

Communities of Interest Activity and Discussion Questions

Part I. Read the COI half-chapter for background. (independently either Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning)

Part II. Answer the following questions. (Zoom, cohort, 30 minutes)

Zoom logistics: everyone should **participate**. One person should **facilitate**, in this case meaning making sure the cohort answers all worksheet questions and identifying sticking points. Another person should **take notes**, writing down the answers as the group comes up with them.

1. What, in your own words, is a COI?
2. Who defines COI? Who determines whether they are legitimate?
3. What are some of the differences between top-down and bottom-up approaches to identifying COI?
4. What are some important criteria for COIs, as described in state law?
5. What are some criteria that case law has deemed valid for COI?
6. What are some themes of recognized COIs?
7. How can and how have members of the public give(n) input into COIs?
8. What kinds of communities are COI good at representing? What kinds of communities might COI be less good at representing?
9. Do you think COIs are an effective/good approach to representing communities? Why or why not?
 - a. If not, what would make them better, or what would be a good alternative?
 - b. If so, what makes them a good approach?
 - c. Who should define COI?

Part III. Discuss your maps! (Zoom, cohort, 30 minutes)

Zoom logistics: same as part II, but rotate **facilitator** and **note-taker**.

1. Introduce the maps you made for the Communities Districtr exercise leading up to GDBC. Describe the communities and why you chose them. For each of them:
 - a. Based on case law, do you think it would be recognized?
 - b. Based on post-facto descriptions, do you think it would be described?
 - c. If your community wouldn't be recognized, what are some ways to get representation (e.g., coalition-building, different description of COI, etc.)?
 - d. ...or what are ways that you've seen communities get representation without recognition as a COI?