

Redistricting Community of Interest Worksheet

Your input is needed to shape the new voting zones for the Westborough Water District, and one way you can participate is by assisting the Board of Directors in developing a list of “Communities of Interest” or “COI” that may be used in developing zones.

What is a Community of Interest?

A COI is any cohesive group of people who live in a geographically definable area that may be considered a potential voting bloc in current or future elections.

Some COI are “protected classes” in that they have rights through state or federal civil rights or voting rights laws. Some examples of protected classes in districting include ethnic and racial minorities such as a concentration of Latino, Asian, or African American voters. Protected classes can be described through public input, and there are federal databases available to define areas where protected classes live to make sure they are not 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 is still critical to the process. These could be clusters of senior citizens in one community, a group of residents with specific water issues, people who live in the downtown area or a specific neighborhood, or even people who share concerns such as parents with young children, environmental concerns, a religious affiliation, some other policy 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 urban or suburban community, water district facility, school, church, or other geographic areas.
3. What is the rationale for your community of interest to be used in this redistricting? Please describe how the issues before the Board of Directors have a unique impact on your group.

What You Can Do to Participate in the Process

1. To provide comments on your community of interest, please complete this worksheet and return it by email to pmairena@westboroughwater.org, mail a hard copy to P.O. Box 2747, South San Francisco, CA 90480, or drop off a hard copy at the Westborough Water District office at 2263 Westborough Boulevard, South San Francisco.
2. Attend one or more of the Westborough Water District's public meetings. Times and locations of the public meetings will 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 Westborough Water District? Y / N

What neighborhood or part of the district do you live in? _____

Email address: _____