

Imperial County 2021 Redistricting Outreach Meeting



Welcome

Agenda

Things we will cover:

- Redistricting Basics
- Traditional Redistricting Principles
- Communities of Interest
- Map Tool Demonstration
- Public Testimony on Communities of Interest
- Imperial County Population
- Public Hearing Schedule

What is Redistricting

Definition

Redistricting is the process of adjusting district lines every 10 years after the release of the U.S. Census. The well-known examples are Congressional and State Legislative Districts, but local governments also must do redistricting.

- Imperial County must go through this process, as they did in 2011, to ensure districts are rebalanced after the decennial census.
- Beyond creating districts of equal population, redistricting also serves to empower local communities and preserve voting rights.

Imperial County

Structure and Deadlines

The **Fair Maps Act** (2019) requires Imperial County to have at least 4-5 public hearings, outreach to the community, and that all public information and meetings are available online.

- Imperial County must pass their final maps by **December 15th**

Traditional Redistricting Principles

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

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Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

Communities of interest are the building blocks of districts.

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Subjective
- Open-ended to be as inclusive as possible

Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act:

- Latinx
- Asian Americans / Pacific Islanders
- African Americans

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While communities of interest may include race, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing district boundaries.

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

- Historical communities
- Economic interests
- Racial composition
- Ethnic Areas
- Cultural amenities
- Religious facilities
- Immigrant communities
- Languages spoken
- Geographic features
- Neighborhoods
- Economic opportunity zones
- Tourism Areas
- School districts
- Outdoor recreation areas
- Communities defined by natural resource features
- Downtown / Urban
- Rural or Agricultural
- Homeowner or Renters
- Creative arts communities
- Media markets
- *Many, many more*

What is NOT a Community of Interest

The Fair Maps Act explicitly prohibits these groups from being considered as communities of interest

- Political party affiliation
- Incumbents
- Political candidates

It also is hard, in redistricting to truly consider:

- *Groups of similarly minded people who do not share a similar geographic location.*
- *Communities of Interest that are county-wide.*

Communities of Interest

Three Critical Questions in Defining YOUR Community

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped? What are your community's geographic boundaries?
- What is the community's relationship with the jurisdiction being redistricted? How is it affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials?

Is this a Community of Interest?

A group of renters who live in downtown El Centro testifies to the County about their community.

Would this be considered a *Community of Interest*?

Is this a Community of Interest?

A group of renters who live in downtown El Centro testifies to the County about their community.

Would this be considered a *Community of Interest*?

YES! This group of residents can easily to be mapped in a distinct area AND they share a common policy interest, which can be addressed through legislation or public services.

Is this a Community of Interest?

A group of broccoli farmers, concentrated in the rural areas of the county, focused on ensuring they have enough water for their crops.

Would this be considered a community of interest?

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A group of broccoli farmers, concentrated in the rural areas of the county, focused on ensuring they have enough water for their crops.

Would this be considered a community of interest?

YES! This is a group of people in a shared geographic location who have similar needs for public services.

Is this a Community of Interest?

A countywide group of people who are fans of the Giants testifies to the Board of Supervisors.

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A countywide group of people who are fans of the Giants testifies to the Board of Supervisors.


Is this a Community of Interest?

NO! It is important that a community of interest is distinct enough to draw on a map. This group overlaps throughout the entire state, and it is unlikely that a governing agency has any say over these issues.

Community of Interest Forms

Submitting Your COI Form

- Input can be provided in public hearings or using the “Community of Interest Worksheet.”



Tell us about Your Community

Help shape the future of Imperial County's Supervisorial Districts
Every ten years, U.S. Census data is used to redraw Imperial County supervisorial district boundaries. This ensures the districts are balanced for changes in population. The Redistricting Advisory Committee wants to hear from you on how these boundaries should be drawn. Complete this form to tell the Redistricting Advisory Committee about your **community of interest** – keeping communities of interest together is a high-ranking criteria in the redistricting process.

What is a Community of Interest?
A Community of Interest is a group of people in the same geographically definable area who share common social and economic interests. Some examples of Communities of Interest are:

- Senior citizens
- LGBTQIA+ communities
- College students living near campus
- People who live downtown or in a neighborhood
- Dog park community
- Residents who share a common language
- People that use the same transportation systems

What criteria will help the Redistricting Advisory Committee understand the importance of your community in the redistricting process?
When documenting your community, it is important to address the following questions to assist the Redistricting Advisory Committee in the redistricting process:

1. Does your community have a shared culture, characteristics, or bond?
2. Is your community geographic in nature? Is your community able to be mapped? Is there density within your community?
3. Describe your community's relationship with the County and how it is affected by policy decisions made by the Board of Supervisors.

