

Subject: Please draw district lines according to cities, not along racial lines

From: Josh Jacobs <[REDACTED]>

Date: Thu, 16 Jun 2011 20:17:42 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

To Members Drawing the Lines:

I want to urge you to draw the congressional and state assembly & senate lines along the community rather than gerrymandering them according to a racial and/or political party quota. It is important to keep communities together so that they truly have a voice rather than a hodge podge of communities they can't possibly truly represent. If this means more swing districts where it is easy for a member of one party to unseat a member of the incumbent party, so be it. This would make it better for us the people in that we hold our lawmakers accountable and that they know if they don't listen to us, then they will be gone from office. Please draw the lines where whole city is represented by one district rather than being broken into several. The argument I hear is that each district needs a rich and a poor area to get more funds. The problem is the more affluent area of that district is the one that benefits while the poorer section gets the scraps. If there is a working class district, that would mean the funds will definitely go to that district rather than an "us vs them" mentality. Thanks for taking the time to read my comments.

Most Respectfully,

Josh Jacobs

Subject: Latinos

From: "Tony Quinn" [REDACTED]

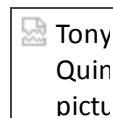
Date: Thu, 16 Jun 2011 14:04:03 -0700

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Fox and Hounds blog today.

How the Redistricting Commission Screwed Latinos



By Tony Quinn

Political Commentator and Former Legislative Staffer

Thu, June 16th, 2011

"These maps are a worst case scenario for the Latino community. The lines drawn by the Commission gerrymander Los Angeles Latinos into a district with the millionaires of Beverly Hills and Pacific Palisades. These lines would disenfranchise Latinos by denying them a fair voice in the democratic process." So says Arturo Vargas, redistricting expert with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

What is this all about? Did the Arizona Legislature sneak into California and draw the new district lines released by the Redistricting Commission last week? Aren't Latinos responsible for 90 percent of the net growth in California over the past decade? Is it possible a nonpartisan citizens commission could treat them so badly?

Well, Mr. Vargas is absolutely correct; California Latinos take it in the shorts in the Commission's draft plans.

In assessing the impact of redistricting plans on minority groups, the courts tell us to look at purpose and effect. Is the purpose to deny fair representation? Is that the effect?

I will not go so far as to say that the Commission has been taken over by the Arizona Legislature. Their purpose was not to disenfranchise Latinos. But that is the effect. And the reason for this is not nefarious motives on the Commission's part. It is the inexperience and lack of knowledge of California's demographic history on the part of the Commission's staff.

Exhibit one is San Jose. Back in the 1980s when I was a Republican legislative redistricting staffer, Latino groups came to us and said, unite all the historic Latino neighborhoods in east and south San Jose and give us a district we can win. Working together, the Democratic and Republican staffers ignored their request, slicing and dicing the neighborhoods. It was nothing personal, only business and we knew what we were doing. This Commission apparently did it without knowing it.

In 1991, the Supreme Court masters did create the long overdue San Jose Latino district, and said in their report that is what they were doing. It is today one of only two Latino-held legislative seats in the Bay Area. But in the Commission plan, this 20-year Latino district, now represented by Assembly Member Nora Campos, simply disappears. The heaviest Latino neighborhoods are in an Asian district going north, and one to the west, while an Asian piece of the district is placed in a Salinas Latino district. Go figure.

Then we have the overlapping Senate districts. A big piece of Latino and Asian San Jose goes off to a district in Modesto. This district, successor to the existing 12th Senate District is a Voting Rights Act district, including the Voting Rights Act counties of Monterey and Merced. You may not regress Latino electoral opportunities in VRA counties, but the Commission managed to do just that.

Because Monterey and Merced Counties are in the same district today, the Commission apparently felt they needed to keep them together in its plan, even though that creates a crazy gerrymandered monstrosity that runs from the Salinas Valley to Modesto, and violates the state constitution.

