



Community of Interest Form

After receiving a demand letter alleging the City of San Mateo's current at-large election system violates the California Voting Rights Act, the City has begun the process of transitioning to district elections with the goal of completing the process by November 2021. Your input is crucial to this process and 2020 U.S. Census data will be used to balance the population of each new San Mateo City Council District.

One of the primary goals of this process is to keep communities together within each district. That's why it is so important to hear from you! Complete this form to tell us about your **community of interest** – so it can be preserved in the new district lines.

What is a Community of Interest?

A Community of Interest (COI) is a group of people that share common social or economic interests, live in a geographically definable area, and should be included within a single district for purposes of effective and fair representation in future City Council elections.

Some COIs 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 include Latino, Asian, or Black individuals.

There are other potential COIs that can also be considered in districting. Examples include but are not limited to: people who live in a particular neighborhood; groups with cultural, religious or historical bonds; people who share concerns such as environmental hazards, transportation interests, renters or homeowners, etc.

COI does not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

What criteria will help the City Council understand the importance of your community in the districting process?

When documenting your community, it is important to outline the following topics to assist the City Council in the districting process:

- The shared culture, characteristics, or bonds of your community.
- The distinguishable geographic boundaries of your community and the number of people living in your area.
- Your community's relationship with the City and how it is affected by policy decisions made by the City Council.

The public can submit any testimony, but it is important to remember that your input can be best used if it addresses all three of these topics.

What You Can Do to Further Participate in the Districting Process?

1. Submit your community of interest form and return it by email to districtelections@cityofsanmateo.org or mail or drop off a hard copy to: City Clerk Patrice Olds, 330 West 20th Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403
2. Attend one of the City of San Mateo City Council public meetings, times and locations to be publicized on the District Elections web page: www.cityofsanmateo.org/districtelections

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

We want to hear from you!

Email us at districtelections@cityofsanmateo.org or visit www.cityofsanmateo.org/districtelections

**LEARN ABOUT
DISTRICTING**
SCAN QR CODE HERE



Your Community of Interest Form

The following information is optional and voluntary. You are not required to fill out all the questions below, but the more information you can provide, the better informed the process will be. If you provide contact information, we will send you updates on the process.

Name: _____ Email: _____

1. What is the neighborhood/zipcode where you reside: _____

2. How do you describe your community? _____

3. Explain the geographical location of your community. What are the physical boundaries/features (streets, freeways, parks, etc.)? _____

4. Are there public services (bus lines, libraries, public schools, fire stations etc.) that help identify your community? _____

5. Identify the major cultural/recreational/educational/religious institutions in your community: _____

6. What languages are spoken in your community? What are the major race/ethnic groups in your community? _____

7. Environment (coastal, inland, urban/suburban): _____

8. Types of homes (single family houses, apartments, condos, mobile homes, etc): _____

9. What issues matter to your community? Please describe how the issues before the City Council have an impact on your community. _____

10. What else would you like to tell us about your community? _____

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY OF INTEREST FORM:

BY MAIL

Attn: City Clerk Patrice Olds
330 W. 20th Ave., San Mateo CA 94403

BY EMAIL:

districtelections@cityofsanmateo.org

Fill out your form online

