

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get involved in the districting process?

The districting process was designed to be as transparent and accessible as possible. You are invited to attend one or more of the **Town Council** hearings to provide input in person. Please see below for more information. You can also provide input by mail or email or by dropping off materials to the Town Manager or Town Clerk. Please see below for contact information.

When and where are the hearings?

The meeting schedule is as follows:

- **January 30, 6pm;** Council Chambers at Town Hall
- **February 2, 10am-12pm;** Mary Agatha Furth Center, 8400 Old Redwood Highway
- **February 6, 6pm;** Council Chambers at Town Hall
- **February 13, 6pm;** Council Chambers at Town Hall
- **February 16, 10am-12pm;** Mary Agatha Furth Center, 8400 Old Redwood Highway
- **February 20, 6pm;** Council Chambers at Town Hall
- **February 27, 6pm;** Council Chambers at Town Hall
- **March 6, 6pm;** Council Chambers at Town Hall

How are the districts drawn?

Generally, the following criteria are used to draw the council districts:

- Each district 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;
- Council districts shall consist of contiguous territory in as compact form as practicable;
- Districts shall follow visible features and boundaries when possible;

- Council districts shall respect communities of interest as much as practicable. Communities of Interest generally refers to a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of fair and effective representation;

In summary, this means the following:

- We will use a mapping program to construct districts after public input has been received.
- Census data will be used to find out how many people live in each part of the town and ensure that each district contains roughly the same number of people.
- Census geography will be used to ensure that the districts are compact and contiguous.
- We will collect and utilize Community of Interest data from the residents of Windsor to use in the building of districts.
- We will not use any address information for current council members or potential candidates or use political party affiliation for information in the drawing of districts.

How many people should be in each district?

As counted by the 2010 Census, the Town of Windsor had a total population of 26,801. Because the decennial census is the only survey that counts everyone, we have to use that data to draw districts. The council will soon determine whether there will be 4 or 5 council districts. To figure out the 'ideal population' for each council district, take the total population (26,801) and divide it by the number of districts, which equals 6,700 persons for a set of 4 districts, and 5,360 persons for a set of 5 districts.

Do we use the number of voters to draw districts?

Districts 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 district. Districts are not equalized using voters, registered voters or citizens.

What happens at the public hearings?

The hearings will be led by our districting consulting team and are designed to be as accessible and transparent as possible. The hearings will have 3 phases. They will begin with a presentation to give an overview of the process and the criteria. After that, there will be an opportunity to mingle, study maps of the town and talk to the consultants and other residents to prepare input. Finally, the hearings will resume to allow for formal public input to be presented by attendees. The consultants will be able to show the area that the input focuses on using mapping software and a projector. The consultants will use the public input in constructing the draft maps.

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 Town of Windsor. A COI is a group of people in a defined geographic location that share a common bond or interest. The Town’s districting criteria define Community of Interest as “a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district 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 developed a handout that explains this in detail and provided a form to fill out along with a document that explains how to use free online software to make a map.

Why should I get involved in the districting process?

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

How do I get answers to additional questions?

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

- You can attend the Town Council hearings
- Or email your question to: **districtelections@townofwindsor.com**
- Or mail your question to Town of Windsor, 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Building 400, Windsor, CA 95492

- Or call us: (707) 838-1000

What is the timeline?

The districting process timeline is prescribed by the [California Election Code. Section 10010\(b\)](#) requires that 2 hearings, no more than 30 days apart, are held prior to the development of a draft map. Two additional hearings, no more than 45 days apart, are required after a proposed map has been drawn.

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