

David Pratt

March 20, 2011

to: Citizens Redistricting Commission

In the Technical Committee meeting on Tuesday morning March 17, there was a suggestion of contacting all of the 500+ cities and counties in the state and asking them for their preferences on where the lines should be drawn *if* any lines were to be drawn through their jurisdiction. There appeared to be general agreement within the committee that this should be done.

Unless this specific information is requested by the line-drawer, I think that collecting it is problematic, or worse. The only people who *should* be able to take an official position for a city or county are their elected council members or supervisors (certainly not just anybody who can send in their suggestions "on city stationery"). So every jurisdiction would have to hold a meeting of their elected officials to decide the issue. For most of them, this would be a total waste of time, as lines are unlikely to be drawn at all through most of the cities and even some of the counties. Further, the lines drawn by the Commission to be in best compliance with Propositions 11 and 20 and the Federal Voting Act would almost certainly differ from whatever lines were suggested by the cities and counties, creating a potential source of friction. Specific mention was made in the Technical Committee meeting that it would be useful to have suggestions from a large city like Los Angeles. But the Los Angeles City Council members who would be suggesting the lines are major California politicians who have their own agendas. Asking for their opinions would almost be like asking for suggestions from legislators and members of congress.

If city council members and county supervisors have views on drawing the lines, they should submit them as individuals or as members of non-governmental organizations. Even if there were to be official positions taken by cities and counties, they would be taken most efficiently *after* the Commission has drawn its first maps.

Sincerely,

David Pratt