

## OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

COUNTY OF KINGS GOVERNMENT CENTER Edward D. Hill COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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## -FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Kings County is entering into the final weeks of its redistricting process which, upon completion, will determine how voters are represented on the Kings County Board of Supervisors for the next 10 years. Community members do, however, still have opportunities to provide feedback on draft maps, including at a public hearing scheduled for <u>November 16 at 6:30 p.m.</u> which was recently added to the calendar at the request of the Board.

Similar to previous hearings, next week's redistricting hearing can be attended in-person at the Board Chambers (1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford) or virtually via WebEx (<u>English link</u> / <u>Spanish link</u>). Community members who wish to tune in to the hearing without the ability to comment can also watch the live stream on YouTube (<u>English link</u> / <u>Spanish link</u>). During this hearing, the County's demographer will present additional map options based on the direction given by the Board during the November 3 hearing, as well as share new maps that were submitted by November 8 from the Kings County community.

It is important to note that any changes requested to one part of a district map, whether requested by a member of the public or Board, often requires additional changes elsewhere to make sure maps are population balanced as required by federal law. Population-balanced maps help to ensure diverse communities are fairly represented and have a voice at the decision-making table through equal representation. These new election lines will ultimately determine who represents you and your neighbors on the Kings County Board of Supervisors by determining which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district.

Should things progress as planned, the Board will review new map options, revised draft maps, receive public input and continue to narrow down focus maps during the November 16 hearing. Residents are still able to submit maps for the Board's consideration through November 22 at 5 p.m. These maps would then be reviewed by the Board during the December 7 redistricting hearing, where it is anticipated that the Board will select a preferred map and introduce a resolution to adopt that map. Based on a statutory deadline, a new Kings County supervisorial district map must be adopted by December 15. The new map and election sequencing would then go into effect for the county's next election cycle.

The hearing materials, draft maps, virtual meeting links, past meeting recordings, additional redistricting resources and more can be accessed through Kings County's redistricting webpage, <u>redistrictkings.com</u>.