

COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MINUTES

May 19, 2021

The Council Redistricting Commission of the City of Mesa met in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 19, 2021, at 9:01 a.m.

COMMISSION PRESENT

Deeanna Villanueva Saucedo,
Chairman
Elaine Miner, Vice Chairman
Catherine Jiang
Greg Marek*
Jo Martin

COUNCIL PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Dee Ann Mickelsen
Jeffrey Robbins
Sarah Staudinger

(*Commission Members participated in meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Economic Development Project Manager Jeffrey Robbins shared a few rules and regulations for the Redistricting Commission. He requested that the Commission Members and staff introduce themselves and provide brief background information.

a. City of Mesa – Staff and Commissioners

b. Paul Mitchell, Redistricting Partners Owner

i. Redistricting Partners Staff

1. Chris Chaffee, Chief Operating Officer, has helped facilitate and manage multiple redistricting's as a line drawer.
2. Kimi Shigetani, Chief Administrative Officer who has worked on dozens of redistricting's.
3. Connie Malloy, Trainer, works around the country advising agencies as they are developing redistricting processes.

4. Sophia Garcia, Outreach & GIS coordinator, will be working on behalf of the advocacy groups for the redistricting.

Commission Member Miner stated she has served on the Mesa Public School's board for twelve years and hopes it will help her while serving on the Redistricting Commission.

Commission Member Villanueva-Saucedo shared she has served on several Mesa commissions and boards for over 20 years, including the previous Redistricting Commission.

Commission Member Martin stated she is a small business owner and has served on multiple committees and commissions in the City of Mesa.

Commission Member Jiang commented she has never served on a city commission or board but has served on various legal boards including the Asian American Bar Association board and the State Bar Immigration board.

Commission Member Marek shared he has worked in commercial real estate since 2005, and previously worked for the City of Mesa as a Redevelopment Director. He previously served on Mesa's Historic Preservation board and currently is the President of the Foundation for the Arizona Museum of Natural History.

2. Discuss, nominate, and take action on electing Chair and Vice-Chair.

Mr. Robbins invited the members of the Commission to nominate Commission Members to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission. He stated that it was acceptable for Commission Members to nominate themselves if they were willing to serve in such capacities.

It was moved by Commission Member Martin, seconded by Commission Member Miner, that Commission Member Villanueva-Saucedo be appointed Chairman of the Council Redistricting Commission.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Villanueva Saucedo-Miner-Jiang-Marek-Martin
NAYS – None
ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commission Member Martin, seconded by Commission Member Jiang, that Commission Member Miner be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council Redistricting Commission.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Villanueva Saucedo-Miner-Jiang-Marek-Martin

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

3. Hear a presentation on the Open Meeting Law.

Assistant City Attorney Sarah Staudinger displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and offered a brief overview of the Open Meeting Law (OML) and its impact on the Council Redistricting Commission.

Ms. Staudinger reported the OML is dictated by Arizona Statute and is the public policy of Arizona that meetings of public bodies be held openly in the public. She stated the City of Mesa is a public body and all boards and commissions of the City are subject to the OML. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Staudinger summarized the definitions and processes of public and private meetings. (See Pages 4 and 5 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Staudinger provided a brief overview regarding agendas which all members of the commission will receive. She stated agendas are dictated by statute and need to be posted 24-hours prior to the meeting. She mentioned the agenda is needed to make the public aware of what will be discussed, and any items not agenzized cannot be discussed.

Ms. Staudinger reviewed the pitfalls in the OML with social events or gatherings, serial meetings, emails and text messages. She noted not all members have to be present in order for an OML violation to occur. (See Pages 6 through 9 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Staudinger discussed OML violations, potential penalties, and actions of the Commission if the meeting does not meet the OML. (See Page 12 of Attachment 1)

Chairman Villanueva Saucedo thanked Ms. Staudinger for the presentation.

4. Hear a presentation on redistricting for the City of Mesa.

Chairperson Villanueva Saucedo excused Commission Member Marek from the remainder of the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Paul Mitchell, Redistricting Partners Owner introduced Kathay Feng, Executive Director of California Common Cause, who displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 2**) and provided a brief overview of the structure of the Redistricting trainings.

Ms. Feng commended the City of Mesa and how the city is ensuring the citizens are involved in the redistricting process. She provided an example of the many cities and counties who have adopted a redistricting reform. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Feng stated the Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires community testimony to determine Communities of Interest (COI). She pointed out there are concepts such as COI that state the importance of paying attention to racial minorities, where people live, and where community members reside within districts, to determine if they constitute a majority of the district. (See Pages 4 through 8 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Feng presented an example of the real-life impacts of gerrymandering. (See Pages 9 through 14 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Feng highlighted the three driving principals of redistricting. (See Page 15 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Feng discussed how to help Mesa community members participate in the redistricting process. (See Page 16 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Feng explained the easiest way to think about Community Mapping is through the three C's; culture, concerns, and counts. (See Page 17 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Feng reviewed how to create a transparent and inclusive process. She stated there will never be 100% of the community that will be satisfied with how the district lines are drawn, but by creating a transparent process it will allow for community members to understand why the lines were redrawn in a certain way. (See Page 18 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Feng stated the City of Mesa will be setting a standard for inclusion ensuring public trust. (See Page 19 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Feng commented if the City builds a transparent process, there will be a more equitable government that represents the entire city, and people will feel they have a chance to elect candidates that will listen to them. (See Page 20 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Feng provided a brief overview of the redistricting timeline. (See Page 21 of Attachment 2)

Chairperson Villanueva Saucedo informed Ms. Feng that the City of Mesa has an accelerated timeline and will be presenting the first redrawn district maps to Mayor and City Council in November 2021. She commented the City of Mesa has a Redistricting Commission because of a citizen's initiative in 1998. She explained that the City Charter states the commission may present a recommendation to City Council for feedback; however, the second recommendation from the commission will be deemed final.

Mr. Robbins shared the City of Mesa has until December 8, 2021, to provide the data to Maricopa County Elections.

Chairperson Villanueva Saucedo reported November 15, 2021, is the final date to have the first draft of the redistricting lines completed.

In response to a question from Vice Chairperson Miner, Ms. Feng explained once the final map is approved the district lines cannot be adjusted for another ten years.

Ms. Feng announced Redistricting Partners has a group of organizations that have come together called Charge, which is at the national level, but most of the other organizations have

State and Local affiliations. She stated this group of organizations have created a curriculum called the www.redistrictingcommunitycollege.com which is a five-part curriculum that teaches community members how to participate in the city's redistricting process. (See Page 22 of Attachment 2)

Chairperson Villanueva Saucedo thanked Ms. Feng for the presentation.

5. Hear a presentation on the role of the Commissioner.

Connie Malloy, Redistricting Partner Trainer, displayed a Power Point presentation. **(See Attachment 3)** She commented that she has invited a seasoned Commissioner Panel to join Mesa Commission Members in discussing their role.

Ms. Malloy introduced the Commissioner Panel beginning with Colleen Mathis, Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission member and chair from 2011 to 2021, Cynthia Dai, California Citizens Redistricting Commission member and rotating chair from 2010 to 2020, and Carlos Marquez, San Diego Redistricting Commissioner. (See Page 2 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Malloy provided background information for the Commissioner Panel members. (See Pages 3 through 5 of Attachment 3)

Commissioner Panel members provided an overview of their experience from the 2010 redistricting commissions.

Discussion ensued relative to setting up and organizing public outreach meetings.

Chairperson Villanueva Saucedo thanked the Commissioner Panel for their input and perspectives on the role of commissioner.

6. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Council Redistricting Commission adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Council Redistricting Commission of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 19th day of May 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

CITY OF MESA

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Open Meeting Law Overview

ARIZONA Open Meeting Law

Arizona Revised Statutes

Title 38, Chapter 4, Article 3.1

A.R.S. § 38-431.09

"It is the public policy of this state that meetings of public bodies be conducted openly and that notices and agendas be provided for such meetings which contain such information as is reasonably necessary to inform the public of the matters to be discussed or decided."

