



CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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Region 4: Los Angeles

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

California Citizens Redistricting Commission

McGeorge School of Law

June 1, 2011

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Madam Chair and members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, I am Alice Huffman, President of the California National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The NAACP submitted redistricting plans to the Commission on May 23, 2011 and I am concerned that you are discussing your plans without including the input we submitted.

The NAACP used the criteria established by the initiatives passed by the voters in preparing our plan. Your lawyer advised you to use the provisions of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act as the principle guide in drawing the lines for districts in Los Angeles that centered around Compton, Carson, Inglewood and Gardena. Using Section 2 will result in the consolidation of four Assembly districts in two and two Senate Districts into one and three Congressional districts into two. We did not apply Section 2 because we have no evidence of polarized voting against African Americans and to apply this section would result in a dilution of African American voting strength. Your lawyer has further advised you that Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act is applicable only when the following preconditions exist:

1. A protected minority group is concentrated into an area where they could make up 50% or more of a district.
2. The minority group must be contiguous. And
3. There must be evidence of polarized voting against the specific minority group.

We took a look at Los Angeles and other cities where there are concentrations of African Americans and could not find any evidence of polarized voting. We



Additionally, we looked at Assembly, Senate and Congressional Districts where African Americans have been elected. Our review dated back to the 1990 redistricting. We found that the percentage of African Americans in each district ranged from 11.87 percent to 46 Percent. However, since the 2002 redistricting, which we believe was prepared by the courts, African have not comprised more than 36 percent of a district.

Table I

Assembly District	Percent of AA in District 1992	Percent of AA in District 2002
44	11.87	9.6
47	40.45	31.0
48	46.17	30.46
51	36.96	31.58
52	36.26	28.67
55	23.28	15.24
62	12.65	13.81

Table II

Senate District	Percent of AA in District 1992	Percent of AA in District 2002
25	36.6	33.3
26	43.0	29.7

Table III

Congressional District	Percent of AA in District 1992	Percent of AA in District 2002
33	40.0	26.4
35	43.0	29.40

We believe our review clearly demonstrates the absence of polarized voting. Therefore, we do not believe the Commission should apply Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act to the areas mentioned. If Section 2 is not applicable, then the Commission must use the criteria of Compactness, Contiguity, Preservation of Cities and Counties and Respect for Communities of interest.

We are opposed to the use of Section 2 in drawing the lines for the above communities in your first draft of the redistricting plan and urge the Commission to adopt the lines contained the NAACP plan.