

From: **Don Saylor** [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Apr 26, 2011 at 4:26 PM
Subject: Comments Regarding Yolo County Districts
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

April 26, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

To all concerned,

Thank you for your service to California in the important work of shaping our representational boundaries. I appreciate the many personal sacrifices that come with your dedication to this task. I currently serve as a member of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and previously served as Mayor and Councilmember of the City of Davis from 2004-2010 and Trustee for the Davis Joint Unified School District from 1995-2003. The work of the CRC is critically important in building trust among the voters of California for their representative governments.

I am writing to address two matters I believe should be considered by the Citizens Redistricting Commission in your deliberations regarding the drawing of legislative districts affecting the residents and voters of Yolo County. Both of these issues present significant potential ramifications for the fair representation of Yolo County voters in state and federal legislative bodies.

Yolo County Voters Disenfranchised by State Senate Ping-Pong Effect. Yolo County voters are currently represented in the California State Senate as constituents of Senate District 5. Because SD 5 is an odd-numbered district, elections were held in 2004 and 2008 and the next scheduled election will be in 2012. However, if the senate district boundary lines are drawn in such a fashion that Yolo County moves to an even-numbered senate district, that election cycle would be delayed until 2014. While any moves of areas from one district to another may result in a change in the election cycle, Yolo County voters have been penalized by this ping-pong effect in both the 1990 and 2000 redistricting cycles. In

the 1990 redistricting, Yolo County was shifted from SD 5 to SD 4, resulting in a six-year period between regular election cycles (1988-94) rather than the typical 4-year cycle of senate elections. In the 2000 redistricting, Yolo County was shifted back from SD 4 to SD 5 and Yolo County voters once again suffered a six-year window between regular senate elections (1998-2004).

The "Senate Odd-Even-Odd Ping-Pong Effect" resulted in Yolo County voters being represented by Senators for 2-year periods twice in a 12-year period (92-94 and 02-04) who they did not have the opportunity to select. Allowing this to happen once is understandable. Twice was a serious mistake. But three times in a row would be inexcusable. Yolo County must remain in an odd-numbered district to prevent this pattern of disenfranchisement from continuing. I ask that the CRC consider this ping-pong effect as you deliberate on the fair representation of all Californians.

Community of Interest Should Define Legislative Boundaries. I understand that a critical factor in drawing boundaries is the creation of districts encompassing communities of interest. In considering legislative boundaries for districts including Yolo County, I urge the CRC to consider the following factors:

- Yolo County is an integral part of a region aligned along the Interstate 80 corridor, including Napa and Solano Counties.
- Yolo County is part of an agricultural region united by the presence of the University of California at Davis and common crop patterns and agri-tourism that includes Napa, Sonoma and Solano Counties.
- Yolo County is a part of a region and community of interest encompassing urban and rural areas united by the Cache Creek, Putah Creek, Berryessa and Delta watersheds

These factors define the character, concerns, interests and identity of Yolo County. The 1990 redistricting ignored these defining factors and included Yolo County in a district that stretched to Shasta, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties. That far flung district failed to capture a consistent character or unite communities of interest and served the interest of none of the residents of any of the areas contained within its boundaries for effective representation. I hope that the CRC will be mindful of that experience from the past and truly seek to unite areas with common communities of interest.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Once again, I appreciate your efforts and dedication to the task of making our shared democracy function in the interest of all Californians.

Sincerely,
Don Saylor
Yolo County Supervisor
District 2

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Don Saylor