Definition of "Public body"

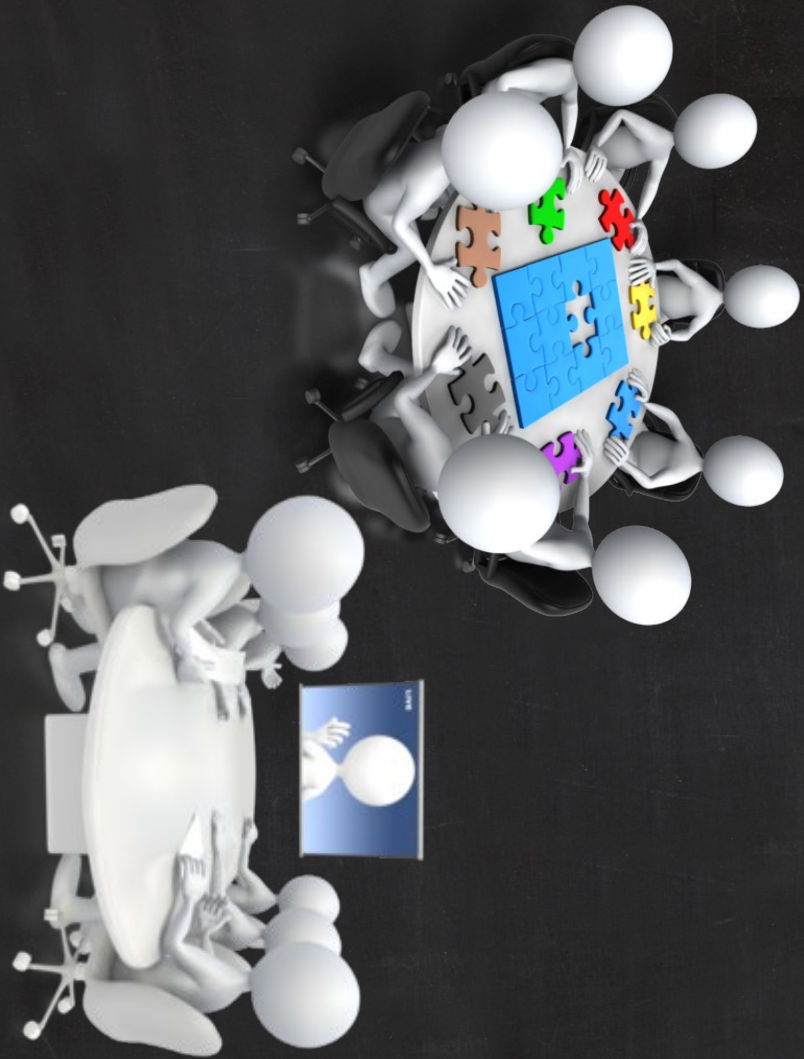
A.R.S. § 38-431

"Public body" means the legislature, all boards and commissions of this state or political subdivisions, all multimember governing bodies of..political subdivisions. Public body includes all quasi-judicial bodies and all standing, special or advisory committees or subcommittees of, or appointed by, the public body.

Definition of "meeting"



"Means the gathering, in person or through technological devices, of a quorum of the members of a public body at which they discuss, propose or take legal action" on a subject that is reasonably likely to come before the public body.



Open Meeting Law (OML)

Public's business must be done in public.

Private
Only when executive session is permitted (confidential records, legal advice, contract negotiations)
Public

Properly noticed meeting with a posted agenda

No legal action can be taken (no collective decision, commitment or promise)

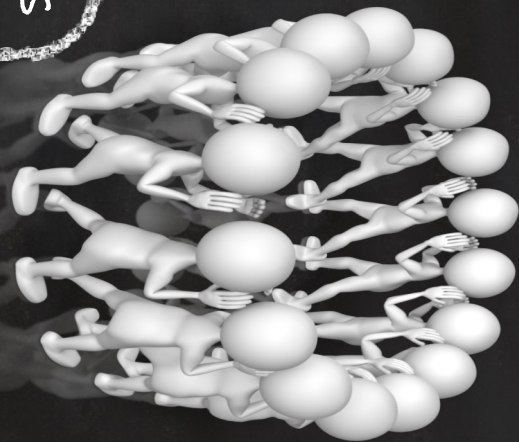
Pitfalls in OML

1. Social Events

- If a quorum is present at the social event, and members discuss topics that may reasonably require action, an OML violation may occur
- Tip: do not discuss Commission business or items that may come before the Commission with other members at social events



Pitfalls in OML 2. Serial Meetings



What is a serial meeting?

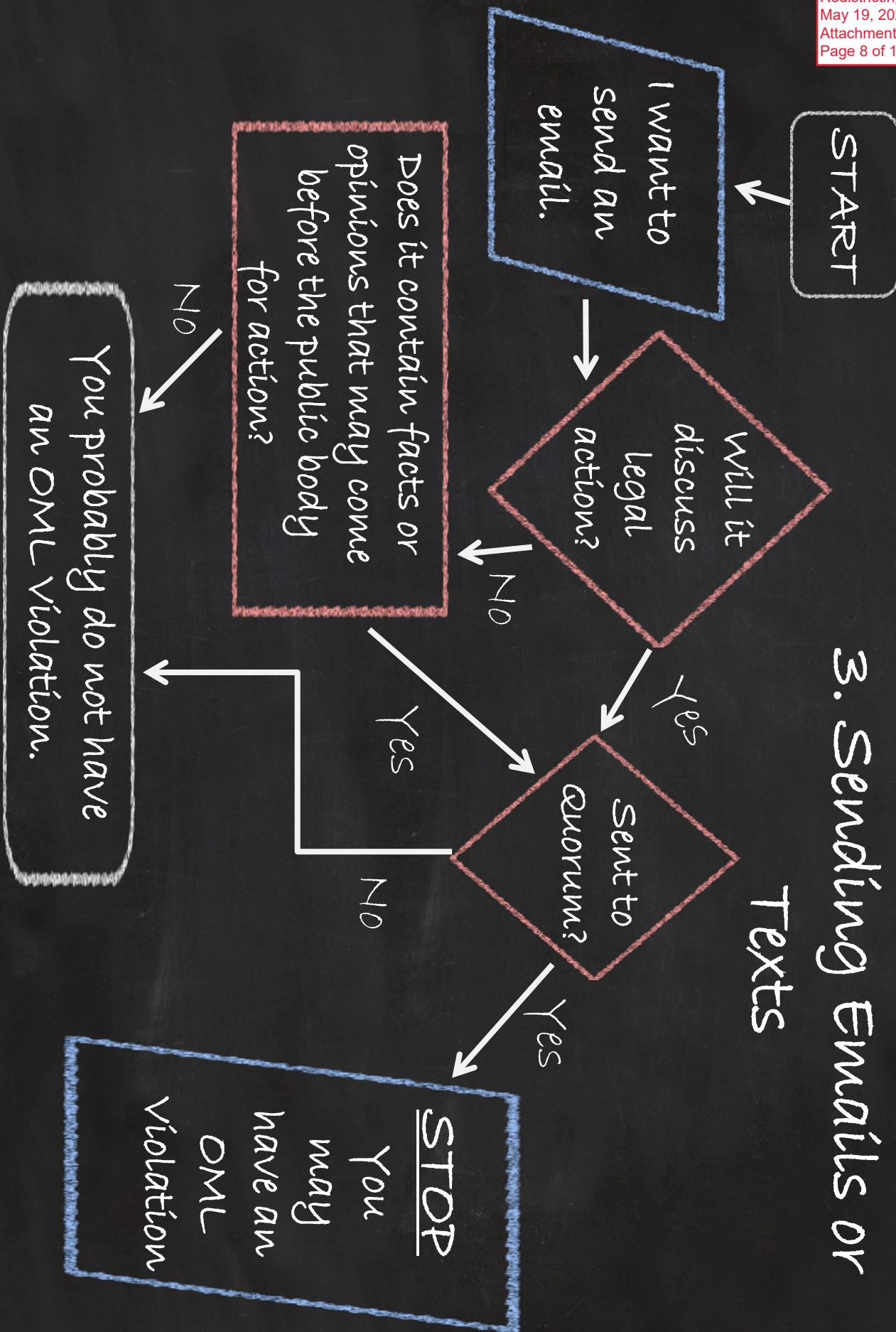
Series of gatherings or discussions (can be electronic) where less than a quorum is present.

