

Region 8 - Sonoma
June 28 post 5

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Public Comment: 8 - Sonoma

Date:Wed, 29 Jun 2011 01:20:49 +0000

From:Pearl Burkart <[REDACTED]>

To:[REDACTED]

From: Pearl Burkart <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Redistricting

Message Body:

Separating Santa Rosa from the rest of Sonoma County is ridiculous. Our area in cost and culture is much more similar to Marin and the Bay Area rather than the agricultural areas east of us.

I agree redistricting is necessary but this does not make any sense at all.

Thank you for reconsidering this decision.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: 6th Congressional District Boundary and Santa Rosa

From: Shelley Starr [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 29 Jun 2011 09:54:00 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

Hi, I am copying a letter to you from Carole Robison as she does a better job than I would articulating my opinion about the draft redistricting and Santa Rosa. We are exactly what she says, North Bay, Russian River, coastal preservation, San Francisco Bay, wine production and organic--not large commercial--gardening. We are not commercial central valley farming. Thank you.

Shelley Starr

Sebastopol
[REDACTED]

To members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I am concerned that the Santa Rosa area will become disenfranchised if the lines for the 6th Congressional District remain as they are on the draft maps from the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Santa Rosa and Sonoma County have very little in common with Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba or Yolo counties, yet we are included with them. We are part of the North Bay and our concerns and priorities are with the Russian River, coastal preservation, San Francisco Bay, wine production and organic--not large commercial--gardening.

You are mandated to fulfill the requirements of contiguous boundaries, respecting county lines, communities of interest, social and economic interests and other criteria.

Please revisit your draft and consider a realignment which addresses the above. I will look forward to hearing from you as to your intent.

Subject: Citiaens" Redistricting Committee

From: Darryl Huismann <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, 29 Jun 2011 19:31:49 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

Santa Rosa does not belong in a Congressional District with Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba and Yolo Counties. We are not as rural or as crop oriented and our proximity to the Bay Area makes our profile entirely different.

You are mandated to fulfill the requirements of contiguous boundaries, county lines, community interests and social and economic input.

Please study the values and input of Sonoma County.

Thank you,

Linda Huismann
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: Proposed redistricting for Sonoma County, Region 8

From: "Aaron A. Miller" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, 29 Jun 2011 22:27:49 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners,

I believe that your current proposal for the North Coast State Senate, Assembly, and Congressional districts is deeply flawed, primarily due to the inclusion of Santa Rosa and surrounding area in districts that are geographically, culturally, economically, and politically disparate.

I perused the website and noticed that none of you come from this region; therefore I assume that what appears to locals to be a bizarre gerrymandering of their local districts is in fact the result of a simple misunderstanding.

Santa Rosa is our county seat and in many ways the cultural and economic hub of the North Coast. It is the largest city between San Francisco and the Oregon border. It is a central part of the Highway 101 corridor, along which seven of the nine cities in our county are oriented, and along which most people commute.

I live in Healdsburg, 12 miles from Santa Rosa; however, I read the Santa Rosa Press Democrat daily and take Sonoma County Transit buses to Santa Rosa for summer classes at the Santa Rosa Junior College (I currently attend Healdsburg High School during the school year, and no, I am not old enough to vote, yet). In Santa Rosa, I take fencing lessons, buy most of my clothes, and frequent The Last Record Store. When it is completed, I plan on riding the SMART train to Santa Rosa on a regular basis. Until she lost her job, my mother worked in Santa Rosa, and commuted there every day. My father works at the Geysers power plants, which depend partly on Santa Rosa wastewater to maintain their steam fields.

Nor is my family an exception. Most people I know are similarly connected to and dependent on Santa Rosa, which cannot be said of Arcata or Sausalito. And besides these fairly obvious connections are more indirect ones. Santa Rosa draws its water from the Russian River and lies within the Russian River watershed, whereas most of the proposed Congressional district it would be in lies within the Sacramento/San Joaquin watershed, which is vastly different and subject to different jurisdictions and regulations. It also has far more in common with its immediate surroundings than it does with the valley economically. Sonoma County's agriculture gravitates towards high-value crops such as wine grapes, olives, organic produce, and dairy, often produced on small family farms, in contrast to the agribusiness monoculture of the Valley. All of this, as well as fishing on the coast and many local businesses, are heavily supported by tourism. Practically none of this contributes significantly to the economies of counties in the Central Valley.

It makes little sense, therefore, to separate Santa Rosa from the rest of Sonoma County and group it with interior regions that are dramatically different in so many ways. I understand that it is difficult to create geographically contiguous districts that respect "communities of interest." I understand that Congressional and State Senate districts must have 700,000-800,000 people in them, and that the population of the North Coast is equal to approximately one and a half districts' worth, which is extremely unhelpful. However, if this issue is not worked out, for the next decade, the votes of a quarter of a million people will be effectively worthless, outvoted in an otherwise heavily conservative district which shares few of their concerns.

My best suggestions, for what they're worth, are to:

a) either add Santa Rosa and surrounding areas to the North Coast District and then remove an area of equal population from the north end of the district, grouping that area separately, or

b) start out with the current districts and un-gerrymander them by adding people to the northern end of the North Coast district (in Trinity and Del Norte Counties, for instance) and removing them from the south, where the district wanders into the Valley.

Thank you for considering my input, and that of other concerned citizens of Sonoma County,

Aaron A. Miller

Healdsburg, CA 95448

Subject: Redistricting

From: Marv Parker <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, 29 Jun 2011 09:10:27 -0700

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

To members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

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Thank you,

Marv Parker
Sebastopol

Sent from MediaMarv World Headquarters.