



April 5, 2021

Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Sent via email

Re: 2021 Redistricting Process

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

As we know, every ten years after the completion of the U.S. Census, all local jurisdictions in California are required to redraw their boundaries to reflect new population counts and ensure compliance with state and federal law.

There are many changes and new rules for California's local agencies in the redistricting process this time around. Because of delays related to COVID-19, data won't be available until September 30. Because of the delays caused by the pandemic, the California Legislature passed AB1276 last year, extending the local redistricting timeline, as well as adding further requirements to the local redistricting.

The intent of the Fair Maps Act passed in 2019 is to create standardized redistricting criteria to better keep communities together and prevent partisan gerrymandering. The law also requires local agencies to hold public hearings on redistricting and alters the redistricting timeline to allow more opportunities for public participation in the map drawing process.

We respectfully request that your future agendas include at least one public work session on the 2021 redistricting process, to gather and utilize public input on your proposed process and the selection of a proposed consultant prior to their engagement by the County. We also look forward to the Board providing the opportunity for community members to define their own communities of interest, so the Board can consider those resident-identified parameters once Census data becomes available.

Attached is a proposed resolution that articulates a fair and inclusive redistricting process, built on best practices and state law (including AB 849 & AB 1276). We look forward to these provisions being included in your redistricting plan.

We stand ready to assist you as you carry out your responsibilities. Due to circumstances related to the pandemic, the time to launch that process is now.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Kast".

Marianne Kast, President
League of Women Voters of Fresno County

Attachment: Resolution Calling for A Fair And Inclusive Redistricting Process

1345 BULLDOG LANE FRESNO 93710 LWVFRESNO.REDISTRICTING@GMAIL.COM (559)226-8384



Resolution Calling For A Fair And Inclusive Redistricting Process for Fresno County

Whereas, Fresno County Supervisorial District boundaries must be redrawn in 2021 for the next 10 years, determining how communities are represented, address issues of common interest, and which neighborhoods are divided or consolidated; and in the past, there have been few requirements that redistricting be fair, transparent, and engage marginalized communities; and

Whereas, robust, safe, inclusive community engagement to develop district maps requires time and resources to ensure digital access, diverse schedules, translation services, meeting notice, and other requirements identified by best practices and AB 849 and 1276 (Bonta).

Therefore, Be it Resolved that League of Women Voters of Fresno County urges the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to allocate adequate resources and provide policy direction to ensure an equitable and transparent redistricting process consistent with AB 849 and AB 1276 and the best practice guide of the Asian Americans Advancing Justice–Asian Law Caucus [Guide to Best Practices in Districting](#). Specifically, we expect that the 2021 Fresno County redistricting process will achieve the following goals:

1. Protect and maintain communities of interest;
2. Include at least one public hearing regarding the proposed consultant who will develop the map(s);
3. Include at least one public hearing regarding the proposed outreach plan for the redistricting process;
4. Ensure the consulting firm and redistricting process as a whole offers accessible online and in person opportunities to provide input regarding communities of interest, impact of proposed lines, and other comments, questions, concerns, and ideas related to the proposed maps;
5. Include accessibility approaches that remove physical, technological, language, and other barriers to public participation including work schedules and family commitments;
6. Leverage the trusted messengers and communities of interest infrastructure put in place to ensure a complete census count, including engaging community volunteers;
7. Include meetings before and after proposed maps are created and at least two other methods/opportunities for engagement accessible for each of the five districts;
8. Leverage the Municipal Advisory Councils, Interfaith Networks, and other existing network/neighborhood infrastructure to communicate the importance of and opportunity to participate in the redistricting process;
9. Provide adequate funding and personnel to accomplish these goals in partnership with community volunteers; and
10. Provide meeting notices at least two weeks in advance, including notices of applicable Supervisor and Committee meetings.