



# City of El Cajon

## Introduction to Redistricting

July 14, 2021

Shannon Kelly, Consultant  
National Demographics Corporation

# Redistricting Process

---

Step	Description
<b>Initial Public Hearing</b> July 14	Held prior to release of draft maps Education about the process and Communities of Interest
<b>Census Data Release</b> Mid/Late August	Census Bureau releases official 2020 Census population data
<b>Public Hearing #2</b> September 8	Continue Education about the process and solicit input on Communities of Interest Provide overview of online mapping tools for public use
<b>California Data Release</b> Late September/Early October	California releases official “prisoner adjusted” 2020 redistricting data
<b>Public Hearing #3</b> November 4	Discuss and review draft maps Solicit feedback from the public about draft maps
<b>Public Hearing #4</b> January 22	Revised maps posted online and available at City of El Cajon Discuss and revise recommended final map options and discuss the election sequence
<b>Map Adoption Deadline</b> April 17, 2022	(Election Minus 205 Days) Statutory deadline to adopt map ordinance

# Why Are We Doing this Again so Soon?

---

Every 10 years the federal government conducts a census and each City must update its election districts to reflect the latest population counts

The City of El Cajon, through Measure S, voted to move from an at large to district election system in 2016. District maps were drawn in 2017 using 2010 population counts. 2018 was the first election where City Council members were elected by district

**Has the makeup of the districts really changed enough to require a new map?**

Updated population figures may show that current districts are out of balance and the new California Fair Maps Act created new criteria that must be considered



# Redistricting Rules and Goals

## 1. Federal Laws

Equal Population  
Federal Voting Rights Act  
No Racial Gerrymandering



## 2. California Criteria for Cities

1. Geographically contiguous
2. Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest”  
(Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
3. Easily identifiable boundaries
4. Compact  
(Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

### Prohibited:

“Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party.”

## 3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles

Minimize voters shifted to different election years  
Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office  
Future population growth  
Preserving the core of existing districts

# Defining Neighborhoods

---

**1<sup>st</sup> Question: What is your neighborhood?**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Question: What are its geographic boundaries?**

**Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:**

- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- Areas around parks or schools
- Other neighborhood landmarks

**In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.**



# Beyond Neighborhoods: Defining Communities of Interest

---

## 1<sup>st</sup> Question: What defines your community?

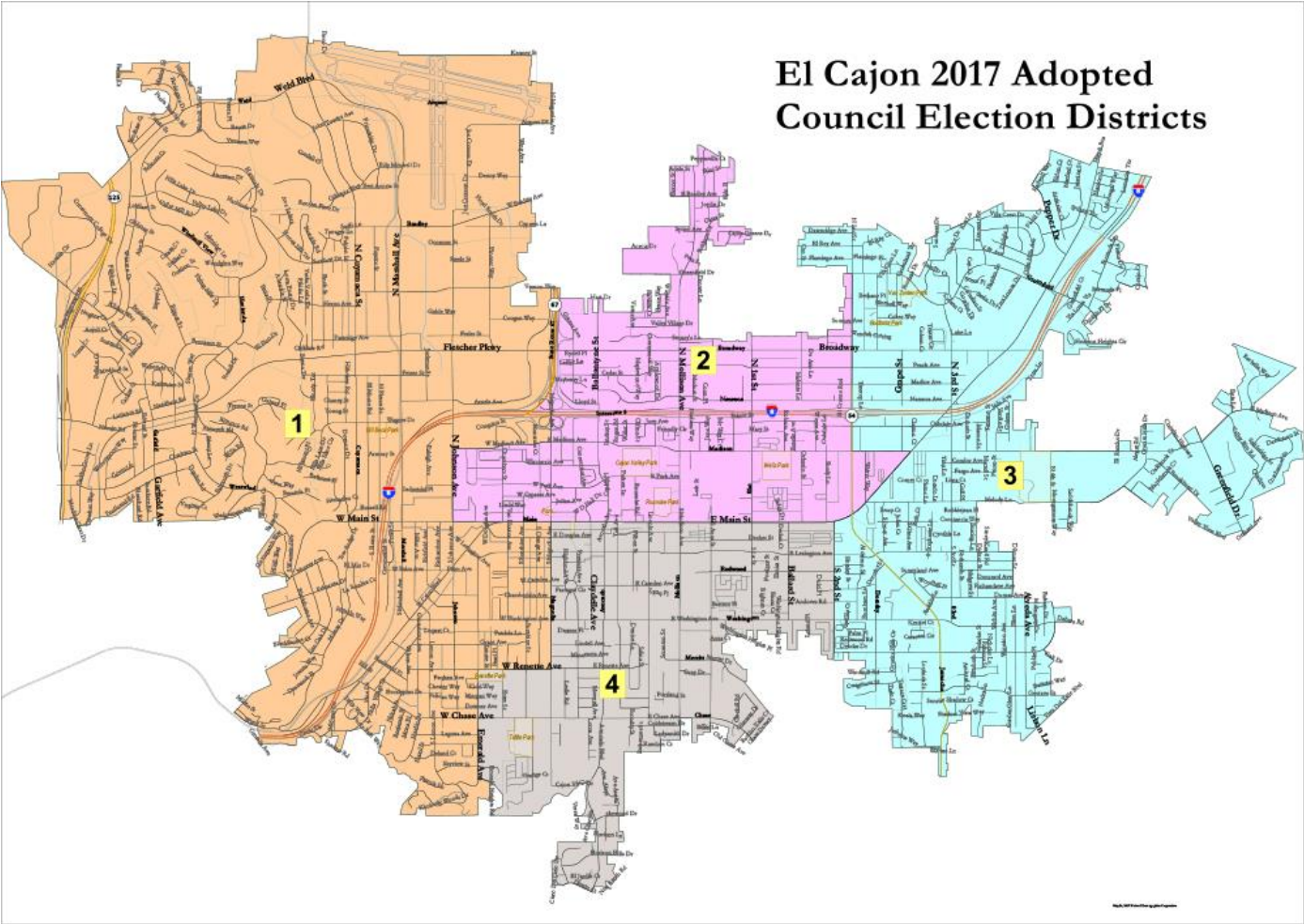
- Geographic Area, plus
- Shared issue or characteristic
  - Shared social or economic interest
  - Impacted by county policies
- Tell us “your community’s story”

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Question: Would this community benefit from being “included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation”?

- Or would it benefit more from having multiple representatives?

Definitions of Communities of Interest may not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

# Possible Neighborhoods / Communities



# Beyond Neighborhoods: Communities

---

Under the California Elections Code, “community of interest” has a very specific definition in the context of districting and redistricting cities and counties:

A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests **that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.**

Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(emphasis added)



# Public Hearing & Discussion

---

What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?

What other notable areas are in the City, and what are their boundaries?

What are the key Communities of Interest in El Cajon?

- Geographic Area, plus
- Shared issue or characteristic
  - Shared social or economic interest
  - Impacted by county policies
- Other unifying characteristics

# Next Steps

---

Access the City of El Cajon Redistricting Page for More information:

[www.elcajon.gov/redistricting](http://www.elcajon.gov/redistricting)

Provide comments:

[redistricting@elcajon.gov](mailto:redistricting@elcajon.gov)

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING (September 8)

Further Discussion and Actions on Communities of Interest

Introduction of Public Mapping Tools