

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Redistricting - General Comment

Date: Sun, 29 May 2011 03:46:16 -0400 (EDT)

From: [REDACTED]

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Redistricting - General Comment

Date: May 29, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
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I read with great dismay the article in The San Francisco Chronicle on May 18, 2011 in which one member of the Commission indicated that demographics were a factor in drawing redistricting lines. All the people I know who voted for the redistricting commission are concerned with the polarity evident in both houses of the California Legislature and in the House of Representatives, and they all believe demographics should play no role in redistricting beyond having roughly the same population in each district.

The redistricting map should look like a series of squares rather than having districts that represent only conservative, liberal, White, Black, Latino, or any other specific groups. We are all Californians, and our representatives should all have the interests of California first in the California Legislature and the interests of the United States first in the House of Representatives rather than the interests of some political or ethnic group. The gerrymandering to carve out districts that will almost always elect representatives of a particular political persuasion has resulted in gridlock at both the state and national level as our representatives take extreme positions representing the narrow interest of those in their gerrymandered districts.

What this state needs is a group of representatives who can understand the needs of all Californians and will work with each other to find solutions that are in the best long run interests of the state.

Very truly yours,

Barry P. Boothe
