

City of Mesa
2021 Redistricting
Community Outreach Hearing



Redistricting Partners

About Us

Redistricting Partners is a consulting firm working with local governments to ensure a public and transparent redistricting process consistent with state, federal and local laws, and consistent with the need for public engagement.

We work with local agencies on the technical aspects of redistricting and assist in the development of redistricting plans, outreach, public engagement, analysis and other aspects of this decennial process.

What is Redistricting

Definition

Redistricting is the process of adjusting district lines every 10 years after the release of the U.S. Census. The well-known examples are Congressional and State Legislative Districts, but local governments also must do redistricting.

- The City of Mesa also must go through this process, as it did in 2011, to ensure the city council districts are rebalanced after the decennial census.
- Beyond creating districts of equal population, redistricting also serves to empower local communities and preserve voting rights.

Establishment of the Commission

Definition

Charter Language:

The initial district boundaries and all subsequent redistricting shall be established by a five-person nonpartisan Commission appointed by the City Council.

Amd. Charter Election 5-19-98

*Appointment. The Mayor shall appoint all board and commission members with the approval of the Council. Appointees shall be residents of the City.
(Amd. Charter Election 3-29-94)*

Commissioners

The five-member Commission is appointed by City Council

- Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo (*Chair*)
- Elaine Miner (*Vice Chair*)
- Catherine Jiang
- Greg Marek
- Jo Martin

Board Final Decision/Map Approval

Definition

Charter Language:

The redrawing of district boundaries shall not remove the residence of an incumbent Councilmember from the district he was elected to represent during his term in that office.

The City Council shall approve the Commission's recommendations or if disapproved, send recommendations back to the Commission for reconsideration: the second recommendation from the Commission shall then be deemed final.

Amd. Charter Election 5-19-98

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Traditional Redistricting Principles

Drawing New City Council Lines for Fair Representation

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- **Maintain “*communities of interest*”**
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act
 - Latinos
 - Asians
 - African Americans
 - Native Americans

While race is a community of interest, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing district boundaries.

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Other example are:
 - Neighborhoods
 - Your high school and junior high areas
 - Senior citizens or student populations
 - Downtown / urban
 - Rural or agricultural
 - Homeowners or renters

Communities of Interest

Three Critical Questions in Defining for Redistricting

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped?
- Describe the community's relationship with the City of Mesa and how it is affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials.

Communities of Interest

Examples of Community of Interest testimony



Communities of Interest

Examples of Community of Interest testimony



Map Submissions

Online Map Submissions will be available in the coming month after the city completes development / hosting of the Online Redistricting software

Two types of expected input:

- Community of Interest Maps (June – End of Process)
- District Plans Based on 2020 Data (Release of Data – Final Adoption)

Communities of Interest

Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

The City of Mesa will be using DistrictR as a public mapping tool to allow residents to draw their own Communities of Interest.



You draw the lines.

<https://districtr.org/tag/mesaaz>

Community of Interest Forms

Submitting Your COI Form

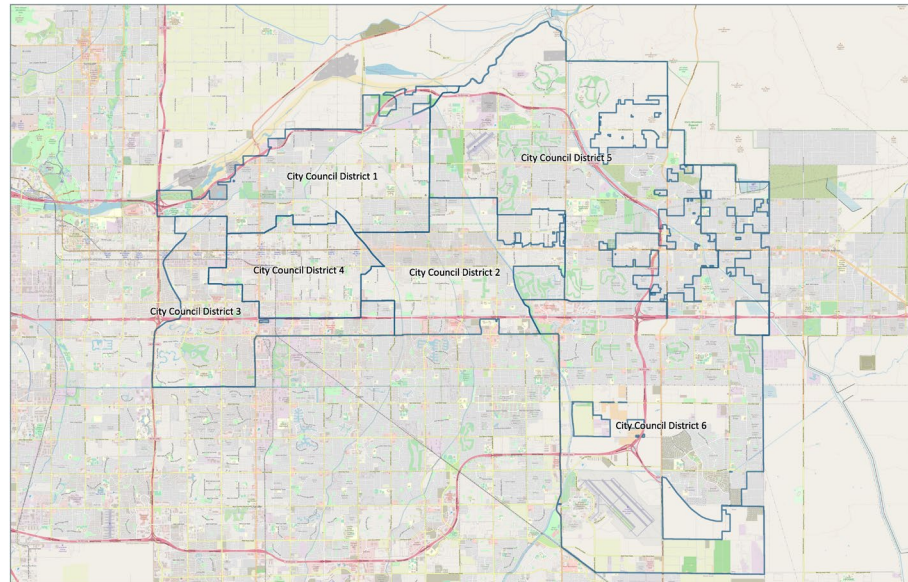
- Input can be provided in public hearings or using our “Community of Interest Worksheet.”
- This can be provided on the website as a part of overall community engagement strategy.
- Some agencies convert these to a webform or survey instrument.



Communities of Interest

Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

The City of Mesa has created placemats for the public to use to draw their own community of interest.



Timeline of Community Hearings

Upcoming Hearings

- August 12th @ 6 pm
- August 14th @ 10 am
- August 17th @ 6 pm
- August 18th @ 12 pm
- August 25th @ 6 pm --- Virtual Hearing
- August 26th @ 6 pm
- August 28th @ 10 am



**REDISTRICTING
PARTNERS**