



NEWSLETTER | JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

Redistricting Begins in Sacramento County



The process for re-drawing boundary lines for each of the five supervisorial districts in Sacramento County has begun, and all residents are encouraged to participate. We want to hear from you!

What is Redistricting?

Every ten years, following the Census count, the resulting census data is used to geographically define electoral districts, at all levels of government, through a process called redistricting. Redistricting ensures that each of the electoral district boundaries have about the same number of people and comply with the federal **Voting Rights Act of 1965**.

To that end, **Sacramento County's Redistricting 2021 webpage** is live and will be a vital resource for County residents to learn more about redistricting, the importance of public participation in redistricting, and how to be a part of the process.

The website also includes current district and other important Sacramento County maps for reference, as well as **past and future meetings/hearings, FAQs**, and an explanation of the **Sacramento County Redistricting Process** (with translations of the process available in 10 languages).

Why is Redistricting important? Residents have the opportunity to provide input on what kind of boundaries should be drawn to best represent their community. Redistricting is based on the

idea of "one person, one vote" which makes sure all people can be represented fairly, and how district lines are drawn influences who is elected.

How can I participate?

Residents can sign up for **Redistricting news stories, information and upcoming meetings via email or text**. People can also view past and upcoming meetings at the **Redistricting Meetings webpage** and are encouraged to check in for additional upcoming workshops and hearings.

Residents can draw their own maps as well and submit to the County. Visit the **Mapping Tools Webpage** to draw your map on paper or use the simple online mapping tools.

What's next?

Sacramento County will schedule public workshops in all five supervisorial districts, virtual workshops, and Board of Supervisors presentations about redistricting, the process, mapping tools and other information.

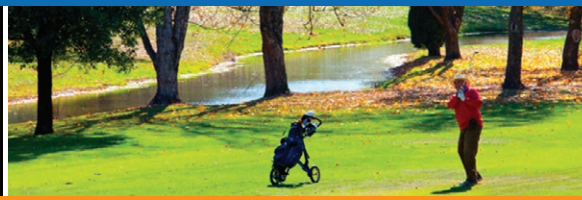
The County must adopt final maps no later than December 15, 2021. In the meantime, we encourage you to watch meetings or attend virtually, visit the Redistricting website at **redistricting2021.saccounty.net** and let us know how you want your district lines to be drawn. Questions? Email **Redistricting@saccounty.net** or call (916) 874-5411.

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

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Rich Desmond, *District 3*
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Sacramento County Recommended Budget Approved

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on June 10 to approve the \$6.5 billion recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

The \$6.5 billion budget consists of \$2.437 billion in Enterprise and Special Revenue Fund expenditures (funded through utility rates, fees and other dedicated revenue), \$3.147 billion in General Fund, and \$947 million in Restricted Funds (funded with federal, State revenue dedicated for a particular purpose).

The budget recognized new areas of growth, including annual commitments of:

- » \$12 million to fund a non-law enforcement Alternative Emergency Response to people experiencing mental health issues in the unincorporated County and all cities except for the City of Sacramento.
- » \$5.9 million to fund a Homeless Encampment Initiative designed to get people without housing in the unincorporated County off the streets and into temporary and eventually permanent housing.
- » \$5 million to fund the Probation Department's Monitored Pre-trial Release Program.
- » \$6.8 million to fund continued efforts to meet the County's obligations under the Mays Consent decree regarding conditions of confinement in the County's jails.
- » \$6.4 million in grant funding for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Expansion Program in Public Health that supports epidemiology and laboratory services for COVID-19 and to prepare and address other emerging infectious diseases.
- » \$2.5 million to fund an additional Foster Care Unit, two additional Emergency Response Units and two additional

Public Health Nurses in Child Protective Services, which will reduce caseloads per social worker.

- » \$2.2 million for increased processing costs related to organic solid waste.
- » \$1.2 million to fund the Public Defender's Pre-Trial Release and Expungement programs, which assists offenders who have served their term expunge their records in order to get housing and jobs.

