

# Draw My CA Districts

## User Guide

### Welcome to Draw My CA Districts!

Welcome to [Draw My CA Districts](#)! This user guide provides instructions on creating redistricting plans for California's Congressional districts.

[Draw My CA Districts](#) is a free-to-use online redistricting tool. This tool was created to help members of the public participate in California's statewide redistricting process. Through [Draw My CA Districts](#), you can create redistricting plans while referencing the population data associated with each district in your plan, using the same data and geographies as the official redistricting process.

### How to use Draw My CA Districts

Through [Draw My CA Districts](#), you can draw one district, a few districts, or a Congressional redistricting plan for the entire state of California.

When you are creating districts, try to follow these guidelines:

- Try to keep each district in your plan to **within 5% above or below the ideal population**. You can check the % Deviation column in the Statistics Panel as you work. The % Deviation indicates how far above or below the ideal population the districts in your plan are. The ideal population for California's congressional districts is **760,066**.
- Your districts should be drawn as one shape on the map. Avoid drawing a map that represents your district as broken up into more than one piece.

### Log In or Use as a Guest

You can use [Draw My CA Districts](#) as a guest or by creating an account. If you make an account you'll be able to save your work as a draft and finish it later. You will also be able to view any maps you submitted to the redistricting process at an earlier date. If you already have an account with [Draw My CA Community](#), you can use the same login information for this tool.

**To create a new account**, click the "Sign up here" link on the home page, complete the form, and check your email. Follow the instructions in the email we send you to verify your account. If you do not see a verification email, check your spam or promotions folder.

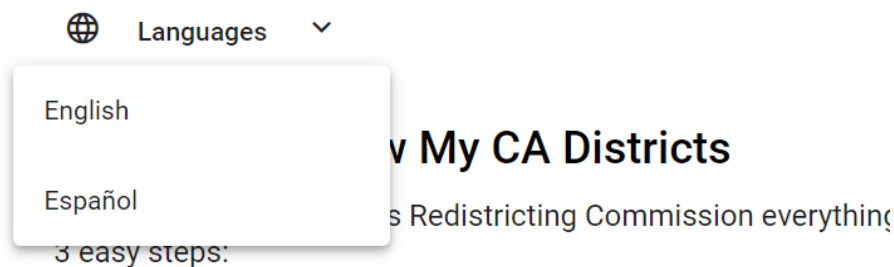
Once you log in to your account, you will be taken to a page called "My Maps." Click "Start a New Map" to draw your first district.

To use the tool as a guest, click “Continue as Guest” at the login page. You will be able to do everything a logged in user can do except save your work to edit at a later time and run some of the district compliance checks. If you start using [Draw My CA Districts](#) as a guest and decide you would like to save your work, you can still create an account and log in after you’ve started drawing your district map.

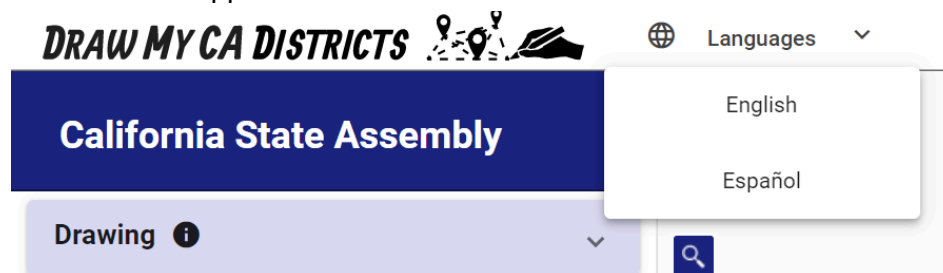
## Languages

[Draw My CA Districts](#) is available in English and Spanish. You can change the language you are working in at any time.

At the **Welcome Page**, you can change the language by clicking the “Languages” menu in the top left corner of the window.



You can also change the language from the main page of [Draw My CA Districts](#) by clicking the “Languages” menu at the upper left-hand corner of the screen.



