

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Rachel Dewey Thorsett [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 19:23:00 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Rachel Dewey Thorsett [REDACTED]

Subject: Keep Santa Cruz in one CD

Message Body:

It is important to keep it city of Santa Cruz in one congressional district -- it is a thriving COMMUNITY that needs the coherence of unified representation.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Sharon Ross [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 19:32:41 +0000

To: v [REDACTED]

From: Sharon Ross [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>

Subject: Do not divide Santa Cruz city and county

Message Body:

Please do not cut apart our small city and county. The new congressional district should reflect our united little community.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Susan Maria Bayer [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 20:18:04 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Susan Maria Bayer [REDACTED]

Subject: redistricting

Message Body:

I read about the plan to split the city of Santa Cruz into to districts--this is a RIDICULOUS IDEA! A small town, split rather arbitrarily, it just doesn't make sense.

PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: J Williams [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 20:18:36 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: J Williams [REDACTED]

Subject: Redistricting is not wanted by many voters in Santa Cruz.

Message Body:

In a democratic republic, voters are usually asked to vote on issues that affect their lives so intimately. Why was this process skipped by your commission? Is this the behavior we have to expect from you 'citizens'? We are citizens too, and splitting up a small town into two congressional districts smells like the worst sort of crooked gerrymandering. This is only my opinion, yet one that is shared in my community. This sentiment would have been elucidated had there actually been a vote allowed. Please reconsider this gerrymander or allow the citizens affected a vote on this issue. Thank you for your time.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Deb Wirkman [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 20:27:01 +0000
[REDACTED]

From: Deb Wirkman [REDACTED]

Subject: Dividing Our City

Message Body:

Commissioners: I cannot believe that dividing Santa Cruz is the "solution" you have chosen. I read that there are other options such as moving the dividing line farther north toward the SF area, and it sounds like these options have not even been explored. Santa Cruz is just too small a city as it is to be divided further. The division is absurdly artificial, and makes no sense at all. This is a terrible mistake with terrible implications for dividing rather than uniting our small city, confusing voters and it should not even be an option. You need to do better than this.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: James Anderson Merritt [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 21:00:54 +0000
[REDACTED]

From: James Anderson Merritt [REDACTED]

Subject: Splitting Small Cities not a good idea

Message Body:

I am a resident of Santa Cruz CA, who enthusiastically supported the creation of the CRC as well as the ballot initiative that gave the CRC authority to draw congressional districts. I had hoped that the CRC would prevent such gerrymandering tricks, as splitting counties, cities, and neighborhoods "down the middle." I just recently learned the bad and ironic news that our city will indeed be so split by the congressional districts that are currently proposed by the CRC.

The fact that districts are geographically based at all implies that we need to accord great weight and deference to concentrations of populations that have voluntarily come together (or that stay together) in a particular place, to live under the same political authority and laws. The communities thus formed are arguably more important than those of race or ethnicity. That is to say, no race or ethnicity is a monolithic voting bloc. Everyone is an individual, whose priorities, values, opinions, and points of view are significantly influenced by the environment and ambiance of the places where he lives and works, and by his interactions with the other people who share those spaces. A Latino in a big city barrio is going to look at the world differently than one who lives and works on a farm in the Salinas valley. An Asian who lives in Cambria will have a different point of view and different priorities than one who lives in the Korean neighborhoods of Silicon Valley. And so !

forth. And both will tend to have more practical, political interests in common with neighbors of any race or ethnicity, than with people of the same race or ethnicity who live in far-away areas.

If Santa Cruz were big enough to have two congressional representatives by itself, then it would make sense to split the city in some geographically obvious way (e.g., at the river that divides "eastside" from "westside") and let the chips fall where they may. But, in fact, Santa Cruz must be lumped with other centers of population, in order to make a district. In that case, it would seem best for the entire city to have a single representative, so that the full political weight of the city can be applied to that representative, when issues of importance to Santa Cruz are debated in congress. The alternative is to render Santa Cruz a weaker voice among many, in competing for the attention and support of two different representatives, with the possible -- often likely! -- outcome that the Santa Cruz concerns and point of view will not be effectively represented AT ALL in the debate of many major issues that come before congress.

Please do not be slaves to some "scientific" apportionment formula, whether adopted by the commission or imposed by unwise court decision. Stand up for common sense in the drawing of apportionment maps. Never let small towns, including Santa Cruz, be split between districts. We who have supported the idea of the CRC expect you commissioners and your assistants to do some very hard work in making the right thing happen. We hope that hard work will allow you to prevail against political, legal, and process-related pressures. Splitting cities into separate districts is not the right thing. Please do not fail us.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Natalie Steinberg [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 22:07:38 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Natalie Steinberg [REDACTED]

Subject: Please keep Santa Cruz whole

Message Body:

Hello.

