

**From:** joe mello [mailto:mello.joe@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 3, 2021 10:55 AM  
**To:** Redistricting <Redistricting@longbeach.gov>  
**Cc:** Bradley Bounds <Bradley.Bounds@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: PRESS RELEASE: Free Online District Mapping Tool Is Live

**-EXTERNAL-**

Commissioners,

Since the mapping tool has been such a huge issue, I thought you might be interested in the State of California redistricting mapping tool. It is a FREE open-source tool called QGIS also used by the National Security Agency...

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QGIS>

## Adoption<sup>[edit]</sup>

Many public and private organizations have adopted QGIS, including:

- [US National Security Agency](#)<sup>[12]</sup>
- [National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency](#)
- Austrian state of [Vorarlberg](#)
- Swiss cantons of [Glarus](#) and [Solothurn](#)<sup>[13]</sup>
- New Zealand's [Land Information public service department](#)<sup>[14]</sup>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **California Citizens Redistricting Commission** <[fredy.ceja@crc.ca.gov](mailto:fredy.ceja@crc.ca.gov)>  
Date: Sat, Oct 2, 2021 at 9:43 PM  
Subject: PRESS RELEASE: Free Online District Mapping Tool Is Live  
To: Joseph Mello <[mello.joe@gmail.com](mailto:mello.joe@gmail.com)>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 2, 2021**

**SATURDAY,**

**CONTACT: FREDY CEJA  
Fredy.Ceja@crc.ca.gov  
(916) 879-0699**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission and Statewide Database Release Free Online District Mapping Tools**

**SACRAMENTO, CA**—Today, the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) announced the Statewide Database's release of two free-to-use tools to help Californians submit redistricting plans to the Commission. These are the only redistricting applications through which users can submit their input directly to the state of California's official redistricting process.

"The Commission is excited to share these free resources to help people draw their own district maps," stated Commission Chair Sara Sadhwani. "The success of this decennial process depends on the participation of all Californians. We want to hear from everyone and want to know if our line drawing is heading in the right direction."

"The Statewide Database is proud to provide two map creation tools that are free of charge," said Karin Mac Donald, Director of the Statewide Database. "The key to participation is access. These online tools aim to expand access to every Californian in hopes that they have the tools necessary to participate in the redistricting process."

#### **Tell the CRC about your community today!**

The previously released Draw My CA Community allows users to draw a map of and respond to a few simple prompts about their Communities of Interest. When finished, users can submit community input directly to the California Citizens

Redistricting Commission for consideration in the statewide redistricting process.  
(<https://drawmycacommunity.org/>)

Draw My CA Districts is a free-to-use online tool for creating district maps  
Through the newly released Draw My CA Districts web application, users can create district maps throughout the state of California and submit those maps directly to the Commission. (<https://drawmycadistricts.org/>)

Draw My CA is a free-to-use plugin for the open-source GIS platform, QGIS  
Today's release of the Draw My CA QGIS plugin allows users to download a California redistricting application to their own computer. With this plugin, users can create redistricting plans for the state of California and submit those maps directly to the Commission while having access to a full GIS platform. Draw My CA will be available 10/03/2021 at: <https://www.redistrictinggroup.org/installer/>.

To learn more about these tools, please visit <https://drawmycalifornia.org/>.

Both the online district mapping tools (Draw My CA Districts and Draw My CA) include functionality to assist users to comply with population deviation, contiguity and assignment checks.

- % Deviation check - tells the user to what extent any of their districts are above or below the ideal population of the distinct type they are working on
- Contiguity check - lets the user know if their districts are contiguous or not
- Assignment check - lets the user know if they have unassigned areas in their redistricting plan

The Commission must follow the following criteria, in this order, when drawing district maps:

1. Districts must be of equal population to comply with the US Constitution.
2. Districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minorities have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
3. Districts must be drawn contiguously, so that all parts of the district are connected to each other.
4. Districts must minimize the division of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest to the extent possible.
5. Districts should be geographically compact: such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for a more distant population. This requirement refers to density, not shape. Census blocks cannot be split.
6. Where practicable each Senate District should be comprised of two complete and adjacent Assembly Districts, and Board of Equalization districts should be comprised of 10 complete and adjacent State Senate Districts.

