



OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

COUNTY OF KINGS
GOVERNMENT CENTER

LARRY SPIKES
INTERIM COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER

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County of Kings Media Contact: Kyria Martinez

Kyria.martinez@co.kings.ca.us

(559) 852-2377

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Kings County residents have a multitude of tools and feedback mechanisms available to them that will help shape the County's supervisorial districts. Redistricting is different from most issues that come up in County government. Instead of residents being limited to saying they support or oppose a County-prepared ordinance or resolution, they can draw a map themselves.

The way supervisorial districts are drawn determines how effectively a community is represented in the halls of government because the new election lines determine which communities are placed in each supervisorial district, and voters within each district will elect one of their own as County Supervisor. Therefore, Kings County is seeking input on creating and selecting the next district map for its five supervisorial districts.

Understanding that individuals process information differently and have various comfort levels with technical applications, the County is offering residents different mapping tools to both gain insights about the County and draw new maps for consideration. These include:

- Paper maps with population counts that can be printed, drawn on and submitted to the County via email at redistricting@co.kings.ca.us or mail to 1400 W. Lacey Blvd. Law Bldg. #4, Hanford CA 93230.
- A simple online map drawing tool called DistrictR which will enable residents to digitally draw neighborhoods or communities of interest on top of a Kings County map.
- Caliper's Maptitude Online Redistricting mapping tool where maps can be drawn census block by census block and submitted electronically.
- An interactive review map, similar to Google maps, where residents can explore population numbers and other statistics, as well as view and analyze draft maps once they are available.
- Story Map, which utilizes an interactive "storytelling" format so that residents can learn more about their community through geographic, demographic and other data.

These mapping tools have been added to the County's redistricting website at redistrictkings.com/draw-a-map/ so residents can access and provide detailed feedback at their convenience. While residents are encouraged to start drawing preliminary maps now, all maps drawn prior to the release of the new California adjusted Census data will provide initial insights and be considered "play data." The mapping tools will be updated with the new Census data once it becomes available in the fall. Residents can submit as many maps as they would like throughout the entire redistricting process.

In addition to submitting maps, community members can also participate and provide feedback during upcoming public hearings hosted by the County's Board of Supervisors. The County invites the community to participate in its next public hearing on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 10 a.m. Residents can participate in the hearing in-person at the Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA, virtually via WebEx ([English link](#) / [Spanish link](#)) or watch the hearing on YouTube ([English link](#) / [Spanish link](#)).

At the public hearing, residents will have an opportunity to provide input on communities of interest and share how they think district boundaries should be drawn to best represent their community. In addition, they will receive a redistricting overview and learn more about the mapping tools.

Meeting information, such as meeting links and agendas, will be available on the County's dedicated redistricting website at redistrictkings.com. The website also includes a variety of resources including meeting recordings, background information on redistricting, a tentative schedule of participation opportunities, frequently asked questions and resources for drafting maps and sharing feedback on previously drawn maps.

To stay up to date on the redistricting process, follow the County's dedicated social media sites: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#).