

DISTRICTING FACT SHEET

Creating Merced's Council Districts

As a valued community member, the Independent Districting Advisory Committee is calling on you to take part in the process of creating six Council voting districts. The new districts will be roughly the same size in population and will be set up based on the following:

- Communities that share the same interests
- Keeping communities whole or connected
- Detailed mapping of an area's features
- Physical features of the land

Once the districts are created, each district will elect one resident Council Member to speak, act, and vote on it's behalf for a four-year term. This is completely different from what is currently in place for electing the City's leaders. The Mayor will continue to be elected citywide for a two-year term. The Committee believes that the creation of the new voting districts will take about six months - from March through August 2015.

Take Part!

The Committee is being helped by Doug Johnson from National Demographics, who is very experienced in council districting, to assist with putting together different options. However, this process would greatly benefit from community input. Please review and share in all activities of interest that are convenient for you. All suggestions are welcome!

- Use the Public Participation Kit to make your own map
- Come to a Community Meeting
- Tell us about your community's borders

Interpreters in Spanish and Hmong will be available at every meeting. For any other disability needs, please contact Miranda Lutzow, Assistant City Clerk at (209) 388-8650 at least three business days before the meeting.

Upcoming Opportunities for Community Input

Three first-round community meetings will be held in various locations within the City to ask for public input. Come and share with the Committee what you consider to be your "community." Learn how to make and send in your own district map.

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tenaya Middle School
760 W. 8th Street

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Senior Community Center
755 15th Street

Saturday, May 30, 2015

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Rivera Middle School
945 Buena Vista Drive

The meetings will cover the same information, so come to the one most convenient for you. There will be another round of meetings to hear from the public which are planned for July 2015.

Send Us Your Districting Map

You are invited to send us a map that shows areas of interest and information related to possible district boundaries.

How to send us a districting map:

- Draw up six new voting districts.
- Each district must have equal population of around 13,000 -14,000 people.
- You can choose to draw on the provided map or send us a map of your own.
- Send your map by:
 - ✦ Mail: City of Merced, City Clerk's Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340
 - ✦ Email: districting@cityofmerced.org

Please help us identify the following, on the map or in comments:

Neighborhoods or Communities:

Outline or identify areas that you believe work together as neighborhoods or communities and should be kept together in a single district

Connections: Identify neighborhoods or communities that you believe share common interests and should be combined with a district.

Barriers: Identify physical features such as streets, utilities, or others that you believe act as a natural barrier between districts.

Divisions: Identify communities that you believe are different and would be best served in separate districts.

Points of interest: Identify important locations or points of interest that are of special interest or concern to certain communities and explain what makes them important.

