

Subject: Public Comment: Education

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 5:27 PM

From: Sandi Baltes [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Public Comment: Education

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Subject: Education

Message Body:

My name is Sandi Baltes, and I would like to encourage the commission to strongly consider education as a top priority when evaluating what constitutes a "community of interest."

By way of background, I spent my entire career in education. I was a classroom teacher for 9 years, then served as an education administrator for the next 22 years of my career. I served as principal at Las Positias Elementary School in the La Habra City School District 12 of those years.

I currently reside on the western edge of the city of Brea, which is part of the La Habra City School District. This district is a K-8 district that services the families of most of La Habra and western Brea.

Our High School District is the Fullerton Joint Union High School District, which includes high schools in Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra, La Habra Heights, and my area of western Brea.

Our community college district is the North Orange County Community College District.

I believe that education is especially important to consider when drawing state legislative districts because education is by far the largest function of state government, and also one of the largest employers in the state. School districts rely heavily on funding from the state of California, and our school board and superintendent need to be able to communicate effectively and easily with Assembly and Senate representatives. If legislative district lines largely reflect school district boundaries this task is made much easier.

The little school district where I live, the La Habra City School District, is split between Assembly District 60 and Assembly District 72. While I have no issue with the current representatives holding seats in these Districts, I would point out it is simply not as efficient as it could be by having a single Assembly member representing our district. The La Habra City School District recently had a teacher strike, and the budget situation there remains dire. Obviously, we need to work closely with our elected representative. Please give consideration to allotting our district and our superintendent one Senator and one Assembly member to work with for the next ten years.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sandi Baltes

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