



redistricting team. Elections Code also allows for an independent redistricting commission, an advisory redistricting commission, or a hybrid of the two commissions. The terms and requirements for possible commissions are set forth in the Elections Code at sections 23000 to 23004.

### **Recommended Redistricting Process: Staff Redistricting Team**

On September 15, 2020, the Chief Administrative Office convened a "redistricting team" composed of the following members:

Chief Administrative Officer- Provides oversight and directs resources required by other team members, conducts public outreach efforts.

Surveyor - Facilitates the redistricting process by providing data analysis, preparation of map alternatives

County Counsel - Provides legal advice and assistance

Registrar of Voters - Provides procedural guidance, input and information.

### **Proposed Process**

The Redistricting Team recommends a process that meets the legal requirements and deadlines, while maximizing the use of mapping tools and public outreach. The proposal is as follows:

#### **1. Public Outreach**

A redistricting webpage will be established on the County's website as a way to provide up-to-date information including agendas, minutes, meeting announcements, press releases, maps, etc. Pursuant to Elections Code 21508, the web page shall include, or link to, all of the following information:

- (1) A general explanation of the redistricting process for the county, in English and applicable languages.
- (2) The procedures for a member of the public to testify during a public hearing or to submit written testimony directly to the board, in English and applicable languages.
- (3) A calendar of all public hearing and workshop dates, with the time and location of the public hearing or workshop.
- (4) The notice and agenda for each public hearing and workshop.
- (5) The recording or written summary of each public hearing and workshop.
- (6) Each draft map considered by the board at a public hearing.
- (7) The adopted final map of supervisorial district boundaries.

In addition, an e-mail address or comment form can be established to allow for public comments and questions. Parties will have the ability to subscribe to the webpage so that they receive an e-mail notification when new information is added to the webpage.

The Chief Administrative Office proposes to schedule at least four well-publicized public forums.



## Proposed Schedule

Due to impacted timelines, it will be important to keep to a schedule in order to meet the requirements of the Elections Code. The following is the proposed timeline:

March 2, 2021	- CAO Re-convened redistricting team (CAO, Surveyor, County Counsel, Registrar of Voters)
March 16, 2021	- Board Meeting to provide the Board information on the Redistricting Process
April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Census Bureau delivers data to be used for reapportioning districts in the U.S. House of Representatives to the president by April 30, 2021 (delayed 120 days from the December 31, 2020 Deadline, 13 U.S.C. § 141).</li><li>- Redistricting Team creates website and public outreach plan</li></ul>
May - September 2021	- 1st Public Hearing - PRE-DRAFT MAP. Public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of one or more supervisorial districts -- required before the Board draws a draft map (21507.1))
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2nd Public Hearing. A second hearing may be scheduled before the Board draws a draft map (21507.1))</li><li>- US Census Bureau to send data to be used by the states for redistricting to the states by September 30, 2021, delayed from the traditional date of March 31, 2021 (13 U.S.C. § 141).</li></ul>
October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Statewide database releases prison adjusted count, release of public participation tools (10/29/2021).</li><li>- Surveyor's Office to analyze data and develops 3-6 map alternatives</li><li>- Draft maps published for public review</li><li>- 3rd Public Hearing. Public is invited to provide input on the draft maps (one of the meetings to provide input on draft maps must be held on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6pm on a weekday (21507.1)).</li><li>- 4th Public Hearing Public is invited to provide input on the draft maps (one of the meetings to provide input on draft maps must be held on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6pm on a weekday (21507.1)).</li><li>- Map alternative adopted via ordinance.</li></ul>
Nov / December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Publish revised map (7 days prior to adoption)</li><li>- Board adopts new district boundaries by November 15, 2021 in order to meet the December 15, 2021 deadline ("Where a county has a regular election occurring after January 1, 2022, and before July 1, 2022," The Board must adopt district boundaries "not later than 174 days before that</li></ul>

election," (21501)).

June 7, 2022

- Primary Election

## **OTHER DEPARTMENT / AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

County Counsel, Surveyor, Registrar of Voters

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Board could choose to make changes to the timeline; however, the deadlines included above are requirements of Elections Code and must be met by the County. Any timeline would need to be closely adhered to in order to meet the deadlines.

### **Redistricting Commissions/Committees**

The Board could also choose to appoint an ad hoc committee to guide the redistricting team. Similar to other Ad Hoc committees, staff would recommend that the Board appoint two of its members to conduct meetings with staff and public meetings to solicit input.

Pursuant to Election Code § 23000, the Board could also choose to establish by resolution or ordinance an independent redistricting commission or an advisory redistricting commission composed of residents of the local jurisdiction to change the legislative body's district boundaries or to recommend to the legislative body changes to those district boundaries. The following are the committee/commission options:

*Independent Redistricting Commission.* Per the Elections Code, an independent commission must be open to all eligible residents, cannot be appointed by the Board and cannot be affiliated with or a contributor to any members of the Board. Its decision on the districts is binding and largely excludes Board input. The commission must be established by resolution or ordinance. This option would require substantial staff time, including for a recruitment process for the commission.

*Advisory Redistricting Commission.* An advisory redistricting commission is composed of County residents unaffiliated with the Board that would provide recommendations to the Board. The selection of members for either the Advisory Redistricting Commission can be done by either the Board of Supervisors or County staff. This option could be arranged similarly to other commissions that are advisory to the Board, however, involving a commission as well as the Board could result in disagreement on map alternatives and has the potential of delaying decision making.

### *Hybrid*

A hybrid redistricting commission blends the two commissions and would result in the commission recommending to the Board two or more boundary maps, with the Board being required to adopt one of the maps without modification. This alternative would retain final decision making at the Board level, while delegating preliminary decision-making to the advisory body.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no direct financial impact associated with this item. The process will involve a substantial amount of staff time, however, no additional resources are anticipated.

