Public Will Have Say In Sutter County Redistricting

Town Hall Meeting Thursday Focuses On Where Lines Should Be Drawn

Sutter County residents interested in the future boundaries of supervisorial districts will have an opportunity Thursday, June 23 to learn about the process and express their concerns before redistricting is completed.

In Sutter County, as in most California counties, supervisors are elected by district. There are five supervisorial districts that are required, by law, to be roughly the same size in population.

Following the 2010 Census, Sutter County is embarking on a process to update the districts, in advance of the 2012 elections. Where the boundaries of the various districts are established has an impact on who is eligible to run for what district, and who can vote for which supervisorial candidate.

During Thursday’s Town Hall meeting at the Sutter County Veteran’s Hall, which begins at 7 p.m., County Clerk-Recorder Donna Johnston will explain the concept of “community of interest,” and why this concept is important to developing supervisorial districts.

Members of the public will also have an opportunity to view three sample redistricting maps: one with minimal changes to district lines, one with dramatic changes, and one with moderate changes.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to discuss communities of interest and their take on the three draft redistricting maps.

They will also be provided paper copies of maps that will allow them to draw in their own boundaries. A Geographic Information System (GIS) computer will be available to determine how well maps submitted by members of the public are balanced in terms of population.

Based on the public input, the Planning Department will develop 3 to 5 alternative maps to present to the Board of Supervisors at a public hearing at 3 p.m. on July 12 at the Hall of Records. After receiving additional public input, the Board of Supervisors will conduct a second public hearing at 7 p.m. on July 26 at the Hall of Records, and it is anticipated that the Board will make a final determination of the new district alignments on that date.

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