What is Redistricting?

Every ten years, the census gives us a snapshot of how many people are in the United States and where they live. Once California’s census based population is released, redistricting begins. That is, new district lines will be drawn that balance the number of people in each Supervisiorial district within Sutter County.

Who is on the Sutter County Redistricting Advisory Committee?

A Redistricting Advisory Committee has been established by the Board of Supervisors, consisting of the Superintendent of Schools, the Clerk-Recorder, the County Administrative Officer, the District Attorney, and the Planning Director of the Community Services Department.

Why can’t a computer simply draw lines?

The Commission must draw maps that follow specific prioritized criteria:

1. Draw districts with equal population, based on the U.S. constitution.
2. Comply with the federal Voting Rights Act, to ensure minority voters have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.
3. Draw districts that are contiguous, so that a district should be connected at all points.
4. Respect cities, communities of interest, and neighborhoods, to the extent possible.
5. Draw districts to be compact, where practicable, and applied only after criteria #1-4 have been satisfied.
6. Draw districts to nest within each other, where practicable.

Why does the Committee want to hear from the public?

Public participation in drawing districts is critical to ensuring that communities have the strongest voice possible to express their preferences and this can most effectively be done by the public themselves.

What will happen to publicly submitted comments and how will they be used in line drawing?

Along with census data, publicly submitted comments will be used to assist the Committee when it begins drawing district boundaries. The focus of public testimony is to receive information about the unique characteristics of the public’s Communities of Interest from those most familiar with their neighborhoods.

What is a “Community of Interest”?

A Community of Interest (COI) is a geographically connected population which shares common social and economic interests. Examples of such shared interest are:

- Those common to areas such as urban, rural, industrial, or agricultural; as well as geographical such as rivers, mountains, coastal, inland, watershed, etc.
- Those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process; as well as shared common goals.
Can a Community of Interest be defined by an incumbent or political party?

No consideration may be given to an incumbent or political candidate’s residence in creating a district, nor based on party affiliation or district preservation.

How can public comment and testimony be given?

The Committee encourages the public to provide testimony in an effort to best identify the unique regional qualities of Communities of Interest. Public comments about Communities of Interest can be submitted in the following ways:

- **In-Person:** Town Hall meeting scheduled for June 23, 2011 in the Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 p.m., or Public Hearings (at the Board of Supervisors meetings) on July 12 and July 26, 2011.
- **Electronic Submission:** Public comments can be sent via email to redistrict@co.sutter.ca.us
- **Via Mail:** Redistricting Commission, c/o County Administrative Office, 1160 Civic Center Boulevard, Yuba City, CA 95991.

How should public testimony be given at the Town Hall meeting?

Each individual will be given up to 5 minutes (3 minutes if the size of the public necessitates) to present their testimony to the Committee. It is recommended that the public consider incorporating answers to the questions listed below in an effort to assist the Committee in understanding each Community of Interest.

- **What bonds your community—what do you see as the common links in your community?**
- **Where is your community located – what are the boundaries of your community?**
- **Why should the community be kept together – or separate from another area?**
- **Maps are very helpful! Examples include Google Maps, AAA, or even hand-drawn.**

Where can I learn more about redistricting in general?

- Citizen Redistricting Commission, [www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/](http://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/)