



REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Learn more about the redistricting process in Oakland.

What is Redistricting?

Redistricting is the process of drawing new boundaries for congressional, state and local districts. Redistricting occurs every 10 years, after the completion of the U.S. Census. The Oakland Redistricting Commission will redraw the boundaries for the City Council and Oakland Unified School Board districts. The California Citizens Redistricting Commission is responsible for congressional and state districts.

When was the Oakland Redistricting Commission formed?

In 2014, Oaklanders overwhelmingly voted for Measure DD, which created a new independent and non-politically affiliated Oakland Redistricting Commission. This measure removed and prevents elected officials from participating in the city's redistricting process.

The inaugural Oakland Redistricting Commission was formed in September 2020 and meets regularly on the **second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm.**

Who serves on the Oakland Redistricting Commission?

Fifteen community members serve on the Oakland Redistricting Commission. The Commissioners represent each of the city's districts and have been Oakland residents for at least three years. All Commissioners applied and were screened by a panel through an open and transparent process.

Commissioner bios and application materials are available on the Commission's website:

oaklandca.gov/redistricting

WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO OAKLANDERS?

This is the first community led redistricting process for Oakland. The purpose of the Commission is to redraw the districts' boundaries without bias or discrimination, whether for or against, any incumbent, candidate, political party or demographic in the city's population. The outcome of the redistricting process is a redrawn map of the city that represents equal and equitable representation for all Oaklanders.

The redrawn districts have direct consequences for communities' access to political power through elections, government policies and city laws. Elected officials propose and adopt policies and laws that may impact communities for the next 10 years, until the next census, or beyond.

What are the legal requirements for redistricting in Oakland?

The new districts will comply with all federal, state and local laws, have reasonably equal populations across districts and be geographically contiguous. The Commission will respect neighborhoods and communities of interest, and will not consider home addresses of current elected officials or future candidates for office in the maps. The Commission may also establish additional criteria in how it prioritizes its work.

How long will Redistricting take and what's involved?

The redistricting process officially started in October 2020, when the Commission met for the first time. The final redrawn district maps must be approved by December 31, 2021. This will ensure the new district boundaries are in place before the 2022 Oakland elections. The Commission will use 2020 U.S. Census data to determine the new maps.

The Commission will receive the final census numbers in mid-2021 indicating the current demographics and changes to Oakland's population. In early 2021, the Commission will select a consultant to assist their work.

The public will have full access to maps produced and under the Commission's review in a manner designed to achieve the widest public input and feedback as possible. Public comment will be offered in multiple formats and Commission meetings will include a variety of hours. All potential maps will be made available for public comment for a minimum of 14 days prior to the Commission voting on the proposal.

How will the Redistricting Commission engage with the public?

The Commission will hold an open process for receiving public input and deliberation. It will be promoted through an extensive outreach program to solicit broad public participation. This includes engaging with the public prior to any maps are drawn, along with receiving critical feedback on draft maps as they are developed.

Data alone does not explain Oakland. Therefore, the redistricting process relies heavily on public engagement, which is essential for understanding and identifying Oakland's diverse communities. In preparation for their public service, the Commissioners are trained to complete this work in an open and transparent process as the voters intended.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Redistricting Commission invites you to attend the monthly meetings and any special meetings of the Commission. All meetings are open to the public with schedules, notices and agendas posted on the Commission's website.

oaklandca.gov/redistricting



JOIN OUR MEETINGS

2nd Wednesdays of the month at 5pm

Except on City or federal holidays.