

From: **Stephen Pettis** [REDACTED]
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Subject: Redistricting Commission and the Law
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

The new Citizens Redistricting Commission has decided to ignore the United States and California Constitutions by repealing the historical "one person one vote" rule that they are supposed to be following. In defense of our district's representation our city sent several people to speak on its behalf. We spent the better part of four hours to provide our inputs. Now we find that both federal and state law is purposefully being violated for the benefit of some special interests. This law has been in effect in America for 47 years.

The Commission did this by telling their staff to draw districts that will clearly violate constitutional population standards. This is so their final maps can over represent their preferred areas of California that are losing population, such as Los Angeles and the Bay Area, and

then under represent the inland areas of California that are growing.

You would think the law would be clear to the new Citizens Redistricting Commission, but you would be wrong. On April 28, the Commission voted to allow deviations up to five percent among legislative districts. A five percent deviation will amount to 46,567 people in Senate districts and 23,284 people in Assembly districts. That's a lot of folks. Apply this standard in a growth area like Riverside County and you can effectively disenfranchise 200,000 people.

Forget the implications of disenfranchisement; the real issue is the cavalier disregard of the constitution and court precedence by this Commission. In 47 years no judge anywhere said California can have districts with this huge level of deviation. Equal population has meant equal population ever since Chief Justice Warren said so.

Please work with the Commission to ensure they abide by the laws so this issue does not delay re-districting in the courts.

Sincerely,

Stephen Pettis