

MAPPING OUR FUTURE: Preparing to Testify

Presented by

Michelle Romero
The Greenlining Institute
micheller@greenlining.org



RE-DIS-TRICT-ING

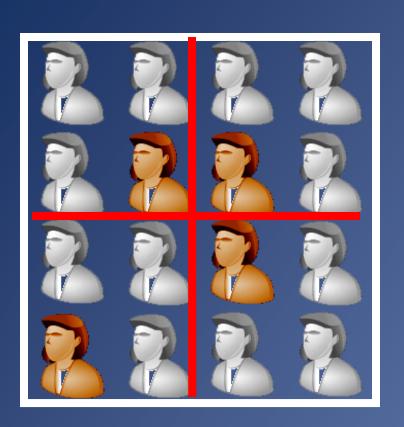


The process of re-drawing election districts;

Occurs once every 10 years!

Primary purpose: Equal Population – "one person, one vote!"

Drawing Lines that Matter

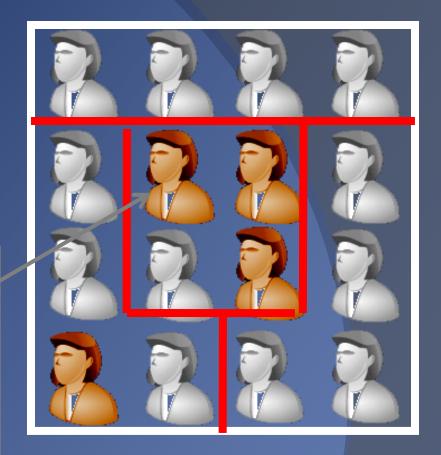


Scenario #1 – No Representation

"Community of interest" makes up only 25% of constituent base in all four districts.

Scenario #2 – Representation

Community of interest makes up a substantial constituent base in at least one district





Who will draw the lines? Historically...



CA Legislature

Draws **State Assembly** districts

Draws State Senate districts

Draws **Board of Equalization** districts

Draws Congressional districts



After PROP 11 (2008)



New
Citizens
Redistricting
Commission

Draws Congressional districts

Proposition 20 (2010) later reassigned congressional redistricting to the commission

Draws **State Assembly** districts

Draws State Senate districts

Draws **Board of Equalization** districts

What will the new Commission do?



From January 1st to August 15th, 2011

Public Hearings

Two rounds of hearings:

- -ROUND 1: PRE-MAP (April-May)
- •1st Draft Maps June 10th
- -ROUND 2: POST-MAP (June-July)
- Final Maps End of July

Hearings & meetings posted at: www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov

The Criteria (Prop 11)

- 1. Equal Population
- 2. Comply with Federal Voting Rights Act (Sect. 2 & 5)
- 3. Geographically contiguous
- 4. Respect city and county, neighborhood, or "community of interest" boundaries.
 - 5. Compactness
 - 6. Nesting (i.e. 2 Assembly districts = 1 Senate district)

*** Incumbent blind - residences may not be considered; districts may not be drawn to favor politicians or parties.

Public Input Hearings

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission coming to your area:

[Fill in the blank, find at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov]

Submitting Public Input

Beyond the public hearings, write in!



- » Email: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov
- » Hotline for questions:
- » (866) 356-5217

- www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov
- *view public comments online!

Community of Interest

"A contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation."

-Defined by Proposition 20 (2010)

EXCEPTIONS:

*NOT partisan interest/affiliation

*NOT race alone

Social and Lifestyles and Geography Economic **Interests Factors** Community Changes Groups and Interests **Affiliations** Occurring Representation Agencies and Community and Current Services **Assets Districts**

How to talk about my community?

Three (3) key components:

- 1. What the economic and social interests that bind your community together.
- 2. Why your community should be kept together for fair representation.
- 3. Where your community is located define the boundaries!

3-5 min script

INTRODUCTION

"My name is Astrid Garcia, resident of North Hollywood for x years"

IDENTIFY YOUR GOAL

"I would like the commission to keep my community together"

DESCRIBE YOUR COMMUNITY

"My neighborhood is working class, low to median income families, mostly renters" (Emphasize common social and economic interests)

DISTINGUISH YOUR COMMUNITY FROM OTHERS

How is your community is different or alike from the surrounding communities/areas?

PROVIDE MAP OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Describe specific streets or geographic boundaries that bound your community.

THANK THE COMMISSION & PROVIDE WRITTEN MATERIALS DOCUMENTING YOUR TESTIMONY

Data & Mapping Tools

www.ReDrawCA.org

Tips for Testifying

IN PERSON:

*2 minutes to present; stay on message

*Bring a written document of your testimony (16 copies)



*Have other community members and/or organizations sign on to your testimony, even if they cannot be present.



Congratulations! Now you know...

* What Redistricting is and why it matters

* How to advocate for yourself and your community

* Where to access the appropriate resources