

Kern Community College District

Redistricting Community of Interest Worksheet

Your input is needed to shape the new voting districts for the Kern Community College Board and one way you can participate is by assisting the board in developing a list of “communities of interest” or “COI” that can be utilized in the process to develop districts.

What is a Community of Interest?

A Community of Interest is any cohesive group of people that live in a geographically definable area and should be considered as a potential voting bloc in current or future elections.

There are some communities of interest that are considered “protected classes” in that they have rights through state or federal civil rights or voting rights laws. Some examples of protected classes in districting would be ethnic and racial minorities such as a concentration of Latino, Asian, or African American people. Protected classes can be described through public input, and there are federal databases that must be used wherever applicable to define these areas and make sure that they are not being harmed by the district boundaries.

There are other COI that can also be considered in districting, but don't have the higher legal requirements as ethnic or racial minorities. Identifying these other COI are still critical to the process. These could be clusters of senior citizens in one community, a group of college students living in a densely populated area near a campus, people who live in the downtown area or a specific neighborhood, or even people who share concerns such as parents with young children, bicycle enthusiasts, a religious affiliation, topic interest group, etc.

How to Document Your Community of Interest

1. What is the nature of the bond or common interest of your community? You can describe what the common interests of your community are and why or how they are important.
2. Where is your community located? You can define it by counties, neighborhoods, streets, address, a key landmark such as college campus, facility, school, church, or other boundaries.
3. What is the rationale for your community of interest to be used in this community college redistricting? Please describe how the issues before the college board have a unique impact on your group.

What You Can Do to Participate in the Process

1. Provide your comments on your community of interest. Please complete this worksheet and return it by email to danielle.hillard@kccd.edu, or drop off or mail a hard copy to the KCCD District Chancellor's Office at 2100 Chester Avenue, Bakersfield CA 93301
2. Attend one of the Community College District public meetings, times and locations to be publicized on the website.

Providing the following information is optional. If you provide an email address, we will send you updates on the process.

Name: _____

Do you live within the Kern Community College District? Y / N

Are you a student or alumni of the Kern Community College District? Y /N

What County do you live in? _____

Email address: _____