Later, the same discussion is had with other members of the public body.

If the same discussion is held with enough members (quorum), can violate the OML.

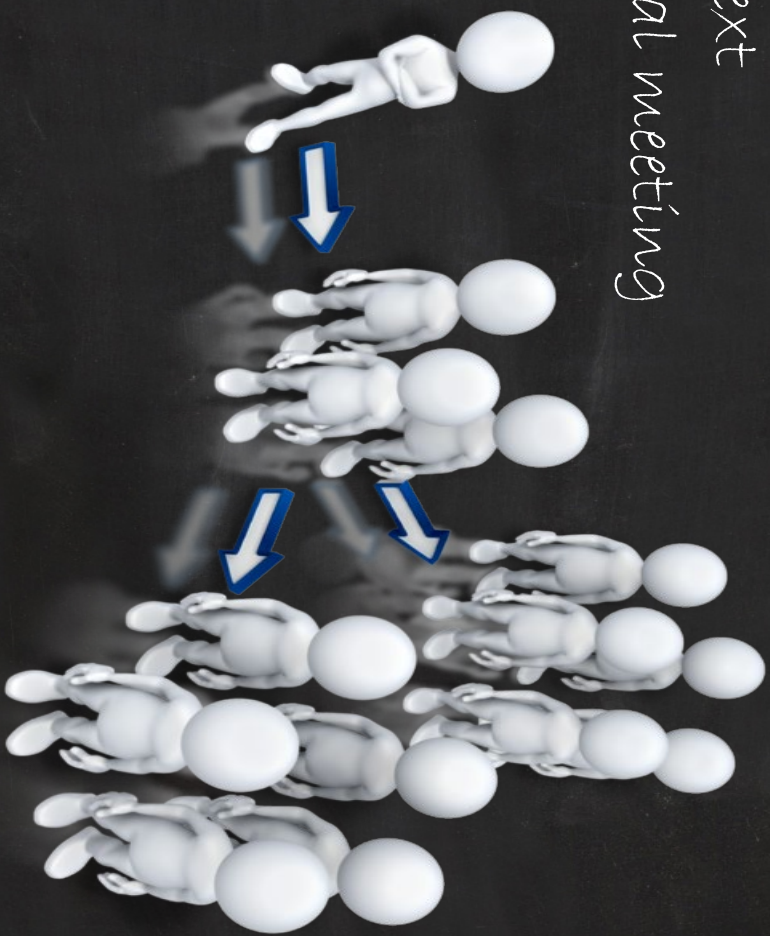
Pitfalls in OML

3. Sending Emails or Texts



Lesson: Be careful responding to emails and text messages.

- Using "reply all" and forwarding emails may lead to OML trouble
- Mass texts or forwarding text messages can lead to a serial meeting in violation of the OML



Meeting Agenda

Date,
Time
and
Place

Rule:
If no posted agenda
24 hours in advance,
no meeting

Public has right to
attend a public
meeting, does not
have right to speak

Agenda must
contain the
matters to be
discussed or
decided, or say
where a detailed
agenda can be
obtained

Can we discuss matters not on
the agenda?

No, must be
reasonably
related to an
agenda item



Violations of the OML

ACTIONS taken by the Commission are NULL and VOID.

Potential Penalties

- \$500 civil penalty each violation
- REMOVAL of a member if the court makes a finding of intent
- Assess the member with ALL COSTS awarded to the Plaintiff
- MAY NOT spend public monies for legal counsel



The Attorney General or County Attorney may INVESTIGATE.

Questions

Please contact the City Attorney's Office

Sarah Staudinger

sarah.staudinger@mesaaz.gov

480-644-4111



Common Cause

Holding Power Accountable



Arizona leads the way with Redistricting Reforms Around the Country

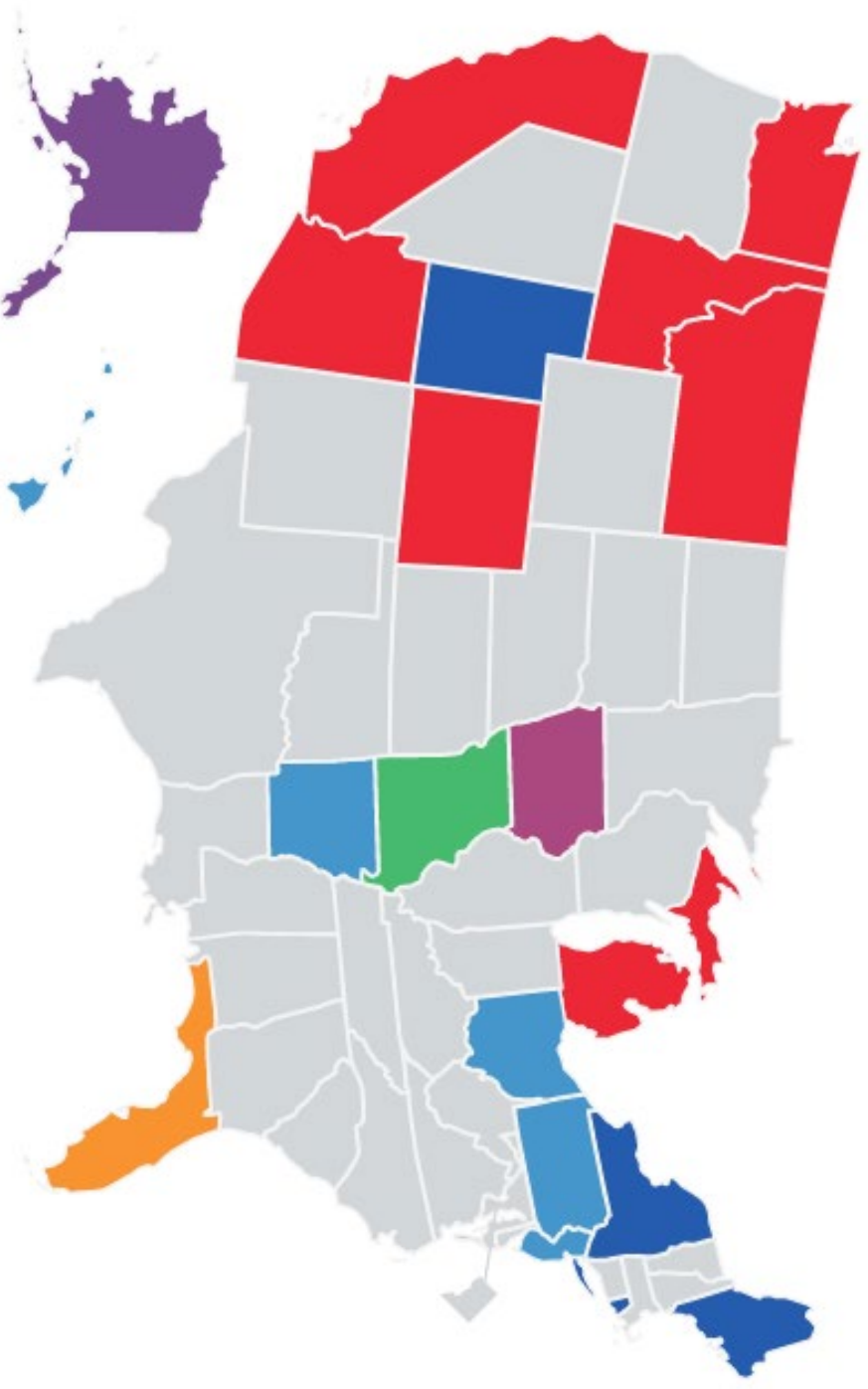
ARIZONA and 6 other states have citizen redistricting commissions.

