

Redistricting in San Francisco: Public Input and Communities of Interest

Introduction: What is Redistricting?

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San Francisco has 11 supervisorial districts, used to elect the Board of Supervisors

Voters in each supervisorial district elect their Supervisors.

Redistricting is the process of adjusting the existing supervisorial district boundaries.

Redistricting happens every 10 years, after the release of the decennial Census data.

Decennial Census data are used to balance the populations of the supervisorial districts.

Redistricting provides the opportunity to bring the existing districts into compliance with all redistricting criteria.

What are the criteria for redistricting?

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Compliance with US and CA Constitution (*equal population*)

Compliance with Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA) which addresses race and language minorities

Preserve *recognized neighborhoods*

Preserve *Communities of Interest (COIs)*

Contiguity

Compactness

Recognized Neighborhoods and Communities of Interest (COIs)

Recognized Neighborhoods are generally based on data and geography collected from official sources (like the Planning Department). Neighborhood data may be submitted by members of the public as well. Neighborhoods may vary in size and definition depending on who is defining them.

Communities of Interest are generally described as a population of residents that share common interests (such as social and economic interests) that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

COIs are defined by those familiar with the community...

Law does not limit the kinds of interests that may bind a community.

It is up to those who live in or work with a community to identify and establish the interests that unite it.

Interests need not be limited to current situation but can also include common goals.

Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Common Interest Examples:

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Economic interests:

Current situation -- common employment or economic opportunities (or lack thereof).

Goals -- expanding opportunities, development, job creation, etc.

Social interests:

Current -- schools, culture, transportation, parks, housing

Goals -- improving recreational opportunities or public safety, preserving historic resources, etc.

Please tell us about your Community of Interest:

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What is your Community of Interest? What ties you together? What common interests do you share?

Where is your Community of Interest? What are the boundaries? Where is it on the map? What is different or the same about the areas around your community?

Why should your community be kept together in one district? Why would it be a problem to split your community?

Other options to tell the Task Force about your COI:

<https://sf.gov/information/community-interest-coi-public-input>

District-Based Input

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The San Francisco Redistricting Task Force additionally welcomes district-based input

Provide feedback about one district, multiple districts, or the whole map

Let the Redistricting Task Force know how you would like the districts to be drawn

What would you like to change about San Francisco's current Board of Supervisorial districts? What do you like about how they are currently drawn?

Redistricting Tool

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The Redistricting Task Force has made a free-to-use online mapping application available to the public

The online mapping tool allows members of the public to draw their own district maps

Proposals developed with the online mapping tool can be submitted to the Task Force for consideration

The tool will allow user to view census geography and data for any area within San Francisco

<https://redrawmysf.publicredistricting.com/>