## Drawing

Click on the word **Drawing** on the left-hand side of the page to expand this section. You will see the tools you can use to move the map, draw your map, and more.

## Moving the Map

### Move Map

When you open [Draw My CA Districts](#), the **Move Map** button is enabled by default. You can click on this icon at any time to use this tool.

Click and drag anywhere on the map to move the map.



### Zooming In and Out

To zoom in and out of the map, click the “plus” or “minus” [“+”/“-”] buttons at the top left corner of the map area or use the trackpad on a laptop or the wheel of a mouse.



## Drawing Tools

You can create a new district or add or remove area from an existing district by using the drawing tools to make selections. Before making a selection, choose “Add” or “Remove” mode, and then use the drawing tools to select shapes on the map:

- **Add by Clicking:** To add area to your districts, click individual shapes in the Drawing Layer to add those shapes to your district map.
- **Add by Rectangle:** Click and drag across an area on the map.
- **Add by Freehand:** Click and freehand draw an area on the map.
- **Deselect Area:** To erase area from your selection, either click or click and drag across an area.
- **Undo/Redo:** Undo or redo recent changes.

After selecting an area on the map, click “Make Changes to District” to update the shape of your district.



## Creating a District

The selection you make with the drawing tools will be represented by a highlighted area on the map. To create your first district, highlight an area on the map, click “Make Change to District,” and name your new district.



### New District

Name

New District

ADD DISTRICT



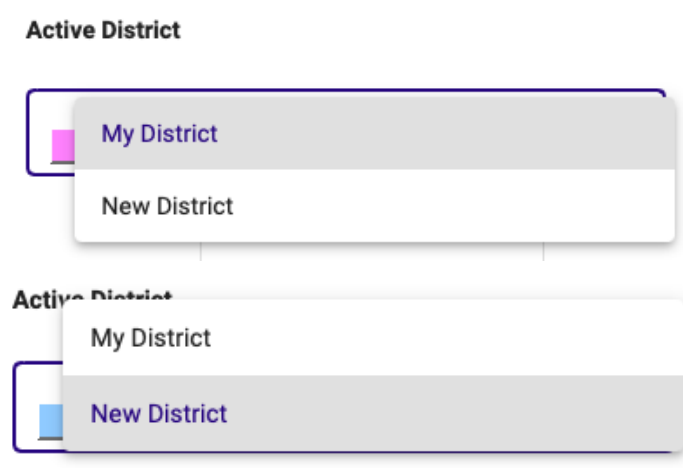
### New District

Name

My District

ADD DISTRICT


Your district will now appear shaded in on the map, and its name will display in the “Active District” dropdown menu. After creating your first district, you can create additional districts by selecting “New District” from this dropdown menu and following the same steps to select area and create another district.



## Comments


If you want to add a note to any individual district you create, you can use the 'Comments' box to enter text.

Active District

 New District ▼

Name

Comments

Lock 

## Making Changes to Districts

To edit an existing district, first select the district's name in the "Active District" dropdown menu. Then choose either "Add" or "Remove" mode and use the drawing tools to make selections. If you are adding area to your existing district, select areas outside of it. If you are removing area from your district, select areas within it. Click "Make Change to District" to add or remove the selected area from your district.

Changes must be applied by clicking "Make Change to District" before you switch between Add or Remove mode, as a selection can only be made in one mode at a time. Similarly, changes must be applied before you zoom between different drawing layers, as a selection can only be made in one drawing layer at a time. If you attempt to switch modes or drawing layers without

first clicking “Make Change to District,” you will be prompted to either clear your selection in order to proceed or remain on your selection and apply changes.

You can also update the name or comments on the Active District at any time. Remember to apply these changes by clicking “Make Change to District.”

### Locking Districts

You can make as many changes as you wish to your districts while working on your redistricting plan. If you would like to “lock” a district to prevent further changes, select it in the “Active District” dropdown menu, then click the “**Lock**” button in the sidebar. You may unlock the district to make more changes at any time by clicking the “**Lock**” button again.

