



October 26, 2021

Matthew H. Hymel
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Daniel Eilerman
ASSISTANT COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR

Angela Nicholson
ASSISTANT COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR

Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 325
San Rafael, CA 94903
415 473 6358 T
415 473 4104 F
CRS Dial 711
www.marincounty.org/cao

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Second public hearing to solicit testimony to inform the supervisorial redistricting process, especially communities of interest, and for the Board to instruct the demographic consultant to prepare draft district plans incorporating input and testimony in connection with the redistricting of supervisorial boundaries.

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Conduct second public hearing to receive testimony informing the redistricting process, identify communities of interest, and instruct demographic consultant to prepare draft district plans.

SUMMARY

On October 12, your Board conducted the first public hearing in a series of four for the decennial supervisorial redistricting process as required by the FAIR MAPS Act ([Elections Code sections 21500-21509](#)). The purpose of the hearing was to solicit feedback regarding the current district boundaries and considerations that should be taken into account in redrawing the lines to ensure effective and fair representation.

The purpose of today's second public hearing is to receive further input from the public regarding the current district boundaries and considerations, and then for the Board to provide final direction to the County's demographer consultant, National Demographics Corporation (NDC), as it prepares draft maps for the November 9 public hearing. All input received throughout this year's redistricting process will be considered by staff and consultants for discussion and presentation to your Board, with district map alternatives proposed in the context of all of [the criteria](#) set forth in the FAIR MAPS Act.

We invite the public to visit www.redistrictmarin.org for information regarding the process, a calendar of events through December, links to online mapping tools, and additional information.

Current Districts are Population Balanced

The official adjusted 2020 population of Marin County is 258,553. The County's demographic consultants, NDC, analyzed the adjusted population data and found that the current supervisorial districts are population balanced with a total deviation of 9.18 percent. Primarily due to the exclusion of the San Quentin population, current District 4 (-6.63 percent) is significantly underpopulated relative to the remaining districts, while Districts 1 (2.49 percent) and 2 (2.55 percent) are the most overpopulated. Total deviations up to a maximum of 10 percent are considered legally permissible provided the districts comply with the other criteria set forth in the FAIR MAPS Act. Please refer to the table below:

District	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Total Population	53,001	53,029	52,300	48,283	51,940	258,553
Deviation from ideal	1,290	1,318	589	-3,428	229	4,746
% Deviation	2.49%	2.55%	1.14%	-6.63%	0.44%	9.18%
% Hispanic	18.6%	13%	7%	31%	26%	19%
% NH White	65%	75%	76%	58%	58%	67%
% NH Black	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%
% Asian-American	10%	7%	10%	7%	9%	9%

Testimony Received to Date

Public testimony received [October 12](#) included a clear interest in Spanish-speaking communities in Marin, ensuring their fair representation, focusing particularly on the Canal area of San Rafael and similar Spanish-speaking communities in Marin with renters in multi-family housing, higher levels of immigrants, and lower household incomes.

Written community input received as of October 19 is included in Attachment A. At a summary level, submitted input thus far has focused on the following areas for consideration:

- Consider moving West Novato into District 5 and the Indian Valley neighborhood into District 4;
- Consider moving the Homestead Valley and surrounding unincorporated areas around Mill Valley into District 3;
- Consider moving the San Rafael District 2 portion into District 1, resulting in San Rafael being represented by either District 1 or District 4; and
- Consider adjusting the district lines around Central San Rafael so that one district includes the Canal neighborhood and surrounding area which has a concentration of Spanish-speaking communities.

Several members of the public more specifically requested ensuring that parts of some neighborhoods in or around San Rafael could be incorporated into one district to enhance the representation of Spanish-speaking residents in the Canal area. These specific neighborhoods included:

- The Lincoln Avenue Corridor;
- Portions of the Bret Harte and California Park neighborhoods; and
- The Montecito/Happy Valley area.

Public Outreach and Identifying Communities of Interest

Throughout the summer, staff has conducted outreach to raise awareness and encourage participation in the redistricting process. Outreach materials are designed in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese and are shared on the County’s social media pages. E-mail updates are sent regularly to community organizations that were partners in the Census count efforts, and over 900 individual subscribers to the Redistrict Marin subscription list.

In addition to attending one of the four public hearings to provide comments, the public can also help the County identify communities of interest by providing written comments by e-mail, or by using the online mapping tools available on the County’s redistricting website, www.redistrictmarin.org. All public comments and draft maps received are posted on the Redistrict Marin website.

Equity Impact

Redistricting is based on the idea of fair representation and the redistricting process allows the public to influence how communities are grouped together for the purposes of electing County Supervisors. Marin has historically been a slow-growth county with relatively small population changes. A preliminary review with our experts indicates that current boundaries are likely to meet all requirements that protect minority voting rights. Despite compliance with legal deviation standards, staff has continued to lead a robust outreach effort to receive public feedback, and NDC will consider all public input in the proposed adjusted supervisorial maps.

To support the public process, we have formed a diverse ad hoc working group to help ensure a thorough process, in concert with County staff and contracted legal and demographic expertise, to assure equal representation in compliance with the constitutional “one person, one-vote” principle and the Voting Rights Act.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this informational report. Staff will continue to report back to your Board as the 2021 redistricting process takes shape in the coming weeks.

Submitted by:



Anna Guiles
Strategic Projects Manager

Reviewed by:



Daniel Eilerman
Assistant County Administrator

Attachments: Attachment A – Written Community Input