

[REDACTED]
Davis, CA 95616

May 7, 2011

Dear Commissioners:

In drawing districts, there will be enough cases where you have to cross county lines *against the expressed wishes of the voters*, that it would be useful if you could have some general ideas of better and worse ways to do it. This note, written after I watched videos of your recent Southern California input meetings, is to suggest one pair of such ideas, based on the population sizes of the communities involved.

A “better” way is suggested by the many cases surrounding Los Angeles where people spoke *in favor of crossing county lines* (in order to keep communities of interest intact). It seemed in those cases that the communities that want to be together, even though they are across county lines from each other, are of relatively similar size, so that no one would totally dominate the other(s).

An example of a “worse” way, based on population sizes, came up in your April 30 wrap up for region 9. You were pondering an “insight map” of Northern California congressional districts, one of which ran from the Oregon border down into Yolo County. In order to make the population come out ok, it was suggested to lop off Davis from the bulk of Yolo County and add it to a Sacramento district (which is *not* in a shared community of interest). If you did that, residents of Davis would be out-numbered 10 to 1 in that district by residents of Sacramento. The congressional representative(s) elected there for the next decade not only would almost certainly come from Sacramento but also would have minimal incentive to work for the interests of Davis, which are often specific to Yolo County. While it’s hardly selfless that I bring up this specific case of a bad way to combine communities across county lines, I think it illustrates a general rule, that it will be to the great disadvantage of any small community with a lot of county-specific interests if you join it to a big city in a different county.

Sincerely,

David Pratt