



Shupe, Christina <christina.shupe@crc.ca.gov>

My concerns about the lack of legislative representation and abridgment and dilution of my vote

Shupe, Christina <christina.shupe@crc.ca.gov>

Mon, Aug 28, 2017 at 11:28 AM

To: Mary Russell [REDACTED]

Cc: Terry Rapoza [REDACTED]

Good Morning Ms. Russell,

Thank you for submitting your comments to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Your email has been forwarded to the Commissioners and will be posted on our website under the public comments section. Please note that our address has changed and we are no longer on K Street. The Citizens Redistricting Commission mailing address is:

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1017 L Street, PMB 563
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sincerely,

Christina Shupe
Senior Operations Manager
Citizens Redistricting Commission
1017 L Street, PMB 563
Sacramento, CA 95814
"Fair Representation - Democracy at Work!"

On Mon, Aug 28, 2017 at 9:03 AM, Terry Rapoza <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Great letter Mary! Thank you for sending it to me-I am keeping all of the letters sent in a file.

Rally Sally

"A LITTLE REBELLION NOW AND
THEN IS A GOOD THING"

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--THOMAS JEFFERSON



From: Mary Russell [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 7:54 AM

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Subject: My concerns about the lack of legislative representation and abridgment and dilution of my vote

Mary Russell

[REDACTED]
August 27, 2017

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

Dear Commissioners:

I am a concerned citizen of the United States of America and resident of the State of California, and eligible to vote.

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. http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/downloads/legal_guide.pdf

I noted that on page 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, as for decades the population of California has exponentially increased, while the number of members in the California legislature has remained fixed/capped at 120 (80 in the Assembly since 1854 and 40 in the Senate; both Constitutionally fixed at those number 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), while the legislative membership remains fixed capped, the organic pulse and lifeblood of People is occluded, and their representation shrinks. Where once the People had a seat at the table and voice that was heard in Sacramento, since 1879 (and earlier 1854 and 1862, back 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 addition of 39,500,000 to California – yet the California legislature and government has not added 1 member to it legislature. Now that is the opposite of having representation!

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

Sincerely,
Mary Russell