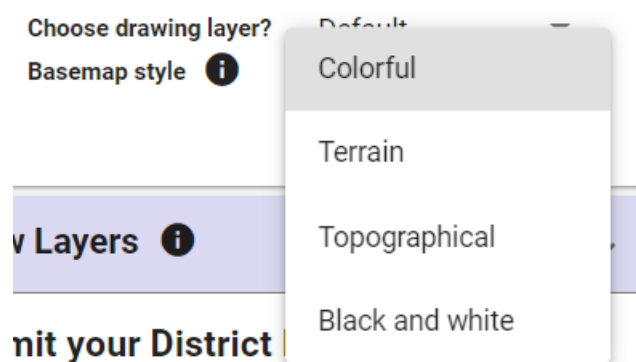


## What's on The Map?

The map area displays the "Basemap" and the "Drawing Layer."

The **Basemap** is the background map that appears in the map area of the screen. It shows the streets, rivers, schools, and other landmarks commonly displayed on online maps. The closer you zoom in, the more detailed the basemap will appear.

You can change the basemap by choosing a different one from the **Basemap style** drop-down list.





You will use the **Drawing Layer** to “draw” where your districts are located on the map. The Drawing Layer is displayed in the map area on top of the basemap. The Drawing Layer appears as part of the map, but shows different information than the basemap does.

While the basemap helps you orient yourself on the map, the Drawing Layer shows the boundaries of counties, cities, and towns in California along with smaller levels of detail as well.

For example, the basemap might help you find your community on the map based on a highway or river near your house, while the Drawing Layer will show you the exact boundaries of the city or county you live in.

Just like the basemap, the Drawing Layer will automatically change to show you more detail as you zoom into the map.

# Using the Drawing Layers

Only one Drawing Layer will appear on the map at a time. The Drawing Layer that is displayed on the map at any given time is the layer you can use to draw your districts using the drawing tools.

## Default Drawing Layers

By default, the map will automatically switch between different Drawing Layers based on your zoom level.

The **Drawing Layer** section under the “Drawing” section on the side panel will show you which Drawing Layer is currently visible on the map. The name of the layer will be displayed in the same color as the layer’s lines that appear on the map. As you zoom into the map, the Drawing Layer will automatically change to show you more detail, with smaller individual shapes that make up the Drawing Layer. That means the closer you zoom in, the more detail you’ll be able to use to draw your districts. As you zoom out of the map, the Drawing Layer will change to show you less detail.

For example, if the Drawing Layer shows the boundaries of counties, you will be able to add a county to your district map. If you zoom into the map, the Drawing Layer will automatically change to display cities. You will now be able to add a city to your map. You do not have to use only one Drawing Layer to create your district map. In this example, both the county and city would be included in your map.

## Choosing the Drawing Layer

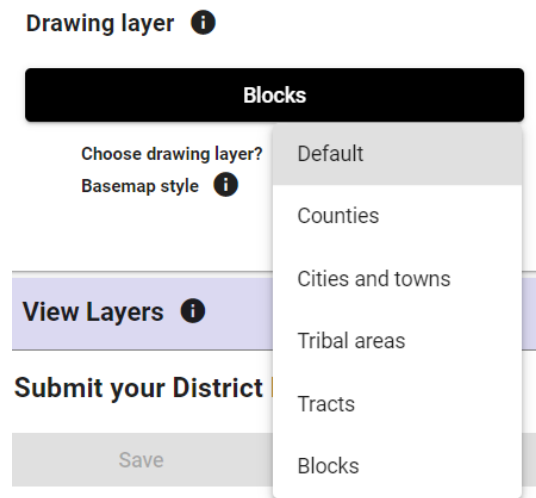
The **Drawing Layer** section under “Drawing” will show you which Drawing Layer is currently visible on the map. The name of the layer will be displayed in the same color that the layer’s lines appear on the map. As you zoom into the map, the Drawing Layer will automatically change to show you more detail. As you zoom out of the map, the Drawing Layer will change to show you less detail. Make sure to save your area selection by clicking “Make Change to District” before you switch to a new Drawing Layer, or else you will lose your selected area when you switch to the new Drawing Layer.

