Our goal today:
To prepare community leaders to lead their own redistricting trainings.
Please take this powerpoint, edit, and reuse.
Section 1: Redistricting 101
Redistricting is when we redraw districts so each has the same number of residents.
What is redistricting?

Over time, populations shifts and districts become uneven in size.
Every ten years, after the census, district lines are redrawn to make each district even in number again.
Bad redistricting can take away minority voting rights.

Minority community members make up only ¼ of all four districts.
Good redistricting can empower and uplift the community.

Minority community members make up \( \frac{3}{4} \) of one district.
Take a guess where this picture is from
In a time of need, Watts was ignored.
In 2001, Watts was split by incumbents into three districts at the Congressional level.

Why? Because the Watts neighborhood was split by district lines.
In 2001, Watts was also split by incumbents into three districts at the State Senate level.

Why? Because the Watts neighborhood was split by district lines.
“At the time of the 2003 flood, I remember our office trying to be very responsive, but there was a lot of ping-ponging of constituents between elected representatives. Residents weren't sure who actually was their member of Congress. Watts is cut into three different Congressional and state Senate districts. Residents who live on the same street may live in different districts. There was a lot of unnecessary frustration for constituents during a difficult time.

This would have never happened if all of Watts belonged to one district.”

- Romulo Rivera, former Congressional staffer

Community voices and needs were abandoned.
In 2001, incumbent protection trumped cities and minority communities.

This “boot” was drawn to bring in a politician’s house into Senate District 28.

It cut Long Beach into three State Senate seats and split the Black community.
Does gerrymandering happen at the local level in CA?

Yes!
Section 2: California's solution to gerrymandering: Redistricting Commissions
In 2008, an unusual coalition of people pushed Proposition 11’s redistricting reform.
In all, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

- Held over 100 public meetings.
- Met in 32 cities over an eight month period.
- Received input from over 20,000 members of the community.
After 2011, Watts leaders united to testify before the CA Citizens Redistricting Commission. This was the end result.

Redistricting with community input makes a difference.
Local Redistricting Revolution in CA

- Independent redistricting commissions
- Advisory redistricting commissions
- Hybrid redistricting commissions
Independent redistricting commissions: Have the power to adopt new district maps. These are best for avoiding the conflict of interest when elected officials draw their own districts.

Advisory redistricting commissions: Provide recommendations for district boundaries that can be adopted, modified, or ignored by the governing body of the jurisdiction.

Hybrid redistricting commissions: Send two or more maps to the governing body, one of which must be adopted without modification.
Best Practices for Local Redistricting Commissions

• Commissioners should be qualified, diverse, impartial
• Commissioners should be selected in an open, accessible, and inclusive process
• Residents should be educated and engaged in the process
• All communities should be included
• Community testimony should be prioritized
• Draw honest maps that allow for fair representation in local government
No commission? That’s okay!
You still need to be educated and involved!

commoncause.org/localredistricting2021/
Section 3: How to engage your community
A community of interest is a network, neighborhood, or area whose members have shared culture, identity, history, or policy concerns and would benefit from being represented in one district.
Help your community prepare to give community of interest testimony

Visit commoncause.org/localredistricting2021/ for a template to use when preparing community of interest testimony
"Let's talk about our community"

Host a community meeting, lead this training, then start an exercise.

Provide pen/paper and ask everyone to write down a description of their community or neighborhood.
Prompting Questions for Group Exercise

- Where do we live work, play, shop, worship, gather?
- What makes our community special?
- What are the socioeconomic conditions in our community?
- What kind of housing is common? Jobs? Services?
- What is our history? Identity?
- What issues bind us together?

More resources on community of interest testimony at commoncause.org/localredistricting2021/
Plan Out How to Get Involved

• When are community of interest hearings?
• How can we get community members prepared and organized?
• Should we coordinate talking points and testimony?
• Do we wish to submit testimony with written testimony?
• Do we wish to submit testimony with community of interest maps or district maps?
Community-Led Mapping Is Possible!

Use DistrictR.org to access an easy-to-use online tool to map your community!

For a video demonstration of DistrictR.org, visit commoncause.org/localredistricting2021/
# Call to Action: Step by Step

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<tr>
<th>Learn The Rules</th>
<th>Organize Your Community</th>
<th>Clarify your Goals</th>
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| - Understand the basic concepts of redistricting and the rules that will govern redistricting at your city council, school board, or county board. | - Find neighbors or organizations that share your views and interests.  
- Create a group or coalition. Define your community of interest. Identify your principles as a group. | - What issues do you and your group care about?  
- How will better districts create better representation and more attention on your issues?  
- Do you want to advocate for keeping your community of interest together? Advocate for specific boundaries for one district? Advocate for a specific draft map? |
Calls to Action

Testify at Hearings
- Research your local redistricting process: When are the hearings, what are the rules to testify, etc.
- Prepare your testimony and help others do the same. Coordinate talking points.
- Provide testimony and input in your redistricting process via written comment, public comment, draft maps, etc.

Advocate
- Understand what motivates your local decision-makers.
- Advocate throughout the process for the district you want or the district map you prefer. Organize your partners to do the same.
Section 4: Further Details
New state law should create better and more community-centered redistricting in 2021 and 2022. The FAIR MAPS Act (AB 849):

• Standardizes and ranks fair redistricting criteria
• Requires communities of interest be kept together
• Prohibits partisan gerrymandering
• Requires minimum 4 public hearings for community input
• Requires maps to be posted for the public to view

Visit commoncause.org/localredistricting2021 for in-depth resources on redistricting law
The CA Citizens Redistricting Commission is underway

April-May 2021: Public education and outreach
  - www.wedrawthelinesca.org/request_presentation

June-Sept 2021: “Community of interest” input hearings

Census data may be available as late as Sept 30, 2021

Deadline moved to Dec 15, 2021 and may be extended
Local Redistricting Timeline

- **Spring/Summer 2021**: Community education, coalition building, and other preparation
- **Summer/Fall 2021**: Community of interest hearings
- **Fall/Winter 2021**: Hearings to combine census data and community of interest testimony, and to draw maps

Jurisdictions that do not use the primary election can use slightly delayed timelines.
• Deadlines for local redistricting:
  • Dec 15, 2021 if jurisdiction uses 2022 primary election
  • April 17, 2022 if jurisdiction uses only the 2022 general
  • These deadlines may change to give local jurisdictions more time to redistrict
  • Jurisdictions should staff up and start hearing from the community long before data becomes available.
Section 4: In Conclusion
Adopting equitable district maps

Creating a Transparent and Inclusive Process

Centering Community Input
Questions?