Please do not divide the City of Santa Cruz into 2 districts. The City of Santa Cruz is a community of interest with a decentralized infrastructure and nature. It is a small city. Splitting it into 2 districts would add undo bureaucracy and encourage redundancy and/or competition between different parts of the city for federal dollars.

For many reasons, it makes the most sense to keep the City of Santa Cruz in 1 Congressional district.

Thank you for your time and ear.

Sincerely,
Natalie

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 22:37:39 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: josh goldberg [REDACTED]

Subject: splitting the small city is a bad move

Message Body:

santa cruz is a small city. It makes no sense to split it into two congressional districts. it will make it that much harder to take care of the concerns shared by all residents when someone lives in one district and walks to go work in another. YOU FAILED US!

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Ethan Miller <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 22:38:28 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Ethan Miller <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Splitting the city of Santa Cruz?

Message Body:

The current proposal to split the city of Santa Cruz between two congressional districts makes no sense. Santa Cruz has a population of under 60,000, and is relatively isolated - there aren't large numbers of people in adjacent cities. It makes no sense whatsoever to run a district boundary down the middle of downtown!

Placing Santa Cruz entirely with the Bay Area cities to the north would be acceptable, as would be placing it with the rest of Santa Cruz county to the south. Splitting it is unacceptable - it's already a relatively small city, and splitting it would further reduce our ability to have local concerns heard by splitting the residents between two districts. Are there any other cities of similar size split this way?

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: "C. Wolters" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 22:42:31 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: C. Wolters <[REDACTED]>

Subject: one congressional district

Message Body:

I urge you to keep our town united! It is outrageous that a city of this size would be cut up the way it has been. This is wrong please reconsider and keep Santa Cruz in one district.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: 23rd Assembly District

From: Betty Martinez <bett[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 07:14:20 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

My name is Ramon Martinez a resident of San Jose, a lifelong resident of California, and an active member of my community.

I want to express my dissatisfaction with the San Jose Assembly and Senate district maps that were released by the Commission on June 7th and your recent "visualizations" that discriminate against our Latino community. These maps represent a dilution of the critical political leadership of East San Jose. Our community has historically been disenfranchised, and only recently have we experienced success in electing representatives that truly represent our community. We have worked long and hard to make San Jose and Santa Clara County a community that provides an equitable "level playing field" for working class people of all backgrounds and to have our voices heard locally, regionally and at the statewide level.

Your actions to divide our community into three Assembly and Senate districts will completely dilute our voice at the state level and divide our community of interest.

I would like to recommend to the Commission that they maintain the 23rd Assembly District as is or with only minor adjustments. I would also urge that the 28th Assembly District be maintained as it is also reasonably compact. The last decade we have elected Assembly Members in these districts that have served our community very well and given us important leadership at the state level. Our local community advocates have worked long and hard to have our political voices heard and your current recommendations are taking us backward, not forward from our current status.

I would then recommend that the 23rd and 28th Assembly Districts should be nested together to form a Senate District that combines communities of interest in Santa Clara, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. I recommend this because there are common similarities in these districts that form an effective community of interest. The income and poverty levels are similar, the educational needs are similar, there are cultural similarities, and the employment needs are similar. There is also a transportation corridor that runs through the center of these two districts. Progressive worker families are he key

attributes of these combined areas

In closing, I would like to remind you that 90 percent of state population growth since 2000 was from Latinos, yet the number of districts where a Latino has a good chance of being elected remains the same or may even go down. I urge the Commission to please fix this before the final maps are approved on August 15. You must also correct the East San Jose split in the final preparation of maps. As the San Jose Mercury News points out "East San Jose is heavily Latino and its fragmentation clearly splits a "community of interest" as defined by law". Finally,

We have worked too long to achieve our current level of equitable political and social representation and will not stand idly by and allow this commission to disenfranchise and intentionally discriminate against California Latinos.