If you want to use a specific Drawing Layer, but that Drawing Layer does not appear on the map by default based on your zoom level, click the **Choose Drawing Layer** drop-down list below the Drawing Layer label. Choose the layer you want to work with. Now you can work with the layer of your choice in a zoom level that works for you.

For example, if the Drawing Layer is displaying cities and towns and you want to add a county to your map, but don’t want to zoom out of your current view, you can choose “Counties” from the **Choose Drawing Layer** drop-down list instead of zooming out of the map. Once you choose “Counties” as your Drawing Layer, you will be able to add a county to your district map.

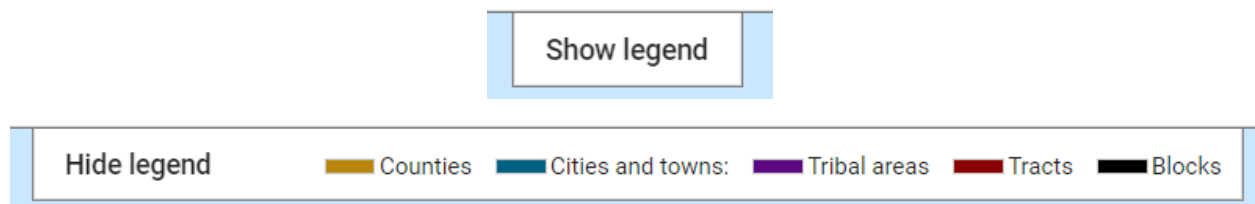


To switch back to having the zoom level automatically control the Drawing Layer, click "Default" in the Drawing Layer drop-down list.



## Map Legend

The Drawing Layers are color coded. For help remembering which color corresponds with each Drawing Layer, toggle the map's **Legend** on and off in the upper right corner of the screen.



## Where did the Drawing Layers come from?

[Draw My CA Districts](#) works with five Drawing Layers. Each layer shows a different level of detail in the shapes that make up the layer. The Drawing Layers are based on census geography, which is created by the U.S. Census Bureau. **This is the geography that is used in redistricting processes.**

There are many levels of census geography, ranging from large (nation-wide) to small (block).

This is the list of census geography levels we use as our Drawing Layers, in order of largest to smallest:

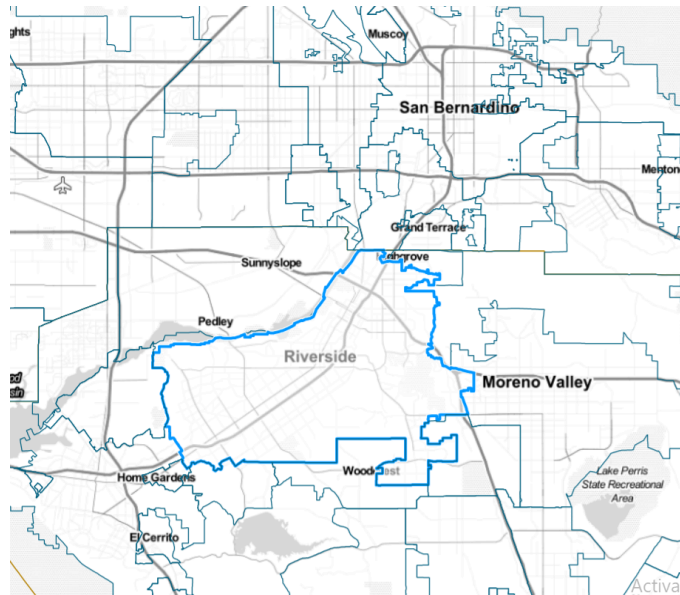
- **Counties:**

- This layer represents each of the counties in California.



