

City of Berkeley Redistricting Process

Every ten years, local governments use new census data to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. [Assembly Bill 849 \(2019\)](#) requires cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and/or workshops and doing public outreach, including to non-English-speaking communities.

What is redistricting?

Every ten years, districts must be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. This process, called redistricting, is important in ensuring that each city councilmember represents about the same number of constituents. In Berkeley, an Independent Redistricting Commission is responsible for drawing council districts. Redistricting is done using U.S. Census data, which will be released around September 30, 2021. For the City of Berkeley, the redistricting process must be completed by February 1, 2022, or nine months after final adjustments are made to the census data, whichever is later.

Why does redistricting matter to me?

Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district for purposes of electing a councilmember.

The Independent Redistricting Commission will seek input in selecting the next district map for our City Council. You have an opportunity to share how you think district boundaries should be drawn to best represent your community.

You can contact the City Clerk at redistricting@cityofberkeley.info to find out more about how the process works.

What do the existing council districts look like?

You can find a map of the City's current council districts here: www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Home/Council_District_Maps.aspx

What criteria will the Independent Redistricting Commission use when drawing district lines?

To the extent practicable, district lines will be adopted using the following criteria: topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory of the districts, as well as existing communities of interest (populations that are common social and economic interests), and shall utilize easily understood district boundaries such as major traffic arteries and geographic boundaries to the extent they are consistent with communities of interest. The Commission may consider existing district boundaries as a basis for developing new boundaries. In addition, boundaries shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against a political party, and the residence of sitting Councilmembers will not be considered.

How will the Independent Redistricting Commission notify the public about redistricting?

The Commission will reach out to local media to publicize the redistricting process. Also, we will make a good faith effort to notify community groups of various kinds about the redistricting process. Our public meetings will be provided in applicable languages if residents submit a request in advance. The City will notify the public about redistricting meetings, post maps online before adoption, and create a dedicated web page for all relevant information about the redistricting process.

How can I get involved?

The Independent Redistricting Commission will be holding meetings to receive public input on where district lines should be drawn. Those meetings will be held on different days of the week and weekends, and at various times of the day to accommodate the broadest public participation possible.

You can also submit public comments, including suggested draft maps, by emailing: redistricting@cityofberkeley.info

Where can I find out more?

The City maintains a webpage on the city's redistricting process here: www.cityofberkeley.info/redistricting