

**Mendocino County  
Advisory Redistricting Commission  
October 26, 2021  
Update for the Board of Supervisors**



**Presented By:**

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# Redistricting Timeline

September 1	First Public Meeting of ARC/Training
September 7	ARC Public Workshop
September 14	BOS Redistricting Hearing #1/ joined by ARC
September 30	ARC Public Workshop
October 7	ARC Public Workshop
October 12	ARC Public Workshop - Release and Review of Official Redistricting Data
October 20	ARC Public Workshop – Review first draft maps from public input for compliance with redistricting criteria and live line drawing discussions
October 26	BOS Redistricting Hearing #2/ joined by ARC
October 27	ARC Public Workshop – Review additional maps from public input for compliance with redistricting criteria and live line drawing discussions
October 29	<i>potential deadline to receive public's draft maps</i>
November 3	ARC Public Workshop – ARC to narrow 2-4 draft maps for BOS
November 4	<i>Staff to publish 2-4 draft maps</i>
November 9	BOS Redistricting Hearing #3/ / joined by ARC – present draft maps & BOS to identify preferred map
November 11	<i>Deadline to Publish Final Map to be considered by BOS (7 days before)</i>
November 18	Special BOS Redistricting Hearing #4 / joined by ARC BOS to approve final map
December 7	BOS Redistricting Hearing #5 – Introduce Ordinance
December 14	BOS Redistricting Hearing – 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading Ordinance Adopting Final Maps

# Summary of ARC Hearings

- ▶ ARC has held 7 public workshops since established by the BOS (meeting every week since September 30, 2021)
- ▶ The Official State adjusted P.L. 94-171 Decennial 2020 Census data was released in October, 2021 (with required one week waiting period for drafting maps)
- ▶ October 12 – ARC reviewed existing districts for equal population based on the official census data
- ▶ October 15 – Staff published initial draft maps submitted by the public
- ▶ October 20 - ARC considered the Draft Maps 1-4 for compliance with redistricting criteria and in consideration of evolving public comment including communities of interest
- ▶ October 21-22 – Staff to publish additional draft maps received by public and revisions to map(s) discussed by ARC
- ▶ **October 27 – Next ARC public workshop (tomorrow evening) 6:15 p.m.**



# Required Redistricting Criteria

**Equal Population** Apportionment according to population is required by the US constitution and State law for supervisorial redistricting.

One Person-One Vote: The United States Constitution guarantees the right to vote and that every vote be weighted equally.

14<sup>th</sup> Amendment – "The Equal Protection Clause demands no less than substantially equal state legislative representation for all citizens, of all places, as well as of all races." – (*Reynolds v. Sims* (1964) 377 U.S. 533, 568)

California Election Code section 21500(a) . . .the board shall adopt boundaries for all of the supervisorial districts of the county so that **the supervisorial districts shall be substantially equal in population as required by the United States Constitution.**

The U.S. Supreme Court recognizes minor deviation from equal population may be necessary to permit other legitimate objectives and has found that, as a general matter, **a plan with a maximum population deviation under 10% falls within the category of minor deviations from the one-person, one-vote principle.** (*Brown v. Thompson* (1983) 462 U.S. 835, 842-843).

**Current maps indicate 14.7% deviation between least populated district (D4) and most populated district (D3)**



# Required Redistricting Criteria

**Federal Voting Rights Act** – Prohibits district plans which dilute racial and language minority voting rights by denying them an equal opportunity to nominate and elect candidates of their choice.

California Election Code section 21500(b) The board shall adopt supervisorial district boundaries that comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

**Is there a large and geographically compact minority population in the County that might constitute a majority\* in a single member district (greater than 50%)?**

If YES then must prevent packing and cracking and create majority-minority districts to allow minority population(s) to elect their preferred candidate

If NO, may not consider race/ethnicity as predominant factor to draw lines

\* Must consider citizen voting age minority populations

**Mendocino County does not have a large, geographically compact minority population that could comprise more than 50% of any one district.**



# Ranked State Criteria

California Election Code Section 21500(c)(1)-(5) The BOS shall adopt supervisorial district boundaries using the following criteria in the following order of priority:

1. **Geographically Contiguous:** Keeping districts from jumping around and prohibiting “point” contiguity
2. **Minimize Division of Local Neighborhoods and Communities of Interest** “A population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.” COI’s do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates Elec. Code 21500(c)(2)
3. **Geographic Integrity of Cities and CDPs**
4. **Easily Identifiable Boundaries:** Natural or Artificial
5. **Geographic Compactness:** trying to maintain areas so not bypassing nearby populated areas in favor of more distant areas

**Prohibited from considering Political Parties.** Elec. Code 21500(d)





# Community Outreach

- ▶ Staff has conducted ongoing and extensive community and public outreach to encourage public participation
  - ▶ Outreach to media organizations including those that serve language minority communities
  - ▶ PSAs, newspaper and e-notifications
- ▶ ARC created Ad Hoc on community outreach
- ▶ Commissioners conduct individual outreach and report back to the ARC regarding all efforts such as discussions with community leaders, civic organizations, radio station outreach, and attending community meetings and MACs

# Next Steps

- ▶ Continued review of maps for compliance with required redistricting criteria [presentation of maps led by GIS Administrator Leif Farr]
- ▶ 2 more ARC Public Workshops for refining maps and identified 2-4 maps for presentation to BOS on November 9
- ▶ BOS to identify preferred map at November 9, 2021 meeting