

**Subject:** Public Comment

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Public Comment for the Citizens Redistricting Commission  
June 28, 2011

Relative to Fresno County, I would like to follow up on my verbal testimony at the June 23 public hearing in Fresno.

Some speakers at the June 23 hearing recommended that all districts cutting through the City of Fresno should be split at Highway 41. This is problematic for a number of reasons.

First and foremost, Fresno really is a "tale of two cities." And the split is along north-south lines rather than east-west (which would result from a Highway 41 split). Virtually every aspect of the city (e.g., demographics, socioeconomic status, employment) is split north-south. Under the most liberal defining of south Fresno, it would not go north of Shaw Avenue.

An east-west split would marginalize most of the minority and diverse communities in the city,. Such a split would further reduce turnout in challenged communities as residents in those areas would not be well represented, if at all.

Your first draft maps have adequately addressed communities of interest within the city. We could quibble about the edges, but overall your maps have maximized representation for the largest number of people.

Thanks.

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