The public can submit any testimony, but it is important to remember that your input can be best used if it addresses all three of these questions.

What You Can Do to Further Participate in the Redistricting Process?

1. Provide your comments on your community of interest by completing this worksheet and return it by email to the Clerk of Boards office at blancaacosta@co.imperial.ca.us or drop off a hard copy to the Clerk of the Board of cynthiamedina@co.imperial.ca.us or drop off a hard copy to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Attn: 2021 Redistricting, 940 West Main Street, Suite 209, El Centro, CA 92243 or attend a public hearing and read your comments to the board.
2. Attend one of the Imperial Redistricting Advisory Committee public meetings, times and locations to be publicized on the website.

Communities of Interest

Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

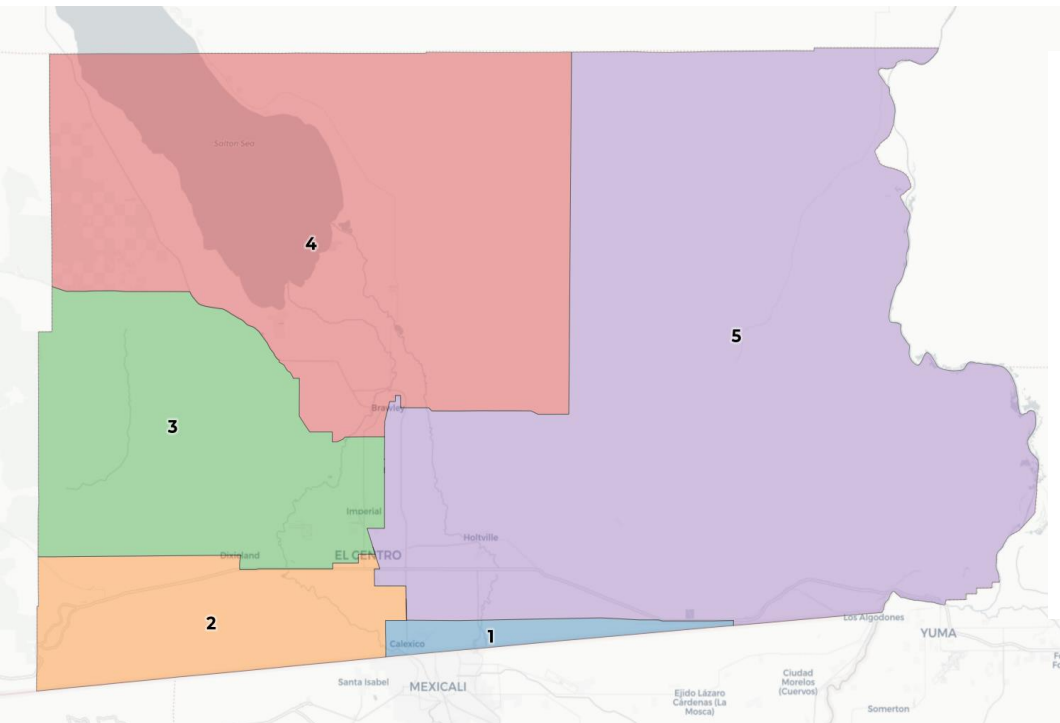
All the agencies have a DistrictR public mapping tool for the public to use to draw their own Communities of Interest and also submit district maps.



You draw the lines.

<https://districtr.org/california>

Imperial County Population



2020 Census Population and Deviations

	Population	Deviation	
1	39,369	3,429	9.5%
2	30,340	(5,600)	-15.6%
3	42,416	6,476	18.0%
4	36,360	420	1.2%
5	31,217	(4,723)	-13.1%
<i>Total Deviation</i>			33.6%

Public Hearing Schedule

Sept. 9th – RAC Meeting (6-8 PM)

Sept. 18th – Community Workshop (9-11 AM, District 5)

Sept. 18th – Community Workshop (1-3 PM, District 3)

Sept. 20th – Public Hearing #1 (6-8 PM)

Sept. 22nd – Community Workshop (6-8 PM, District 4)

Oct. 2nd – Community Workshop (9-11 AM, District 2)

Oct. 2nd – Community Workshop (1-3 PM, District 1)

Oct. 12th – Public Hearing #2 (6-8 PM)

Oct. 13th – Public Hearing #3 / Community Workshop (6-8 PM, County-wide)

Oct. 14th – Public Hearing #4 (6-8 PM)

Oct. 26th – Public Hearing #5 (11 AM)

Redistricting Website

Imperial County: <https://redistricting.imperialcounty.org/>



**REDISTRICTING
PARTNERS**