

News from: Office of the City Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City to Host Meetings on Proposed Council Redistricting Maps to Gather Public Input

Citizen Input will Help Shape Council Districts



City of
OAKLAND
California

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Oakland, CA — The City of Oakland continues the decennial Redistricting process with four additional meetings in September to gather public input on the maps submitted by the public and those crafted by the Redistricting vendor. The input will help further refine the maps prior to presentation to the Oakland City Council in October.

As mandated by the City Charter, every 10 years the City of Oakland must review and revise City Council District boundaries to equalize each district's population according to U.S. Census data. Based on the 2010 Census, each district should have roughly 55,800 residents. Actual population counts among the current districts range from 12 percent over to 7.4 percent under this population target.

In addition to balancing resident population levels, Redistricting must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights Act, respect communities of interest, create contiguous districts that are reasonably compact, follow visible natural and man-made geographical and topographical features as much as possible and avoid displacing any incumbent City Councilmember or Oakland Unified School District Board member from the district he/she was elected to represent.

Participating in the Redistricting Town Hall Meetings gives the public an opportunity to voice concerns and suggestions, which is critical to ensuring that they have equal access to the political process. Public involvement can also help lead to the adoption of Redistricting plans that provide communities of interest a meaningful opportunity to elect candidates who represent their interests on issues that are important to their lives.

The four upcoming Redistricting Town Hall Meetings provide Oakland residents with an opportunity to comment and provide input on District borders drawn on the submitted maps. The dates and locations for the upcoming Redistricting Town Hall Meetings are:

- **Thursday, September 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**
Cesar Chavez Education Center, 2825 International Boulevard
Interpretation in Spanish will be provided.
- **Saturday, September 7, 10 a.m. - noon**
Frick Middle School, 2845 64th Avenue
- **Saturday, September 7, 2 - 4 p.m.**
Oakland Public Library, Main Library Auditorium, 125 14th Street
Interpretation in Cantonese and Vietnamese will be provided.
- **Sunday, September 8, 3 - 5 p.m.**
Claremont Middle School, 5750 College Avenue

Every meeting is open to all interested parties and members of the Oakland community regardless of which Council District people live in. Visit <http://mapgis.oaklandnet.com/councildistricts> for a map of Council Districts and locator tool.

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Simultaneous interpretation in Cantonese, Spanish and Vietnamese will be provided as noted. To request interpretation services in other languages, please contact Silvia San Miguel, at least five business days prior to the meeting date, at (510) 238-6448 or ssanmiguel@oaklandnet.com.

To request a sign language interpreter or any other disability accommodation, please contact Devan Reiff at (510) 238-3550, TTY: (510) 238-3254 or dreiff@oaklandnet.com at least three business days in advance. Please refrain from wearing scented products to these meetings. All meeting locations are wheelchair accessible.

For those unable to attend one of the above meetings, the City is offering a variety of other engagement and feedback opportunities including:

- Using the interactive mapping software at <http://www.onlineredistricting.com/Oakland2/redist/>
- Visiting the City's newly launched open data platform, <http://data.oaklandnet.com>, to explore and visualize population data
- Engaging in the discussion online at <http://www.EngageOakland.com>
- Emailing suggestions and comments to strategicplanning@oaklandnet.com
- Leaving a voice message on the Redistricting hotline at (510) 238-3079

The public may continue to submit maps, comments and input throughout the Redistricting process. In October, the City Council will begin holding public hearings to deliberate on the proposed Redistricting maps that result from the Town Hall Meetings. Final selection of the Council District boundaries by City Council is anticipated in November.

For more information on Oakland's Redistricting process including the submitted maps, relevant legislation, upcoming Council meeting dates and more, visit www.oaklandnet.com/redistricting.

Background

At its meeting on Tuesday, June 4, the Oakland City Council provided specific direction to City staff and established the criteria to be used in reviewing the Council District boundaries. (To view the reports, resolution and video of the meeting, please visit <http://bit.ly/103avDM>.)

The Oakland City Council Districts also serve as the districts for the Governing Board for the Oakland Unified School District, commonly called the Board of Education. Any changes made to the Council Districts will also change the boundaries for the areas represented by the elected members of the Board of Education. However, boundary changes will not impact school enrollment choices.

Three meetings held in July began the public engagement process by explaining the need for Redistricting and outlining how the public could become involved. Ten maps generated by members of the public had been submitted by the August 16 deadline. Additionally, more than 1,100 views, a dozen ideas and 70 online interactions were recorded for the Redistricting topic on www.EngageOakland.com.

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