

## Principles for Drawing Preliminary Maps

Resolved. With respect to the initial guidelines for wrap-up sessions and the preparation of preliminary maps, Congressional districts shall be drawn to be equal within one person and Assembly and Senate districts shall be drawn to vary as little as possible, but not vary more than 5 percent in population with documented reasons for any variance over 1-2%.

Resolved. That Q2 shall perform necessary Section 5 comparisons between 2010 census data in consultation with VRA consultants to identify Section 5 benchmark issues as to retrogression as follows:

A. Draw the districts that that cover all or part of the four counties subject to preclearance under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act: Kings, Merced, Monterey, and Yuba.

B. The Section 5 districts should be given priority because their creation will impact the adjacent districts. These districts must be designed to qualify for preclearance by the Department of Justice.

C. The districts covering these counties must preserve the current minority voting strength.

1. Because the U.S. Supreme Court has used both the current census data and the census data pursuant to which the existing districts were drawn (that is, the prior decade's census data) to determine voting strength, both data should be used to make certain that new districts do not lead to retrogression in the position of minorities with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise. Q2 should work with VRA counsel to identify the relevant demographic information and to advise the Commission on the exact comparisons to consider.

2. Working with VRA counsel, and in conformity with the criteria in the California Constitution regarding contiguity, minimizing divisions of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest, and compactness, Q2 should preliminarily draw proposed districts that preserve minority voting strength in those districts. Where there are multiple alternatives, Q2 should identify for the

Commission its options for preserving the position of racial minorities, and identify the issues the Commission should consider.

3. Once the Section 5 issues are addressed, Q2 should identify for VRA counsel any geographically compact minority groups whose voting age populations equal or exceed 50% of a hypothetical district so that VRA counsel can determine whether section 2 of the VRA requires that the minority group be placed within a single district. Q2 should then work with VRA counsel to identify such areas and identify for the Commission its options.

Resolved. Q2 shall identify geographically compact single minority populations whose voting age populations are equal to or exceed 50% of a hypothetical assembly, senate or congressional district and further shall provide the same information on insight maps being drawn at wrap up meetings. Q2 shall work with VRA counsel to identify whether fragmenting those populations might result in a Section 2 benchmark issue and advise the Commission on whether to adjust district lines.

Resolved. When dealing with non-contiguous portions of a city that have no population, where maintaining the city intact does not interfere with communities of interest and simply makes the district less compact, the higher prioritized constitutional criteria shall govern. If however, including non-contiguous areas of the city will result in a non-contiguous district, we shall defer to the higher criterion of contiguity.

Resolved. With respect to the initial guidelines for wrap-up sessions and the preparation of preliminary maps, absent public testimony on communities of interest and neighborhoods, lines will be drawn along city and county lines.