

[REDACTED]

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**Subject: Public Comment: Kern County Redistricting**

**Date:** Saturday, May 14, 2011 5:10 PM

**From:** Raul Cabral [REDACTED]

**To:** <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

**Conversation:** Public Comment: Kern County Redistricting

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Subject: Kern County Redistricting

Message Body:

I would like to bring a particular incident to the forefront. I live in north central Bakersfield (93301). I am gay and part of a small growing community in Westchester. I live in congressional district 22. This district general political philosophy has nothing in common with our community. We would like to remain a voting block and speak with one voice. We borderline with congressional district 20 and we would be better off being a small voice within a larger minority voice. As oppose to being oppressed. These are some samples of Jim Crow tactics used against us: Harrasment and intimidation, no return phone calls from politicians, and protests. During the short window gay marriage was allowed in California. Marriage license hours were changed, and city hall doors were slammed in our face. Its really tough when our civil rights were violated by others in our district and there's no politician to complain to.

On a greater scale. the new census show that Latinos represent 49.5 % of Bakersfield. African-Americans at 6.0 %. This growth has been centered in central and southwest bakersfield. Making minorities the new majority in the city. With that said, Latinos in particular have been divided in congressional and state legislative districts in Kern County. Not allowing a voter block, puts Latinos at a disadvantage in political races. furthermore, congressional district 22 is 90.0 % of Kern County. This district imposes several prisons and 2 military bases. These population numbers guarantee district boundries without accurate representation at the ballot box. Military personnel may vote absentee elsewhere, and then get re-counted as general populous in this district again. A skewd population monopoly which guarantees an uncontested congressional seat in its own favor.

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