

Newsletter Announcements

Oakland Redistricts in 2021 (Brief)

In 2014, Oakland voters overwhelmingly decided that citywide redistricting should be led by an independent commission rather than the City Council. The ballot measure proposed to have the process unbiased, apolitical, focused on keeping communities of interest together, and respecting neighborhoods and natural boundaries. The first Oakland Redistricting Commission was formed in 2020 and is required to have new district maps drawn by the end of 2021. Now is your chance to influence decisions and provide comments on the new district boundaries for the City of Oakland. To find out how you can get involved, visit www.oaklandca.gov/redistricting.

Oakland Redistricts in 2021 (Brief v2)

In 2014, Oakland voters overwhelmingly decided that citywide redistricting should be led by an independent commission rather than the City Council. In 2020, the Oakland Redistricting Commission was formed. In 2021, Oakland's city council and school board districts will be redrawn to reflect the changes in population, based on the latest U.S. census data. The Redistricting Commission is required to complete and approve the new Oakland District Map by the end of 2021.

The Oakland Redistricting Commission is leading the redistricting process with the goal to produce a new district map that values equity and fairness for all Oaklanders. The Commission must follow the California and federal Voting Rights Acts, which require keeping Communities of Interest (COI) together, and drawing districts that are equal in population and geographically contiguous. A Community of Interest (COI) is a community that shares common interests, such as social, cultural, and economic interests. Identifying your COI in Oakland is the key building block for drawing new district boundaries. The Oakland Redistricting Commission invites all Oaklanders to participate in the redistricting process.

Public hearings will be held on August 11, September 8, October 13, and November 10. Additional public hearings and workshops may be added by the Commission and will be announced on the City's website. The public hearings and workshops will provide the greatest opportunities for Oaklanders to participate in the redistricting process. Now is your chance to get directly involved in shaping the future for your community, your district and your city. To sign up for meeting updates and describe your Community of Interest, visit www.oaklandca.gov/redistricting.

Oakland Redistricting Commission Newsletter Copy:

Title: Oakland Redistricts in 2021

In 2014, Oakland voters overwhelmingly decided that citywide redistricting should be led by an independent commission rather than the City Council. In 2020, Oakland's first independent Redistricting Commission was formed. In 2021, Oakland's city council and school board districts will be redrawn to reflect the changes in population, based on the latest U.S. census data. This process occurs once every 10 years. Prior to 2021, the city council members drew our district maps based on their interests and priorities. Oakland's inaugural, all volunteer, independent Redistricting Commission is leading a community-led process that focuses on the interests and priorities of Oaklanders.

The Oakland Redistricting Commission is championing an apolitical and transparent redistricting process with the goal to produce a city district map that values equity and fairness for all Oaklanders. The Commission must follow the California and federal Voting Rights Acts, which require keeping Communities of Interest (COI) together, and drawing districts that are equal in population and geographically contiguous. A fair and equitable district map respects communities and neighborhoods, geographic and natural boundaries, and makes sense to voters.

A Community of Interest (COI) is a community that shares common interests, such as social, cultural, and economic interests. For example, people who share similar living standards, go to the same school, use the same transportation, have similar work opportunities and/or have the same access to media all belong to a Community of Interest (COI). People can belong to multiple COI's, which are not the same as a district. Identifying your COI in Oakland is the key building block for drawing new district boundaries.

Redistricting is important because it will determine in which City Council and School Board District you will reside. Your candidates for city government and the school board are determined by the district you live in. Redistricting has direct consequences for a community's access to political power through elections, government policies and city laws. It can make the difference between empowering and maximizing voters' voices or minimizing and muting those voices.

The Redistricting Commission is required to complete and approve the new Oakland District Map by the end of 2021. Public hearings will be held on August 11, September 8, October 13, and November 10. Additional public hearings and workshops may be added by the Commission and will be announced on the City's website. The calendar for the Commission's public hearings and regular monthly meetings is available on the Commission's website. The public hearings and workshops will provide the greatest opportunities for Oaklanders to participate in the redistricting process.

Now is your chance to get directly involved in shaping the future for your community, your district and your city. To sign up for meeting updates and describe your Community of Interest, visit www.oaklandca.gov/redistricting.