Sincerely,

Betty Martinez

██████████ Home Office

P Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: John Purchase <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 23:07:27 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: John Purchase <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Do not Split Downtown Santa Cruz

Message Body:

I strongly support the need for sensible non-partisan redistricting. I strongly object to splitting the city of santa cruz in half for 2 different congressional disticts. This violates the need for 'community coherence' which should be a guideline for redistricting. Move the line north or south of the city in order to keep the center intact within a single district.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Mary Talpas <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 23:53:15 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Mary Talpas <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Splitting the city of Santa Cruz

Message Body:

Is Crazy. Santa Cruz is a small town and needs one state rep. Can poltics ever use common sense?

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Isabelle Tuncer <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sat, 16 Jul 2011 02:11:02 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Isabelle Tuncer <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Santa Cruz

Message Body:

Keep Santa Cruz in one single district. Santa Cruz deserves fair representation and splitting the city in two just doesn't make sense.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Karen Belford [REDACTED]

Date: Sat, 16 Jul 2011 04:50:19 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Karen Belford <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Don't divide my city/county

Message Body:

Please do NOT divide Santa Cruz city or county in half. The residents of a city and county are united by local concerns and need to be represented as a whole. It's ridiculous to divide us.

Thank you, Karen Belford

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Redistricting Santa Cruz County

From: "Pam Newbury" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 16:05:22 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

After looking at the latest draft of congressional districts in Santa Cruz County, I see you have taken to heart the message that people don't want contorted districts with gerrymandered lines. However, in doing so you seem to have left behind one of the major criteria for determining district boundaries: "Districts must respect the boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of Interest, and minimize their division, to the extent possible."

I understand that there are many factors to consider, but surely there must be better options than sacrificing the unity of a small city like Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz and its outlying communities are a close knit, cohesive unit. Together we are a community of interest. We share the same newspapers and media, we share the same culture, we share the same shopping areas. We are connected by geography, infrastructure, schools, friends, family, work, culture, recreation, resources, and interests. To carve off Santa Cruz's west side and the communities of Scotts Valley, Felton, Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek, Lompico, Zayante, Davenport, and Bonny Doon and tack them on to a district that includes Palo Alto, Los Gatos, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, and Mountain View would be like wearing tennis shoes with a tuxedo: it just wouldn't be a good match. There is no connection through media or common interests: the northeast part of the district with its affluent metropolitan and big business outlook would completely overwhelm and disenfranchise the sliver of Santa Cruz County tacked on to the south.

Dividing a small community like Santa Cruz right through the middle is not the same as carving a big city like San Jose into different districts. The big cities have many hundreds of thousands of people and many separate connected and homogenous communities. To split an already small community like Santa Cruz creates many problems. First of all, distance is an issue. The rather large mountain range between Santa Cruz and the northern part of the district impedes communication and travel. You would be dividing friends, families, and neighborhoods and trying to hang them by a slender thread to a giant machine to the north. Second, we have no shared media with the northern metropolis, and getting news of our candidates and elected officials will be impaired. The local media will likely give only minor attention to those few in the community represented by a congress member from the metropolis to the north. Third, our community, though small, is united. To split it apart is to diminish its already small voice and fracture its unity.

Santa Cruz, Aptos, Capitola, Soquel, Scotts Valley, Felton, Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek, Lompico, Zayante, Davenport, and Bonny Doon are a community of interest. We belong together, and we are much more connected with the rural communities to the south such as Monterey than the huge metropolises to the north.

Pam Newbury

[REDACTED]

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: 41 year San Jose resident

From: marcella velasco <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 23:06:53 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Commissioners:

My name is Marcella A. Velasco, I have been a San Jose, CA, resident 40 years and a registered voter since 1998. I'm a very active in our community. Im currently an executive board member on the Willow Glen Foundation for the past 7 years. I still believe the commission will do the right thing.

I'm here to support the former direction of this commission in what was called the "Barrabba Visualization" to give all of the communities of interest within San Jose the representation that they wanted. I was told that either of the directions that these visualizations had would unite all of the communities of San Jose. I would like this commission to revisit the visualization in order to work with San Jose and its chance at fair and equal representation. I understand that the one downside to this visualization was the connection of the Tri-Valley to Santa Clara County, but I want to remind this commission that what is important to that area and San Jose is to stay as whole as possible. Our communities are very similar in that they lacked fair representation for years. As long as their area stays whole there should be sufficient population to guarantee fair representation. On top of this San Jose has had a history of having to work with these valley areas in the past because of the way lines had been drawn. Although it might not be completely ideal it is better than splitting up the communities within San Jose. We already have connections and will continue to work together in the interest of both of our areas. Take one more look at our congressional districts.

