

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
May 4, 2021
Timed: 3:15 p.m.

To: Board of Supervisors

Through: Ann Edwards, Interim County Executive

From: David Villanueva, Deputy County Executive

Subject: Presentation On 2021 Redistricting Requirements And
Provide Direction On Redistricting Process

District(s): All

RECOMMENDED ACTION

- Receive a presentation from National Demographics Corporation (NDC) on the 2021 redistricting requirements and process.
- Receive a presentation from staff regarding redistricting outreach and communication plan.
- Direct staff to proceed with a Board Managed Process for redistricting activities. The Board will work directly with staff and consultants to engage the public through workshops, hearings, community meetings, mapping tools and communication outreach, to complete the redistricting requirements and adopt new boundaries.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Constitution requires that everyone residing in the United States be counted every decade. The resulting Census data is used for geographically defining State and local legislative districts. This process is called "redistricting."

The Census Bureau originally planned to deliver 2020 Census data to states beginning in February 2021 and would finish by March 31, 2021. However, due to COVID-19, all Census operations were significantly impacted, causing major delays in states receiving the necessary data that would allow redistricting activities to begin. The Census Bureau estimates that it will deliver 2020 Census data to all states and the public by September 30, 2021, a nearly six-month delay.

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Once California receives that 2020 Census data, the Statewide Database will move into the 30-day process of building the state's redistricting database, which will population adjust the dataset as required by Elections Code Section 21003 as well as incorporate historical election results to assist the state and local jurisdictions with Voting Rights Act compliance. Elections Code Section 21003 requires that the state adjust census data to reallocate the prisoner population by last known residential address at which the prisoner was last domiciled. This population-adjusted data is the dataset the County is required to use to draw its maps. This data will likely not be available until the end of October resulting in the County having approximately six (6) weeks to complete its redistricting work.

At this time, County staff and counsel advise that the Board must adopt its final maps no later than December 15, 2021. Staff recommends that if the Board adopts final district maps by ordinance, the first reading should occur November 17, 2021, and the second reading December 7, 2021.

Options to draft and adopt maps

Your Board has the following options:

1. Board Managed Process: The Board to work directly with staff and consultants to engage the public through workshops, hearings, community meetings, mapping tools and communication outreach, to complete the redistricting requirements and adopt new boundaries.
2. Advisory Redistricting Commission: This Commission would recommend boundaries to your Board. Your Board may prescribe the manner in which members are appointed to the Commission, with the caveat the County elected officials, family members, staff, or paid campaign staff of a County elected official cannot be appointed to this Commission.
3. Hybrid Redistricting Commission: This Commission would be directed by the Board to recommend two or more maps, one of which the Board agrees to adopt without modification. This Commission may not be appointed directly by the Board, but your Board may prescribe the manner in which members are appointed provided the application process is open to all eligible residents. Should the County pursue this option, a pre-defined appointment process would need to be established in order to select Commission members.
4. Independent Redistricting Commission: This Commission would be authorized by the Board to adopt new boundaries without returning to the Board for approval. This Commission may not be appointed directly by the Board, but your Board may prescribe the manner in which members are appointed provided the application process is open to all eligible residents. Should the County pursue this option, a pre-defined

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appointment process would need to be established in order to select Commission members.

Due to the condensed time in which the county is required to complete the redistricting process and the benefit of the NDC public participation kit, staff recommends a Board Managed Process. The Board will work directly with staff and consultants to engage the public through workshops, hearings, community meetings, mapping tools and communication outreach, to complete the redistricting requirements and adopt new boundaries. Part of the NDC contract includes a public participation kit with mapping tools that support online and paper-based options that will facilitate individual and community based participation. This will empower residents to review draft maps and to develop and submit their own map proposals for consideration. County staff along with NDC will work together to ensure compliance with the Fair Maps Act. Resources for the 2021 local redistricting process in California can be found at <https://www.commoncause.org/california/page/local-redistricting-2021/>.

Accomplishments to Date

- Jan 2021: Form County Redistricting Project Team and discuss initial planning steps.
- Feb 2021: Solicit for professional redistricting services.
- Mar 2021: Finalize RFP process and select consultant.
- April 6, 2021: Provide update to the Board of Supervisors on 2021 Redistricting.
- April 14, 2021: County redistricting project team met with NDC for the project planning kick-off meeting including identifying potential workshop locations.
- April 16, 2021: The redistricting website is live which includes the redistricting definition, current maps, signup to receive information, email address redistricting@saccounty.net for submitting public comment and draft maps and other resources relevant to the redistricting project. <https://www.saccounty.net/Redistricting/Pages/default.aspx>
- May 4, 2021: Staff prepared a presentation with NDC on the 2021 redistricting process and requirements. Along with a

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presentation from staff regarding redistricting outreach and communication plan.

Upcoming Timeline for Redistricting Work

May 2021:

- In consultation with NDC, staff will finalize a proposed project task list and timeline that addresses the requirements of the Fair Maps Act given statutory deadlines to adopt final district maps.
- Project outreach to the community begins with initial alerts and “invitations to participate” sent out to the public, to overlapping jurisdictions, and to community organizations.

May – Sep: Initial population data analysis from 2019 American Communities Survey, public outreach including hearings/community workshops and forums.

Oct - Nov: Draft map preparation and review.

Nov – Dec: Map adoption.

Nov 17, 2021: First reading of County ordinance.

Dec 7, 2021: Second reading of County ordinance.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Staff estimates redistricting project costs will be \$242,000. This estimate includes professional services for NDC, hearings, workshops, public outreach, redistricting project team hours, creating draft district maps, drafting final district maps following Board approval, and the public participation kit. FY2020-21 costs will be paid out of the General Fund’s existing Non-departmental Costs budget and FY2021-22 costs will be included in the Recommended Non-departmental Cost budget.