

*Your  
Voice,  
Your  
Power*

# Redistricting in the City of Los Angeles



The Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission

# Why Are We Here?

- Help you understand what redistricting is and explain why it matters.
- Hear from you and learn more about your community.
- Explain the redistricting process, and how you can participate.



# About Redistricting



# It Starts with Districts!

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***Every person in the  
City of LA lives in  
a City Council  
District.***

- There are 15 Council Districts – each made up of and defined by different neighborhoods and a map with certain boundaries.
- You elect a city council member based on the district you are in – not everyone gets to vote for the same people.
- Examples:
  - ◆ Boyle Heights – District 14
  - ◆ Pacoima – District 7
  - ◆ Venice – District 11
  - ◆ South LA – Crenshaw – District 9



# What is Redistricting?

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- Every 10 years, the entire country goes through a process called “redistricting” to redraw the district maps.
- Ultimately, each district needs to be fair, equal and representative.
- The reasons that we have to define new district boundaries include:
  - ◆ Population changes – people moving in and out, births, deaths.
  - ◆ Districts become unequal in number of people – U.S. Constitution requires districts to be of equal population size.
  - ◆ Communities change (priorities, interests, goals, make up of community).



# Redistricting: *Why it Matters*

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- Participating in the redistricting process can be as important as voting.
- Where district lines are drawn can decide who you get to vote for on the City Council.
- Decisions made now will impact all of us for the next 10 years!
- Fair and inclusive representation on the Council is power.
  - ◆ Make decisions about resources that are provided to your neighborhood
  - ◆ Can mean more or less affordable housing, cleaner streets and better parks



# Looking Back in History

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- In the past, districts were drawn to purposely make sure that Black, Latino and Asian communities couldn't elect their own representatives.
- Lawsuits and protests mandated that districts get drawn fairly – and ultimately allowed people of color to be elected to the City Council.
- Do your part to make sure that your community is represented right.



# Redistricting: *How it works*



# Who's in Charge of the Process?

## LA City Council Redistricting Commission (LACCRC)

- In 1999, the voters wanted and approved the formation of an independent, appointed commission to draw and recommend maps for the Council districts.
- 21-member commission is made up of diverse leaders from throughout the City.

### The Commission is responsible for...

- Proposing recommendations on how districts should be drawn.
- Listening and learning from community members like you to guide and inform these recommendations.
- Accounting for the unique **histories, experiences and interests of communities**
- Making sure that all community members have fair and equal representation on the City Council.



# The LACCRC Mission Statement

## *Vision:*

To strengthen the governance of the City of Los Angeles by empowering its communities to have their diverse needs served through fair and inclusive representation.

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## *Core Values:*

Equity

Dignity

Integrity

Data-driven

Transparency

Solution-oriented

Respect





# Process Overview

- STEP 1** 17 Public Hearings to be held in every part of the City to gather information from community members – 7/1 to 9/11.
- STEP 2** Develop draft district maps based on community input and census information.
- STEP 3** Present maps to community for input and feedback.
- STEP 4** Make changes to the district maps and present to City Council for review and approval.



# Drawing District Maps: *The Rules*

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**The Commission must follow these criteria. Districts must be:**

- ◆ Substantial of **equal population size**.
- ◆ Comply with the **Voting Rights Act** to ensure that people of color have a fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
- ◆ Drawn in a way that allows all parts of the district to **connect with each other**.
  - *For example, Wilmington and Chatsworth cannot be in the same district because they are physically too far away from each other*
- ◆ **Minimize to the extent the splitting** of neighborhoods and communities into multiple districts, and keep such neighborhoods whole.
- ◆ **Geographically compact** such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant populations and utilize natural boundaries or street lines.



# “Communities of Interest”

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**Communities of Interest (COIs)** 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:** *Income level, education background, housing patterns (urban, rural, suburban), cultural and language, employment and economic patterns (e.g., transportation, work), health and environmental conditions.*

A **Community of Interest** is not the same as a district, but COIs are key building blocks of districts. Some ways to describe your community:

- Geographic (waterways, rural, urban, mountains).
- Community or Service Boundaries (neighborhoods, school areas).
- Things you have in common.



# **Redistricting:** *Making Your Voice Heard*



# We Need Your Voices



**DESCRIBE**



**DRAW**



**DELIVER**

Your ideas and perspective are necessary to draw the right district maps and to ensure your neighborhood gets treated fairly and gets the resources it needs and deserves.

**Here are three simple steps to participate:**

**DESCRIBE** your community.

- What are the schools, churches, parks and businesses that make it special?
- Who are the people that live in your community?
- What neighborhoods must be included or not?
- What streets define your community?

**DRAW** your community on a map with new user-friendly software.

**DELIVER** your testimony directly to the Commission.



# *Thank You!*

Get ready to **DESCRIBE, DRAW,** and **DELIVER.**  
*Make Your Voice Heard. Empower Your Community.*  
***Tell us what makes your community so special.***

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**LACCRC website at:**

[laccrc2021.org](http://laccrc2021.org)

**Email the Commission at:**

[redistricting.lacity@lacity.org](mailto:redistricting.lacity@lacity.org)

**Contact:**

Rafael Gonzalez, Director of Community Outreach Engagement

[rafael.gonzalez@lacity.org](mailto:rafael.gonzalez@lacity.org)

