



County Administrator's Office Office of County Counsel

Redistricting 2021

February 23, 2021

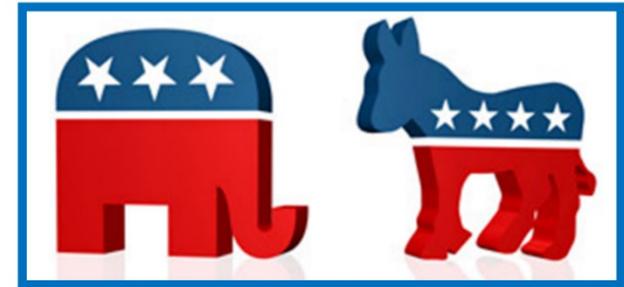
Redistricting Law

- Division 21—California Elections Code
- Fair Maps Act (AB 849)
 - Revises and standardizes redistricting
 - Eliminates discretionary criteria and rules
 - Mandatory requirements with “priorities”



Fair Maps Act

- District boundaries may not be adopted for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party
- Limits alteration between census
- Establishes specific timeline for adoption of a plan



Fair Maps Act (cont'd)

- Mandates more rigorous public outreach and public hearing requirements
 - Minority communities
 - Language access
 - Dissemination
 - Website requirement
 - Translation requirements
 - 10-year maintenance



Who Draws?



- Historically
- Fair Maps Act allows Board to appoint Advisory or Independent Commission
 - Composition may vary
 - Certain restrictions
 - Permissive, not mandatory
 - Roles:
 - Advisory—makes recommendations to Board
 - Independent—empowered to create boundaries



Advisory Redistricting Commission

- Board prescribes how members are appointed to the advisory redistricting commission, but prohibits
 - Persons who are Sonoma County elected officials
 - Family members, staff members, or paid campaign staff of elected Sonoma County officials



Timeframe

- Not later than 174 days before next regulation election after January 1, 2022, but before July 1, 2022
- **December 15, 2021** is 174 days before June 7, 2022 statewide primary



Public Hearings

- At least 4 public hearings required
 - One before draft map drawn
 - At least two after map drawn
 - At least one on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6:00 pm Monday—Friday



Public Outreach



- County **must encourage** public participation by:
 - Publishing draft map 7 days prior to adoption
 - Media outreach
 - Outreach to community groups
 - Live translation at meeting
 - Posting notices on internet
 - Publication of relevant demographics data
 - Take public testimony through various medium



Recordkeeping

- Must make record of every public comment and governing body available within 2 weeks
- Webpage must be maintained for 10 years in multiple languages AND must contain:
 - Explanation of process
 - Procedure for providing oral or written testimony
 - Calendar of hearings and workshops
 - Notice and agenda for hearings and workshops
 - Recording or written summary of each hearing/workshop
 - All draft maps
 - Final adopted map



Mid-Decade Changes



- **Prohibited unless in conjunction with:**
 - Judicial proceedings
 - Jurisdictional boundary change



The Parameters

- Population equality
- Compliance with Federal law
- Districts must be contiguous
- Must respect geographic integrity of neighborhoods
- Must respect geographic integrity of incorporated cities
- District boundaries must be easily identifiable and understandable to residents
- Must respect geographic compactness (to extent possible)



2021 Redistricting Timeline*



* Timeline subject to change and when census data received



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Advisory Redistricting Commission

- Composition
 - District Appointees
 - At-Large Position
- Criteria
- Application Period - February 24, 2021 through March 16, 2021
- Application Form on the County Boards and Commissions website
 - <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Board-of-Supervisors/Boards-Commissions-Committees-and-Task-Forces/>
- Questions to Redistricting2021@sonoma-county.org



Recommended Actions

1. Receive update on redistricting process for 2021;
2. Adopt resolution establishing the Sonoma County Advisory Redistricting Commission (ARC) and adopting rules and procedures;
3. Direct staff to solicit interest in serving on the ARC and return to the Board on March 16, 2021, with applications and recommendations for appointment of members to the ARC;
4. Authorize the use of \$130,000 from contingency funds for contracts to procure specialized redistricting facilitation and training services, interactive mapping technology, and unanticipated translation and interpretation services to support the redistricting process.

