



Redistricting Basics Script

SLIDE 1 – Welcome

Thank you for inviting the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to present at your meeting. My name is _____ and I am a field lead staff covering _____ regions which include the counties of _____.

In this presentation, we will be going over who the Commission is, background on redistricting in California and how to participate in the process through the Draw My CA Community Tool.

SLIDE 2 – Reminder—No Public Input Will Be Taken Today

As a friendly reminder, California Government Code Section 8253(3) strictly forbids Commissioners and staff from taking public input outside of a regularly scheduled Commission meeting or official public input meeting. However, at any point you are more than welcome to visit our website at WeDrawTheLinesCA.org to provide input. You will find instructions on how to do so on our homepage. And we will be going over this today.

For clarification we can discuss any questions you have regarding the State redistricting process and how you can participate by providing your input but we cannot discuss district boundaries or your specific input.

SLIDE 3 – California Citizens Redistricting Commission

One of the greatest powers that the people of California have is to elect their own representatives in government to represent their needs. How districts are drawn can make the difference between empowering and maximizing the voters' voices or minimizing and muting those voices.

In most other states, politicians draw the lines.

California's Citizens Redistricting Commission was formed to take back the power and have the people redraw the maps for Congress, State Senate, State Assembly and Board of Equalization. The Commission is made up of 14 citizens who went through a rigorous selection process. By fully participating in and monitoring the upcoming redistricting process, more communities may have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Speaking up about your community is critical to help keep your community whole to the extent possible. This ensures that your voice is heard by your elected leaders when making decisions such as the quality and funding of your child's education, addressing your transportation concerns, or determining your tax rates. Your input is valuable in shaping the new political boundaries.

SLIDE 4 – How Redistricting Affects You

We thought it would be beneficial for us to break down how redistricting affects you directly.

Power to the People: In 2008, California voters passed Proposition 11 –The Voters FIRST Act, authorizing the creation of an independent Commission to draw new district lines for the State Senate, State Assembly, and Board of Equalization. In 2010, Proposition 20--The Voters FIRST Act for Congress, added the responsibility of drawing Congressional districts to the Commission.

This process was historic in California. It transferred the power of drawing district maps away from politicians and gave it to the people.

Champion Your Issues: Having the opportunity to elect representatives that champion your issues is important in a state like California, where issues can vary drastically from one street to the next. Northern California might champion environmental and economic issues, while Central California might champion water and agricultural issues, and Southern California might champion issues dealing with transportation, housing and employment.

Funding Priorities: Tied to the issue of electing representatives that champion your issues, you might want to elect representatives that have your financial interest at heart. When the time comes to build a budget, you will want a representative fighting to ensure your community gets the financial resources it deserves for various services such as education, water, and fire protection.

Community Boundaries: The redistricting process is all about drawing lines and determining which communities get grouped together into districts. Your input in this process is essential to help Commissioners understand where your community starts and ends.

Redistricting in California is one of the few civic activities that any Californian can provide input to regarding their community that can ultimately impact the law and regulations, tax structure, how funding is distributed, and which services are provided.

SLIDE 5 – Different Redistricting Efforts

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission is one of many redistricting efforts occurring in California. The Commission is redrawing districts for state offices, while counties, cities, school districts, water districts and community college districts are also redrawing their local districts at the same time.

We wanted to bring this to your attention because different efforts are happening simultaneously, and it can be confusing. Aside from being involved in the state redistricting process, we encourage you to also be involved in your local redistricting efforts.

SLIDE 6 – Line Drawing Criteria

The Commission must follow these criteria, in this order, when drawing district maps:

1. Districts must be of nearly equal population to comply with the U.S. Constitution.
2. Districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minorities have a fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
3. Districts must be drawn contiguously, so that all parts of the district are connected to each other.



4. Districts must minimize the division of cities, counties, neighborhoods, and communities of interest to the extent possible.
5. Districts should be geographically compact such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant populations. This requirement refers to density, not shape.
6. Where practicable each Senate District should be comprised of two complete and adjacent Assembly Districts. Board of Equalization districts should be comprised of ten complete and adjacent State Senate Districts.

