

From: **Peter Van Meter** [REDACTED]  
Date: Thu, Mar 24, 2011 at 3:53 PM  
Subject: Public Comment: Do Not Use Statement of Registration Data  
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Commissioners -

As I and others have repeatedly pointed out to the Commission, it is becoming increasingly evident that political party agendas may be taking over the redistricting process.

Today, Karin MacDonald, speaking for the Statewide Database (notwithstanding being a paid consultant), once more spent a major portion of her presentation discussing the use of party registration data in line drawing. This Statement of Registration Data is being updated from 2001, when – surprise – it was created and used for political gerrymandering purposes.

Commissioner Filkins Webber asked a good question, noting that the Commission need not act as a “plaintiff” in its deliberations when considering voting patterns. From what I hear, there is not a legal mandate to perform a Racially Polarized Voting (RPV) analysis, but if an RPV analysis is determined to be legally required, then it can and should be done without party registration being included in the analysis.

Later, Ana Henderson of the Warren Institute explicitly advised the Commission that it cannot consider party affiliation in determining communities of interest. Actually, the constitution is much broader than this, through the language in Propositions 11 and 20, keeping parties out of the process.

Again, you must challenge your consultants and prevent the Statement of Registration Data and possibly the Statement of Vote data from being used just because they exist from an earlier era. In the new world, this data is not an acceptable proxy for voting patterns or communities of interest.

Thank you.  
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