In 2018, voters in 5 states adopted redistricting reforms by overwhelming margins:

- Ohio
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Colorado
- Utah

2020

- Virginia



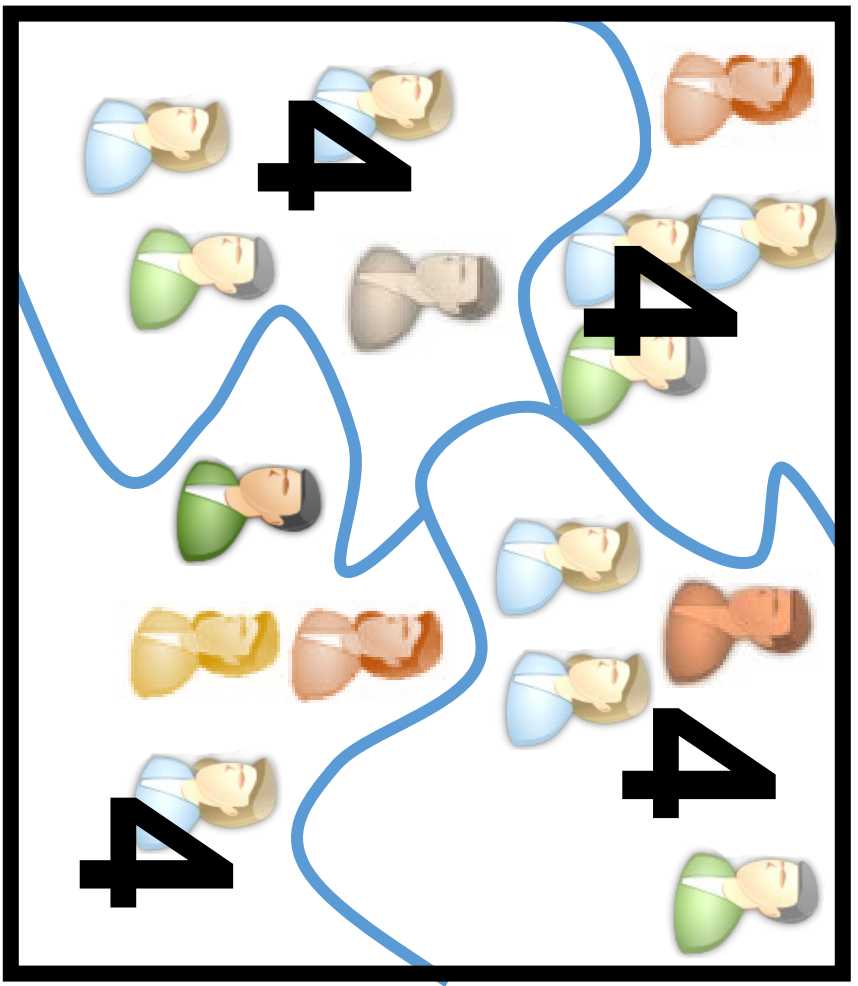
Local Redistricting Revolution

Cities and counties across the country are creating citizen redistricting commissions:

- Austin, TX
- Berkeley, CA
- Bloomington, IN
- Chula Vista, CA
- Dane County, WI
- Escondido, CA
- Hawaii County, HI
- Honolulu, HI
- **Mesa, AZ**
- Minneapolis, MN
- Newburgh, NY
- Oakland, CA
- Long Beach, CA
- Los Angeles County
- Roseville, CA
- Sacramento, CA
- San Diego City, CA
- San Diego County, CA
- Santa Barbara County, CA
- Santa Fe, NM
- Seattle, WA
- Syracuse, NY
- Tulsa, AZ
- Ulster, NY

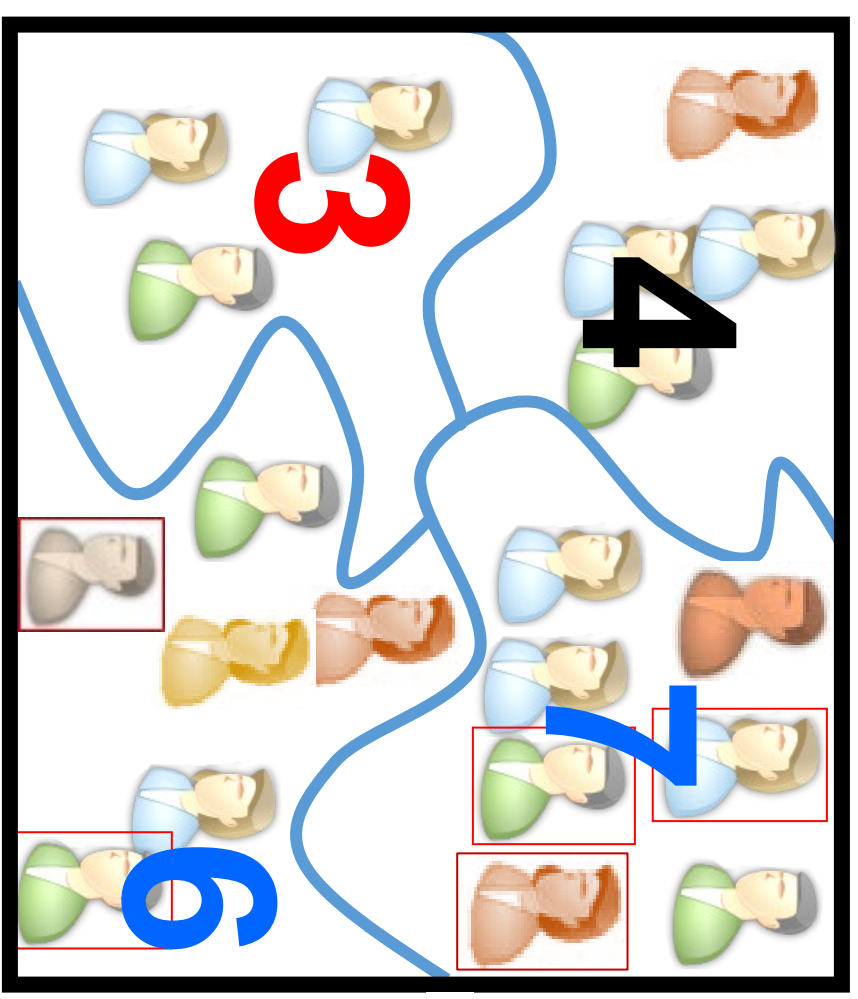
What is Redistricting?

Redistricting is when we redraw districts so each has the same number of residents.



What is Redistricting?