In addition, the place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate may not be considered in the creation of a map, and districts may not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.

SLIDE 7– Communities of Interest

When drawing maps, the Commission has to be mindful of Communities of Interest. We can easily obtain the city and county information from those jurisdictions, but we need the communities of interest information from Californians.

Communities of Interest are defined as a concentrated 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, have similar cultures, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media. People can belong to multiple communities of interest.

Keep in mind that a Community of Interest is not the same as a district, and a district is not a community of interest, but Communities of Interest are key building blocks of districts.

Some ways to describe your community:

- Geographic (waterways, rural, urban, mountains)
- Boundaries (cities, towns, counties, school areas)
- Things you have in common

SLIDE 8 – Participating in the Process

Your input is vital to the success of the Commission. The Commission will soon start the line drawing process and is currently collecting Communities of Interest Input. We have identified the ways you can participate in three simple steps.

DESCRIBE your community--Tell us about your community. What are your shared interests? What are your commonalities? What brings you together? What is important to your community? Are there nearby areas you want to be in a district with? Nearby areas you don't want to be in a district with? Why or why not?

DRAW your community on a map to ensure we have the correct boundaries.

SEND your testimony directly to the Commission.



All this can be done by using an online tool that allows you to DESCRIBE, DRAW and SEND your input to the Commission by visiting: DrawMyCACommunity.org. We will go over that tool in the next few slides.

SLIDE 9 – Getting Started: DrawMyCACommunity.org

I'm going to start by walking you through the Draw My CA Community tool and then after will share all the different ways you can get additional assistance with the tool.

To start, you can also change the language from the main page of Draw My CA Community by clicking the “Languages” menu at the upper left-hand corner of the screen. This tool is available in English, Spanish, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, Armenian, Farsi, Arabic, Russian, Japanese, Punjabi, Khmer, Hmong, and Thai

You can use Draw My CA Community as a guest or by creating an account. If you make an account, you will be able to save your work as a draft and finish it later. You will also be able to see any maps you submitted to the Commission at an earlier date.

To create a new account, click the “Sign up here” link on the home page, complete the form, and check your email to verify your account. If you do not see a verification email, check your spam folder.

Once you log in to your account, you will be taken to a page called “My Maps.” Click “Start a New Map” to draw your first map.

To use the tool as a guest, click “Continue as Guest” at the welcome page. You will be able to do everything a logged in user can do except save your work. If you start using Draw My CA Community as a guest and decide you would like to save your work, you can still create an account and log in after you've started drawing your community.

At the “Welcome Page,” you can change the language by clicking the “Languages” menu in the top left corner of the window.

Slide 10 – Describe Your Community

Tell us about your community in the “Describe your community” section. Click the words “Describe your Community” on the left-hand side of the page to expand this section to see these questions listed here. Answer the questions in this section to help the California Citizens Redistricting Commission understand who your community is and what matters to you. Remember, there are no wrong answers – you can describe your community however you like. Try to describe your community in a way that helps the Commission understand who is part of your community and what is important to you.

“Give your community a name.” You can name your community anything you like!

“Tell us about your community. What are your shared interests? What brings you together? What is important to your community?” Some examples of your community's shared interests could be (but are not limited to): organizing around a school, wildfire prevention, public health concerns, transportation needs/uses, or environmental issues



in your area; sharing a common culture or background; or anything else that impacts your life!

Your shared interests could describe what your community is focused on right now, or could be connected to a future goal such as bringing accessible public transportation to your area, getting public health updates in the language spoken in your community, organizing around bringing more job opportunities in your area, and much more! Make sure to share what connects your community together.

“Are there nearby areas you want to be in a district with? Nearby areas you don’t want to be in a district with? Why or why not?” Remember a community of interest is normally a building block of a district so chances are your community of interest will be combined with other neighboring areas.

“Is there anything else you can tell us about your community?” There are no wrong answers! You can describe your community however feels right and this lets the Commission know who you are.