Warmest Regards,

Marcella A Velasco
San Jose CA, resident 40 years
[REDACTED]

Subject: East San Jose

From: Jim Gonzales <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 18:01:57 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

My name is Jim S. Gonzales. I am a long time resident of California, and an active member of my community.

I want to express my dissatisfaction with the San Jose Assembly and Senate district maps that were released by the Commission on June 7th and your recent "visualizations" that discriminate against our Latino community. These maps represent a dilution of the critical political leadership of East San Jose. Our community has historically been disenfranchised, and only recently have we experienced success in electing representatives that truly represent our community.

Your actions to divide our community into three Assembly and Senate districts will completely dilute our voice at the state level and divide our community of interest.

I would like to recommend to the Commission that they maintain the 23rd Assembly District as is or with only minor adjustments. The district is reasonably compact. I would also urge that the 28th Assembly District be maintained as it is also reasonably compact. The last decade we have elected Assembly Members in these districts that have served our community very well and given us important leadership at the state level.

I would then recommend that the 23rd and 28th Assembly Districts should be nested together to form a Senate District that combines communities of interest in Santa Clara, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. I recommend this because there are common similarities in these districts that form an effective community of interest. The income and poverty levels are similar, the educational needs are similar, there are cultural similarities, and the employment needs are similar. There is also a transportation corridor that runs through the center of these two districts.

In closing, I would like to remind you that 90 percent of state population growth since 2000 was from Latinos, yet the number of districts where a Latino has a good chance of being elected remains the same or may even go down. I urge the Commission to please fix this before the final maps are approved on August 15. You must also correct the East San Jose split in the final preparation of maps. As the San Jose Mercury News points out "East San Jose is heavily Latino and its fragmentation clearly splits a "community of interest" as defined by law". Finally, We will not stand idly by and allow this commission to disenfranchise and intentionally discriminate against California Latinos.

Jim S. Gonzales
[REDACTED]

Subject: Redistricting Letter

From: "Solis, Mary Jane" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 16:17:48 -0700

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

Hello, my name is Mary Jane Solis . I am a long time resident of San Jose California and an active member of my community.

I want to express my dissatisfaction with the San Jose Assembly and Senate district maps that were released by the Commission on June 7th and your recent "visualizations" that discriminate against our Latino community. These maps represent a dilution of the critical political leadership of East San Jose. Our community has historically been disenfranchised, and only recently have we experienced success in electing representatives that truly represent our community.

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by law". Finally, We will not stand idly by and allow this commission to disenfranchise and intentionally discriminate against California Latinos.

Sincerely,
Mary Jane Solis

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: James Atkins <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 18:48:27 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: James Atkins <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Please don't split our city

Message Body:

Dear Commission members,

I appreciate all of your hard work creating fairer and better election districts for the state of California. I know that the process is difficult with many hard choices and decisions. That being said, I am writing to urge you to find a way to create an undivided congressional district for the city of Santa Cruz. We are small by cohesive city. Splitting the city in two dilutes our voice in DC and limits the value of our votes. So, please find a way to adjust the map in order to allow the City to fit within a single congressional voting district.

Thank you.

James Atkins

Santa Cruz Citizen

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Kelsey Ramage <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 19:00:53 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Kelsey Ramage <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Do not split our city and tiny county

Message Body:

Please keep Santa Cruz city intact as a congressional district.

And Santa Cruz County is the smallest county in the state geographically - please do not divide us.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Blu Forman <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 19:08:11 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Blu Forman <[REDACTED]>

Subject: maceration of our district

Message Body:

The excuse "any move here has implications throughout Northern California, since those boundaries would have to be adjusted as well" is unacceptable. To be fair, the pain should be delivered equally among all districts. Obviously, the plan is not to be fair but to dilute our normally liberal-leaning voting populace as much as possible.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Tim Sylvester <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 19:16:48 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Tim Sylvester <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Santa Cruz

Message Body:

Splitting the City of Santa Cruz in half is ludicrous! There must be a dozen different ways to break up Santa Clara County and the peninsula to create districts that will allow Santa Cruz to be in a single congressional district.

Try again and work harder this time.

Tim

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Erin Lee <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 19:22:40 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Erin Lee <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Keep Santa Cruz whole

Message Body:

As a resident of Santa Cruz, I ask you to reconsider the current proposal to split the city of Santa Cruz between two congressional districts. Rather than giving the citizens of Santa Cruz a greater voice in our government, this proposal will weaken our representation and be a blow to an area that is already struggling in the current economy. Santa Cruz is a small community with a set of common interests. Please don't drown out our voice.

-Erin Lee

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission