

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
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Redistricting criteria adopted, website launched

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday adopted criteria that will guide the county through the redistricting process. Meanwhile, the county has launched a website, www.sbcounty.gov/redistrict, to keep the public informed and give residents a place to make suggestions on how districts should be redrawn.

Board members encouraged the public to become involved in the process. Additional meetings will be announced as they are scheduled.

Every 10 years following the U.S. Census, the board redraws the boundaries of the county's five supervisorial districts to ensure that each has approximately the same number of residents.

The 2010 Census shows the county has 2,035,210 residents, therefore each district should ideally contain 407,042 residents. The current First District exceeds that ideal by 58,496 and the Second District exceeds it by 22,955. The current Fourth District is 40,556 below the ideal, while the Third and Fifth districts are respectively 22,535 and 18,360 below.

The board adopted the following criteria for the 2011 redistricting:

- Districts must be configured so that they are reasonably equal in total population based on data from the 2010 federal census, with deviations as close to zero as possible. In no event should the total deviation between the largest and the smallest district exceed three percent (3%).
- District borders shall be drawn in a manner that complies with Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act.

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- Each district shall consist of contiguous territory and be as compact as possible given the total criteria.
- Each district shall respect communities of interest to the degree possible given the total criteria.
- District borders shall follow visible natural and man-made geographical and topographical features to the degree possible given the total criteria.
- Each new district shall preserve the corresponding existing district's population and territory to the degree possible given the total criteria.
- It is understood that districts known to be areas of higher-than-average population growth in the years following redistricting may become under-populated over time.

The public is also encouraged to visit www.sbcounty.gov/redistrict for information about the process, data on the current districts and city populations, and eventually the various scenarios and proposals under consideration by the board.

The site includes a space for the public to make suggestions about redistricting, and a link to a special e-mail address to which the public can submit actual redistricting proposals.

The public can also "subscribe" to the website and receive e-mail updates when new information is placed on the site.