

NEWS RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CLERK/ELECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Meetings Scheduled for June 14th and June 20th - Redistricting of Santa Cruz County Supervisorial Boundaries

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has scheduled two public meetings on the Redistricting of Supervisorial Boundaries for Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 10:45 a.m. in the Board Chambers of the Government Center, located at 701 Ocean Street in Santa Cruz, and for Monday, June 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. or thereafter at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street in Watsonville.

Redistricting is governed by the U.S. Constitution, California Elections Code and the United States Voting Rights Act. The Board of Supervisors is charged with the legal responsibility for adjusting supervisorial district boundaries every ten years utilizing census data from the federal government "...so that the districts shall be as nearly equal in population as may be..." (Elections Code Section 21500).

Election Code statutes require that in establishing the boundaries of the districts, the Board may give consideration to the factors of (a) topography, (b) geography, (c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and (d) community of interests of the districts (Elections Code Section 21500). The purpose of the public meetings is to encourage participation by members of the public to express their community of interests (COI).

California law states that a community of interest is "a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interest that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation." While the law provides several examples of the kinds of interests that satisfy its definition, such as common media, or transportation facilities, community members are not limited to these kinds of interests in establishing a COI. Common social and/or economic interests could include common heritage, culture or history, support for a school or community center, or a desire to address a problem specific to a neighborhood or area.

The County's Redistricting Task Force established a preliminary timeline for presenting redistricting plans for the Board's consideration, in order to meet the November 1, 2011 required deadline for adoption of revised Supervisorial boundaries. If required, the timeline will be amended in early August. The Board of Supervisors would consider the plan or plans beginning with Public Hearings on August 23, 2011, and provide direction to staff to develop materials demonstrating the preferred plan or plans at public hearings scheduled in September.

For more information, please call the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department at 831-454-2060, go online to www.votescount.com, or www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us, Redistricting

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