



San Juan Capistrano Redistricting 2021-2022

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the City of San Juan Capistrano enacting the redistricting process now?

All cities with city council districts must engage in “redistricting” every 10 years following the decennial federal census in order to ensure that all districts continue to have equal populations and follow all state and federal laws. In 2016, the San Juan Capistrano City Council transitioned to a district-based voting system to elect its City Council Members, replacing its at-large election system. The City of San Juan Capistrano must now ensure that no changes are needed in light of the new 2020 federal census data and must go through the regular decennial redistricting process.

How can I get involved in the redistricting process?

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

When and where are the meetings?

The redistricting process timeline is prescribed by the [California Election Code, Section 21627.1](#). This requires that San Juan Capistrano hold at least one public hearing before the Council draws a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries and at least two public hearings after the Council has drawn a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries. All public hearing buildings shall be accessible to persons with disabilities and live-interpretation from English to Spanish and Spanish to English shall be available upon request (at least 72 hours before the meeting).

Public Hearing No.	Date, Time, and Location	Meeting Information
1	Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:00 p.m. Community Center, 25925 Camino Del Avion	Community Workshop Overview on the process and criteria for redistricting.
2	Saturday, January 22, 2022	Community Workshop

	10:00 a.m. La Sala Auditorium, 31495 El Camino Real	Overview on the process and criteria for redistricting.
3	Tuesday, February 1, 2022 6:00 p.m. City Council Chamber, 32400 Paseo Adelanto	City Council Regular Meeting Overview on the process and criteria for redistricting. Presentation of public input from community workshops. Council to provide direction on mapping.
4	Tuesday, February 15, 2022 6:00 p.m. City Council Chamber, 32400 Paseo Adelanto	City Council Regular Meeting Presentation of draft map options. Council and the public to provide feedback.
5	Tuesday, March 1, 2022 6:00 p.m. City Council Chamber, 32400 Paseo Adelanto	City Council Regular Meeting Council and the public to provide additional feedback on draft map.
6	Tuesday, March 8, 2022 6:00 p.m. City Council Chamber, 32400 Paseo Adelanto	City Council Adjourned Regular Meeting Council receives any final feedback and votes to adopt final map, first reading of ordinance.
7	Tuesday, March 15, 2022 6:00 p.m. City Council Chamber, 32400 Paseo Adelanto	City Council Regular Meeting Council votes to adopt final map, second reading of ordinance.

How are the districts drawn?

Generally, the following criteria are used to redraw the council districts ([California Elections Code. Section 21601](#)):

- 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 that shares

common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of fair and effective representation;

- The demographer will disregard the location of incumbents and candidates, as well as the interests of political parties.

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 city 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 San Juan Capistrano 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 or information in the drawing of districts.

How many people should be in each district?

As counted by the 2020 Census, the City of San Juan Capistrano had a total population of 35,271. The decennial census is the only survey that counts everyone, so we have to use that data to draw districts. There will be 5 council districts. To figure out the ‘ideal population’ for each council district, take the total population 35,271 and divide it by the number of districts (5) which equals approximately 7,054 persons.

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, residency status or other demographics has to be assigned to a district. Districts 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 City of San Juan Capistrano. A COI is a group of people in a defined geographic location that share a common bond or interest. A Community of Interest is defined 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.

Resources for Submitting COIs:

- Understanding the term “Communities of Interest”
- San Juan Capistrano Written COI Form
- How to Submit Your COI Online

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 draw district lines. Specifically, we need information from you about your neighborhoods and communities of interest. You are the expert who knows your community and neighborhood! If we know the geographic locations of the Communities of Interest in San Juan Capistrano, 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 community meeting or any of the City council hearings
- Or email your question to: redistricting@sanjuancapistrano.org
- Or mail your question to: City Clerk’s Office, 32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
- Or call us: (949) 443-6308