The Power of Redistricting

How District Maps Affect Your Community

In 2021, redistricting will change the district lines for our cities, counties, school boards, state legislature, and Congress. This is our chance to make sure that our system of representation is fair, so that elected officials will listen to our needs and fight for our issues.

Representation Matters

We all have issues we care about: access to healthcare, quality education, affordable housing, local community services, fair wages, and more.

Elected officials at all levels of government make important decisions that affect our lives:

- School board members decide to build or close schools, how to spend their budget, safety policies, class sizes, and more.
- City council members decide housing policy, how to spend the city budget, where to do street repairs, where to support libraries and parks, and more.
- State legislators decide the budget and policies for K-12 education, health programs, college and higher education, highways and transportation, and more. They also decide laws about the environment, workplace safety, civil rights, housing policy, taxes, and more.

What Do We Stand to Gain in Redistricting?

Fair district lines lay the groundwork for making sure elected officials support our communities’ well-being and address our most pressing needs.

These lines have the potential to build or limit community power, by splitting existing communities into multiple districts or keeping them together.

When your community is kept whole in one district, you have more power at the voting booth and can more effectively organize and advocate to your representatives.
How Can We Build Power through Districts?

When your community is paired with communities that have similar interests and policy priorities, you collectively have more influence. Your representative will be more responsive to your shared concerns.

For example, in 2011 Fresno’s Hmong community advocated for a district map that kept their neighborhood in one district. They also asked to be kept in a district with farm areas to the south and east where many of their community members leased farmland.

They advocated to be paired with nearby Latino communities, because they shared policy concerns, like low incomes and unemployment. They wanted to be able to vote together for candidates who would care about these issues.

AAPI communities in Sacramento also fought to be kept in districts with neighborhoods that were similar to them. For example, West Sacramento residents asked to be kept with downtown areas and the city of Sacramento instead of with rural areas and the rest of Yolo County.
Do Your Elected Officials Serve Your Community?

Look at your city council map, your school board map, your state assembly map.

➔ Who is in your district?
➔ Are you paired with communities that have similar concerns to you?
➔ Can you organize together to elect candidates that will fight for your needs?

This is your opportunity to make sure your community has a fair chance to influence elections and hold elected officials accountable. The maps that are drawn this year will be in place for the next decade!

You Can Have a Say!

Learn more about redistricting and find out how you can get involved at bit.ly/ALC-CA-Redistricting.