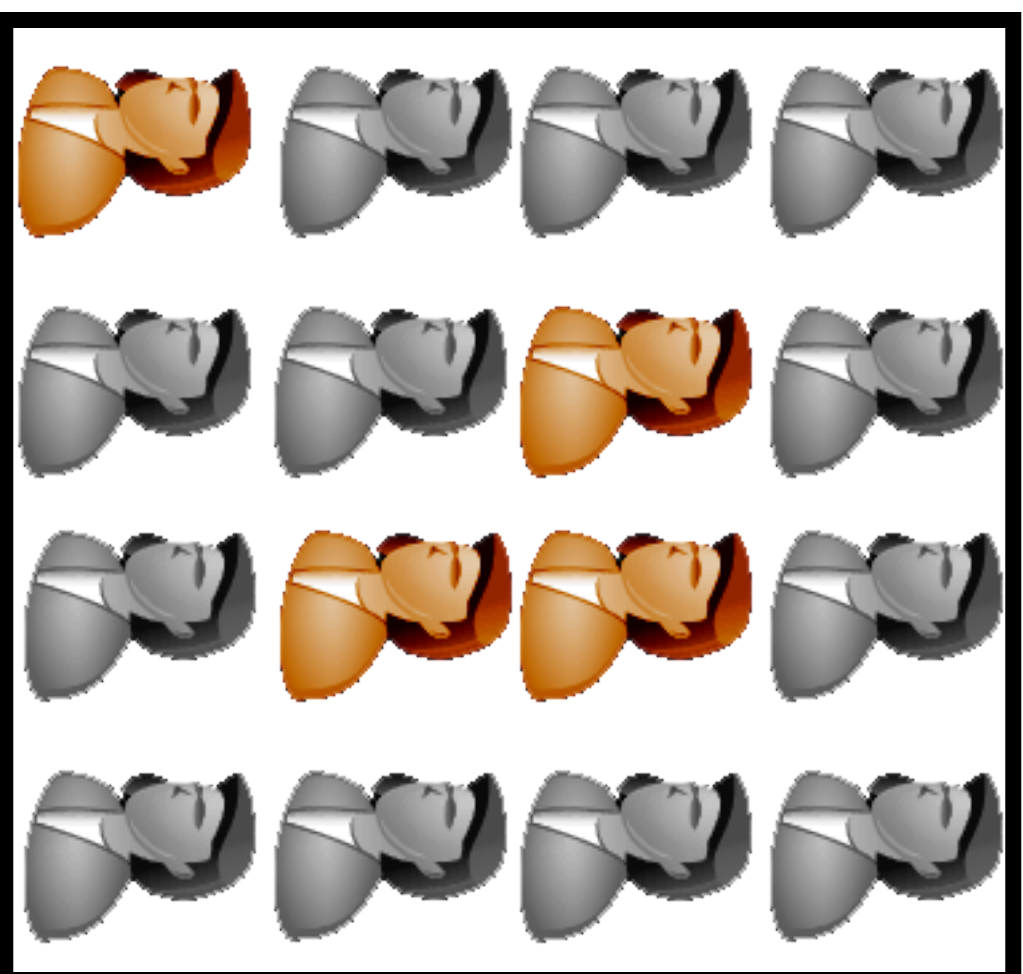
Over time, districts become
uneven in population.



Why does Redistricting Matter?

The way the lines are drawn can be used to take away **minority voting rights**.

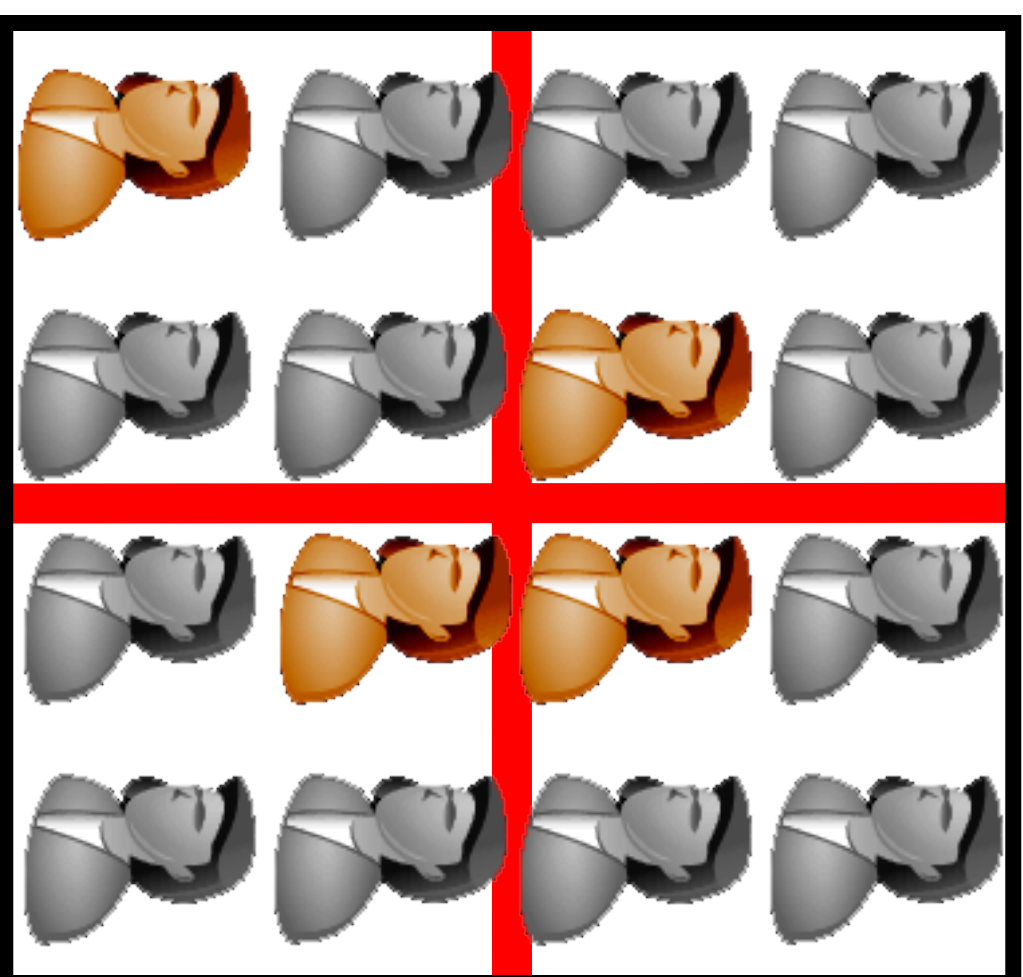
Minorities
make up
only
 $\frac{1}{4}$ in all
four
districts



Why does Redistricting Matter?

