

Subject: Redistricting lines

From: Wayne Price <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 7 Jun 2011 21:44:23 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

California Redistricting Commission:

I support fair and competitive districts that fully comply with Proposition 11 with district geography criteria of natural geographical boundaries such as mountain ranges, bodies of water, of equal population and that comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act. I want my district lines to maintain district contiguity, and compactness by keeping cities, communities and neighborhoods intact as much as possible.

1. I strongly oppose the Sierra Club Bay Area plan that violates the Voting Rights Act and gerrymanders the TriValley.

2. I agree with the Sierra Club plan ONLY on the one point, not to cross the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges.

3. I reject the San Joaquin County Citizens for Constitutional Redistricting plan; they carve up the TriValley to create a San Joaquin district favorable to a tiny fraction of our Bay Area population.

4. I reject the Latino Policy Forum maps; they create an absurd district that jumps over the water to connect Marin, half of San Francisco and West Oakland in violation of the Federal Voting Rights Act.

5. I strongly oppose the California Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan and insist that districts not jump across the East Bay hills, because the communities from San Leandro to Milpitas have little in common with the Tri-Valley, and everything in common with each other. The commission got overwhelming testimony in the Oakland input hearings to this effect, both from Tri-Valley and from Oakland, San Leandro, Milpitas, Richmond, El Cerrito etc. to the effect, "Keep the Berkeley Oakland Hills as a natural geographic barrier between urban, ethnic, diverse communities west of the hills and suburban bedroom and office park communities east of the hills."

6. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) gerrymander of Union City, an overwhelmingly Asian and Latino city along the East Bay shoreline that CIJEE links with the Tri-Valley communities such as San Ramon and Livermore. Union City is linked to its neighbors in Fremont and Newark by ethnicity, job patterns, and I-880. It has no connection whatsoever to Danville! Additionally, there was very clear testimony at the Oakland input hearing from community groups centered around the auto industry who did NOT want to be connected to Tri-Valley.

7. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan forcing communities of Lamorinda and Pleasant Hill into a district with Berkeley, as was done in 1981, and is being resurrected by CIJEE. The Berkeley-Oakland area is different in every demographic respect from the suburban communities on the other side of the mountains.

8. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan gerrymandering that put the mid-Peninsula area around Palo Alto with the city of Santa Cruz - a city on the other side of a mountain range, in a different county, and on the ocean.

9. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan which splits the Latino community in San Jose into two Assembly districts, although it should be kept together in one district.

10. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan for Marin. Any AD based in Marin should expand north along Hwy 101, to reach people who work in Marin. It should not be gerrymandered far east to Benicia, which it has nothing in common with.

11. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan which merges North Bay districts with SF districts. We insist that the North Bay districts be kept separate from the SF districts.

12. I reject the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting CAPAFR plan. Specifically but not limited to joining Fremont with The TriValley: the City of Pleasanton.

13. I reject the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) plan for violations of the Voter Rights Act and abusive gerrymandering.

Thank you,

Wayne Price

Dear Commission:

I was very hopeful about your work and happy about the possibility of correcting our districting problem. Our state is in deep financial trouble and clearly our government is not doing anything to resolve our problems. Our only hope may be to redistrict and restore some fairness to our voting system. With that in mind, I was horrified to learn that the commission may allow for 5% population variation among districts. This would allow for the same type of corruption that we're trying to eliminate. This defeats the entire purpose of redistricting! This is a disgrace and is probably illegal. I fear that some members of the commission are trying to pull the wool over the eyes of other members. We aren't living in the stone ages anymore and it would be very simple to evenly distribute populations among districts without massive variations in the tens of thousands. I hope this idea will be dropped before someone files a lawsuit over this.

Also, I believe that counties should be kept together as much as possible so they can protect their own interests and not be lumped in with regions they have nothing in common with.

A concerned citizen,
Laurie

Subject: Public Comment: California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

From: "Dean Logan" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 7 Jun 2011 17:32:09 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

CC: "Gail Pellerin" <[REDACTED]>

Please find attached a letter to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission from the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) regarding the issue of nested State Senate and Assembly Districts.

Thank you.

