boundaries***
- ***Landmarks***

### **SLIDE 11—Your Voice**

One of the greatest powers that the people of California have is the right to elect their own representatives to conduct the business of their government. How the district boundaries are configured can make the difference between empowering and maximizing the voters' voices or minimizing and muting those voices.

In most states, government bodies are responsible for redistricting. Most state legislatures are responsible for drawing congressional districts and drawing their own state legislative districts.

Redistricting has been used at times to exclude communities from political power. By fully participating in and monitoring the upcoming redistricting process, underrepresented communities may have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice and voice their needs and interests.

### **SLIDE 12—Participating in the Process**

Some of our community partners have put together toolkits that provide tips on how to participate in the process.

Familiarize Yourself with the Criteria-- Understand the basic rules and concepts affecting redistricting.

Organize Your Community-- Find neighbors or organizations interested in redistricting, especially those sharing your views. Create a coalition with a set of principles.

Clarify Your Goals-- What issues do you and your neighbors care about? How does influencing the maps help your cause?

Testify at Hearings-- Provide testimonies about your community (the more the better). Present maps, community profiles, and impact stories.

Advocate for Your Community—You know better than us what your community looks like and what the boundaries are.

### **Define Your Community or Someone Else Will!**

### **SLIDE 13—Draw My Community Tool/COI Tool**

The California Statewide Database has created a tool to help you draw the boundaries of your community. The Communities of Interest Tool looks very similar to google maps and has a feature that allows you to zoom in and around the boundaries of your particular community and draw a



map. This can be submitted to the Commission as public testimony and help us redraw your districts.

**SLIDE 14—Timeline**

February-March: Education Meetings

April-May: Public Hearings

May-June: Line Drawing Sessions

June: Public Hearings Continued

June-July: Line Drawing Sessions

July: Draft Maps

July-August: Line Drawing Sessions

August 15: Final Maps to Secretary of State\*

\*May be delayed due to census data delays.

**SLIDE 15—Contact Us**

Because we have a constitutional mandate to get the new maps approved and submitted by a certain date, we will be doing a round of educational sessions like today's presentation prior to going out for public input and using that information to draw the new maps.

To request an informational session, please contact the CA Citizens Redistricting Commission.

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This presentation is also available at [Wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://Wedrawthelines.ca.gov)

