

## OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

## COUNTY OF KINGS GOVERNMENT CENTER

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## -FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

The Kings County Board of Supervisors will hold its sixth redistricting hearing on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>December 7</u>, <u>2021 at 10 a.m.</u> to identify and adopt a preferred supervisorial district map. Community members are encouraged to participate in the hearing, which can be attended virtually or in-person, to provide feedback to the Board on a preferred map since the way supervisorial districts are drawn determines how a community is represented in the halls of government.

During the fourth and fifth public hearings in November, the Board of Supervisors went through two rounds of map discussions, covering 21 draft district maps. The Board of Supervisors reviewed and discussed each of these maps using the <u>interactive review map</u> and directed the County's demographer to make adjustments to some of these maps, resulting in two focus maps – <u>Public 101</u> and <u>Public 113b</u>. These adjusted focus maps, as well as additional draft maps that were submitted by the deadline, will be brought back to the Board for consideration at the December 7, 2021 public hearing with the ultimate goal of selecting a final map for adoption. The focus maps and all draft maps are available on the redistricting website for the public's consideration and feedback.

The final public hearing will be held at the Board Chambers (1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford) and will follow COVID-19 guidelines, via Webex (English / Spanish) which will allow attendees to make public comments, and YouTube (English / Spanish) which is for video streaming only. The hearing links and a recording of the meeting will be available on the County's redistricting website. The public can also participate in the December 7th public hearing by submitting public comments to redistricting@co.kings.ca.us.

Throughout the redistricting process, which began in July 2021, Kings County has conducted an extensive outreach campaign to drive engagement and participation from members of the public. These actions include:

- The County created dedicated social media platforms to regularly post, in English and Spanish, on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u> during the months of July to December about the status of the effort and to direct members of the public on how to submit feedback.
- The creation of a dedicated redistricting website, <u>RedistrictKings.com</u>, to enhance transparency
  and enable a consolidated experience for members of the public to learn about the process,
  leverage mapping tools, access information in several languages and observe the redistricting
  meetings. Materials in English and Spanish could be found on the website.
- Kings County Staff presented an overview of the County's redistricting process at each of the cities within the County.
- Press releases and flyers were distributed to local media outlets and the public before each redistricting hearing.
- Outreach calls to local and prominent community organizations were conducted to aid in the dissemination of information regarding hearings, mapping tools and participation process.

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.

For more information regarding the redistricting process, visit: RedistrictKings.com

## December 9, 2021, Update

After careful consideration of all draft maps, during the final redistricting hearing on December 7 the Kings County Board of Supervisors made the decision to bring Public Map 120 back to the December 14 Board of Supervisors meeting for consideration with the intent of formal adoption via resolution. The December 14 meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

While members of the public are encouraged to attend, it is important to note that, since this redistricting item is part of the normal board meeting agenda, public comment will be received on the item during the normal public comment portion at the beginning of the meeting.