One-time growth included:

- » Transfer of \$22.5 million from the General Fund and the Roads Fund to spend on County road pavement rehabilitation projects where the road is on the verge of needing much more costly full reconstruction.
- » \$4.4 million to cover the cost of the special gubernatorial recall election that will occur in FY2021-22.
- » Transfer of \$4.4 million from the General Fund to the Parks Construction Fund to begin addressing the \$72 million backlog in Regional Parks capital needs.
- » Transfer of \$1 million from the General Fund to the Capital Construction Fund to start addressing the \$11 million backlog in Mather Community Campus capital needs. If resources are available, the plan is to transfer an additional \$4 million in the September Final Budget.

For details, view the [budget documents](#) on the Office of Budget and Debt Management website at www.bdm.saccounty.net.

The numbers on the Recommended Budget will change between now and September, when the County receives new information, including the impact of the State Budget and updated revenue totals. The Final Budget will come back to the Board of Supervisors in September for review and adoption.

Healthy Swimming Habits to Protect Against Germs



As the weather heats up in Sacramento County, residents will be heading to the water to cool off. Whether it's a public swimming pool, water park, or our lakes and rivers, you should be aware of healthy swimming habits.

The water we swim in is rarely germ free. Even when the concentration of pool chemicals is well maintained, or a lake or river looks clear, bacteria and microorganisms can still be present.

Sacramento County Regional Parks has informational signs posted at Lower American River at common river access locations with historically high E. coli readings such as Discovery Park Boat Launch, Tiscornia Beach and Howe Avenue River Access. Most E. coli strains are harmless and do not cause human illness. They are the helpful bacteria found in the intestines of mammals – humans, pets, wildlife and birds. Increased levels of E. coli does not necessarily equate to an increased exposure risk for swimmers. E. coli are generally found in all recreational waters.

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SacCounty Board Votes to Implement Laura's Law

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on May 18 to implement "Laura's Law" – state legislation authorizing the courts to order outpatient treatment for individuals with a mental illness who may be a danger to themselves or others.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment, also known as AOT, permits courts to order treatment for those 18 years or older who suffer from a serious mental illness, are unable to survive safely in the community without supervision and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- » Been hospitalized two or more times in the last 36 months due to mental illness;
- » Demonstrated violent behavior toward themselves or others in the last 48 months;
- » Has been offered treatment on a voluntary basis and refused it;
- » Or, is deteriorating.

California counties previously had the option to "opt in" to the program and that has been done in most of the larger counties. Sacramento County has historically not opted in to providing AOT services.

The process changed, however, with the passage last year of AB 1976, which requires counties like Sacramento to hold public hearings at the Board of Supervisors about whether to "opt in" or "opt out," and if a County chooses to "opt out," they have



to provide specific reasons. The deadline for Counties to have a hearing and formally decide was July 1, 2021.

In Sacramento County, the program is estimated to cost \$2.5 million annually. The Board of Supervisors and **Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services** will meet again in September to determine funding.

Community Input

In March, Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services virtually hosted informational sessions and solicited community input via a brief survey on whether to implement or opt out of Laura's Law/AOT. 280 individuals participated in the survey. Nearly three-quarters of participants indicated that they think Sacramento County should implement Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) (73 percent), 15 percent of participants indicated that they think Sacramento

County should opt-out of AOT, and 12 percent of participants indicated that they were neutral or unsure about the decision.

Court Requirements of AOT

AOT is a court-ordered outpatient treatment service for adults, ages 18 years and older, who have a serious mental illness and a history of (a) psychiatric hospitalizations, (b) incarcerations, or (c) acts, threats or attempts of serious violent behavior towards themselves or others. Consumers must first be offered voluntary treatment within the past 10 days. The court cannot order involuntary administration of medications.

