

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Turlock Irrigation District enacting this process now?

All jurisdictions that have electoral divisions, including special districts like the Turlock Irrigation District's Board of Directors, must equalize the populations of their respective divisions every 10 years following the decennial federal census. Redistricting is the process of adjusting the division boundaries to ensure that all districts have equal populations and are in compliance with all state and federal laws.

How are the divisions drawn?

Generally, the following factors are considered when drawing special districts (divisions), such as the Turlock Irrigation District ([California Elections Code 22000](#))

- Each divisions should contain nearly the same number of people;
- Boundaries shall be drawn in a manner that complies with the United States Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights Act;
- Local topography;
- Local geography;
- Cohesiveness, contiguity, and compactness of territory;
- Divisions shall respect communities of interest. A Community of Interest (COI) generally refers to a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single divisions for purposes of fair and effective representation;

In summary, this means the following:

- We will use a mapping program to construct divisions after public input has been received.
- Census data will be used to find out how many people live in each part of the electoral divisions and ensure that each division contains roughly the same number of people.
- Census geography will be used to ensure that the divisions are compact and contiguous
- We will collect and utilize Community of Interest data from the residents and Directors of Turlock Irrigation District to use in the building of divisions.

Do we use the number of voters to draw divisions?

Electoral divisions are drawn using the total population as counted by the last census. Everyone who was counted, irrespective of age or other demographics, has to be assigned to a division. Divisions are not equalized using voters, registered voters, or citizens.

What information do you need from me?

One of the criteria to draw maps is called “Communities of Interest” or COI. Because there are no datasets available for Communities of Interest, we appreciate your help to define them for the Turlock Irrigation District. A COI is a group of people in a defined geographic location that share a common bond or interest. A Community of Interest is typically defined as “a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single division for purposes of fair and effective representation.” Please tell us what defines your Community of Interest, where it is located, and why it should stay together.

We have informational handouts that explain the many different ways to submit COI testimony.

- How to Create Your Community of Interest (COI) Online
- TID COI Written Form

Why should I get involved in the redistricting process?

We would like to hear from you so we can make informed decisions about where to put division boundaries. Specifically, we need information from you about your communities of interests. You are the expert who knows your communities! If we know the geographic locations of the Communities of Interest in TID, we can consider them when drawing lines and we won’t inadvertently split them! Keeping communities together in the same division can help to get more responsive representation.

When are the public hearings?

Date	Meeting/Event	Time
September 28, 2021	Meeting 1: Redistricting Kickoff	9:05 a.m.

October 19, 2021	Meeting 2: Communities of Interest (COI) Input, Direction from the Board, and Live Mapping	6:00 p.m.
By November 3, 2021	Draft Maps Posted Online for Feedback	
December 7, 2021	Meeting 3: Feedback on Draft Maps	9:05 a.m.
January 25, 2022	Meeting 4: Vote to Adopt the Final Map	9:05 a.m.

How do I get answers to additional questions?

If you have more questions, we are available to answer them!

- You can attend any of the above public meetings
- Or email your question to: jmweimer@tid.org
- Or mail your question to: Josh M Weimer 333 East Canal Drive P.O. Box 949 Turlock, CA 95381-0949
- Or call us: (209)-883-8361