

**From:** Victoria Aguayo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 23, 2011 2:26 PM  
**To:** Commission, Prop11  
**Subject:** Public Comments to Citizen Redistricting Commission

Dear Commission Members:

My name is Victoria Aguayo Schupbach and I am one of the remaining applicants in the pool of registered Democrats who are being considered to fill the vacancy left by Commissioner Kuo. I offer these comments as a private citizen and to assist the Commission's public outreach efforts.

It is essential that members of the public be allowed to provide testimony in native languages if they are not proficient in English. English proficiency is different from conversational English ability. Although an individual whose second language is English may be able to converse and also read or write it, he may be more comfortable fully expressing views in his first language. This is particularly true in a more formal setting where public officials are questioning the individual and an audience is present. The Commission's goal should be to encourage and elicit candid and independent comments from as many members of the public as may wish to participate. Allowing testimony in foreign languages and providing translators would fulfill such a goal.

In order to ensure the accuracy of the translation and the transcript of proceedings, competent interpreters should be utilized at public hearings conducted by the Commission in California's diverse communities. Experienced interpreters such as those utilized by the courts can be utilized, or the Commission may find it more cost effective to hire its own interpreters in the most dominant foreign languages spoken in California (eg. Spanish, Mandarin, and Tagalog). A less costly alternative would be to seek volunteers from within different communities and public hearing sites. California has a wealth of bilingual citizens who may be willing to volunteer their services during public hearings. Of course, an independent assessment of their skills should be made by the Commission and at the beginning of any public hearing so that individuals providing testimony to the Commission and the general public will have confidence in the accuracy of volunteer translations and the fairness of the process.

This suggestion is consistent with remarks that I provided to the Applicant Review Panel during my August 2010 interview, although I have elaborated in these comments.

Victoria Aguayo Schupbach