-- Dean Logan, Secretary
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO)

c: Gail Pellerin, President CACEO

<<L-Redistricting Commission - Nesting Districts 0607112.pdf>>

L-Redistricting Commission - Nesting Districts 0607112.pdf

OFFICERS 2010-2012

GAIL L. PELLERIN
PRESIDENT
Santa Cruz County
CATHY DARLING ALLEN
VICE PRESIDENT
Shasta County
NEAL KELLEY
TREASURER
Orange County
DEAN LOGAN
SECRETARY
Los Angeles County



**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

GAIL L. PELLERIN, PRESIDENT

Santa Cruz County Clerk

CA 95060

* Fax

* Cell

E-Mail:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APPOINTED:

GINA ALCOMENDRAS
Santa Clara County
JANICE ATKINSON
Sonoma County
TESS FITZGERALD
Santa Cruz County
SACHI HAMAI
Los Angeles County
JOSEPH HOLLAND
Santa Barbara County
JIM MC CAULEY
Placer County
KATHIE MORAN
Colusa County
SUSAN M. RANOCHAK
Mendocino County
JULIE RODEWALD
San Luis Obispo County
DEBORAH SEILER
San Diego County
DAWN ABRAHAMSON*
Fremont City Clerk
* non-voting member

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

STEVE WEIR
Contra Costa County
REBECCA MARTINEZ
Madera County

ELECTED AREA CHAIRS:

JULIE BUSTAMANTE
Northern Area
Lassen County
KARI VERJIL
Southern Area
Riverside County
JILL LAVINE
Mother Lode Area
Sacramento County
AUSTIN G. ERDMAN
Central Area
San Joaquin County
LINDSEY MC WILLIAMS
Bay Area
Solano County

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

CLERK OF THE BOARD:

SACHI A. HAMAI
Los Angeles County
JOHN MCKIBBEN
Los Angeles County

COUNTY CLERK:

KATHIE MORAN
Colusa County
VICKI PETERSEN
Sonoma County

ELECTIONS:

JILL LAVINE
Sacramento County
DEBORAH SEILER
San Diego County

June 7, 2011

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

RE: Adoption of Nested Districts in 2011 Redistricting Plan

Dear Commissioners:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials is a professional association with more than 700 members, representing County Election Officials and Clerks from all 58 California Counties. As elected and appointed local government officials responsible for the administration of elections and voter registration in the State of California, we recognize the complexity and importance of the work before your Commission.

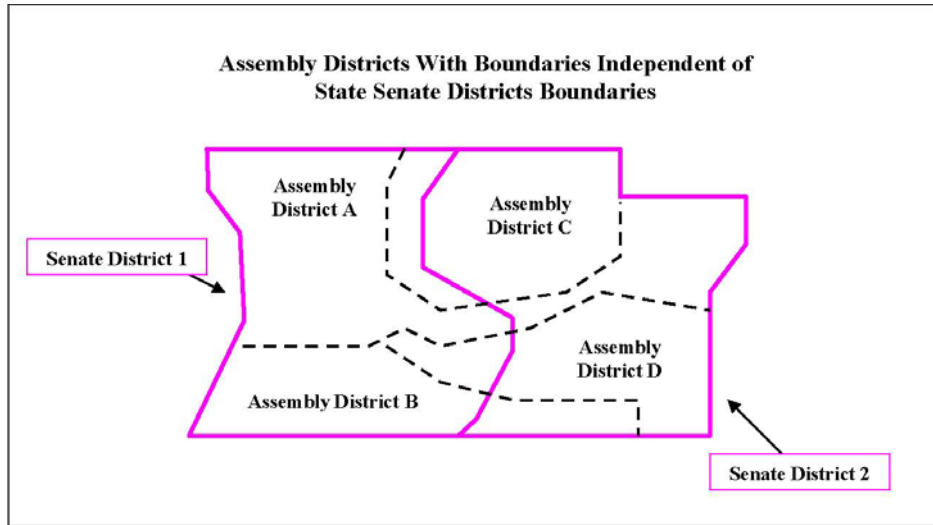
On behalf of the Association I am writing to express our strong encouragement for the Commission to maximize the number of nested legislative and Board of Equalization districts included in your 2011 redistricting plans. Proposition 11 adopted by the voters of California in 2008 is clear on its intent to nest State Senate and Assembly districts "to the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with other criteria set forth." Where practicable, nested districts not only present more geographically compact and contiguous layering of district boundaries, they also provide for more efficient and manageable election administration that can result in cost avoidances for counties and clearer district boundaries for voters.

Non-nested districts present a number of challenges that significantly impact the administration of elections, often impacting the efficiency of the process and cost of the election. The following are critical impacts for you to consider:

Non-Nested districts result in increased district boundary lines

Defining State Senate and Assembly district boundaries independently results in a large increase in the number of boundary lines that must be implemented in the election management system. Instead of each State Senate district being split by one line into two Assembly districts, each State Senate district must be split by multiple lines in order to implement the boundaries of the non-nested State Assembly districts (Figure 3).

