



The League of Women Voters of Oakland

The League of Women Voters - the place where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement

May 11 2011

To the California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

The League of Women Voters of Oakland has observed and participated in the political process in Oakland for 87 years. As members of the League of Women Voters of California, we have been concerned about the redistricting process for many years.

The Oakland League recommends that the entire city of Oakland be contained in each of the districts the Commission will create. This is currently the case for State Senate District 9 and Congressional District 9 as well as Board of Equalization District 1. But three Assembly districts include Oakland, even though the city's population of 390,724 is well below the Commission's target population of 465,674. Taken together, Oakland and Alameda total a population of 466,133, just 459 over the target.

While we would like the city to remain whole in all districts, we recognize that the Commission has several criteria on which to base its decisions and that those criteria may result in Oakland's being split into more than one Assembly district. We ask that if you draw lines in and through Oakland, you look at boundaries as defined by neighborhood organizations rather than at the current city council and school board district boundaries. Those lines were drawn to suit the political preferences of incumbent officeholders who neither listened to the public nor respected neighborhood boundaries.