



REDISTRICTING

Redistricting FAQs

What is redistricting?

Every 10 years following the U.S. Census, California requires that boundaries for the board of directors be redrawn so that each division is substantially equal in population. This process, called redistricting, is important in ensuring each elected board member represents about the same number of constituents. Redistricting determines what neighborhoods and communities are grouped into a Western division to elect your respective board member.

Why does redistricting matter to me?

Redistricting helps assure that communities have equal access to political representation. How and where division boundaries are drawn can shape the communities' ability to elect the representatives of their choice. Each elected board member must represent about the same number of constituents. The input of Western constituents is important to creating a redistricting plan that provides fair and effective representation for everyone.

What criteria will Western use when drawing division lines?

To the extent practicable, division lines will be adopted using the following criteria:

1. **Equal population:** Each division must have approximately the same number of people
2. **Compliance with the California [Voting Rights Act](#):** Minority groups must have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
3. **Geographically contiguous:** All parts of a division must be connected.
4. **Communities of interest:** As much as possible, divisions must not split neighborhoods that share social and economic interests.
5. **Geographically compact:** Divisions must include the closest populations, not bypass them for others who are further away.

How can I get involved?

Community members can get involved by 1) learning about Western's redistricting process, 2) sending your input and ideas about division boundaries by visiting wmwd.com/PublicComment, or 3) submitting formal public comment during our public hearing or via email to BoardSecretary@wmwd.com by 4:30 p.m. the day before the hearing date.

You're invited: Western to host redistricting public hearings

Join us at a public hearing to learn about Western's redistricting. These hearings are an opportunity to share your input to help Western better understand our communities of interest and reshape our division boundaries. The board of directors will also hold two hearings to receive public input about where district lines will be drawn.

Public Hearing No. 1

The first public hearing is designed to introduce the process, hear community input and share mapping options.

- When: Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021, at 6 p.m.

- Where: 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, CA 92518
Virtual attendance option: Attendees can also participate via Zoom link available on wmwd.com/BoardMeeting

Public Hearing No. 2

The second public hearing is designed to review final maps, accept additional input, and for the Board to consider the adoption of the new division map.

- When: Date and time to be determined
- Where: 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, CA 92518
Virtual attendance option: Attendees can also participate via Zoom link available on wmwd.com/BoardMeeting

Where can I get more information about the redistricting process?

Western is committed to consistent and transparent communications with customers throughout the redistricting process.

- Redistricting webpage: A webpage on the Western website, wmwd.com/Redistricting, will be dedicated to updates.
- Customer mailer: Postcards will be mailed to all Western customers.
- Email updates: Email updates will be sent to customers who have opted in to receive information. Subscribe for email updates: To sign up for updates visit wmwd.com/Subscribe.
- Bill inserts: Western will provide informational updates via print and digital bill inserts.
- Social Media: Updates and event pages will be posted to Western’s social media platforms including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

What is the redistricting timeline?

Sept. 20, 2021	Adjusted Census Data released to the public
Dec. 15, 2021 at 6 p.m.	Public Hearing No. 1 This public forum will provide information about the redistricting process, accept public input and review potential map options.
Winter 2021/22	Preparation of draft maps using 2020 census data and public input; public outreach continues; public comment accepted via BoardSecretary@wmwd.com . To learn how to offer your public comment or for a schedule of Board Meetings where you can offer input, visit wmwd.com/BoardMeeting .
January or February 2022	The second public hearing is designed to review final maps, accept additional input, and for the Board to consider the adoption of the new division map.
April 17, 2022	Deadline to adopt and submit new division map to Registrar of Voters.
November 2022	2022 Election



How do physical features in my community affect board district boundaries?

Where practicable, board divisions should follow natural topographic and geographic features. This can be especially important where and when these features define a community and/or restrict access between communities such as a river or valley.

How many districts does Western have?

Western has five divisions elected by voters.

What are the existing board divisions?

[View a map of Western's current board divisions](#) or visit wmwd.com/BoardOfDirectors to learn more about Western's elected Board and division boundaries.

Did the 2020 census data shift significantly in Western service area?

According to the 2020 census, a major shift in division boundaries is not anticipated.

- 953,681 people = Western's total population
- 190,736 = Western's ideal division size

Acceptable deviation is 10% from the ideal district size. Western is currently at 11.46%, so minor mapping adjustments are anticipated in order to achieve the ideal division sizes.

Where can I find more information?

For more information, visit wmwd.com/Redistricting, email outreach@wmwd.com or call 951.571.7100. Public comments about Western's redistricting process or proposed maps must be submitted to wmwd.com/PublicComment or BoardSecretary@wmwd.com or provided in person/Zoom during scheduled public hearings.

Who decides on the new district boundaries?

With public input, Western's current Board of Directors will vote and adopt the new division maps.

Do board members need to be living within their districts?

A Board Member must reside in the division they are elected to represent. Western provides water to direct customers and wholesale agencies to create a district that serves nearly one-million people either directly or indirectly. This means some division directors may not be a direct customer of Western but instead, represent the areas Western serves water indirectly (e.g., City of Corona, Norco, Jurupa Community Services District, and more).

How can I learn more about redistricting from other trusted sources of information?

- [California Independent Redistricting Commission FAQs](#)
- [Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund's Redistricting Guide](#)
- [League of Women Voters' Redistricting Web Page](#)

