

2011 Decennial Supervisorial Redistricting

County of Los Angeles

April 19, 2011 Covina Library

Fifth District Community Outreach Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

- **Mr. Frank Cheng, 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 Brian Mejia, representing the Fifth District, welcomed all in attendance and ensured everyone that the Boundary Review Committee (BRC) is dedicated to the redistricting process and although there is a great deal of information to cover, he is confident that the BRC members will work diligently on this important process.**
- **Commissioner Steve Reyes, representing the First District, welcomed all in attendance and encouraged community members to ask questions freely throughout the meeting.**

2. Purpose of Meeting

- **This meeting is to inform community members about the redistricting process, why it is important and how redistricting may affect your community. The purpose of redistricting is to provide equal representation as possible for all residents within each supervisorial district.**
- **The Board of Supervisors is responsible for policy decisions for the administration of County departments that impact the lives of all County residents. Those services include; hospitals, healthcare centers, Sherriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, restaurant inspections, welfare programs, children's safety, adoptions, parks, roads, bridges, lakes etc.**
- **In addition to providing the community with information about the redistricting process, we also want to solicit input from the community.**

3. What is Redistricting and Why is it Important?

a. What are the Key Objectives?

Mr. Cheng reported the following:

- **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.**
- **Once we know how many people there are and where they live in the County of Los Angeles, the population must be divided as evenly as possible into five supervisorial districts for the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. Adjusting the boundaries is called “redistricting.”**
- **Some of you may remember voting for redistricting in the November statewide election, which is for the California redistricting. The California redistricting process is for the U.S. House of Representatives, California State Senate and State Assembly and the Board of Equalization.**

b. What are the Legal Aspects of Redistricting?

Ms. Nancy Takade, County Counsel reported the following:

- **The legal aspects of redistricting are based on equal representation. The 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution talks about the equality of representation which for our purposes means making everyone’s vote count. 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, we want community involvement in this process and we encourage all of you to visit the Los Angeles County Redistricting website.**
- **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. In addition to Federal mandates, the redistricting process timeline is determined per the California Election Code. 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 involved, interpreting laws to achieve an equally balanced population among the five districts. In order to change the number of districts, a voter measure is required; only the people can change the number of districts. Furthermore, a 2/3 vote by the Board of**

Supervisors is required to change the Supervisorial District lines which requires an ordinance change to the law.

- Achieving a perfect balance among the five districts may not be possible in reality due to the numerous factors involved with redistricting, such as; geography, compactness, respect for political factors, city lines etc...
- We also have to review our process in light of laws that were instituted to protect against discrimination that unfortunately occurred in the past, notably The Voting Rights Act which has been amended along the way was instituted in 1965 to prevent voting discrimination.

4. How Will the Process Unfold?

Mr. Cheng reviewed the Total Population Comparison from 2000 to 2010 using the chart below.

This table compares the County's Total Population per 2000 and 2010 Census as shown below.

Total Population								
DISTRICT	2001		<-Change->	2001		<-Change->	2011	
	Benchmark	Dev.		Adopted	Dev.		Benchmark	Dev.
1	1,851,897	-2.730%	53,552	1,905,449	0.083%	-12,448	1,893,001	-3.601%
2	1,882,100	-1.143%	19,890	1,901,990	-0.099%	42,987	1,944,977	-0.955%
3	1,924,294	1.073%	-11,561	1,912,733	0.466%	59,188	1,971,921	0.418%
4	1,886,278	-0.924%	0	1,886,278	-0.924%	33,642	1,919,920	-2.231%
5	1,974,769	3.724%	-61,881	1,912,888	0.474%	175,898	2,088,786	6.369%
TOTAL:	9,519,338		0	9,519,338		299,267	9,818,605	
IDEAL:	1,903,867			1,903,867			1,963,721	
TOT DEV:	6.454%			1.398%			9.970%	

2001 Benchmark – Population count using 2000 Census data, allocated by supervisorial district lines adopted in 1991 by the Board of Supervisors.

2001 Adopted – Population count using 2000 Census data, allocated by supervisorial district lines adopted in 2001 by the Board of Supervisors following the 2001 redistricting process.

2011 Benchmark – Population count using 2010 Census data, allocated by supervisorial district lines adopted in 2001 by the Board of Supervisors (current boundaries).

Ideal District Population – Total population of the County divided by the number of Supervisorial Districts (5).

Deviation – The percentage that each District’s population would deviate, over or under, from an Ideal District Population.

Please note the following updates for the 2011 Benchmark Population in the 2nd and 4th District. 2nd District Benchmark population is 1,944,48 (-29) and 4th District Benchmark population is 1,919,949 (+29).

Mr. Cheng also reviewed the 2011 Redistricting Timeline as seen below.