You don’t have to answer the questions right away. You can come back to this section at any point while you are working on your community. You can switch between the “Describe your community” section and the “Draw your community” sections by clicking the titles of each section.

SLIDE 11 – Draw Your Community

Click on the words “Draw your community” on the left-hand side of the page to expand this section. You will see tools you can use to move the map, draw your map, and more.

Zooming in and out: Click the “plus” or “minus” [“+”/“-”] buttons at the top left corner of the map area to zoom in and out. Or zoom in and out by using the trackpad on a laptop or the wheel of a mouse. On mobile devices, zoom in and out by placing two fingers on the screen and pinch or spread them apart from each other.

Searching: You can search for any address, city, or town in California using the “search” icon below the [“+”/“-”] buttons. Some landmarks, such as parks or schools, can be found through the “Search” feature as well. Click the search icon, type a location into the search bar, and hit [enter]. If the search returns multiple results, choose one from the list. A pin will appear on the map at the location you searched for.

SLIDE 12 – Draw Your Community Continued

You can use the “**drawing tools**” to draw the location of your community on the map. Use these tools to choose areas on the map that are part of your community. The areas will highlight on the map and the highlighted area represents your community map. This map of your community will be sent to the Commission along with your description of your community.

To move the map, click on the “Move Map” tool. Click and hold the mouse anywhere on the map and drag the map to a new location.



Use the “Add by Clicking” tool by clicking on individual shapes on the map. The areas you click will highlight and become part of your community map.

Use the “Add by Rectangle” tool by clicking, holding, and dragging the mouse across an area on the map. When you unclick, everything inside of or touching the rectangle will highlight and become part of your community map.

Use the “Add by Freehand” tool by clicking, holding, and drawing any shape on the map. When you unclick, everything inside of or touching the shape will highlight and become part of your community map.

Use the “Remove Area” tool to remove highlighted areas from your map. You can click individual shapes from the drawing layer to remove them one by one, or draw a rectangle over the area you want to remove.

Drawing Layers: Only one “Drawing Layer” will appear on the map at a time. The “Drawing Layer” that is displayed on the map at any given time is the layer you can use to draw the location of your community by using the drawing tools. By default, the map will automatically switch between different “Drawing Layers” based on your zoom level.

The “Drawing Layer” section under "Draw Your Community" will show you which “Drawing Layer” is currently visible on the map. You can click the “Choose Drawing Layer” drop-down list below the “Drawing Layer” label to change the layer. The layers to choose from include Counties, Cities and Towns, Tribal Areas, Tracts, and Blocks.

Basemap Style: The basemap is a background map that appears in the map area. It shows the streets, rivers, and other landmarks commonly displayed on online maps. The closer you zoom in, the more detailed the basemap will appear. You can change the basemap by choosing a different one from the "Basemap style" drop-down list.

Your community can be as big or small as you see fit. Some communities are the size of a few city blocks, others are the size of a few counties put together! Let us know where your community is, however big or small it is.

SLIDE 13 – Exporting, Saving and Submitting Your Input

Exporting: You can send yourself a copy of your community description and map at any time. To export your work, click the “Menu” at the top right corner of the screen and select “Export.” You can choose to download either a PDF, a shapefile, or an equivalency file. Shapefiles and equivalency files can be used in mapping software.

If you want to save your work: If you are logged in to your Draw My CA Community account, you can save your work as a draft. Click the “Save” button at the bottom left-hand corner of the screen. Click “Yes, Save Draft” to save your work.

If you are using Draw My CA Community as a guest, you will be asked to create an account in order to save a draft.



Submitting: When you are ready to send your community description and map to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, click “Submit.” You will have one last chance to review your work before it is sent to the Commission.

- Review your answers to the questions in the “Describe your community” section. You can change your answers without going back to the main page. If you want to change your map, you’ll have to go back to the mapping page.
- Answer a few optional questions about yourself.
- Click “Submit.” Your community map and description will be sent directly to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission via the Statewide Database.
- If you are logged in when you submit, you will receive an email verifying that your community has been sent to the Commission. The email will include a copy of your submission in the form of a PDF, a shapefile, and an equivalency file.

