

**Subject: public comment May 17, 2011**

**Date:** Monday, May 16, 2011 8:16 PM

**From:** David Williams [REDACTED]

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

**Conversation:** public comment May 17, 2011

To: Commissioners Aguirre, Ancheta, Barabba, Blanco, Dai, DiGuilio, Forbes, Malloy, Ontai, Parvenu, Raya, Ward, Webber, and Yao.

The Tri-Valley is a community of interest (COI) which is comprised of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon and Sunol with a total population of about 264,000. Our valley is located about 25 miles southeast of Oakland along the 580 and 680 freeways. Following the 2000 census, the legislature badly gerrymandered it to provide for rigged elections for the safe seat incumbent career politicians who have done inadequate work both in Washington and in Sacramento. You've seen the maps with their grotesque districts.

As a valley, we have major air and noise quality challenges which will be better addressed by our being part of single congressional, assembly and state senate election districts. Our valley is a heavily traveled major route between the central valley and the bay area. BART has not yet been extended for which the people of Livermore have voluntarily paid extra sales taxes estimated at \$260 million over the past 46 years. Our labs are major national centers of defense and energy research, and homeland security is, of course, important. Originally our valley was agricultural and partially remains so with expanding wineries, healthy open land conservation and parks, school curriculum and a rodeo. Many companies have moved here. Our community college is expanding and we must improve our K-12 education as the entire trailing state of California must!. The arts are growing and youth soccer is very popular. We have fought having our light plane airport being expanded into a jetport which is unsuitable for a small valley.

When the very wise California voters passed prop 11 in 2008 and prop 20 in 2010, your commission was established. What we Californians were really voting for was better governments! Our democracy is forever a work in progress. Unfortunately, we didn't get it with term limits as the partisan politicians just played musical chairs between the various elected offices.

If every one of our states' 179 districts had Democrat and Republican voter registration within 2%, we would get much better governments because the most important check and balance in our governmental system would be fully operational. Viable challengers from both parties along with independents could only then bring about badly needed reforms such as voluntary cannot vote for = cannot contribute to and 210 eight hour workdays yearly in the 2 capitols.

Perfection is not possible as it rarely is and should not be the obstacle to real improvements. Following the 2000 census both parties colluded together for statewide gerrymandered safe seats so very few districts changed political party over the decade. There are more Democrat than Republican registered voters in California and there are also natural geographic concentrations of either. Even so, you hopefully may be able to create 30 competitive plus or minus 2% congressional districts out of our 53 and so forth. Our new open primary will help voters to have a real choice in the naturally lopsided districts.

As a result of your work this year California may show the rest of our 49 sister states how to properly redistrict. It would be to no surprise if you all were later in great demand in the other states as \$300/hour consultants. Gerrymandering is a political corruption that originated in our country in 1812 and we should be ashamed that we've infected some sister democracies around the world. They will need help also.

Thank you very much for your important work.

Sincerely,  
David M. Williams

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