

Santa Cruz County REDISTRICTING 2021

Santa Cruz County's redistricting process is underway!



Every ten years following the U.S. Census count, district boundaries for federal, state, and local elected offices are redrawn to reflect new population data. Santa Cruz's redistricting process determines which neighborhoods and communities form the county's five supervisorial districts.

The residents of each district elect a member of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, the governing body with oversight over county services, including public safety, health and human services, infrastructure, and land use planning, among others. If you have a distinct neighborhood or community of interest that should be defined, we want to hear from you!

Visit santacruzcounty.us/Redistricting2021 to get involved:

- read about redistricting process
- view the public meeting calendars
- tell us about your community and use the interactive mapping tool

What is a Community of Interest?

It is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be within a single district for the purpose of fair and effective representation, and whose boundaries can be identified on a map. Some examples:

- Shared interests in schools, housing, community safety, transit, land use, and the physical environment,
- Social and civic networks - places of worship, homeowner associations, community centers, shopping areas,
- Racial and ethnic compositions, cultural identities, languages spoken.

How are Santa Cruz County districts determined?

The redistricting process considers shifts in population since the last Census, making sure constituents are represented in accordance with the "one-person, one-vote" principle of the Voting Rights Act. The Board of Supervisors appointed a five member Advisory Redistricting Commission, ARC 21, to recommend plans and maps to achieve about equal population in each Supervisor's district. When drafting potential maps, the County must follow strict rules:

- geographic contiguity
- geographic integrity of local neighborhoods, communities, and cities or census-designated places
- geographic compactness
- easily identifiable boundaries such as rivers, streets, or rail lines
- not drawing boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party

Things to do now! Public Workshops and Hearings Calendar Coming Soon!

Right now you can share how you think district boundaries might be drawn to best represent your community by going to the Outreach tab at www.santacruzcounty.us/Redistricting2021. Check back often to see dates and locations for the Public Workshops coming in September, and Public Hearings in October and November. You can also check in on the Statewide effort, being conducted by the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission at WeDrawtheLinesCA.org.