

2011 Decennial Supervisorial Redistricting

County of Los Angeles

April 28, 2011 Florence/Firestone Service Center

Second District Community Outreach Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

- **Mr. Martin Zimmerman, Chief Executive Office (CEO), welcomed all in attendance which included members of the community, Boundary Review Members, staff from the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and Executive Office.**
- **Commissioner Vincent Harris, representing the Second District, welcomed and expressed his appreciation to all in attendance and encouraged community members to address the Committee on specific boundary issues they believe important for the County to better serve their community. Commissioner Teresa Holloman, representing the Second District, also thanked the community members in attendance.**
- **Commissioner Steve Reyes and Commissioner Louisa Ollaque, representing the First District, welcomed all in attendance and reiterated Commissioner Harris' invitation to provide input on specific boundary issues.**

2. Purpose of Meeting

- **Every 10 years, after the Census count, the Board of Supervisors oversees a redistricting process to assure as equal representation as possible for all residents within each supervisorial district. This redistricting process is not the same as that of the State. The Board of Supervisors makes the final decision on the boundaries for each District. Congressional Districts are not part of this process.**
- **This meeting is to inform community members about the redistricting process, why it is important and how redistricting may affect their community.**
- **In addition to providing the community with information about the redistricting process, the Board-appointed Boundary Review Committee also wants to solicit input from the community.**

3. What is Redistricting and Why is it Important?

a. What are the Key Objectives?

Mr. Zimmerman reported the following statistics:

- **At the latest Census count, the County of Los Angeles has 9.8 million people, making it the most populous County in the United States.**
- **Its current Budget is 23.3 Billion dollars.**
- **It has approximately 100,000 employees making it the largest local employer.**
- **There are 88 Cities within the County of Los Angeles and between 120 and 140 individual unincorporated areas. Municipal services are by-in-large provided the each City with the County providing certain regional services. However, within the unincorporated areas, the County is both the municipal government as well as its regional government. Well over half of the cities contract with the County for services that can be more conveniently provided by the County.**
- **The Board is also responsible for public policy and funding decisions that impact the lives of County residents, such as public hospitals and health care centers, law enforcement (Sheriff, District Attorney), restaurant inspections, social services (Children and Family Services), water quality, County roads, parks and libraries, and a host of major cultural resources.**
- **Every ten years, the United States attempts to count every person in the country through a process called the Decennial Census. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. The latest Census was conducted on April 1, 2010, and provides a snapshot of how many people there are and where they live.**

He reported under the “Total Population Comparison: 2000 to 2010”

- **The 2001 Benchmark Plan was based on the population count from the 2000 Census indicating the population of the 5 Districts based on the lines that were in affect before they redistricted. The total deviation among the 5 Districts was 6.45%, indicating how the Districts had grown out of balance over the decade.**
- **The Plan adopted in 2001 brought the deviation down to 1.40% by approving certain boundary adjustments.**
- **Under the 2011 Benchmark Plan (boundary lines from 2001, but using 2010 Census figures), there is a total deviation of 9.97%.**

Based on the figures, the total deviation of 9.97% may be something that the Committee will address.

Enrique Vega, a member of the community questioned the 2011 Benchmark for the second District (1,944,948 population), and inquired as to the respective ratios of elected officials to the population for the City and County of Los Angeles. Mr. Zimmerman stated there 15 Council members within the City of Los Angeles, which has a population of about 4 million, as opposed to five Supervisors for the County with a population of almost 10 million. Voters have had the opportunity to decide if they wanted to expand the size of the Board members for Los Angeles County, but this has been voted down.

Joe Turner, member of the community requested clarification on the deviation percentages. Mr. Zimmerman noted that deviation indicates how much a district is out of balance from the ideal number of population for each District (total population divided by five).

b. What are the Legal Aspects of Redistricting?

Ms. Nancy Takade, County Counsel reported the legal aspects of redistricting.

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- “One Person, One Vote” under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution talks about the equality of representation which for our purposes means making everyone’s vote count. The proposed redistricting plans must comply with requirements of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and with the mandate of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. That is the main message for redistricting not only from a legal level but from a policy level as well. These community meetings will be taking place across the County, in each Supervisorial District in an effort to reach out and inform residents about the redistricting process.
- In addition to federal law, there are other laws governing redistricting. There is also the California Election Code, which controls the timeline for the redistricting process. Finally, the County Charter, our local constitution, provides that the County of Los Angeles shall have a Board of Supervisors consisting of five members and five districts. Additionally, there are court decisions which interpret these laws. It should be noted that in order to change the number of districts, a vote by the people is required to change the number of supervisorial districts. Furthermore, a 2/3 vote by the Board of Supervisors is required to change the Supervisorial District lines.

- Achieving a perfect balance among the five districts may not be possible in reality due the numerous factors involved with redistricting, such as; geography, compactness, respect for political consideration and ethnic backgrounds, city lines etc...
- At the end of the process there will be two public hearings to consider the recommendation of the Boundary Review Committee. This is another opportunity for the public to provide input.

The Boundary Review Committee makes their review through several factors such as what is submitted (plans), input from the public and then present the information to the Board. There is no official cut-off date to receive input from the public.

4. How Will the Process Unfold?

Mr. Zimmerman provided an overview of the redistricting process approved by the Board of Supervisors, including a Public Access Plan to ensure wide participation and dissemination of information materials and to solicit public input. The Public Access Plan includes the appointment of the Boundary Review Committee which will oversee the public input process and recommend a final Redistricting Plan to the Board of Supervisors based on public input and submittal of proposed redistricting plans. This Committee is made up of two members and two alternates from each District.

