



Singh, Ravi <[redacted]>

## Fwd: City of Benicia Request to remain in the 7th Congressional District

Voter <[redacted]>  
To: [redacted]

Wed, Jul 13, 2011 at 10:11 AM

Region 8 - Solano  
July 12

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

**Subject:** City of Benicia Request to remain in the 7th Congressional District

**Date:** Tue, 12 Jul 2011 13:40:53 -0700

**From:** Tonya Gilmore <[redacted]>

**To:** [redacted]

**CC:** Alan Schwartzman <[redacted]> Anne Cardwell  
[redacted] Brad Kilger <[redacted]> Heather McLaughlin  
[redacted] Mark Hughes <[redacted]> Mike  
Ioakimedes <[redacted]> Tom Campbell <[redacted]>  
Elizabeth Patterson <[redacted]>

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission;

On behalf of the citizens of Benicia we want to thank you for all your time and effort in developing California's Preliminary District Maps. We know the arduous task it must have been to design districts that are more than demarcations of equality in population but also equality in political franchise.

Please see the attached letter which details the concerns that I as the Mayor of the City of Benicia have regarding the First Round of Preliminary District Maps.

We ask that you keep Benicia in the Bay Area and redesign the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to include Benicia.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of  
Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor

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 **37 - Redistricting Letter\_FINAL\_.pdf**  
583K



THE CITY OF  
**BENICIA**  
CALIFORNIA

July 8, 2011

**Citizens Redistricting Commission**

[REDACTED]  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: RELEASED FIRST ROUND OF PRELIMINARY DISTRICT MAPS –  
CITY OF BENICIA REQUEST TO REMAIN IN THE 7<sup>TH</sup>  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

Dear Commission Members:

On behalf of the citizens of Benicia I want to thank you for all your time and effort in developing California's Preliminary District Maps. We know the arduous task it must have been to design districts that are more than demarcations of equality in population but also equality in political franchise.

It is that focus on political franchise for which we ask your further review and consideration prior to finalizing the Congressional District map. It is our desire that the City of Benicia remain connected with the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. As a small city it is important for us to maintain our historic working relationship with our representative's district. While separated from Contra Costa County by the waters of the San Pablo Bay, Benicia is, nevertheless, inextricably linked to the political, social and economic similarities of Contra Costa and the Bay Area. For instance, we are members of the Carquinez Strait Resource Management Council created by a memorandum of understanding between the four cities on the Strait – Martinez, Crockett, Vallejo, and Benicia, as well as the East Bay Regional Park District.

Our geographic location as a waterfront community, our deep-water port, which services the newest oil refinery in the Bay Area, and our citizens, who commute to work in Contra Costa, are characteristics that tie Benicia to the political subdivisions of the Bay Area. Moreover, in the decade ahead, our Congressional leaders will have the great responsibility of developing solutions to some of the major issues with which we now contend.

Paramount in the consciousness of our Benicia electorate are energy and climate change. Benicia shares a kinship with our neighbors in Contra Costa County who benefit from and contend with large oil refining facilities. There are large economic interests and public health considerations that must be addressed when you are the home of a refinery. A Representative whose district contains multiple refineries is better equipped to address these issues, as well as issues facing the Bay Area with respect to climate change, especially sea level rise. Simply put, the Representative of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District is logistically better positioned to meet and network with industry officials. Similarly, they and their staff are better able to know and network with regional health organizations, including in our case, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The values of our government and the lessons of our history teach us that the resonance of our political voice is subdued when spoken by a Representative whose experience and perspective are dissimilar to our own. Our franchise is lost if Benicia is assigned to a Congressional District that pulls us east. We ask that you keep us in the Bay Area and redesign the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to include Benicia.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "P".

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Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor

cc: City Council