

Solano County Board of Supervisors Redistricting Process

Background of the Redistricting Project to Date

Following each federal decennial census, and using that census as a basis, the board is required to adjust the boundaries of any or all of the supervisorial districts of the county so that the supervisorial districts are substantially equal in population as required by the United States Constitution. For the purposes of redistricting beginning this cycle, the County's population includes only incarcerated persons whose last known place of residence was in the County. The County's population will not include persons incarcerated within the County except those whose last known residence was also in the County. The Board must adopt an ordinance or pass a resolution adopting updated supervisorial districts no later than December 15, 2021 which means that the process must be complete and new maps presented to the Board for adoption in early December in order to meet the deadline.

On February 2, 2021, the Board received a presentation by County Counsel on the new Fair And Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities And Political Subdivisions (FAIR MAPS) Act of 2019 and subsequent updates in 2020 to the State law which amended [California Elections Code \(ELEC § 21500\(c\)\)](#). In the past decades, state law provided general guidance on the redistricting process. The new law now requires specific factors to be addressed when drawing new supervisorial district boundaries which include, in order of priority:

1. To the extent practicable, districts must be geographically contiguous;
2. To the extent practicable, districts must maintain the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and "communities of interest" (COI) which are defined as "populations that share common social or economic interests and should be included within a single supervisorial district for purposes of its effective and fair representation";
3. To the extent practicable, districts must minimize division of cities or census designated places;
4. Boundaries must be easily identifiable and, if possible, bound by natural/artificial barriers; and
5. To the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria, districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness.
6. Shall neither favor nor discriminate against a political party or candidate.

On March 9, 2021, the Board received an update on the 2020 Census data and by Resolution No. 2021-40, the Board established the Supervisorial Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC21) composed of residents of the County as allowed by California Elections Code section 23001. The Committee was formed to assist the Board in conducting public outreach to identify Communities of Interest (COI) within the County. The Board had discretion as to how to appoint members to the Committee so long as no members were elected County officials, or family, staff, or paid campaign staff of elected County officials. The Board decided that the Committee would be comprised of 15 members and that each County Supervisor would appoint three (3) members including at least one (1) member residing in an unincorporated part of the County.

On April 23, 2021, a new website was deployed to publish critical information for the redistricting process, advertise community meeting dates, share outcomes from the variety of meetings held, and act as the central hub for opportunities to interact with the redistricting process. The County's redistricting website can be accessed at <https://redistricting.solanocounty.com/>.

On April 27, 2021, the Board received a Redistricting Update on the redistricting project including and introduction to the County's consultant, Redistricting Partners and the newly developed Redistricting Website. The Board was also advised of legislation that was circulating in the California Legislature regarding potential changes to deadlines for completing the redistricting cycle. The Board also approved the roles and responsibilities of the RAC 21 and directed the

RAC21 to perform outreach activities to help identify COI's and report their findings to the Board in the Fall. Communities of interest (COI) are defined as "populations that share common social or economic interests and should be included within a single supervisorial district for purposes of its effective and fair representation". County staff was directed to assist the Committee in conducting ten (10) public hearings, two (2) in each district, between June and August 2021 to gather COI testimony.

On May 11, 2021, the Board received a Redistricting Update, appointed most of the members to the RAC21. The Board also adopted a Work Plan for the Committee which scheduled trainings and the ten (10) outreach meetings on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings between June 23, 2021 and August 28, 2021. The adopted Work Plan also called for the Committee members to receive training on the public meeting rules included in the Brown Act (Chapter 9 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the California Government Code) on May 20, 2021.

On May 20, 2021, the RAC21 met for the first time and County Counsel, provided training to the RAC21 highlighting the Committee's obligation to ensure transparency during the fact-finding portion of the redistricting process. The presentation included instructions regarding meeting notices, agendas, and public accessibility. The training was conducted remotely rather than in person as allowed by the California Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20 issued March 17, 2020 and N-08-21 issued June 11, 2021.

On June 3, 2021, Redistricting Partners Inc., the County's consultant for the redistricting project provided training to the RAC21. He provided an overview of the principles from the Fair Maps Act and the Voting Rights Act. The training covered the following topics:

1. What is Redistricting?
2. State Fair Maps Act and Federal Voting Right Act
3. What is Gerrymandering?
4. Traditional Redistricting Principles
5. Communities of Interest
6. Census Data and overview of timeline for release
7. Overview of the RAC21 timeline

June 23, 2021 to July 21, 2021, the RAC21, in conjunction with Redistricting Partners, and County staff conducted virtual community outreach meetings on Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. using the Zoom platform.

Redistricting Outreach Meetings - Virtual

Supervisorial District	Date	Attendees	RAC21	Consultant
District 1	June 30, 2021	7	5	3
District 2	June 23, 2021	14	6	3
District 3	July 7, 2021	13	4	2
District 4	July 14, 2021	6	4	2
District 5	July 21, 2021	11	4	2

July 31, 2021 to August 28, 2021, the RAC21, in conjunction with Redistricting Partners, and County staff, the second five (5) public hearings were conducted in-person. Due to the unavailability of venues throughout the county, County facilities were used with the exception of the Elmira Firehouse.

In-person meetings were held at the following facilities:

District 1 - Vallejo County Library
 District 2 - Cordelia County Library
 District 3 - County Events Center
 District 4 - Vacaville Town Library
 District 5 - Elmira Fire Station #65

Redistricting Outreach Meetings - In-person

Supervisory District	Date	Attendees	RAC21	Consultant
District 1	July 31, 2021	4	5	2
District 2	August 7, 2021	9	3	2
District 3	August 14, 2021	7	4	1
District 4	August 21, 2021	4	4	1
District 5	August 28, 2021	7	4	1

On October 5, 2021, the Board received a Communities of Interest Report by the RAC21. The COI report considered all the feedback received at the ten outreach meetings and was presented by district. The RAC21 COI report can be accessed at this link:

<https://redistricting.solanocounty.com/meetings/rac21-report-to-the-board/#/tab-agenda-packet>

On November 2, 2021, the Board reviewed three Draft Supervisory Redistricting Map Alternatives (Draft Plan A, Draft Plan B, and Draft Plan C) prepared by the County's Consultant, Redistricting Partners. The Board also had an opportunity to review the eight maps submitted by the public via the County's redistricting website. The majority of the Board leaned towards Plan A which provided the least amount of boundary adjustments but also liked some aspects of Plan B which incorporated the entire City of Suisun City into District 3. The Board directed staff to bring back revised maps to their special night meeting scheduled for November 17, 2021 at 6 p.m.

On November 17, 2021, at their special Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board conducted a second public hearing to review three revised Draft Supervisory Redistricting Map Alternatives (Draft Plan A2, Draft Plan A3, and Draft Plan A4) prepared by the County's Consultant, Redistricting Partners. The Board also had an opportunity to review ten maps submitted by the public via the County's redistricting website. The consultant was available to draw live maps during the public hearing and following a discussion on keeping Air Base Parkway as a distinctive delineator, the Board came to consensus on Plan A5 which restores Air Base Parkway as a definitive divider between Districts 3 and 5. Plan A5 also restores a portion of Suisun City, west of Walters Road back into District 5.