

May 23, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Redrawing District Boundaries in Anaheim (Orange County, CA)

Honorable Commission:

As a strong supporter of the Voters FIRST Act, I am extremely excited about the creation and ongoing implementation of the Citizen's Redistricting Commission to squarely place the power of drawing electoral boundaries with the citizens of this great state. I have lived in the City of Anaheim in Northern Orange County for over 18 years, and have witnessed a tremendous demographic shift in our City that largely mirrors the growing diversity of our state as a whole. Unfortunately, historically the drawing of Congressional, Senate, and Assembly district lines have effectively served to thwart efforts to adequately give voice to the specific and diverse needs of the City of Anaheim and have in essence rendered my community to be voiceless at both the State and Federal level. As such, I urge the Commission to draw Congressional, State, and Assembly district lines that respect the geographic and demographic diversity of our City. In the spirit of the goal of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, I recommend the following:

- Anaheim and Santa Ana should be kept in the same Congressional District.
- A State Senate seat in Central Orange County should include all of Santa Ana, the "flatlands" area of Anaheim and sections of surrounding cities with similar demographics. Those sections could include the southwest section of Orange, the west section of Tustin, and parts of Stanton and Buena Park.
- The Commission should nest two Assembly Districts into each Senate District, of the two Assembly Districts nested into the Central Orange County Senate District, one should be anchored in Santa Ana and surrounding areas in south Anaheim, southwest Orange and westward Tustin. The other Assembly District should be anchored by the "flatlands" area of Anaheim, and portions of Stanton and Buena Park with similar demographics.

I would also like to share some information about the City of Anaheim that I believe is relevant in assisting the Commission in better understanding the needs of my community.

Background information on City of Anaheim

Founded in 1857, the City of Anaheim is currently the largest city in Orange County and 10th largest city in the State of California with a population of 336,265, per the 2010 Census¹. Geographically, the City of Anaheim is quite dispersed and covers roughly 50 square miles, and is only second to the City of Irvine in terms of land area. Due to its large land area and long history of Cityhood, the City of Anaheim is extremely diverse both socially and economically as you have a mix of at least three established historic districts, traditional 1960's suburban "cookie-cutter homes", which are typically referred to as the "flatlands" of the City and is extremely diverse with a mix of working and middle class families; a master planned expanse of luxury single family estates/gated communities dating back to the late 1970s in the eastern edge-Anaheim Hills section of the City which is much more ethnically homogeneous and affluent than the flatlands, and a rapidly growing Platinum Triangle area (transition of an industrial zone in the city into a highly urbanized environment with high-density housing, commercial office towers, and retail space, over 18,000 housing units are planned/in development in this area) this area is anchored by Anaheim Stadium and the Honda Center. All of these areas of the City are anchored by a large employment base most notably---Disneyland, the Honda Center, Angel Stadium, and Anaheim Convention Center, and the Canyon industrial district. The demographic makeup of the City of Anaheim is equally diverse, and has in the last twenty years seen a shift from primarily a White population to a growing (and now majority) Latina/o population. See table below developed from 2010 Census data.

Hispanic or Latino	177,467	52.8%
White	92,362	27.5%
Black	8,209	2.4%
American Indian	743	0.2%
Asian	49,210	14.6%
Pacific Islander	1,437	0.4%
Some other Race Alone	628	0.3%
Two Races or More	6,209	1.8%
Total	336,265	100%

The City of Anaheim, like the state as a whole, and other northern Orange County cities has experienced a tremendous shift towards a more immigrant, Latina/o, working class/blue collar demographic as is evidenced by the service sector employment base that dominates the city. The median income in the City of Anaheim was roughly \$59,644 in 2008², whereas the median

¹ U. S. Census Bureau 2010 Demographic Profiles. 2011. 20 May 2011.
http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_DP_DPDP1&prodType=table

² Anaheim at Glance-Demographics. 2011. 20 May 2011.
<http://www.anaheim.net/images/articles/236/AtaGlanceFinalDraft.pdf>

income in Orange County in 2010 is around \$84,000. This area also has a high number of Spanish speakers, and a young median age (in 2008 it was 32.4 years of age).

In terms of voter registration, per the Orange County Registrar of Voters website³ Voter registration in the City of Anaheim is as follows:

	Number	Percent
Democrats	55,112	37.8%
Republicans	56,298	38.4%
Independent	3,560	2.4%
Green	582	0.3%
Libertarian	872	0.6%
Peace & Freedom	537	0.4%
Misc	622	0.4%
Declined to State	28,962	19.7%
Total	146,545	100%

The City as a whole is quite evenly divided between the two major political parties in terms of voter registration, although it can be argued that the Declined to State group (which makes up 19% of total registered voters in Anaheim), historically tend to vote Democratic. However, in looking at the current state of Congressional, Senate, and Assembly district lines, we have ended up in a situation were 2 of the 3 congressional members; 2 of the 3 State Senators, and 5 of the 6 Assemblymembers that represent the City of Anaheim are Republicans.

Congressional and Senate/Assembly District Information⁴

A long history gerrymandering has created a situation whereby the City of Anaheim, although it is one of the largest cities in the state, effectively has no political voice or representation at both the State and Congressional level. At the Congressional level there are six Congressional representatives that cover Orange County, the City of Anaheim is broken up into/represented by three different districts:

40th-Edward Royce (Rep)

42nd-Gary Miller (Rep)

47th-Loretta Sanchez (Dem)

State Assembly

³ Orange County Registrar of Voters- Voter Registration by District. 2011. 20 May 2011.

<http://www.ocvote.com/districts/ror.pdf>

⁴ City of Anaheim Website-Elected Officials. 2011. 20 May 2011.

<http://www.anaheim.net/title/City+Clerk/Default/Elected+Officials/page.htm> and

http://www.ocvote.com/districts/ELECTED_OFFICIALS.pdf

In the State Assembly there are nine Assembly Districts that cover the Orange County region, the City of Anaheim is broken up into/represented by six different districts:

60th-Curt Hagman (Rep)
67th-Jim Silva (Rep)
68th-Allan Mansoor (Rep)
69th-Jose Solorio (Dem)
71st-Jeff Miller (Rep)
72nd-Chris Norby (Rep)

State Senate

In the State Senate there are five Senators that cover the Orange County region, the City of Anaheim is broken up into/represented by three different districts:

29th-Bob Huff (Rep)
33rd-Mimi Walters (Rep)
34th-Lou Correa (Dem)

It is important to note that while a handful of the legislative representative at both the Federal and State level grew up in the City of Anaheim (most notably Loretta Sanchez and Lou Correa) not one single elected member that represents the area actually lives in the City of Anaheim. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of Representatives for our area are Republican (75%) although the City as a whole is quite evenly distributed in terms of voter registration.

Again, I am extremely excited about the historic role that the Citizen's Redistricting Commission will play in establishing district boundaries that clearly group communities of interest together and hope the information I have shared assists in that process.

Sincerely,



Victoria Ramirez