

April 20, 2011  
Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
VIA FAX: (916) 322-0904



Re: Keep Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank In one congressional district

Dear Commission members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on redistricting for our area.

The Board of Directors of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce advocates very strongly to ensure all of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale are included in the same district for representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Our three cities have much in common and have been well-served by working in concert on many initiatives and projects.

Our three cities jointly own and operate Bob Hope Airport under the auspices of the Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena Airport Authority. Each has an equal stake, and equal representation in governing this vital transportation and economic hub for the three cities.

Each of our cities is very similar in their operation, population and economies. All are charter cities with city managers running the administration and government. All have part-time city councils that provide policy direction to professional staff. Each operates its own water and power utility and share in the ownership of various power generation plants throughout the Southwest, in addition to operating their own power plants. Each has its own public safety agencies, both police and fire. The three cities also share in the cost and operation of the Verdugo Dispatch System that coordinates emergency and police response in the cities. The three cities often collaborate on joint purchasing, planning and operations. We all utilize the Schol Canyon landfill in Glendale, for example and are active in the Arroyo-Verdugo subregion for planning. In addition, each city has its own unified school district.

The populations of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena are similar, as well. We each have very diverse populations, yet are significantly residential in character with many of our inhabitants living in single family homes.


Further, each city has a similar economy. Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena have vibrant retail, restaurant and hospitality industries as well as significant office based businesses that contribute to our local economies. We also have significant higher educational institutions in each city, with Caltech, Art Center, Fuller Theological Seminary, Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Academy and Pasadena City College in Pasadena, Glendale Community College in Glendale and Woodbury University in Burbank.

The entertainment industry provides significant jobs in each of our communities, with studio facilities located in Glendale and Burbank and some support services housed in Pasadena. Many employees of those studios live in each community. We also share significant technology businesses, with IdeaLab, Cogent and others located in Pasadena, Yahoo in Burbank and others in the area.

Each city serves as headquarters to multi-national corporations, as well. Pasadena is home to Parsons Corporation and Avery Dennison as well as Avon. Glendale has Nestle, Dreamworks and Disney Imagineering. Burbank hosts Warner Brothers and the Walt Disney Company. As just one example, Jet Propulsion Laboratory which straddles Pasadena and La Canada, employs residents from Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena. Further, their subcontracting companies are located in each of the three cities. The same can be said if major employers in Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, I urge the commission to look very closely at our three communities and place Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale in a single district for election of a representative to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Thank you,

  
Dennis Buckley  
Chair of the Board of Directors