

CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Memorandum to the Commissioners

Memorandum Number: 2021-
Date lodged: April 12, 2021
Lodged by: Col Tool Subcommittee
(Commissioner Akutagawa & Commissioner Kennedy)
Subject: Redistricting Access Centers

Issues to be considered:

1. The Statewide Database, with funding from the Legislature, is planning to establish six “Redistricting Access Centers”, similar to ones that were opened in 2011.
2. Much of the planning for this was completed prior to the pandemic but was shelved when the stay-at-home order was put in place. With the improving public health situation, it may be possible to begin moving towards implementation of the plans.
3. The locations currently planned are:
 - Sacramento
 - Bay Area (possibly Oakland -- they are currently in the process of securing a site)
 - Fresno
 - Long Beach
 - San Bernardino
 - San Diego

The Statewide Database had hoped to open more Redistricting Access Centers (e.g., including one in the far north) but at this point, it’s likely not feasible.

4. Each of the Redistricting Access Centers would have a manager, with an additional manager hired as a floater to fill in as needed at any of the six centers named above. The Statewide Database has already hired four of the seven managers (Sacramento, Bay Area, Long Beach, and the floater) and is currently training them on redistricting and the Communities of Interest (COI) Input Tool. Of the four already hired, two speak English and Spanish, and one speaks English and Korean.
5. The role of the Redistricting Access Center managers is to help anyone who would like to use the COI Tool or other redistricting software to develop testimony for the Commission's consideration. For example, when a user chats with tech support through the chat function in the COI Tool, a Redistricting Access Manager will answer. Additionally, each location will have a dedicated phone number for over-the-phone help. If, and when, the centers are able to open to in-person foot traffic, they will be available to anyone who wishes to have access to computers, redistricting software, and in-person assistance.
6. The generic set up for each center is a desk for the manager and four desks for public use.
7. The details of public openings (dates, capacity limits, cleaning protocols, etc.) would depend on both state and local health guidance as well as approval from the Legislature and the Commission.
8. The Statewide Database has indicated that it would be helpful for the managers to attend Redistricting Basics presentations to familiarize themselves with the CRC's outreach around the COI Tool and with organizations that might be doing their own outreach in the regions where the centers are located. They have been referred to the public calendar of presentations.
9. The Statewide Database also foresees the managers eventually connecting with community groups, many of which are already part of SWDB's extensive statewide contact network.

10. The Statewide Database had initially looked into working with libraries and had contacted most of the county library systems in the state. The reactions varied; some were eager to participate, some were interested but lacked capacity (in terms of either staff or equipment), and some simply weren't interested. We have asked for as much information as possible from these early contacts so that we can at least follow up with those that did express interest.
11. We bring this to the full Commission for consideration of how our Commission field staff might engage with the Redistricting Access Centers as well as how the Redistricting Access Centers can be integrated into our broader Outreach Strategy.
12. We recommend that the COI Tool Subcommittee be repurposed and renamed the Public Data Access Subcommittee to follow up with the Statewide Database.