Post-2020 Census Redistricting: Orientation

MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AUGUST 11, 2021
1990-present: LGDR helped Monterey County jurisdictions district and redistrict, with the help and support of the Monterey County Office of School District Organization, under the direction of Dr. Ray Charlson.

Helped the County Office of Education transition from at-large to by-district trustee elections in 1992, and helped redistrict after 2000 and 2010.

LGDR is currently providing redistricting services to school districts through the County Office of Education.
Agenda

- What is redistricting?
- Why redistrict?
- Current MCBOE Trustee Areas
- Legal requirements (that demographers follow)
- Identifying communities of interest
- Timeline
What is Redistricting?

Every 10 years, school districts that elect boards by Trustee Area must redistrict (adjust Trustee Area boundaries to have equal total populations)

Federal and state laws apply

Each board must adopt new Trustee Area boundaries before March 1, 2022 (by law)

The new Trustee Areas will be used until after Census 2030

Current Trustees complete their terms of office even if they no longer live in the Trustee Area they were elected to represent
Current Trustee Areas

Satellite View
Legal guidelines that demographers follow:

✓ Federal law:
  • Population equality
  • Voting Rights Act

✓ State Education Code

✓ Optional: New state laws
  • Criteria to use
  • Public outreach
Federal Legal guidelines

1. Population equality

2. Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act: gives protected groups the opportunity to elect candidates of choice

U.S. Supreme Court decisions (Shaw v. Reno (1993) and others) say that under most circumstances, race cannot be the “predominant” factor in (re)districting.
Legal guidelines that demographers follow:
When is redistricting necessary?

Redistricting **IS** required if Trustee Areas no longer have equal populations

Redistricting is **NOT** required if Trustee Area populations are (almost) equal using 2020 Census data
Voting Rights Act: No Cracking

District 1

Minority Voters

District 2

District 3

District 4
Voting Rights Act: No Packing

District 1

District 2

Minority Voters

District 3

District 4
Existing State Law for school districts

California’s Education Code says the following criteria may be taken into account. No order of priority is given.

“…give consideration to the following factors:

(1) Topography

(2) Geography

(3) Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory

(4) Community of interests of the trustee areas”
California’s FAIR MAPS Act (AB 849, 2019) applies to cities and counties only but suggests best practices for school districts. Law lists criteria, in order of priority, that should/should not be used during plan drawing.

1. Federal Law
2. Geographically contiguous
3. Geographic integrity of communities of interest (especially do not split communities of protected groups)
4. Geographic integrity of cities and unincorporated communities
5. Easily identifiable and understood boundaries
6. Geographic compactness
7. NO political party considerations
Optional State Law (continued)

FAIR MAPS Act (AB 849, 2019) also requires that cities and counties have public outreach and participation:

1. Hold at least 4 public hearings, with specific protocols
   a) Set starting time for meetings/hearings on redistricting

2. Take steps to encourage residents of the jurisdiction to participate in the redistricting process
   ▪ Redistricting website
   ▪ Translation services
   ▪ Other outreach
Communities of Interest (COIs) - Examples

COIs are contiguous areas where people share common social and economic interests and should be in a single Trustee Area or be considered when drawing Trustee Area boundaries:

- COI can be individual school districts
- Recognized neighborhoods
- Cities and unincorporated communities
- Areas with similar living standards, including similar income and educational levels
1. All redistricting criteria can rarely (if ever) be optimized simultaneously.

2. We recognize tradeoffs when comparing scenarios and give impartial evaluations.
Draft Timeline

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 2021</td>
<td>MCBOE decides if they want an Advisory Commission (previously called “Monterey County Community Trustee Area Task Force”)</td>
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<td>August 16, 2021</td>
<td>Census data released</td>
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<td>September 23, 2021</td>
<td>Official adjusted data released by Statewide Database</td>
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<td>Mid- October 2021*</td>
<td>Demographers report to staff whether boundaries need to be adjusted. If not, LGDR documents this. If redistricting is needed, the process continues.</td>
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<td>Nov. 2021 – Feb. 2022</td>
<td>Draft plans are presented to Board/Commission. Continue revising maps until a consensus is reached and/or no new plans are needed.</td>
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<td>Before March 1, 2022</td>
<td>Board of Trustees adopts a new districting plan.</td>
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*If desired, we could start the process in early January, after the holidays.*
Next Steps:

1. Decide whether to have Advisory Redistricting Commission: if so, select commissioners

2. MCBOE staff schedules public meetings on the redistricting process and publicizes them on the redistricting website page
Questions about redistricting?