

From: **Brian Lawson** [REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, Mar 23, 2011 at 12:37 PM  
Subject: Communities of Interest  
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission:

As you gear up for your first public input meetings you might find it useful to ask the presenters Thursday about the following issue related to communities of interest.

Sub-Division (d) of Section 2 of Article XXI of the California Constitution lists a hierarchy of six criteria (paragraphs 1 through 6) to be used in drawing districts.

Within this hierarchy communities of interest are implicitly mentioned at two levels: Paragraph 2, which requires compliance with the Voting Rights Act (which requires protection of certain groups) and at a lower level in Paragraph 4 (which mentions that efforts should be made to keep communities of interest together when drawing districts).

You might ask the presenters on Thursday if they have any guidance with regard to whether the different ways communities of interest are treated should be taken account of during the initial public input hearings or if that is an issue which can be confronted after the initial hearings have taken place.

Sincerely,

Brian Lawson

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