

Monterey Herald

Letters to the Editor: June 15, 2021

The redistricting process

Redistricting: The term may sound unfamiliar or technical, as we hear it only every 10 years when electoral district boundaries are redrawn using updated census data. In fact, redistricting cannot be left to “experts.” Citizen involvement is essential to ensure that electoral districts are drawn fairly so every vote counts.

Boundaries for California’s Congressional districts will be established by a state commission. A public hearing to gather input regarding our region will be held on July 22. Find out more at wedrawthelinesca.org.

Eighteen local governmental entities including the Monterey County Board of Supervisors elect members by district rather than at large. These entities manage their own redistricting. Supervisorial redistricting is governed by regulations that require public input and prioritize considerations including geographical contiguity, grouping of “communities of interest” that share common concerns, and respect for natural or man-made boundaries. Other entities have more discretion in implementing these best practices.

The governance of our schools, colleges, parks and the County itself is at stake. The League of Women Voters of Monterey County urges you to speak up for your community and to join us in monitoring local redistricting. Visit our website <https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county>.

— *Marianne Gawain, president League of Women Voters of Monterey County*