

Subject: Regarding redistricting

From: "Carole Robinson" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sat, 18 Jun 2011 10:08:47 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

Citizens Redistricting Commission,

I have been able to view a copy of the plan your committee has put forth to redistrict the state. I was also able to compare the new districts with our current districts. Unfortunately, they look the same, and I am wondering what you folks have been doing?

Now I am not saying that in the past districts have looked gerrymandered, but they look that way now. I have provided the Wikipedia definition of gerrymandering and thought you may want to know what that is, and what a district can look like when it is gerrymandered

“In the process of setting electoral districts, **Gerrymandering** is a practice that attempts to establish a political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating geographic boundaries to create partisan, incumbent-protected districts. The word gerrymander (originally written Gerry-mander) was used for the first time in the [Boston Gazette](#) newspaper on March 26, 1812. The word was created in reaction to a redrawing of Massachusetts state senate election districts under the then governor [Elbridge Gerry](#) (pronounced /'gɛri/; 1744–1814). In 1812, Governor Gerry signed a bill that redistricted Massachusetts to benefit his [Democratic-Republican Party](#). When mapped, one of the contorted districts in the Boston area was said to resemble the shape of a [salamander](#)”



. Look familiar?

I have been watching your work and have a suggestion. We have a wonderful friend who has taken the time to research the state and I would be glad to provide you with the map he has created. He is aware of the district requirements re: population etc.

Please accept my thanks to you for serving the people of California in this effort but I think you need to rethink what you have put forward and reconsider the current plan. I can email you my friend’s plan if you would like

Best regards,
Carole Robinson
Belmont, CA

Subject: redistricting

From: Marcia McDougal <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sat, 18 Jun 2011 16:43:20 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

WAIT, DON'T DO THIS TO OUR SMALL COMMUNITY WHICH DEPENDS ON LAST CHANCE ROAD AND SWANTON TO BE IN THE SAME DISTRICT. OUR SCHOOL AND FIRE DEPARTMENT AND ALL WILL LOSE OUT.

DON'T BE A SELL OUT.
MARCIA MCDUGAL

[REDACTED]
Topanga, Ca 90290

June 18, 2011

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Public Education Concerns

I have attended two Commission Public Hearings in the Los Angeles area. However, I have not heard concerns regarding public education addressed.

I have worked for 37 years as a school psychologist in public education systems - 30 in Los Angeles (LAUSD) and 7 in Syracuse, NY.

Educational systems are without question key to our state's economic and social wellbeing. Of most concern are the families with incomes at, modestly above, and below the poverty level. These families and the schools located in their neighborhoods face truly - and I am sorry to use this term - horrific conditions. Children face the stresses of fractured and stressed families often with one or both parents missing and frail grandparents attempting to copy; they have seen family members and friends shot and killed, often they live in unstable housing, being moved about frequently with resulting frequent school changes. Substance abuse, violence and incarceration of one or both parents are ongoing substantive stressors in many families. Children who live in these families bring special educational needs and, much too often, find their way into special education services when they are unable to profit from the general education program and may also,

unfortunately, behave in such a way as to interfere with the educational process for their classmates. Our state's legislative bodies clearly have a vital interest in understanding and addressing these issues and they can't do it unless they are available to their constituents.

My interest in the Redistricting process came about when I learned of the incredible proposed state Senate 25 district, leading from Kern County to Malibu and Topanga on the Pacific coast!!! The more I thought about it, and as I considered how difficult it would be for school communities representing children and families I have described to interact successfully with their representatives in this bizarre arrangement, the more concerned I became.

Think about it. It makes no sense at all.

Sadly, when I attempted to give my two (2) minutes of concern recently in Culver City, toward the end of perhaps 150 testimonies, I observed the Chair and other panel members talking among themselves and not attending to what I was saying. I am familiar with time limited brief presentations and mine was carefully timed for two (2) minutes; yet I was stopped, before my final two summary sentences. I regret to say that I felt most uncomfortable as to the manner in which I was instructed to cease speaking. I note that others were given extra time.

To sum up my concerns: based on sitting through approximately 10+ hours of testimony here in Los Angeles, I heard nothing specific to the educational community. When I attempted to speak directly to the most needy in that community, the special needs children, I felt I was not heard. In truth, I felt disrespected and worst of all, those I was attempting to give testimony about - special needs children - did not appear to receive attention or respect from you.

Please prove me wrong, and begin by changing this strikingly strange Senate District reaching from Kern County to the ocean by placing those near the desert with each other and those near the ocean near each other! Malibu and Topanga (where I live), belong with adjacent communities with whom they historically work - Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, even Venice - while the Santa Clarita Valley and adjacent communities belong together as well as they so clearly testified.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gerri Kenyon, M.S., L.E.P
Nationally Certified School Psychologist

Subject: Redistricting

From: "Glenn Gelineau" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sat, 18 Jun 2011 16:23:37 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners,

I write you today to express my deep concerns that your efforts to redraw the lines have proved to be failing miserably. You stated earlier that the goal was to create districts that looked more like fists than fingers. Upon review of your work done to date I find that goal has surely been missed. When I compare the old map of districts to the new map it is evident things remain largely unchanged. It is my belief that the time has come to put partisan politics aside and work to establish a districting system that is blind to political desires.

I therefore recommend that the commission endeavor to redistrict utilizing perhaps county lines or better yet Zip codes to establish districts that more closely match your previously stated goals of creating districts that more closely resemble the fists you intended to originally create. This would allow for a more representative geographical district plan and less a political one. You as members of the commission have graciously volunteered your time and efforts to a great undertaking and for this as a citizen am grateful. I hope you will consider my recommendations in your decision making process.

It is my intent to persuade you to utilize this opportunity to serve the people in giving a greater voice to all the people then to merely create a new dividing line.

Sincerely

Glenn Gelineau

[REDACTED]
San Carlos, CA 94070