

Redistricting Fact Sheet

Redistricting is the redrawing of congressional and state legislative districts to adjust for uneven growth rates in different parts of the state. Districts determine which voters participate in which elections. This term also applies to County Commission Districts and for the same reason - to address population inequity.

The Constitution of the State of Florida [Article VIII, Section 1.(e)] requires that, after each decennial census, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is to divide the county into districts of contiguous territories as nearly equal in population as practicable, with one commissioner residing in each district elected as provided by law. Chapter 124, Florida Statutes, also provides for more frequent redistricting to maintain population balance, but provides that redistricting shall only occur in odd-numbered years.

Collier County Approved Criteria:

- (1) the population of each district should be as similar as possible;
- (2) all districts should be as compact and regularly shaped as feasible;
- (3) the incumbent commissioner's residence (and same for school board members) must remain in his or her current district; and
- (4) consider racial and ethnic populations in accordance with the law.

Collier County Additional Criteria

- (1) any plan that has a retrogressive effect on minority voting strength would be eliminated from further consideration;
- (2) well-defined, easily recognizable, and major boundaries, such as rivers, arterial and major roadways, should be utilized when not in conflict with other criteria;
- (3) former district boundaries should generally be maintained when not in conflict with other criteria; and
- (4) communities of interest, such as Golden Gate Estates, and neighborhood integrity should be preserved when not in conflict with other criteria.

The **Voting Rights Act** requires the creation of a district that performs for racial and language minorities where:

- (1) a minority population is geographically compact and sufficiently numerous to be a majority in a single district;
- (2) the minority population is politically cohesive;
- (3) the majority votes sufficiently as a bloc to enable it usually to defeat the minority-preferred candidate; and
- (4) under all of the circumstances, the minority population has less opportunity than others to participate in the political process and elect representatives of its choice.

The Voting Rights Act (VRA) also prohibits purposeful discrimination and protects against retrogression—or backsliding—in the ability of racial and language minorities to elect representatives of their choice.

Section 2 of the VRA prohibits denial or abridgement of the right to vote based on race, color or minority language status including the opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representative of their choice. Section 2 further forbids creating election districts that improperly dilute minorities' voting power. Tactics commonly used to dilute minority voting strength include:

1. Cracking — Dividing groups of people with the same or similar characteristics into more than one district to diminish their ability to elect a desired candidate.
2. Packing — Cramming large groups of people with the same characteristics into the same or as few districts as possible to dilute their voting strength elsewhere.

Timeline

Task	Timeframe
Receive population data from U.S. Census Bureau.	August 2021
Draft proposed maps with corresponding population data.	September 2021
Notification of Public Information Meetings through Civic-Municipality presentations and newspaper advertisements.	October 2021
Hold Public Information Meetings throughout the community.	November 2021
Hold BCC public hearing to adopt final map.	December 14, 2021

Collier County Redistricting Public Information Meeting Schedule

Collier County Redistricting Public Information Meetings	Location	Date
District 1	Collier County Government Center Administrative Building (Bldg. F, 3rd Floor) BCC Chambers 3299 E. Tamiami Trail Naples, FL 34112	Monday NOVEMBER 1 6 p.m.
District 2	North Collier Regional Park (Exhibit Hall) 15000 Livingston Road Naples, FL 34109	Wednesday NOVEMBER 10 6 p.m.
District 3	Golden Gate Community Center (Auditorium) 4701 Golden Gate Parkway Naples, FL 34116	Tuesday NOVEMBER 16 6 p.m.
District 4	Growth Management Department (Conference Rooms 609/610) 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive Naples, FL 34104	Tuesday NOVEMBER R 2 6 p.m.
District 5	Immokalee Community Park (Conference Room) 321 N. 1st Street Immokalee, FL 34142	Monday NOVEMBER 15 6 p.m.

At the five evening public meetings attendees will have an opportunity to review the proposed maps and ask questions. A brief presentation will be made at the beginning of each of those meetings. Every effort will be made to have a Spanish and Haitian Creole interpreter at those five meetings. All meetings are open to the public, regardless of the district in which you reside. *Wearing of facemasks is encouraged but not required.*

Contact information:

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<https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/your-government/divisions-s-z/zoning-division/2021-collier-county-bcc-redistricting-information>