Family members, roommates, treatment providers and law enforcement may request an investigation to determine whether the consumer meets criteria. Only the County mental health director or his or her designee may file a petition with the court. The person named in the petition has a right to a defender appointed by the court.

If a judge finds that the individual meets the criteria, the AOT order would be for a 180-day treatment period, not to exceed 180 days. After 180 days, the director of the AOT program can apply for an additional 180 days of treatment. If the consumer is not compliant with treatment, the consumer can be transported to a hospital and held up to 72 hours.

Learn more about **Sacramento County mental health services** at dhs.saccounty.net.



Sac County 311 Connect is Your Link to County Services

Where do you report an abandoned vehicle or broken street light? Or get information about County services? Get the information you need by submitting a request on the web at www.311.SacCounty.net, through our mobile app or by calling 311. (916-875- 4311 if calling from out of the area.) Friendly and knowledgeable customer service representatives are available 24/7, 365 days a year to answer questions, route calls, and resolve issues.

Tips for Staying Cool

Sacramento County Public Health reminds residents to take steps to keep cool during the upcoming heat event. With these seasonably high temperatures expected, it is important that you **take precautionary steps** to keep yourself, your family, your neighbors and your pets cool, and remember to check on seniors and those with mobility issues at least twice a day.

Keep as cool and hydrated as possible; drink plenty of water, avoid spending time outside, especially during the hottest part of the day, and limit outside activities as much as possible. Cooling down a few hours a day will allow the body to recover and tolerate the heat better for the rest of the day.

Tips for Beating the Heat:

- » **Stay hydrated** – Drink plenty of cool water. Avoid alcohol. Avoid hot, heavy meals.
- » **Limit sun exposure** – When possible, stay in air conditioning on hot days. If you don't have air conditioning, take cool showers or freeze a wet cloth to



wipe down your head and neck.

- » **Check on loved ones** – Be sure to check on less-mobile or older friends, family and neighbors who live alone, don't have air conditioning or are hesitant to use their air conditioner.
- » **Clothing** – Wear lightweight, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing
- » **Avoid the hottest part of the day** – If you have to be outside, try to stick to the cooler morning and evening hours. Wear light, loose clothing and take frequent, shaded or air-conditioned breaks. Do not exercise outside during the hottest part of the day.
- » **Beware of hot cars** – Never leave a person or a pet in a parked car, even for a short time. On a mild 80-degree

day, the temperature inside a car can reach 100-degrees in less than 10 minutes.

- » **Keep your pets cool** – Give your pets plenty of fresh, clean water. Don't exercise your pets in high temperatures or when the pavement is hot. Make sure they have a shady place to get out of the sun or bring them indoors.
- » **Sunscreen** – Protect your skin against cancer, burns and skin damage by using SPF 30 or higher.
- » **Stay informed** – Watch your local weather forecasts so you can plan outdoor activities safely and pay attention to any extreme heat alerts.

Don't get caught unprepared as temperatures climb into the triple digits. Be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat related illness and learn to respond if you or a loved one are experiencing severe heat related illness by checking out our Hot Weather Tips news release at www.saccounty.net/news. County-wide cooling center information is available at www.211sacramento.org/211.

Healthy Swimming Habits, Continued

Healthy swimming habits are a must for anyone enjoying public lakes, rivers and waterways:

- » Do not drink recreational water or use the water for cooking.
- » Do not enter the water if you have cuts or open sores, as these are pathways for bacteria to enter your body.
- » Avoid algae blooms (brightly colored water).
- » Wash your hands before eating.
- » Shower after swimming.
- » Pay attention and follow any warning signs and postings. Do not access a water body if posted warnings indicate it is not safe to do so.

Contact your healthcare provider if you have concerns regarding your health after swimming in recreational waters.

If you are going to the **American River Parkway**, check out the Sacramento County Regional Parks **Healthy Swimming Status web page** at regionalparks.saccounty.net.