
Subject: Citizens Redistricting Commission

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 2:41 PM

From: Bob Harrison [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Citizens Redistricting Commission

Citizens Redistricting Commission

1130 K Street, Suite 101

Sacramento, CA 95814

May 9, 2011

Dear Commission Members,

As you consider redistricting in California I strongly urge you to continue to include Altadena with Pasadena. I also urge you to include both Pasadena and Altadena in the same district as Glendale and Burbank. I am an Altadena resident of 25 years and just completed a four year term as an elected -school board member of the Pasadena Unified School District and I am its immediate past president. I am also the co-owner of a business that has operated in Pasadena for 32 years.

Although the history of Altadena and Pasadena will show that there are unique differences between the two communities, there is one very significant shared responsibility and that is the education of our children. As a result of an open-enrollment plan in the school district our families are free to choose the school that best meets their needs. As a result, 60% of our Altadena families choose to attend a school in Pasadena. Secondly, the city of Pasadena and the school district are now jointly studying the possibility of electing school board members by geographical districts rather than the current "at-large" district wide method. Although the plans have not been finalized, it is assumed that some of the geographical districts will include both Pasadena and Altadena residents. In recent years the Pasadena City Council and the Board of Education have worked together closely and built a strong foundation. They have created many joint facility projects and shared financial expenditures to benefit the citizens of both communities. The educational issues throughout Pasadena and Altadena have much in common and it makes sense to keep them in the same district. It also makes good sense to have Altadena, Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank in the same district. Pasadena Unified School District is an active participant in the Five Star Coalition, which is a coalition that works to strengthen public education. Burbank & Glendale are also participants in the coalition and face many of the same challenges in education as does Pasadena. I know both the Pasadena City College and Glendale Community College often work in concert with one another

I know there are many elements that your commission has to consider. I do hope that you will put the relationships that bind communities together around mutual interests such as education at the top of your list.

Sincerely,
Robert C. Harrison
[REDACTED]
Altadena, Ca. 91001