Now I am going to demonstrate a brief live demo of the Draw My CA Community Tool.

SLIDE 14 – How to Get More Assistance

There are numerous ways to get additional assistance on the Draw My CA Community tool. Directly in the tool or from the hyperlinks in this slide you can access tutorials in 16 languages, user guides, how to videos in English and Spanish, you can chat directly with tech support, sign up for a virtual appointment to receive assistance or even call the helpline directly at (510) 280-3305.

SLIDE 15-COMING SOON-other redistricting tools

The Statewide Database will soon be rolling out two new Redistricting tools: DrawMyCADistricts and DrawMyCA.

DrawMYCA Districts is an online tool similar to the Draw My CA Community tool for those who want to draw desired borders for Senate, Assembly, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts. It features census block level data and will be able to tell you if the districts you draw are compliant population-wise.

DrawMYCA Plugin for QGIS is a full downloadable program for those who want to draw the whole state map. This program will definitely require more bandwidth and is for those who are fluent in GIS software.

Both of these tools are free and also allow the public to include comments about their maps. Users submit their single districts, partial, or full redistricting plans to the Commission from inside the tool. File types available for export to user’s local computer: are Equivalency file, Shapefile and PDF. These files will also be sent to the CRC. Once these tools launch, the Statewide Database will be providing online and in-person assistance at the Redistricting Access Centers.

SLIDE 16 – In Person Assistance: Redistricting Access Centers

Visit a Redistricting Access Center across California to get help in person or to utilize publicly accessible computers and redistricting software developed by the Statewide Database. Staff is available at each location to help members of the public use the



redistricting software. Appointments are required to visit a center. Each Redistricting Access Center meets ADA Accessibility Standards.

Redistricting Access Centers are now open in Fresno, Long Beach, Oakland, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and San Diego. For more information about the Redistricting Access Centers including locations hours, directions, parking and public transportation details and to schedule an appointment, check out our flyer or visit: https://statewidedatabase.org/redistricting_access_centers/

SLIDE 17 – Help Spread the Word

Visit **WeDrawTheLinesCA.org** for more information about the California Citizens Redistricting Commission including upcoming meetings. Help spread the word to your network on how to participate in the Redistricting process. Subscribe to our mailing list and social media toolkit; like us, follow us and subscribe to our social media; host a viewing party for our Redistricting Basics video, COI tool how to video or teach others about how to use the Draw My CA Community tool; and share the various outreach materials including our Digital Toolkit and Non-English materials.

SLIDE 18 – Timeline

In October the Commission will be focused on line drawing, starting with weekly series of meetings to review and provide feedback of map visualizations. On October 21-23 the Commission will hold a three day meeting to allow the public to present district maps to the Commission. The Commission must post draft maps no later than November 15 and must submit final maps to the Secretary of State no later than December 27, 2021. The Commission will also be scheduling input meetings after draft maps are posted. The public is encouraged to continue provide feedback to the Commission throughout this process whether it's through the votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov email, or various tools I went over today, or at an upcoming meeting.

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As a friendly reminder, California Government Code Section 8253(3) strictly forbids Commissioners and staff from taking public input outside of a regularly scheduled Commission meeting or official public input meeting. As mentioned earlier, we can discuss any questions you have regarding the State redistricting process and how you can participate to provide your input. However, we cannot discuss district boundaries or specific input/testimony.

However, at any point you are more than welcome to visit our website at WeDrawTheLinesCA.org to provide input. You will find instructions on how to do so on our homepage. In addition to the Drawmycacommunity.org tool you can submit input via email, regular mail and on our website.

SLIDE 20 – Contact Us

Because we want to encourage the public to submit public input to the Commission, we are conducting educational sessions like today's presentation. In addition to the Draw My CA Community tool you can also submit input to the Commission via email, by mail, and on our website. Visit www.wedrawthelinesca.org for more information.



To request an educational session, please contact the Commission by emailing: Anne.Marx@crc.ca.gov or use our request form hyperlinked here.

Please also follow us on social media @WeDrawTheLinesCA.

