
Subject: Tri-Valley Community of Interest Testimony

Date: Friday, May 20, 2011 9:27 PM

From: Ward Belding <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Tri-Valley Community of Interest Testimony

Dear Commissioners:

I am a resident of Pleasanton and, while not a member of the Tri-Valley Coalition, I concur with the coalition's advocacy for our community of interest here in the Tri-Valley to stay together in the newly redrawn legislative district boundaries. This is important because of the community of interest which exists among the Tri-Valley cities on such issues as shared regional priorities, transportation interests, civic business and labor associations and, most importantly, the types of business and economic development of our Tri-Valley communities. We are not primarily agricultural nor rural communities and should not be lumped together with those communities to our south and east, which comprise completely different counties. They have their own community of interest and totally different economic and employment base than we in the Tri-Valley have. The Tri-valley is a long-standing and well recognized regional area that should not be cut up into different political sub-divisions.

Since there are twice as many Assembly Districts as State Senate seats in California, the Assembly Districts have, on average, exactly half the population of the State Senate Districts. Therefore, two Assembly Districts could nest perfectly within each State Senate District. This is a natural and effective way to maintain and reinforce communities of interest.

It's possible that the 2010 Congressional District average population figure could approximate that of the CA State Senate Districts. If such population guidelines are roughly equal or very close, I would recommend that each Congressional District overlap a corresponding State Senate District as much as possible, so as to maintain coherent communities of interest.

With respect to specific cities and other areas comprising communities of interest, I recommend the Tri-Valley cities of Danville, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Pleasanton be kept together in redistricting. To encompass sufficient population to comprise new districts, our community should be joined with similar cities and areas such as Walnut Creek, Lamorinda, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Martinez, Antioch and Pittsburg, by going further north into Contra Costa County along the I-680 corridor.

Thank you for your time and dedication in listening to our voice as a community.

Ward Belding



Pleasanton CA 94588