

**Comments on the Proposed Regulations (Modified)
Regarding the Voters FIRST Act**

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My written and oral comments of September 14 on the Proposed Regulations had a primary goal in mind: To encourage the Bureau to draft Regulations so that Commission members would reflect the diversity of Californians, have the best skills available for the task, *but would be less likely to be known activists.*

Unfortunately, many of the changes in the Modified Proposed Regulations move in the opposite direction. Specific language, demonstration examples and omissions enable and even encourage partisan applicants. I cannot agree that a Redistricting Commission of strong advocates fighting it out is better than a group of sensible people with open minds working in harmony.

I will not take this argument further, as many powerful interests have a differing point of view. I can't resist, however, making a couple of comments on § 60800. The phrase "may have strong views" is gratuitous and unnecessary. Also in (b)(1), it should be "Having personal, political, family or financial . . ." Political relationships and commitments can be improperly influential in redistricting decisions.

Moving on to § 60805, I must reiterate my earlier comments about demonstrating appreciation in subsection (b). (1) is mostly fixed, but (2) and (3) remain extremely limiting as examples. Almost no ordinary citizen will have ever studied voting patterns or performed statewide recruiting for anything. Delete (2) and fix (3) by deleting everything after "backgrounds", and replace it with "in the course of one's life experience."

In my previous comments I pointed out the critical influence of natural terrain and man made features on properly drawn district maps. These factors have a major influence on communities of interest, and understanding them is a critical skill, certainly of equal or greater rank, for example, than computer skills. Therefore, in § 60827 add under (c)(2), "(E) An ability to understand the influence of natural terrain and man-made features upon appropriate district boundaries."

Thank you for considering these comments.

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