In addition, the place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate may not be considered in the creation of a map, and districts may not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.

Every 10 years, after the federal government publishes updated census information, California must redraw the boundaries of its electoral districts so that the state's population is evenly allocated among the new districts.

In 2008, California voters passed the Voters First Act, authorizing the creation of the independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw new State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization district lines. In 2010, the Voters First Act for Congress gave the Commission the responsibility of drawing new Congressional districts following every census.

For more information, please visit [WeDrawTheLinesCA.org](http://WeDrawTheLinesCA.org).

###

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California Citizens Redistricting Commission

<http://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/>

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CA Citizens Redistricting Commission · 721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260, Sacramento, CA 95814, United States

This email was sent to [mello.joe@gmail.com](mailto:mello.joe@gmail.com). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

You can also keep up with California Citizens Redistricting Commission on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

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Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.

-----Original Message-----

From: BOB JOY [mailto:bob.joy@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:29 AM

To: Redistricting <Redistricting@longbeach.gov>

Cc: JT Nagayama <Jonathan.Nagayama@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Public Comment

-EXTERNAL-

Commissioners,

This is notification of my intent to speak at the Redistricting Commission public forum tonight during public comment regarding agenda item 3. 21-118RC. I will hand out presentation material prior to my comments.

Thank you,

Bob Joy

**From:** Megan Kerr [mailto:megan@megankerr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 12:32 PM  
**To:** Redistricting <Redistricting@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Greater Bixby Knolls consideration

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your continuing hard work and service to our community. Please see the attached letter for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Kerr

October 6, 2021

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to my community of interest. My name is Megan Kerr and I have lived in the greater Bixby Knolls area of Long Beach my entire life. I was born in Ridgewood heights, moved to Bixby Highlands at 4 and lived there, bought a house there until my 30's, then moved to Bixby Knolls where I currently live with my husband and young adult children. Having lived here my entire life, I absolutely see it as my "community of interest." I have often referred to my neighborhood as Bixby Knolls, but it includes several neighborhoods that I enter in and out of several times each day as I go about my work, shopping, and personal life. Most days of the week, I spend time and money in Bixby Knolls, Cal Heights, Bixby Highlands, Los Cerritos, Ridgewood Heights, all of which I consider my neighborhood. Currently those areas are represented by 2 different council districts, and some of those neighborhoods have changed council districts with each redistricting.

It is important to me that these neighborhoods are grouped together for the purposes of representation to ensure attention and consistency. When I was trying to come up with what that would look like, I immediately thought of the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association (BKBIA) trolley parade route from this last year. To reach out to our neighbors over these last 16 months of isolation, the BKBIA had a parade route that spanned our community of interest to continue to bring us together as community. I have included a map of the trolley route for your reference.

