

August 28, 2017

Dianna Baird



Ms. Christina Shupe
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916)322-0904

re: **My concerns about the lack of adequate legislative representation
and abridgment and dilution of my vote**

Dear Commissioners:

I am a concerned citizen of the United States of America and lifelong resident of the State of California, and I am eligible to vote. Yet, over the course of the years, I feel my vote no longer counts.

I have reviewed the/your California Citizens Resisting Commission's (CRC) *Legal Handbook for the Citizens Redistricting Commission* (2010), prepared by the Bureau of State Audits as provided through this link: http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/downloads/legal_guide.pdf.

I noted that on page 3 of the Handbook, you have a quote from the California Constitution, Article XXI, Sec. 2(d)(4), that states in pertinent part:

(4) The geographic integrity of any city, county, city and county, local neighborhood, or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes their division to the extent possible without violating the requirements of any of the preceding subdivisions. A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. ...

I hereby, complain and petition to you, the Commission, that I do not have adequate and meaningful representation. For decades the population of California has exponentially

increased while the number of members in the California legislature has remained capped at 120 (80 in the Assembly since 1854 and 40 in the Senate) both Constitutionally fixed at those numbers in 1879 – which directly contradicted a provision in the earlier initial 1850 California Constitution, Article I, Sec. 26:

All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their protection, security, and benefit, and they have the right to alter or reform it when the public good may require.

Renumbered June 8, 1976, and now appears/is Article I, Sec. 1 – Purpose of Government.)

The legislature, especially the lower house, the Assembly, is the organic pulse and the lifeblood of the People via representation. As the population increases (California’s population now is approaching 40,000,000), the legislative membership remains fixed, and the People’s vote is occluded and their representation shrinks. Where once there was a time when the People had a seat at the table and their voice was heard in Sacramento; since 1879 (and earlier 1854 and 1862, back when California’s population was around 420,000), such is less and less true, as representation and the vote of the People are ever more abridged, diluted and diminished. It has been 155 years and the populous of 39,500,000 people continues to grow in California – yet the California legislature and government has not added one member to its legislature. Now that is the opposite of having representation!

I implore your Commission to consider these facts and strategize the best possible outcome for the People of California so that every voting citizen is heard through the ballot box as was initially designed and depicted in the U.S. Constitution and the California Constitution.

Thank you for your courtesy. I await the Commission’s response to my letter/complaint /petition.

Sincerely,

/s 
Dianna Baird