



Sierra Joint Community College District Introduction to Districting

September 14, 2021

Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From District” or “Residence” Districts
3. “By District”

**The California Voting Rights Act
was written to specifically
encourage by-district elections.**

Schedule

Step	Description
Census Data Release August 12	Census Bureau releases official 2020 Census population data.
Two Initial Hearings Sept. 14 & Oct. 12	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the communities in the Districts.
California Data Release September 20	California Statewide Database releases California's official 'prisoner-adjusted' 2020 redistricting data.
Two Draft Map Hearings Jan. 11 & Feb. 8, 2022	Two Public Hearings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Map Adoption Feb. 22, 2022	Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption. Map adopted via ordinance.

Redistricting Laws & Principles

Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



Traditional Redistricting Principles

Communities of interest
Compact
Contiguous
Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
Planned future growth

“Communities of Interest”

Under the California Elections Code, “community of interest” has a very specific definition in the context of districting and redistricting cities and counties:

A “community of interest” is 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.

Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.