NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
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Redistricting website updated for Friday workshop

A county redistricting workshop slated for 2 p.m. Friday, June 17, will include an expert analysis of three redistricting discussion drafts, which can now be viewed on the county redistricting website at www.sbcounty.gov/redistrict.

Every 10 years following the U.S. Census, the board reviews, and if necessary, redraws the boundaries of the 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 discussion drafts are examples of how the five districts could contain nearly equal population and conform to other redistricting criteria. The maps have been certified by the county's redistricting consultant, National Demographics Corp., to comply with the Voting Rights Act as well as guidelines for population and communities of interest.

It is important to note that the discussion drafts are not proposals or recommendations for a final redistricting plan. They are computer-generated examples intended to spur the public discussion during Friday's workshop. NDC will present its findings and be on-hand to assist the public and the Board of Supervisors during Friday's workshop.

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The primary intent of Friday's workshop is providing the public with an opportunity to present ideas on how the county's five supervisorial districts should be redrawn. The workshop will be held in the Covington Chambers of the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino.

Members of the Board of Supervisors have encouraged the public to become involved in the process. The public is also encouraged to visit www.sbcounty.gov/redistrict for information about the process, data on the current districts and city populations, discussion drafts, 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.

The Board of Supervisors has adopted criteria that will guide the county through the redistricting process:

- 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.

- 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.