Figure 3

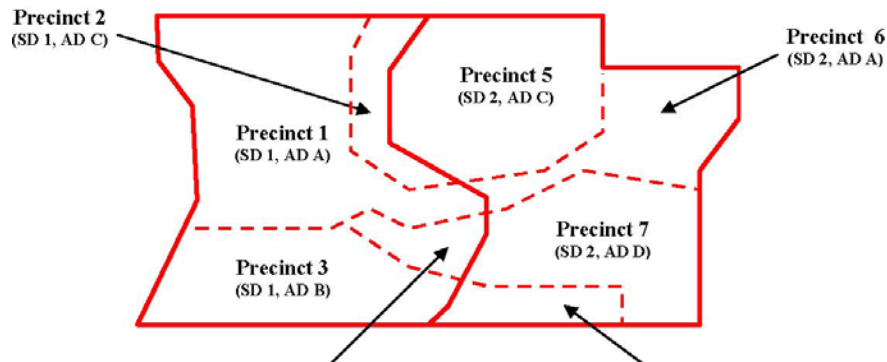


Non-nested districts will increase the number of precincts and election ballot groups resulting in increased election costs

A costly consequence of defining State Assembly districts independent from State Senate boundaries is the effect it has of increasing the number of precincts that must be managed in the election system, and the number of ballot groups that are formed for individual elections. Whereas, in a nested configuration we are only required to have four precincts, one for each State Assembly and State Senate district combination, in a non-nested configuration we would have to create eight precincts (Figure 4). This is because California Elections Code 12222 prohibits precinct boundaries from crossing major district boundaries, which includes State Senate and Assembly districts.

Figure 4

Increased Number of Precincts When Assembly Districts Are Not Nested Within State Senate Districts



Precinct 4 Precinct 8 (SD 1, AD D) (SD 2, AD B)

An increase in the number of precincts causes major fragmentation of precinct data but, more importantly, it can increase the number of polling places and poll workers required to conduct the election; thus, significantly increasing election costs.

The number of ballot groups for an election is higher when Assembly districts are not nested within State Senate districts, and this fact impacts every election for the decade-long duration of those district boundaries. An increase in the number of ballot groups impacts the number of ballot styles that must be printed, thus increasing election costs.

Pursuant to consolidation rules spelled out in California Elections Code 12241, the fragmentation of precincts due to lack of nesting increases the number of ballot groups generated for an election. Each ballot group represents a unique combination of districts appearing on the ballot for voters in those precincts sharing like districts. The following example shows how breaking with the nesting principle results in more ballot groups for each election (Figures 5 & 6).

Figure 5
Ballot Groups Generated For An Election When Assembly Districts Are Nested Within State Senate Districts

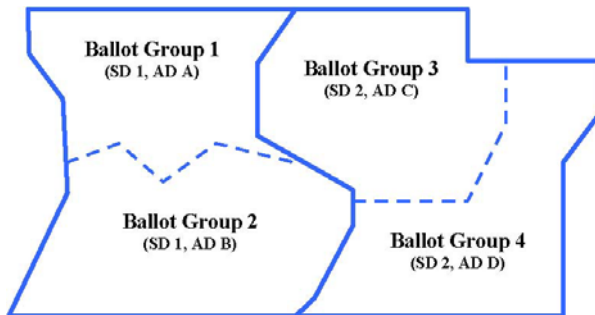
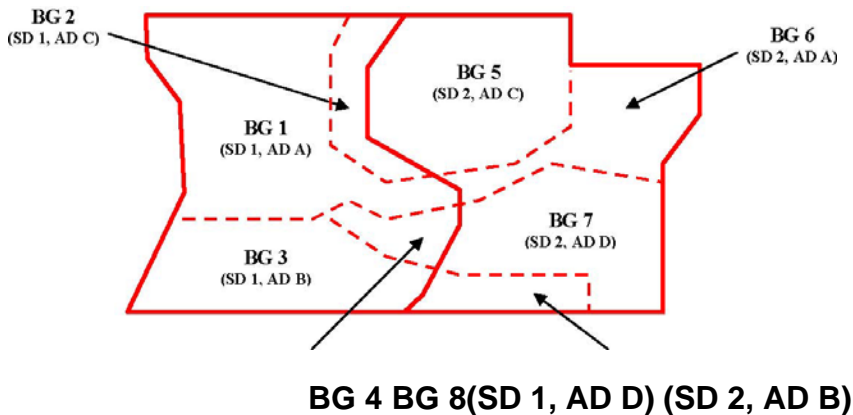


Figure 6
Ballot Groups Generated For An Election When Assembly Districts Are NOT Nested Within State Senate Districts



We ask that you give due consideration to the concerns outlined in this letter. The association understands the incredibly important and complex job of the Commission and commends you for your efforts. However, we ask that as you make every practicable effort to maximize every opportunity to nest districts per Sec. 2 (d) (6) of Article XXI of the California Constitution. Neglecting the opportunity to nest districts (where practicable) may have a significant impact on election costs over the next decade.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to the work of the commission. If you have any questions or require additional information please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail L. Pellerin".

Gail L. Pellerin, President
California Association of
Clerks and Election Officials

cc: CACEO Membership