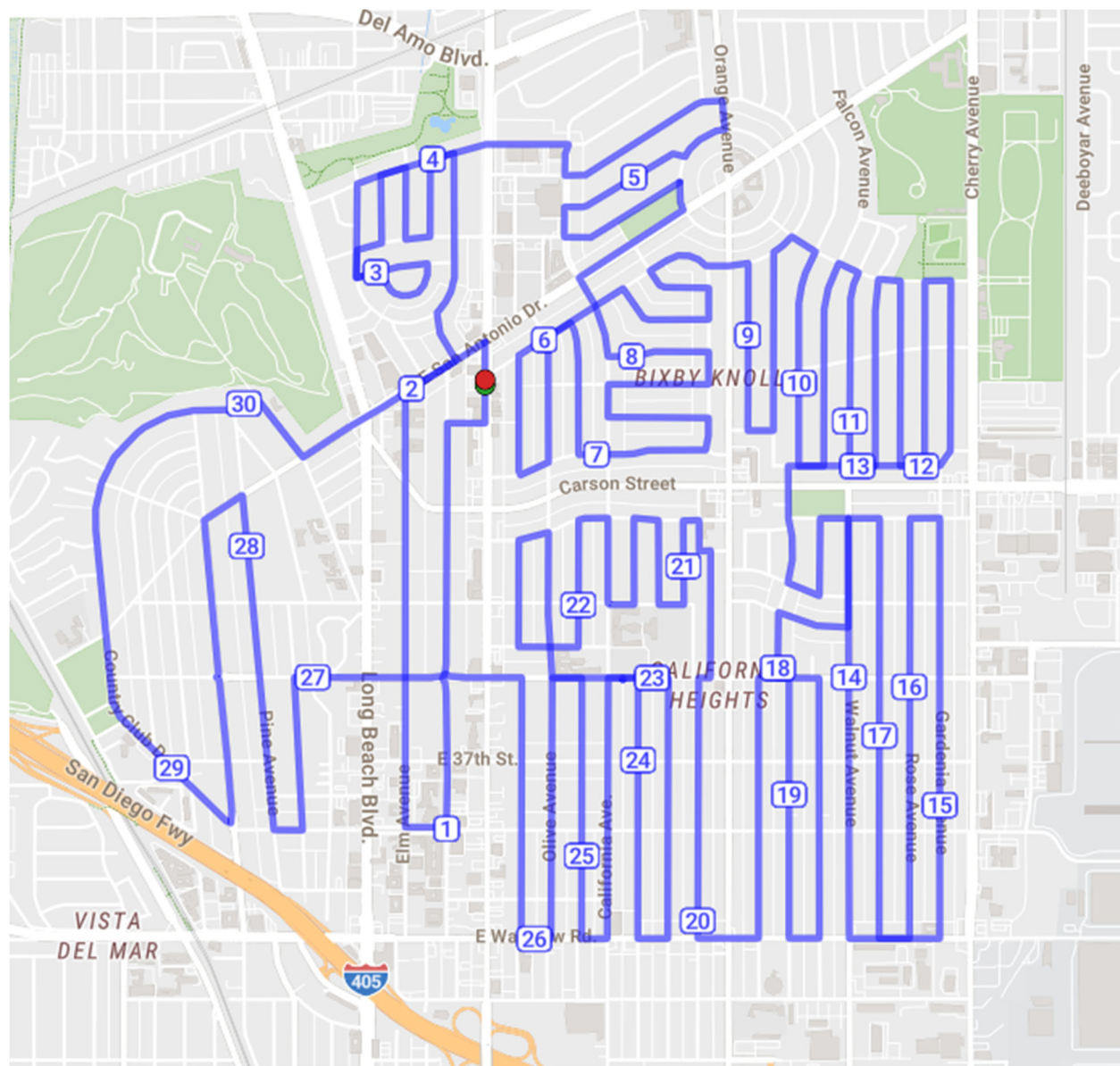
Having representation that covers this entire area is important for several reasons. It will ensure consistency of city services which will directly support the economic recovery of our small business community that stretches along the corridors. It will allow for continued community engagement in keeping our streets clean, safe routes to school and traffic issues. Having this area split between two different council districts has led to some confusion and frustration for residents when needing assistance with basic city services such as public works, street maintenance, and public safety.

Please consider keeping our greater Bixby Knolls/Cal Heights/Los Cerritos neighborhood together. Thank you for your time and your service to our community in this very important task.

Sincerely,

Megan Kerr

Current 8<sup>th</sup> district resident



**From:** Glennis Dolce [mailto:glennisd@me.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1:10 PM

**To:** Redistricting <Redistricting@longbeach.gov>; Bradley Bounds <Bradley.Bounds@longbeach.gov>; JT Nagayama <Jonathan.Nagayama@longbeach.gov>

**Subject:** COI AANG- meeting 10/16/21 comments

**-EXTERNAL-**

Please enter in my comments below into the record for tonight's (10/6/2021) redistricting meeting and distribute to the Commission. Thank you.

Dear Redistricting Commission,

As a member of the Airport Adjacent Neighborhoods Group (AANG) and a District 7 resident in the California Heights Neighborhood, I am pleased to see that the District R mapping tool has new census blocks that have separated the Globemaster Specific Corridor Project (GSCP) from the airport. This is as it should be and allows you to easily connect these blocks to the 7th district as we have requested.

This action also connects the 7th district to the airport and advances the shared representation desired by the AANG in spreading out the responsive representation of the Council members who speak for residents in matters before the city regarding the airport. This shared voice is very much needed and will be a future asset in many ways-inclusiveness, trust, shared responsibility, transparency and more.

