

## My California Community Tool

Every ten years, after the U.S. Census, California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts to reflect the new population data. The Voters FIRST Act (2008) gave this power to the people of California with the creation of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission). The Commission is committed to drawing fair districts that reflect the best interests of the people, not the incumbent politicians.

**But to do this, we need your input! Through this document, you can make sure the Commission knows about your community by telling the Commission what is important to you, drawing a map of your community, and submitting your community feedback directly to the Commission.** You can also submit an electronic version of this paper document at DrawMyCACommunity.org.

Everyone who lives in California is invited to participate. Postage has been paid for by the Commission to increase participation. We look forward to hearing from you!

### Participate in 3 Easy Steps

		
<p>#1</p> <p><b>DESCRIBE</b> your community</p>	<p>#2</p> <p><b>DRAW</b> your community on a map</p>	<p>#3</p> <p><b>SEND</b> your testimony directly to the Commission</p>

#### EXAMPLE

*I live in a unique area of Farmers Branch called Oak Knoll Valley. It is also a certified neighborhood council. The neighborhood is bounded between Highway 9 on the west and Sunnyside River on the east side. There are approximately 8,000 residents in Oak Knoll Valley, and it is primarily a residential area with some areas zoned for commercial and mixed use, especially along the river.*

*The languages spoken in Oak Knoll Valley are primarily English and Spanish with some residents speaking Vietnamese and Mandarin. While most residents go outside our community for shopping and employment, they tend to stay here for their socializing, religious activities and recreation. The Oak Knoll Regional Center provides a variety of activities and is a real hub of the community.*

*Across the river from Oak Knoll Valley is the community of River Glen, which is similar to our community as it is primarily residential. We are in the same school district, and the high school which Oak Knoll students attend is in River Glen. It would make sense that we would be included in the same legislative or Congressional district.*

*On the other side of Highway 9 is Gold City, which is primarily an industrial and commercial area. Most of the residents live in multi-family apartment buildings, and many of them are new to the area. Gold City is part of a different school district than Oak Knoll. While Gold City is in close proximity to Oak Knoll, we have less in common than we do with River Glen.*

Maps should provide us with enough information – the streets, highways, or natural features that are the boundaries of the community – to be able to understand where your community of interest is located. They do not require any detail beyond that.

**Commented [JRK1]:** This should refer specifically to this form -- so would need to say "Detach this part, then fold, tape, and mail the form to the Commission." If we offer an online version of the paper form, the instructions should be separate from the form.