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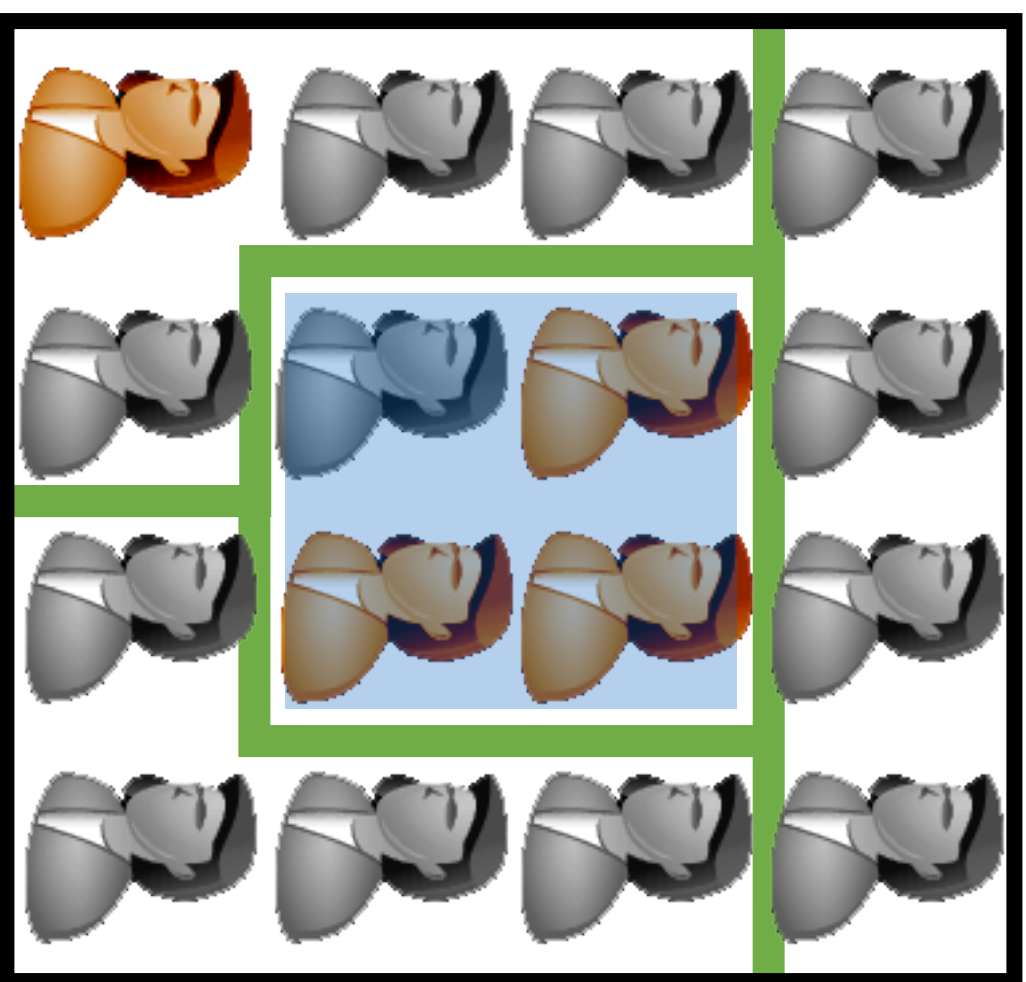
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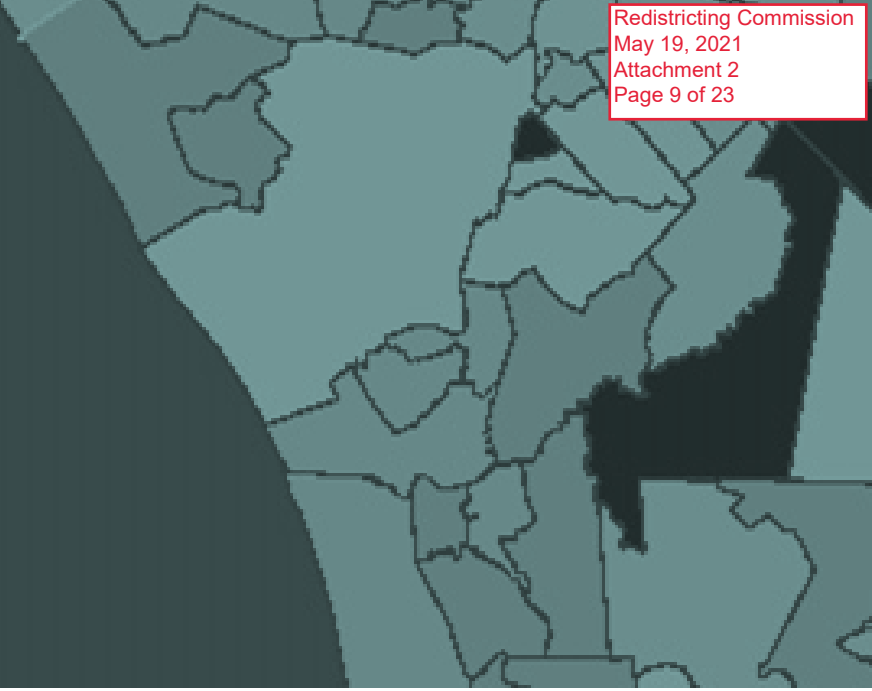
When people organize, we can elect candidates of our **community's choice**.

Minorities
make up $\frac{3}{4}$ of
this district

If a majority
can be drawn,
the Voting
Rights Act
requires it



Why does
Redistricting
Matter?



Take a
guess where
this picture is
from

What are the real life impacts
of gerrymanders?



**In a time of
need, Watts
was ignored.**

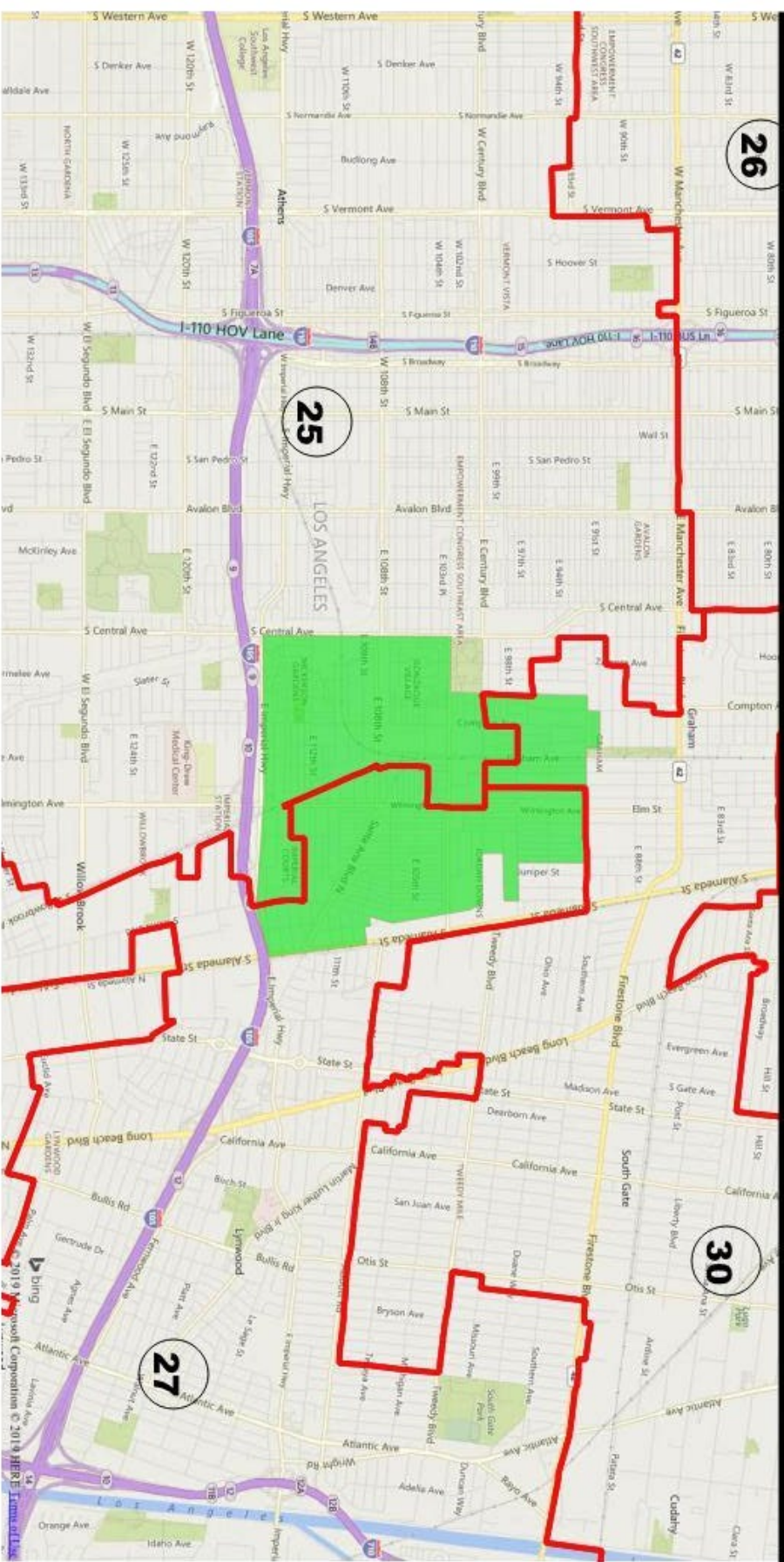


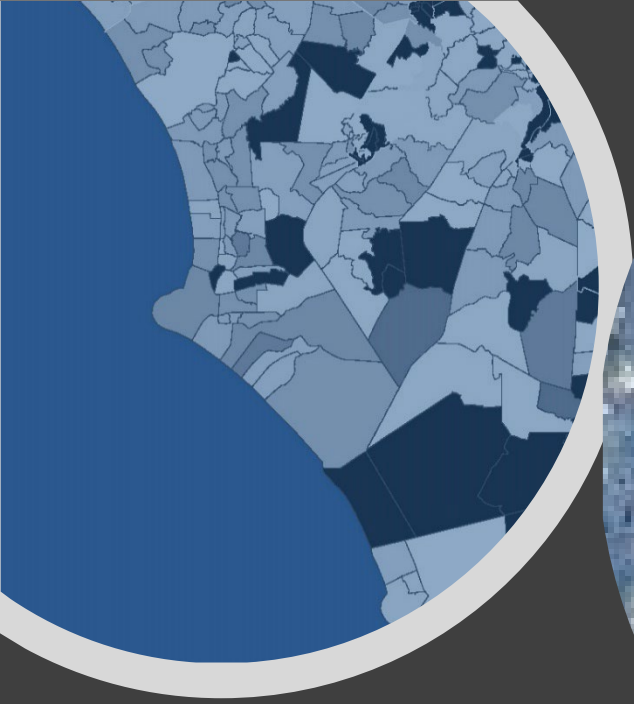
**Why?
Because the Watts
neighborhood was
split by district
lines**

In 2001, Watts was split by incumbents into 3 districts at the state Senate level.



