

general

COMMISSIONER MIKE WARD MUZZLED

Commissioner Michael Ward, who is one of the five Republicans on the California Citizens' Redistricting Commission, has been muzzled by the Commission's incredibly expensive, Democrat party oriented, litigation team.

Commissioner ward was the ONLY commissioner to dissent from approving the final draft maps for California's state legislative districts, and also dissented from approving the final draft maps for the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

He was the only Commissioner courageous enough to do this. One of the other five Republicans, Jodie Filkins Webber, a Republican from Norco (in the Riverside area) dissented with him only on the new boundaries for the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Commissioner Ward stated during the open session on July 29 as follows: "I voted for Proposition 11 and 20; I believed they afforded an historic opportunity to take politics and special interest out of determining the representational assignment of cities, counties and neighborhoods. I do not believe the process this commission chose to construct successfully accomplished that expectation in spirit or practice. In my opinion, the commission failed to fulfill its mandate to strictly apply the constitutional criteria, inconsistently applied race and 'community of interest' criteria and sought to diminish dissenting viewpoints."

After he made that statement, the Commissions' legal counsel descended upon Commissioner Ward and muzzled him. Insiders who attended many of the public input sessions believe it is important, even vital, that Commissioner Ward should be allowed to speak. A lot can be learned about the process which actually took place if he is given the right to file a minority report regarding the maps issued.

Barbara Deems