Another element of the Public Access Plan and outreach is the ever-growing Boundary Review Committee mailing list for notifications of their activities, meetings, deliberations, et Interested persons can provide their information to staff, email the Boundary Review Committee, or go directly to the website (<http://redistricting.lacounty.gov>) to be added to the list. Individual names are kept confidential.

The redistricting website has information on:

- Boundary Review Committee
- Legal aspects of redistricting
- Boundary Review Committee and Community meetings/minutes
- The redistricting data and software where anyone can create their own redistricting plan, analyze the information and submit plans to the Boundary Review Committee.

Mr. Zimmerman highlighted key dates that the audience should keep in mind.

- **The Boundary Review Committee must submit a recommended Plan to the Board of Supervisors by July 31, 2011.**
- **The Board of Supervisors must adjust the supervisorial district boundaries before November 1, 2011.**

5. How Can You Get Involved?

Mr. Zimmerman reported the following:

- **Individuals and/or community groups are encouraged to participate in the redistricting process. Meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes will be updated on a regular basis on the redistricting website and will be publicized in media press releases. You do not have to submit a plan in order to provide input.**
- **Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Boundary Review Committee meetings as well as the Community Outreach meetings. Information regarding meeting schedules is located on the County's Redistricting website: www.redistricting.lacounty.gov. Public Hearings will also be held before the Board of Supervisors.**
- **The County of Los Angeles is providing free web-based redistricting software to allow the public to develop and submit redistricting plans for consideration by the Boundary Review Committee. The software went live on April 22, 2011. The redistricting mapping application can be found at the County's Redistricting Website: www.redistricting.lacounty.gov**
- **The County is providing four webinar training sessions to train the public how to use the redistricting mapping software to create and submit a redistricting plan. The webinar sessions are the following dates and times:**
 - **Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 3 pm to 5 pm**
 - **Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 7 pm to 9 pm**
 - **Thursday, April, 28, 2011, 9 am to 11 am**
 - **Saturday, April 30, 2011, 3 pm to 5 pm**

Please note: The last day to submit a proposed redistricting plan is Thursday June 2, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

Other important dates for Community input are as follows:

- Community Meetings
Check Community meeting Schedule
- BRC Meetings
May 4, 2011
May 18, 2011
June 1, 2011
Additional meetings in June TBD based on need
July 13, 2011
- Public Hearings Held by Board of Supervisors
Two Public hearings are anticipated in August 2011
Dates TBD

Commissioner Vincent Harris re-emphasized the need for public input. The 2nd District, through Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' Empowerment Opportunities Program, had a workshop in January where the process of redistricting was described and members of the community were invited to view the software and provide input.

Various community members expressed concern with what they believed were inadequate efforts by the County to inform the community of these meetings. Gloria Medina, representing Florence/Firestone Community Leaders, noted resources were not provided to inform the community. Proper notification should occur at least two months before an event.

William Allan – Florence/Firestone Community Leader; also noted that the 1st District properly notified them months before this community meeting was established, while the 2nd District only provided a two-day notice for this meeting.

Randy Houghes – Requested the County use their mailing list to advise all County residents of these meetings.

6. Public Comment

Joe Turner – 75-year resident of 2nd District, requested the community should know their Supervisor. He would like to keep their community as is.

William Allan – resident of 2nd District and an LAPD officer, requested that the District and local government work in partnership to assist across boundaries on emergencies. He is neither in favor or opposed change. He just wants to make sure that who ever is in charge of his community is there to assist in emergencies.

Mary Rose Cortese – Wants community to be one District.

Jose Gutierrez – Requested there be one Supervisorial District. He lives in the 2nd District , and when there is an issue in the 1st District, he doesn't want to get referred to another District; just address the issue at hand.

Joseph Titus - Resident of the community for 83 years. He is in favor of just one unified District regardless if it be First or Second.

Enrique Vega – Community liaison of the Florence/Firestone Community Enhancement Leadership Team; provided information regarding the Statewide Redistricting meetings.

Delores Cotledge – Has been a resident in the community. Wants to keep the Districts the way they are. The representatives have been doing a good job. If you change the Districts, you might not get the same services. However, information that is given to one District should also be available to another District.

Inez Simons – Resident in the Florence/Firestone District for 40 years. She wants to keep the current boundary lines as they are. She would like the staff of the Districts to be more equalized in ethnicity.

Veda Scott – Representative of Health Care Dual Diagnosis that helps underprivileged kids. Wants a District that can provide proper care for these underprivileged children.

Everlena Morris – Resident of both 1st and 2nd District. Has not been receiving proper assistance from Supervisor Molina's office. She wants it to be 2nd District.

Gloria Medina - Both supervisors would be ok to serve both Districts.

Commissioner Ollague polled community members on uniting the community in one District versus retaining the current division. . There were 8 members that wanted it united as one District, and 16 that wanted it to stay as is.

List of Attendees from the County

1st District –, Commissioner Steve Reyes, Commissioner Louisa Ollague,

**2nd District – Commissioner Vincent Harris, Commissioner Jesus Escondon,
Commissioner Teresa Holloman**

3rd District – Alisa Belinkoff Katz, Chief Deputy

Chief Executive Office – Martin Zimmerman, Rosie Fabian

County Counsel – Nancy Takade

**Executive Office – Rhonda Rangel, Emma De Jesus, Mireya Rivera, Nyla
Jefferson**

Community and Senior Services – Rosendo Garcia