

VALLEJO: What's Your Community?

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Community of Interest?

A community of interest is a group of people in a defined geographic location that share a common bond or interest. The definition is broad, leaving communities a lot of discretion in determining which issues are important to them.

Why do they matter?

Under state law communities of interest may be considered when deciding how to drawing district boundaries. Keeping communities whole in the same district allows those with common interests to come together for representation.

Why do I matter?

Communities of Interest are best documented through oral or written input from individuals or groups with first-hand knowledge of them. Nothing can replace personal knowledge of the community. That is why we want to hear your feedback on your community; you know it best!

What do I do?

Start by completing the attached Testimony Form and describing your community

Tell us where the exterior boundaries of your community are so we can locate it on a map. For example, write down landmarks, streets, bodies of water, or railroad tracks that delineate the outside border of the community. You can also draw the boundaries of your community on the attached map or use the free online tool.

Then tell us what the common interests of your community are and why they are important. The law does not limit the kinds of interests that may bind a community. They can include your current situation or common goals for the future. Examples of common interests include income, education, housing, culture and language, employment and economic patterns, and health and environmental conditions.

Finally tell us why it is important to keep your community whole. Sometimes it is not possible to keep all communities together. Some communities may overlap with each other. To deal with these tradeoffs tell us how your community would benefit from being kept in one district.

There are two options to submit your testimony. It can be emailed to maps@cityofvallejo.net, or dropped off or mailed to [City Clerk, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590](#). Testimony must be received no later than **April 23, 2019 by 5:15pm** for consideration in the draft map (the sooner the better).

Why do I have such a short time?

State law requires the districting process to be completed within 90 days and includes specific deadlines for the public testimony process.

What else can I do?

The city council will be holding public hearings on November 27, 2018 and another hearing in December. Consider coming and telling us more about your community.

Draft maps will then be prepared for public comment. Keep an eye out for those maps and let us know how they do representing your community.

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Testimony Form

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Describe your Community of Interest below including where it is located (being as specific as possible, including info on streets and other landmarks that make up the exterior boundary of your community. Feel free to also use the attached map or online mapping tool if/when available), what makes it a community (e.g. shared culture, common neighborhood projects, etc.), and why it should be kept together.

My community of interest is located at: _____

My community's mutual interests include: _____

My community should be kept together because: _____

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