

Redistricting Initiative Talking Points

WHAT

- The San Francisco Elections Commission (SFEC) is considering best practice structural and process improvements for independent redistricting.

WHY

- SFEC has a mandate to ensure fair, free and functional elections. Fair districts are necessary for fair representation to achieve “one person, one vote.”

WHO (Roles)

- SFEC is not a legislative body, but has a forum to discuss and recommend appropriate reforms to our legislative body, the Board of Supervisors.
- The Fair, Independent, and Effective Redistricting for Community Engagement (FIERCE) Committee is a temporary committee that will refine and finalize recommendations for the full Elections Commission to consider. All presentations, reports and testimony heard by the FIERCE Committee will continue to be available to the public so they can meaningfully participate in the Board’s community input hearings, and shape any final reforms.

HOW

- The FIERCE Committee will continue to identify best practices from experts, practitioners, and those who have been affected by past redistricting. Anyone may review background and testimony received since June 2022 via hyperlinks in the [Redistricting Initiative Project Plan](#).
- Because the Redistricting Task Force was created by charter amendment, any changes must also be made by amending the charter. A majority of the Board of Supervisors can refer a charter amendment to the ballot for approval by voters.

WHEN

- The FIERCE Committee will continue working toward recommendations at a meeting in late August and will consider implications of proposed state legislation that would affect final recommendations.
- The timing of a ballot measure is up to the Board of Supervisors.
 - The Charter can be amended as early as 2024.
 - If passed, AB 1248 would require elimination of San Francisco’s political appointment process by January 1, 2030.

WHY NOW

- The public’s recent range of experiences with redistricting allows for more meaningful community engagement and input for potential reforms.
- Because it takes time to run a fair and democratic process, the Elections Commission wants to allow the City adequate time to prepare a new independent redistricting body as well as support City agencies to plan and implement a fair process.