Since drawing lines through uninhabited census blocks has been deemed legally possible (and will not affect census data), I hope you will also include the AANG's 4th district members request to be part of this inclusion for the benefit of all Long Beach residents.

Please keep in mind that we also have members from the 5th district who support this and understand that a **shared vision** is a healthy vision in regards to keeping representatives listening to those they serve.

Thank you!

Regards,

Glennis Dolce

D7

**From:** Laura Sellmer [mailto:laurasellmer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 10:10 AM  
**To:** Redistricting <Redistricting@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Impossible to Review of Public Maps for Creation of Draft Map

**-EXTERNAL-**

Honorable Commissioners:

#### SERIOUS CONCERN

It would be extremely wise for you, the Commission, to see a preview of the types and format of the public's maps that you will be receiving from Redistricting Partners. You may find yourself buried in MAPS THAT HAVE NO CORRELATION OR IDENTIFIERS WITH ANY COMMUNITY OF INTEREST, NEIGHBORHOOD, RESIDENT OR TESTIMONY. It's very possible will not know 1) who submitted the map, 2) the COI proposing their boundaries, or 3) why the boundaries were important AS SHOWN. You may be looking at maps and not have a clue why that map was submitted.

#### LOOK AT REDISTRICTING PARTNERS PUBLIC MAPS FOR CITY OF LOS ANGELES

On Sep 20-21, Redistricting Partners provided ALL the LA public-drawn maps to the City of Los Angeles Redistricting Commission. Hundreds of PUBLIC maps were given to the Commissioners NOT with the Community of Interest, NOT the neighborhood group, NOT the resident.

THERE IS NO WAY FOR THE COMMISSIONERS OR PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND WHAT COI SUBMITTED MAPS OR THE GOALS OF ANY SUBMISSION with hundreds of anonymous LA City maps.

The City of Los Angeles public maps area here : (cut and past)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KLgpThG\\_wKYXzOvDeZovkRqNUiC6lwLD](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KLgpThG_wKYXzOvDeZovkRqNUiC6lwLD)

This link has the maps <https://laccrc2021.org/past-meetings/>

#### LONG BEACH

Long Beach Commissioners, COI's and residents cannot afford to be blindsided by Redistricting Partners uploading anonymous maps.

## WARNING

The avalanche of unidentified maps will bury you and the public, stripping everyone of the ability to engage with knowledge, I urge you to REQUIRE that Redistricting Partners must provide clear and accurate identifiers, authors, community of interest information with every public map. EVERYONE needs to be able to connect the public maps with hours of public testimony.

“CONDUCT AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS ENABLING FULL PUBLIC CONSIDERATION” The Charter requires it.

If you allow Redistricting Partners to strip the identity of public map submissions and leave you and the public clueless, this might be a serious dereliction of your duty under the Charter. Without identifiable submissions, both you and the public do not have a fair and transparent process. The ability to use the criteria set forth in the City Charter becomes impossible to apply to anonymous submissions.

Some might consider an act of FRAUD if the public's maps you rely on unidentifiable submissions and allow Redistricting Partners to provide all the explanations.

Thank you for your service to the future of Long Beach and fair representation.

--

Laura Sellmer

**From:** Julia Gomez [mailto:JGomez@aclusocal.org]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 5:00 PM

**To:** Redistricting <Redistricting@longbeach.gov>

**Cc:** Jonathan Mehta Stein Contact <JStein@commoncause.org>; mcmorris23 <mcmorris23@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Letter re Long Beach City Council Redistricting Process

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Members of the Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission:

Attached please find a letter from California Common Cause and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California regarding the City's redistricting process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jonathan Stein, cc'd here.

