

Region 9 - Mendocino County

League of Women Voters of Mendocino County

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Ft. Bragg, CA 95437

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Citizens Redistricting Commission
1139 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County has followed with interest the meetings of the Commission and the public comments, especially with regard to the consideration given to drawing the district lines from east to west. We urge you to consider drawing them from north to south for the following reasons.

This is historical precedence for keeping together those communities that have called themselves the North Coast or Redwood Coast. Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino have long histories of working together on issues of common interest. We exist on a north-south corridor—highway 101. Because of the difficulty of east-west travel, partnerships and coalitions have developed in the areas of tourism, recreation, fishing, and agriculture. In addition, winter snow and spring rains make travel to I-5 and across the state sometimes impossible. With cuts in travel budgets for Assembly and Senate members, adding distance and difficulty to covering their districts will not serve their constituents.

Networks have also developed along the north-south corridor in the areas of healthcare delivery, specialty agriculture, fishing, and commerce. We share bird, wildlife, and marine protected areas. We share the California Coastal National Monument. Recently the Marine Life Protection Act has further bound us together. We share watersheds, salmon fishing, redwood trees, and wineries. Our coastal areas lie within the boundaries of the California Coastal Commission. Agriculture more suited to the temperate coastal area is another characteristic of northern coastal counties.

While we understand and applaud the need to adjust district boundaries, we urge you to keep Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties in the same Assembly District and to look at readjusting the Senate District to include Del Norte. Pasture-based agriculture and wine industries work well together and have created a "brand" for our region. This brand fits as well with the neighboring counties of Lake, Napa, and Yolo; and we urge you to consider having them remain in the same Congressional District.

Respectfully,

Jane Person

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President, League of Women Voters of Mendocino County