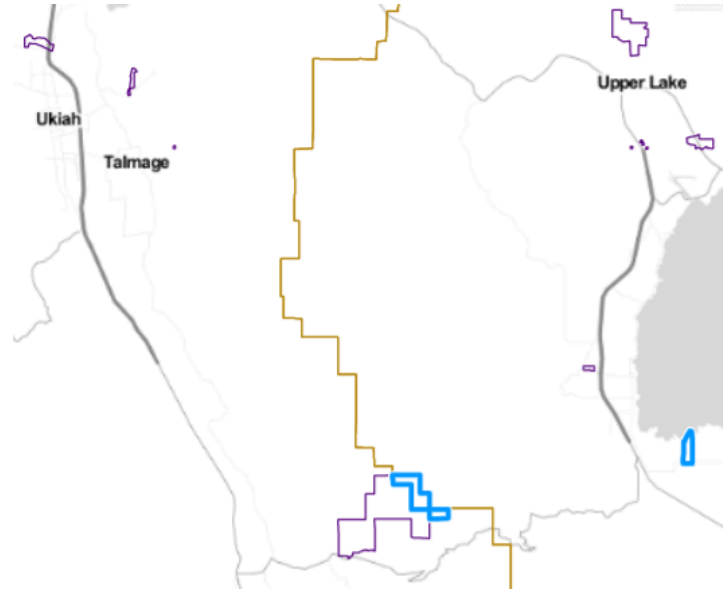
- **Cities and Towns:**

- This layer is based on the Census Geography unit called, “places”. This layer represents what we think of as cities and towns in California. It includes incorporated and unincorporated places.



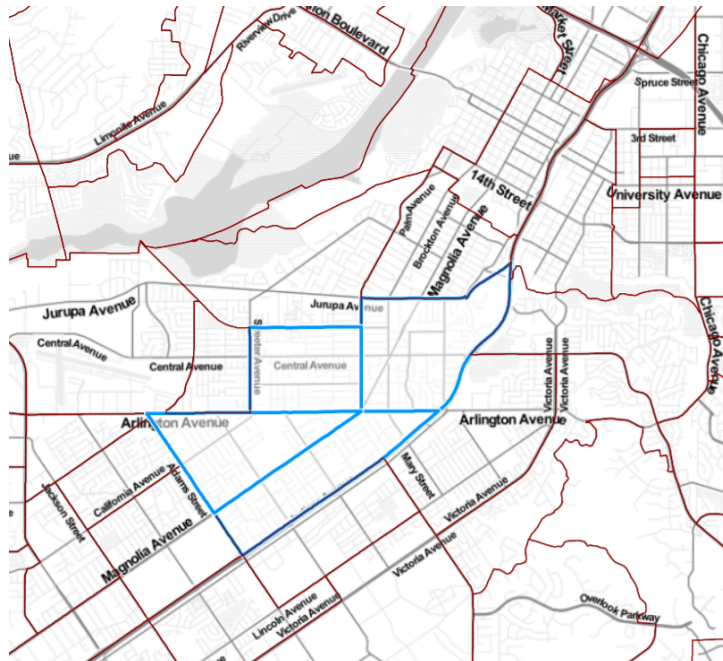
- **Tribal Areas**

- This layer includes all legal and statistical tribal areas in California. These are the Reservations and Rancherias throughout the state.



- **Tracts:**

- Generally speaking, there are often multiple census tracts in a city, but a census tract might be larger than a small, rural town. *Tracts do not necessarily follow the same boundaries as cities and towns.*





The Statistics Panel displays population-related statistics of your active district and any other districts affected by changes to the active district. The active district and any affected districts are listed in the tabs above the statistics table. In the example below, District 1 is the active district, and the area selected to add to it would be removed from District 2.

