



# Redistricting Principles 2021

The following principles shall be used by the Board of Supervisors, staff, and the public to guide the creation of **Santa Cruz County** elected district maps based on the 2020 federal census.

- **Representation:** Electoral maps must follow the principle of “one person, one vote,” in which each district has a substantially similar number of people.
- **Compactness:** There should be a minimum distance between all the parts of a constituency, for example a circle, square or a hexagon is the most compact district.
- **Contiguity:** All parts of a district must be connected at some point with the rest of the district.
- **Preservation of political subdivisions:** City or town boundaries should be considered when drawing districts to avoid splitting communities.
- **Preservation of communities of interest:** Geographical areas, such as neighborhoods or unincorporated communities where the residents have common interests, should be considered when drawing districts and kept intact.
- **Preservation of cores of prior districts:** To preserve continuity of representation and to the extent possible, effort should be made to maintain the core of the districts as previously drawn.
- **Favoring or disfavoring an incumbent, candidate, or party is prohibited.** District lines should not intentionally or unduly favor a person or individual political group, such as using incumbent addresses, election results, party registration, or other socio-economic data as an input when redrawing districts.
- **Competitiveness:** The Arizona constitution states that “to the extent practicable, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals.” This criterion typically seeks to avoid the creation of “safe” districts for a particular party.