Division of Watts in 2001: CA State Senate Districts





**Because of
redistricting,
community voices
and needs were
abandoned.**

“At the time of the 2003 flood, I remember our office trying to be very responsive, but there was a lot of ping-ponging of constituents between elected representatives. Residents weren’t sure who actually was their member of Congress.

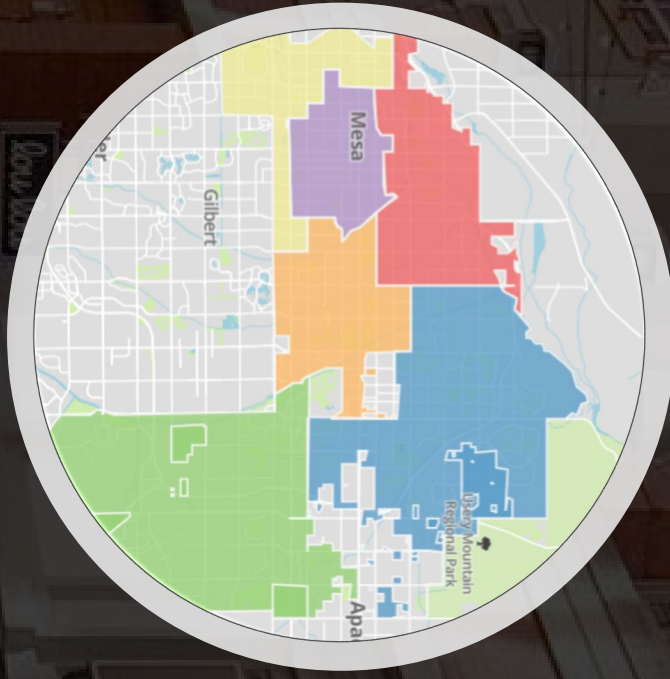
Watts is cut into three different Congressional and state Senate districts. Residents who live on the same street may live in different districts. There was a lot of unnecessary frustration for constituents during a difficult time.

This would have never happened if all of Watts belonged to one district.”

- Romulo Rivera, former Congressional staffer

3 Driving Principles





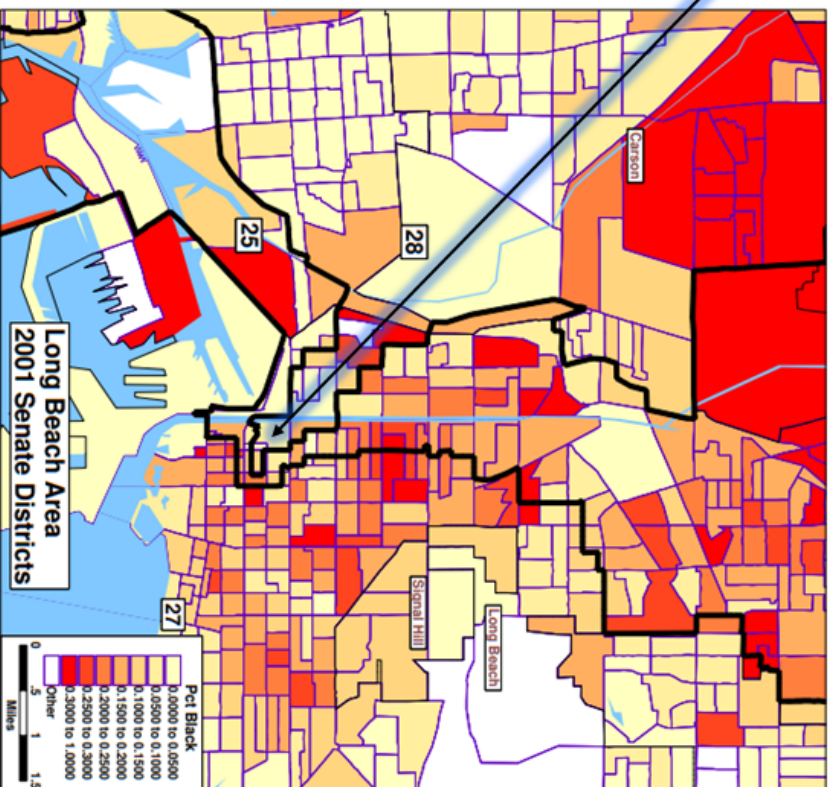
How can you help communities participate?

Listen to the stories of Mesa communities

- Explain how to give input
- Organize community-centered mapping workshops
- Adopt a free mapping software platform like [Districtr.org](https://www.districtr.org) for input

Community Mapping: 3 Cs

In 2001, the Legislature gave Long Beach the “boot.”



- Culture:**
- Long Beach has large African American and Latinx population
 - Washington neighborhood has a lot of working class Latinx families. When we have community gatherings, you will hear a lot of Spanish spoken.

- Concerns:**
- Mrs. Zazueta: “At least every other day, I have to tell my 8-year-old daughter that she can’t play outside with her friends. She has asthma and we live in an area known as ‘Asthma Alley.’ We had to go to the hospital night after night because Emma would wake up gasping for air.”

- Counts:**
- Washington neighborhood is one of the poorest parts of Long Beach, with almost 20% unemployment.
 - 29% of households surveyed are home to at least one adult that has asthma, and 18.9% are home to at least one child with asthma.



How can you create a transparent and inclusive process?

- Allow community leaders to submit community maps and district proposals for consideration
- Hold meetings / webinars with videos turned on. Maps are visual!
- Give people time to comment on draft maps
- Think about language and disability access

Citizen Redistricting Commission

PUBLIC ACCESS



**In all, the California Citizens
Redistricting Commission:**

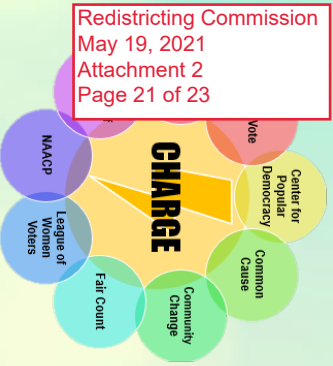
- **Held over 100 public meetings**
- **Met in 32 cities over an eight month period.**
- **Received input from over 20,000 members of the public**

**Public participation and inclusion
ensures there is public trust!**

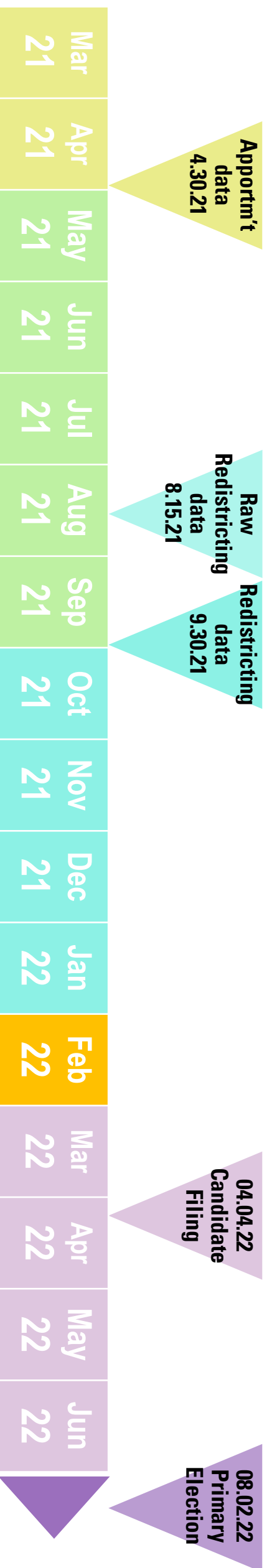


How can you lead us to more representative government?