<div> <div> <div></div> <div>Population Data</div> </div> <div> <div>Statistics</div> <div>Population Totals</div> </div> </div>							
<div> <div>District 1</div> <div>District 2</div> </div>							
Value	Population	%Deviation	%Latino	%White	%Black	%Asian	%MMR
Current	489,710	-0.88 %	28.95 %	58.43 %	2.05 %	5.90 %	0.58 %
Selected Area	5,237	-98.94 %	51.59 %	43.57 %	0.59 %	2.12 %	0.29 %
Proposed	494,947	0.18 %	29.19 %	58.27 %	2.04 %	5.86 %	0.58 %

The statistics shown in the “**Current**” row include demographics associated with areas already assigned to the active district. The population data of the geography highlighted in blue on the map is listed in the “**Selected Area**” row. The “**Proposed**” row shows what the statistics of the active district will be if you add or remove the selected area to your active district.

<div> <div> <div></div> <div>Population Data</div> </div> <div> <div>Statistics</div> <div>Population Totals</div> </div> </div>							
<div> <div>District 1</div> <div>District 2</div> </div>							
Value	Population	%Deviation	%Latino	%White	%Black	%Asian	%MMR
Current	489,710	-0.88 %	28.95 %	58.43 %	2.05 %	5.90 %	0.58 %
Selected Area	5,237	-98.94 %	51.59 %	43.57 %	0.59 %	2.12 %	0.29 %
Proposed	494,947	0.18 %	29.19 %	58.27 %	2.04 %	5.86 %	0.58 %

The demographics available on the Statistics Panel include the total population and race and ethnicity data of people who live in the district you are working on. The Statistics Panel also shows the “% **Deviation**,” which indicates how far below or above the population of your active district is from the ideal population of the district type you are working on.

The ideal population for California’s congressional districts is 760,066.

Population Data		Statistics ▾					
		Population Totals ▾					
	District 1	District 2					
Value	Population	%Deviation	%Latino	%White	%Black	%Asian	%MMR
Current	489,710	-0.88 %	28.95 %	58.43 %	2.05 %	5.90 %	0.58 %
Selected Area	5,237	-98.94 %	51.59 %	43.57 %	0.59 %	2.12 %	0.29 %
Proposed	494,947	0.18 %	29.19 %	58.27 %	2.04 %	5.86 %	0.58 %

In addition to total population data, the Statistics Panel also displays race and ethnicity statistics by Voting Age Population and Citizen Voting Age Population. To change what type of data is displayed on the Statistics Panel, click the dropdown menu in the top right-hand corner of the panel and choose a data category.

Population Data		Statistics ▾					
		Population Totals ▾					
		Voting Age Population					
		Citizen Voting Age Population					
	District 1	District 2					
Value	Population	%Deviation	%Latino	%White	%Black	%Asian	%MMR
Current	489,710	-0.88 %	28.95 %	58.43 %	2.05 %	5.90 %	0.58 %
Selected Area	5,237	-98.94 %	51.59 %	43.57 %	0.59 %	2.12 %	0.29 %
Proposed	494,947	0.18 %	29.19 %	58.27 %	2.04 %	5.86 %	0.58 %

## Using Compliance Check tool

[Draw My CA Districts](#) will help you verify that your redistricting plan adheres to some of the redistricting criteria outlined in the California Constitution. To check whether your redistricting plan complies with these criteria, click “Run Check” underneath the “Compliance Check” section

in the sidebar. You may submit your plan to the redistricting process regardless of the outcome of the compliance check. When you click “Run Check,” the tool will give results for three different criteria:

## Contiguity

All districts should be contiguous, meaning that they should not be broken up into separate parts. After running the Compliance Check, the [Draw My CA Districts](#) will indicate which districts are non-contiguous, if any. In order to view these areas on the map click the arrows below each listed district to zoom to the non-contiguous parts of that district. After making any changes to your plan, click “Run Check” to see updated results for the Contiguity compliance check. The islands off the coast of California will always show up as non-contiguous areas.



## % Deviation

The % Deviation check calculates how much the districts in your plan deviate from the ideal populations of the district type. Try to create districts within +/- 5% deviation. If your plan deviates too much from the ideal population, you may want to redraw certain areas of your district(s) to reach a lower percent deviation. The tool runs the % Deviation check based on your last saved draft, so in order to see updated results, save a draft of your plan and then click “Run Check.”

