

From: **alfred flores** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, May 2,
Subject: Concerns
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Members:

I have lived on the north side of the City of Fresno for the past 30 years. I know one of the things you're trying to do is keep entire counties and cities together, but in the City of Fresno and in Fresno County it just doesn't work.

This is because we have at least 2 distinct communities:

#1 Community: Northeast and Northwest Fresno in the city limits north of Shields, adding the rural areas east of Clovis Avenue going east up into the mountains and recreational areas of Fresno County, Tulare County and north to include all of the County of Madera. Residents of this area share higher incomes, larger residential lots, small acreages and smaller eastside agriculture and grazing land. Madera County stands out from the rest of our valley counties in that the County has a good relationship and shares common interests with residents throughout their county, whether you live in the foothills, the mountains or the city limits. This is probably because of their increased reliance on tourism and recreation which feeds their economy from the City of Madera on up to the mountains with their casinos, lakes and national parks.

And, this is probably why they share interests with those of us in north Fresno, Clovis and in the foothills and mountains of Fresno and Tulare Counties, even taking in the foothill and mountain communities of Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties to the north. This is the community where I live.

#2 Community: South of Shields going both east and west to include smaller homes and lots in the city limits of Fresno and to catch the cities east of Highway 99 such as Sanger, Del Rey, Fowler and Selma and continuing west of Highway 99 to include the farming communities of San Joaquin, Riverdale, Kerman, Firebaugh, Five Points, Mendota, etc. to the county line near Coalinga and Huron. The residents of this area share lower incomes, high unemployment, smaller acreage agriculture on the east and large, production agriculture on the west, high teen pregnancy rates and many other social and economic ills that need to be addressed by effective and fair representation. And, of course, they share common interests with like farming communities along Highway 99 to include Kings County communities and like communities nearest us in Kern County.

Please don't hesitate to separate our cities and Fresno County into different districts. Economic necessity and our people did this on our own a long time ago and it works for us. And, yes, our district lines look kind of funny to non-valley people looking in at them, but to us, this is our home. I've lived in Fresno County all of the 71 years of my life, except when I was in military service. I've lived in both communities I describe above. I've been in Community #1 for 30 years, but I also grew up and lived in Community #2 where my parents had a grocery store in the Chinatown area of downtown Fresno.

Thank you.

Alfred Flores -
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