That monstrosity was not drawn in 2001 to enhance Latino opportunities; it was part of a political deal between Anglo Democratic legislators. Once again the Supreme Court masters got it right; in 1991 they noted that putting Merced and Monterey together would dilute Latino opportunities because Merced is full of “Valley-crats,” conservative Democrats, who will not vote for a coastal Latino candidate. And we saw that exact result in 2010, when Republican Anthony Cannella of Ceres beat Democrat Anna Caballero of Salinas in what should have been a Democratic win.

So how to resolve this? Easy. Restore the historic Latino Assembly district in San Jose and connect it to the heavily Latino Assembly district covering Salinas. That creates a sure Latino State Senate district, which would be the first one in the Bay Area.

All of the southern Bay Area needs serious redrawing because the chopping up does not stop with ethnic neighborhoods. For 60 years, Santa Cruz has been united with the Silicon Valley area of Santa Clara County, which are connected via Highway 17. But under the Commission plan, Santa Cruz runs down the coast in a Senate district that goes all the way to Lompoc. The district is unconstitutional since it violates both continuity and compactness, held together by Big Sur, one hundred miles of coastline with no people, not to mention no communities of interest. People in Santa Cruz work and shop in Silicon Valley, not in Lompoc. Should not the Commission look at where people live and work in forming these districts?

Exhibit two is Los Angeles. Mr. Vargas complains rightly about the Commission’s preference for uniting wealthy areas with working class area in ways that dilute Latino opportunities. They do this all throughout Southern California, and a good example is the new Congressional District that runs from Pasadena to Diamond Bar, communities that have never been in the same district. The incumbent in this area is Congresswoman Judy Chu, an Asian American, who took the former Latino seat held by Hilda Solis when she became Labor Secretary in 2009.

The district was historically Latino and Chu won it fair and square in 2009 and held it easily in 2010. But the Commission decided it needed to destroy the Latino base of this seat and unite disparate Asian American communities into a crazy quilt gerrymander that runs around Latino neighborhoods. What criteria tells this Commission it must dilute Latinos because a Latino district has an Asian American incumbent?

Perhaps most disturbing in Los Angeles is the lack of any sense of history in forming the Latino districts. The Commission is not supposed to consider incumbent homes in drawing the districts, but they should consider the historical minority areas. Their plan combines the current districts held by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal Allard and Congressman Xavier Becerra. These are senior members of Congress, so by combining their districts not only do they weaken California’s clout in Congress, they gravely weaken Latino clout in Congress. Does that make any sense?

Congresswoman Roybal Allard is the daughter of the legendary Latino political pioneer Edward Roybal, the first Latino elected to major office in Los Angeles County, more than sixty years ago, and the first California Latino member of Congress, elected in 1962. The Almanac of American Politics describes this district very well: “An emblem of the entry level Latino neighborhoods of the nation’s second largest city, the places where many immigrants come to find a cheap place to live, doubling and tripling up with other families.” The district also includes Boyle Heights, “once an entry level of Irish and Jewish immigrants.”

This embryo from which grew Latino political power in Southern California no longer exists in the Commission’s plan. It is no wonder that one analysis circulating these days shows that number of heavily Latino “majority-minority” legislative and Congressional districts actually decreases under their plan. That is an incredible accomplishment, and one this Commission should not be proud of.

Tony Quinn

New E-Mail: [REDACTED]

New Home Page:

[REDACTED]

Lou La Monte

[REDACTED]
Malibu CA 90265
[REDACTED]

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento CA 95814

My name is Lou La Monte; I am a Malibu City Councilmember. I have written to you before as a member of the PCH Taskforce. I have reviewed the first draft maps and I am confused. The crafters of the map of our Assembly District think we should remain with our Santa Monica neighbors with whom we share a School District as well as many Coastal and Environmental issues, but not with our traditional neighbors in the Santa Monica Mountains and valley communities who are members of our COG, and with whom we share many Watershed and Traffic Corridor issues. The Senate map thinks we do need to be with some of our watershed neighbors and seeks to extend the district all the way to the Kern County line, but not with Santa Monica with whom we share our School District and many other issues. Our Congressional district map thinks we need to be part of Ventura County and away from all our traditional Westside neighbors. I have been here over 20 years and I have seen 2 other redistrictings and the results. It seems to me that the present existing district lines have finally achieved the Communities of Interest criteria in so many ways, including the Malibu Watershed, the PCH Traffic Corridor, the combined School District, our combined Environmental efforts as well as basic Public Safety issues like fire protection and police. These new proposed district lines do not achieve these same results.