Timeframe	Action
October 2010	Submit proposed redistricting process to Board of Supervisors, including establishment of a Boundary Review Committee (BRC).
Fall 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board appoints BRC members/alternates. • County staff prepares for redistricting process (e.g., review requirements, current plan, and data requirements; secure consultant assistance; design website).
December 2010	Census Bureau delivers 2010 Census data to President.
January 2011	The President delivers apportionment count to the U.S. House of Representatives.
March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational meeting of the BRC • Prepare for receipt of Census data (no later than 4/1/11). • Establish hearing/public meeting calendar. • Issue press releases on process. • Activate website
April 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze existing election districts using the 2011 redistricting data. • Activate redistricting software • Continue regular BRC meetings • Begin community outreach meetings in Supervisorial districts
May 2011	Continue BRC meetings and outreach meetings in Supervisorial Districts
June 2011	BRC deliberates on recommended redistricting plan(s).
July 2011	BRC recommends redistricting plan(s) to Board of Supervisors.
August 2011	<p>Board holds public hearings on redistricting plan. Board adopts Supervisorial Redistricting Plan (statutorily, no later than 10/31/11) and accompanying Ordinance; 4/5 vote required. <i>(If Board fails to adopt a Plan by 10/31/11, responsibility for adopting boundaries shifts to a redistricting commission composed of (in LA County) the District Attorney, Assessor and Sheriff, as prescribed by Elections Code 21502.)</i></p>
September 2011	Redistricting Ordinance becomes effective.
December 2011	Filing to run for County Supervisor in the June 2012 Primary commences in late December.

5. How Can You Get Involved?

Mr. Cheng reported the following:

- The Board of Supervisors has approved a Public Access Plan to promote public participation in the redistricting process and ensure the widest practicable participation and dissemination of pertinent redistricting information.
- 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.
- 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.

The following dates are the scheduled Boundary Review Committee meetings.

- Wednesday, April 20, 2011
 - Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B, 3:00 to 6:00
- Wednesday, May 4, 2011
 - Conference Room 739 3:00 – 6:00
- Wednesday, May 18, 2011
 - TBD
- Wednesday, June 1, 2011
 - Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B, 3:00 to 6:00
- Meetings in June TBD based on need
- Wednesday, July 13, 2011
 - Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B, 3:00 to 6:00
- Please note that the Boundary Review Committee may revise its scheduled meetings as needed. The updated Boundary Review Committee meeting schedule can be found at the County's Redistricting Website: www.redistricting.lacounty.gov.
- All meetings are held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- 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 will go live on April 22, 2011. The redistricting mapping application can be found at the County's Redistricting Website: www.redistricting.lacounty.gov

- The County will be 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 scheduled for 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

A member of the public asked if the training sessions can be taken in one hour increments due to the fact that some people do not have access to or limited access to the internet. As such, many members of the public use public library computers to access the internet, which only allows one hour of internet use per person.

In response, Mr. Cheng stated that the webinar sessions are all two hours in length. The public may elect to attend the first hour for one session, and attend the second hour for another session as all sessions are similar in content. In addition, one of the four sessions will be recorded, so that anyone may view the webinar training that will be posted on the redistricting website so that members may view it at their convenience. In addition, two Los Angeles County Public Libraries per district will extend internet usage hours specifically for this purpose.

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

6. Public Comment

Opportunity for members of the public to ask a question or make a comment.

Mr. Brian Mejia asked if staff knew where most of the growth was in the Fifth District? Also, will the web based software tell you where the growth is?

Mr. Cheng responded by stating that he unfortunately does not have the exact figures.

The web based software will not be able to provide users with areas of growth, as it does not contain historical data from the 2000 Census. For example, the handout shows that Fifth District grew by over 175,000 from 2000, but we do not have exact data at this meeting to show where the increase came from (another district, county, state, etc.).

Mr. James Figueroa asked how the supervisorial district boundary lines were changed to the present 10 years ago?

Mr. Cheng responded by stating that a map of the supervisorial district lines, showing how the boundary lines were changed 10 years ago as well as communities impacted, is available as one of the reports presented to the Boundary Review Committee and is on the website.

Mr. Brian Mejia stated that from his personal experience from the 2001 redistricting resulted in the Fifth District losing the City of Walnut, which became part of the First District.

Mr. Herman Palermo stated that not only has his communities' population changed but the entire Counties population has changed.

Ms. Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez asked about keeping the City of Azusa intact and in the First District. The city is predominantly Latino and hopes that the Voting Rights Act is going to play a major role in the redistricting effort.

Ms. Joyce Bakersmith disagrees with redistricting solely based on race/ethnicity and would like to see the redistricting based on population. In addition, Ms. Bakersmith hopes that most city lines can be kept intact.

Mr. Cheng responded by stating that all laws and other factors will be considered prior to adopting any redistricting plan.

Anthony Duarte stated that the San Gabriel Valley is split between three districts and a more unified San Gabriel Valley under one district would be more beneficial to all San Gabriel Valley residents.

Ms. Olivia James asked about finding more information about the Boundary Review Committee members themselves.

Ms. Angie Montes, Chief of the Commission Services Division of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, informed persons that they can call (213) 974-1431 if there are additional questions, visit the redistricting website or send correspondence to staff.

List of Attendees from the County

1St District – Commissioner Steve Reyes, Commissioner Louisa Ollague

5Th District – Commissioner Brian Mejia

Chief Executive Office - Frank Cheng, Geraldo Ramirez, Rosie Fabian

County Counsel – Nancy Takade, Truc Moore

Executive Office – Angie Johnson, George Britton, Twila Peoples Kerr, Narek Artonian