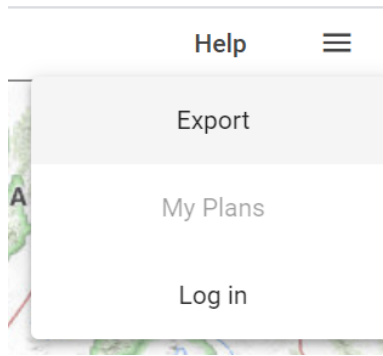
## Assignment

The Assignment Check will find any areas on the map that are not assigned to a district. If you draw a district map that does not cover the entire state of California, it is expected that there will be areas that are flagged by the Assignment check. If you create a redistricting plan that is meant to cover the entire state, the Assignment check will verify that all areas are, in fact, assigned to a district. If there are any areas that were accidentally not assigned to a district, this check will identify them for you.

[Draw My CA Districts](#) runs the Assignment check on your most recently saved draft, so in order to see updated results you must save a draft of your plan before you run the Assignment Check.

## Exporting

You can download a copy of your work at any time by clicking the “Export” button at the bottom left corner of the screen. You can choose to download either a PDF, a shapefile, and/or an equivalency file associated with your redistricting plan. You can also download your files by selecting “Export” from the Menu at the top right corner of the screen.



## Saving

If you are logged into your [Draw My CA Districts](#) account, you can save your work as a draft.

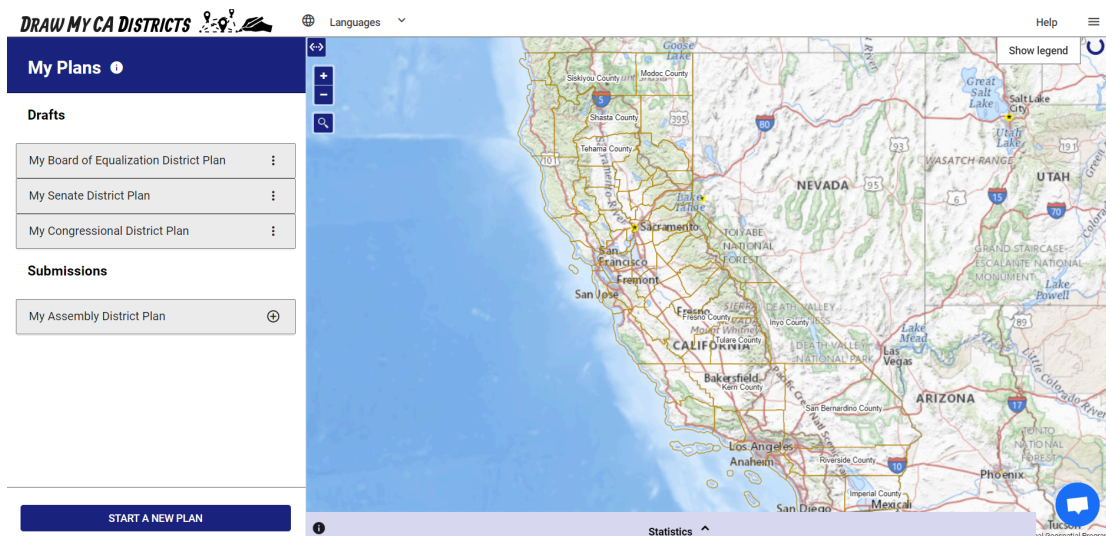
- Click the “Save” button at the bottom left-hand corner of the screen.
- Click “Yes, Save Draft” to save your work

If you are using [Draw My CA Districts](#) as a guest, you will be asked to create an account in order to save a draft.

## My Plans

When you save a draft, you will be taken to the **My Plans** page, where you will find a list of all your saved drafts and any maps you submitted to the California redistricting process. When you click on a draft or submission, the map of those districts will appear on the screen.





To edit a draft, click the three dots next to the name of the draft. Choose “Edit” to keep working on your districts.