- Bring your lived experience. Listen to others' stories.
- Get to know your fellow commissioners.
- Set an example for the country.



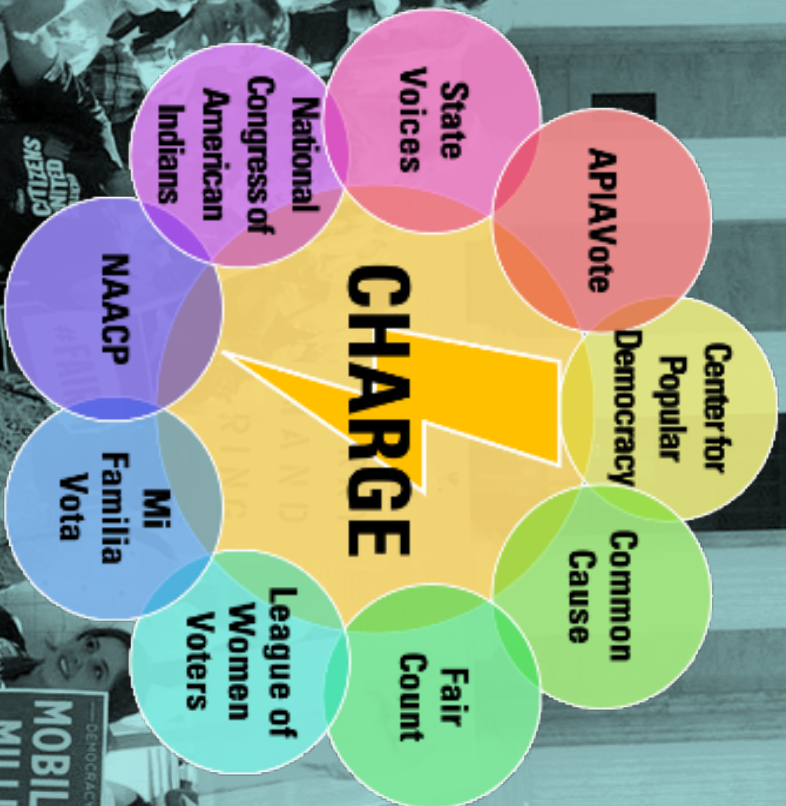
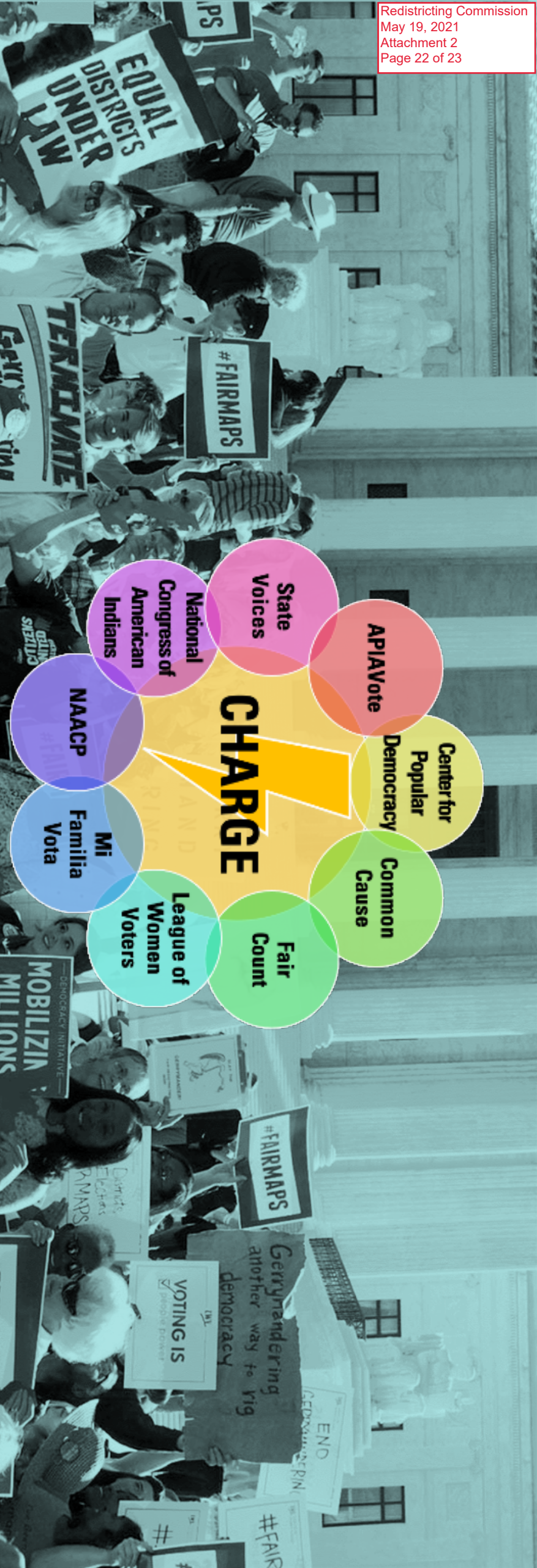
Redistricting Rules: Mesa, AZ Timeline



At least 5 months:
Public hearings to take communities of interest testimony

Approx. 4 months:
Process census data, display draft maps, hold hearings, complete maps

Court & County Prep



*For public materials on Redistricting Rules,
Community Mapping and more, check out:*

www.redistrictingcommunitycollege.com

www.commoncause.org/redistrictingtimelines



Questions?

Kathay Feng – kfeng@commoncause.org

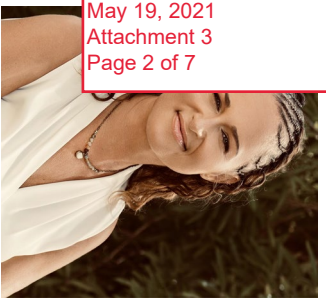


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The Commissioner Role

May 19, 2021





Facilitator:
Connie Malloy
2010-2020
California Citizens
Redistricting Commission

The Commissioner Role Panel



Colleen Mathis – 2011-2021 Arizona Independent
Redistricting Commission member and chair.



Cynthia Dai – 2010-2020 California Citizens Redistricting
Commission member and rotating chair.



Carlos Marquez - 2011-2012 San Diego Redistricting
Commissioner.



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California Redistricting Commission

Connie Malloy and Cynthia Dai were each members of the inaugural California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The California Commission was groundbreaking – for the first time in the state’s history, district lines would be drawn without a focus on incumbency or political party by an independent body comprised of everyday Californians.



As fourteen people - 5 Republicans, 5 Democrats, and 4 Independents - their backgrounds were varied, but none had redistricting experience.



San Diego Redistricting Commission

Carlos Marquez was a member of the independent San Diego Redistricting Commission – redrawing the council lines in 2011, and adding a new seat.

The San Diego Commission had a **long history** as one of the first municipal independent redistricting commissions.

The city grew significantly from 2001-2011, making redistricting more complex. The commission also had competing goals to strengthen a historic African American district, while expanding opportunities for growing Latino and Asian populations and LGBTQ voters.



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Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission

Colleen Mathis was a member and Chair of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

The Commission adopted new congressional and legislative districts for the state in January 2012, and prevailed in all litigation challenging its work.



The state Constitution required the commissioners - two Republicans, two Democrats, and an Independent Chairwoman - to start from scratch rather than redraw existing districts.



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The Commissioner Role



This is your chance to hear first-hand from other redistricting commissioners who were in your shoes ten years ago, sitting on their first commission, and learning about the process.





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The Commissioner Role

May 19, 2021

