

From: Dave Stockdale [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 13 Apr 2011 11:59:55 -0700
To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>
Subject: Citizen Redistricting Commission, San Luis Obispo hearing, April 13, 2011
Dear Commissioners:

In the last election cycle I ran for the Republican nomination in the 23rd U.S. congressional district, often referred to as the "ribbon of shame," a textbook example of the political abuse of the redistricting process that California voters have asked your commission to correct.

Here is my request. Regardless of your political beliefs, please make the utmost effort to follow not only the letter but the spirit of the citizen initiatives that created your commission. The primary concept underlying our wonderful American experiment is the rule of law, and not of men. As much as possible, each person in government is called to follow the law, regardless of their personal beliefs. Our system ultimately will fail if those trusted with great authority by the voters abuse that authority to reach their own partisan ends, if they, however purely in their own minds, believe the ends justify their abuse of the means. Please remember, in our form of government, the means are the end, the rule of law is the sound foundation upon which all else rises--or falls.

Your mandate outlines specific requirements for designing districts. Please follow those to the utmost, ignoring to the greatest extent possible how those guidelines might affect the outcome of a future election. Let the voting chips fall where they may. In passing these initiatives, the voters were crying out for fair elections and truly representative, effective, government. I implore you to steel yourself against any tendency to move the lines to favor one political party over another. Holding fast to the intent of your voter mandate will earn you the thanks and praise of all Californians.

Thank you.

Dave Stockdale

