



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

Please fix our representation

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

Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 12:32 PM

To: Bret Murphy [REDACTED]

Good afternoon Mr. Murphy,

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.

In regards to your inquiry about the noticed location in Mexico on September 1st: One of our Commissioners will be on vacation in Mexico on September 1st. While she will not be able to travel to Sacramento, she has arranged to interrupt her vacation to participate in the meeting via teleconference. A second commissioner is unable to travel to Sacramento and will be calling in from Capitola. They have both arranged to participate from a publicly accessible location, as is required by California's Bagley Keene law and Citizens Redistricting Commission policy. All locations where Citizens Redistricting Commissioners participate must be publicly accessible and noticed in advance. This is in keeping with the Commission's commitment to transparency. You can learn more about the requirements of Bagley Keene here: http://ag.ca.gov/publications/bagleykeene2004_ada.pdf

While we would love to hold additional meeting locations open across the state, our budget does not allow for the staffing that would require. We hope you can join us in Sacramento.

Sincerely,

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

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 6:41 AM, Bret Murphy [REDACTED] wrote:

Bret A. Murphy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

August 28, 2017

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 legislative representation and dilution of my vote*

Dear Commissioners:

I am a concerned citizen of the United States of America and resident of the State of California, and a registered voter.

I have reviewed the 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 in 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 and 40 in the Senate); both Constitutionally fixed at those number in 1879. This directly contradicts 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 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, such is less and less true, as representation and the vote of the People, are ever more abridged, diluted and diminished. With no changes since the capping of the legislature we have had an addition of approximately 39,500,000 to California – yet the California legislature and government has not added 1 member to it legislature. That is the opposite of having representation!

I see that you have and will be continuing to hold public meetings, allowing citizens to comment and make recommendations for redistricting lines in 2021. You have been meeting in Sacramento, in the vicinity of the northern rural counties and next in Capitola, more central, but I do question your reasoning for a meeting in Mexico, something I think most Californians would also find highly questionable, if the Commission is truly looking to get a consensus from those who live in California's 58 Counties why meet out of the state. This will raise questions in the minds of many and be viewed with suspicion.

I ask that you at least give strong consideration for smaller boundaries and increase the number of legislators. If you, in addition to hundreds of thousands of others, agree that there is a need for more representation in the State Legislature, I ask that you include this as a recommendation along with your other findings and recommendations to both chambers of the State Legislature.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Sincerely,

Bret A.Murphy