I thought that the primary reason for your existence as a Commission in the first place, was to better serve the citizens as directed by the people. To take the redistricting power out of the hands of entrenched political forces and return it to the people, to give Californians the right to choose the representatives that would be best able to serve all our interests. This is a very difficult task; one way to make it a little easier would be to recognize what already works well. Our present Districts work very well the way they are right now. To paraphrase an old adage, We ain't broke, Please don't fix us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Subject: For presentation at Thursday, June 16 Public Input Hearing (w/ attachment)

From: "Belin, Thomas" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, 15 Jun 2011 14:17:52 -0700

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]> "Wilcox, Rob"

<[REDACTED]>

Please find a short PowerPoint presentation that I would like to have available during the public comment period at the Culver City public input hearing of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. Please feel free to contact me with questions at [REDACTED] (cell). Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tom Belin

Thomas R. Belin, Ph.D.
Professor
UCLA Department of Biostatistics

[REDACTED]
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1772

Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

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The California Citizens Redistricting Commission Should Publish DVC Scores with Redistricting Plans

Thomas R. Belin, Ph.D.

Public comment for June 16, 2011
public input hearing of the California
Citizens Redistricting Commission

[Approximate] DVC scores for California redistricting plans

	Plan		
	1992	2002	Draft: 6/10/11
Congressional	0.00	-2.92	[2.19]
Assembly	0.00	[2.25]	[3.37]
Senate	0.00	[0.02]	[1.47]
BOE	0.00	[0.04]	[13.16]



Why CCRC should publish DVC scores with redistricting plans

- **Access:** Calculation of DVC score requires access to specialty software
- **Data quality:** DVC scores depend on numerical precision of intermediate calculations
- **Freedom of information:** Public record documents scientific foundation of DVC scores and public interest in DVC scores
- **Accountability:** DVC scores will help keep CCRC accountable to voters, analogous to on-time arrival statistics keeping airlines accountable to consumers



Reference

Belin TR, Fischer HJ, Zigler CM. Using a density-variation/compactness measure to evaluate redistricting plans for partisan bias and electoral responsiveness. *Statistics, Politics, and Policy*, 2011; Volume 2, Issue 1, Article 3

<http://www.bepress.com/spp/vol2/iss1/3/>

Thomas R. Belin, Ph.D.

UCLA Department of Biostatistics



Los Angeles, CA 90095-1772

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Redistricting

From: Gail Hirsch [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, 16 Jun 2011 21:53:00 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

To the Citizens Redistricting Commission,

I have scrutinized the 2011 Congressional District map that has been submitted by your commission with your proposed changes --- and as far as I can see, there are NO CHANGES. Leaving the Congressional Districts as they are presently reveals a bias in your committee favoring a certain political party or goal. Is this not corruption in its worst form?

I had high hopes that "politics" were going to be removed from district apportionment thereby removing the bias and corruption from this process and replacing it with a fair and logical procedure resulting in an equitable distribution of Representatives throughout California. I am deeply disappointed in the end result of your obvious lack of fairness and honesty in this process. It is very obvious, by merely looking at the ridiculous shapes of the districts, that gerrymandering was used to form the current districts so that a certain political party had an advantage over another political party. It is for this very crucial reason that new lines must be drawn without any tampering from those who may draw the lines to benefit their own party or political gains.

Here are a few suggestions that I hope you will consider. Use natural boundaries such as city or county borders. Another suggestion would be to use already drawn boundaries for school districts or zip codes. No one can argue with these methods of delineating the districts. These are logical, methodical, rational methods and they will serve us all well and equitably.

Please do not create new or unnatural boundaries that will ultimately be challenged and will reveal your commission's true political prejudices.

PLEASE BE FAIR TO ALL CALIFORNIANS AND REMOVE ALL HINTS OF POLITICAL BIAS FROM THIS PROCESS.

Sincerely,

Gail Susan Hirsch