Best,

Julia

Julia Gomez, Staff Attorney

ACLU of Southern California

1313 W 8th Street, Suite 200

Los Angeles, CA 90017

(o) 213.977.5258

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October 6, 2021

*Via Email*

Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission  
411 West Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
[redistricting@longbeach.gov](mailto:redistricting@longbeach.gov)

**Re: Concerns re Long Beach City Council's Redistricting Process**

Dear Members of the Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission:

The Commission is constitutionally and statutorily required to adopt a new district map that balances the population among the districts and complies with other redistricting criteria before the City Council's April and June 2022 elections. The City Charter unambiguously prohibits the Commission from splitting census blocks unless higher ranked criteria require the Commission to do so. While we appreciate the Commission's hard work and dedicated efforts to collect community of interest testimony, hear the voices of Long Beach residents, and foster an inclusive process, we are extremely concerned by comments from some Commissioners during the September 22, 2021 meeting. At that meeting, some Commissioners indicated that, to have more time to draw maps—and in particular, to explore the possibility of splitting census blocks—they may fail to fulfill their responsibilities by allowing the use of a map in 2022 with districts that are not substantially equal in population and that violate other mandatory criteria.

The City must redraw City Council lines following the release of decennial census data to “achiev[e] fair and effective representation” for all residents. *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 565-66 (1964); *id.* at 560-61 (noting that “the fundamental principle of representative government in this country” mandates “equal representation for equal numbers of people”). The purpose of periodic redistricting is to “maintain[ ] a reasonably current scheme of legislative representation” that reflects, among other things, population changes. *See id.* at 583-84. This requirement is not permissive. The United States Supreme Court requires jurisdictions to have a reasonable plan for periodic revision of district maps, *id.* at 583, and courts consistently invalidate malapportioned maps—that is, maps that do not adequately balance the population, *see, e.g., Kirkpatrick v. Preisler*, 394 U.S. 526, 528-29 (1969) (invalidating malapportioned state legislative plan); *Nation v. San Juan Cnty.*, 150 F. Supp. 3d 1253, 1272 (D. Utah 2015) (invalidating malapportioned school board plan). Updated 2020 census data, adjusted to reflect prisoner reallocation, show that Long Beach's total census population deviation across Council districts is 14.7%,<sup>1</sup> confirming that current Long Beach City Council districts are malapportioned and, thus, illegal. The City cannot therefore hold its 2022 City Council elections under the current City Council district map.

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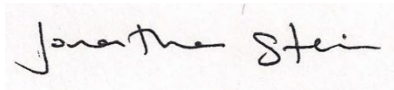
<sup>1</sup> See Redistricting Partners Inc. Report on 2020 Redistricting Data Update:  
<http://longbeach.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9866286&GUID=AE9EBC5F-082F-418A-91C9-9D8F69BB6AB4>.

To ensure that new, fair lines are in place in time for the 2022 City Council elections, the Commission has been working for at least eight months to prepare to draw new maps and has been collecting community of interest testimony and reviewing census and other data for the last four months. The Commission is well ahead of many other jurisdictions with larger populations that also have December map-adoption deadlines. For example, although Orange County started hosting community meetings in August of this year, the Board is still on track to adopt a final map by December 15. Given your extensive work this past year, there is no reason for the Commission to disenfranchise Long Beach communities by forcing the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters to use existing, malapportioned lines during next year's City Council elections.

The City Charter provides that "[a]ll lines must correspond to census blocks in order to preserve the validity of data and avoid arbitrary boundaries." Long Beach City Charter § 2506(b)(7). The plain language of the Charter prohibits the Commission from splitting census blocks unless higher ranked criteria require the Commission to do so. *Id.* § 2506(b). Even if there was a question about this issue, this is not a sufficient reason to delay the adoption of a new City Council map that complies with local and federal law. The existing districts are not substantially equal in population and fail to account for communities of interest that have developed or evolved in the last decade. The Commission cannot and should not delay the adoption of a fair map and violate the United States Constitution to continue discussion of the census blocks issue.

Long Beach voters established the Commission to address the issue of incumbents drawing lines that keep them in power instead of drawing a community-centered map. It would be a perverse result for this Commission to leave in place the map that the City Council drew in 2011 which, as census data and public testimony confirm, is malapportioned and breaks up communities of interest. We urge you to refocus your attention on what's most important: taking this opportunity to draw a fair and inclusive map and submit it to the Los Angeles County Registrar on or before December 7, 2021. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [jstein@commoncause.org](mailto:jstein@commoncause.org) and [jgomez@aclusocal.org](mailto:jgomez@aclusocal.org).

Sincerely,



Jonathan Mehta Stein  
Executive Director  
California Common Cause



Julia A. Gomez  
Staff Attorney  
ACLU Foundation of Southern California