



MEASURE U

County Charter Amendment

Measure U - San Mateo County Charter Amendment Measure Reapportionment of Supervisorial Districts

The Question:

Should San Mateo County amend its Charter to require supervisorial district boundaries to be redrawn by an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) instead of through the current advisory process?

The Situation:

Members of the Board of Supervisors placed Measure U on the ballot.

San Mateo County is divided into five supervisorial districts. Voters in each district elect one member of the County Board of Supervisors for a four-year term. Every ten years, district boundaries are reviewed and updated using federal census data so that each district has about the same number of residents. The most recent redistricting process took place in 2021 using data from the 2020 Census. The next redistricting process will occur after the 2030 Census.

State and federal laws set rules for drawing district maps. These rules are intended to keep districts about the same size and ensure fair representation. During the 2021 redistricting process, San Mateo County used an Advisory Redistricting Commission (ARC) created by the Board of Supervisors. The ARC included 15 community members, with three selected from each supervisorial district. The ARC received public input and developed two proposed district maps. The Board of Supervisors rejected the two ARC maps and instead chose a third map created by a consultant.

Some California counties use an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). An IRC develops and selects the final district map. Unlike an advisory commission, the governing board of a district, such as the Board of Supervisors, does not choose the final map.

The Proposal:

If passed, Measure U would amend the County Charter to require future supervisorial district maps to be drawn by an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

The measure would:

- Require the County to use an IRC after each federal census, beginning after the 2030 Census.

- Require the County to adopt future rules for choosing IRC members, funding the commission, and how the commission works.
- Require district maps to be drawn by the IRC according to state and federal redistricting laws.
- Transfer responsibility for selecting the final district map from the Board of Supervisors to the IRC.

The measure will be decided by a simple majority vote (50% + 1 vote).

Fiscal Effects:

Redistricting is required every 10 years regardless of which process is used. Other California counties, with and without IRCs, incur costs for staffing, legal support, public outreach, consultants, and administration to carry out the redistricting process. The total cost of using an IRC for redistricting would depend on how San Mateo County structures its IRC.

Those in Favor Say:

- An IRC reduces conflicts of interest by removing direct control from elected officials.
- An independent redistricting commission increases transparency and public trust.
- An IRC creates broader and more inclusive community participation.

Those Opposed Say:

No official argument against Measure U was submitted.

Organizations or Individuals In Favor of Measure U:

- Jackie Speier, San Mateo County District 1 Supervisor
- Lisa Gauthier, San Mateo County District 4 Supervisor
- League of Women Voters, North and Central San Mateo County
- League of Women Voters, South San Mateo County

Organizations or Individuals Against Measure U:

At press time, there is no organized campaign committee in opposition.

Sources:

- [Measure U - Full Resolution Text](#)
- Final Report, 2026 San Mateo County Charter Revision Commission (IRC)
- Independent Redistricting Commission Presentation to the Charter Committee (April 14, 2026)
- San Mateo County, Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 081882
- San Mateo County Charter (March 2025)