

Region 7: Santa Clara

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June 1, 2011

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

Dear committee members,

I attended the public hearing at the Mayfair Community Center in San Jose on Monday, May 23. It was an interesting session and I thought the concerns of the Milpitas Berryessa citizens were well represented.

However, those are not my concerns. I live in Saratoga and my state Senator is from San Luis Obispo. Our district, the 15th Senate District, is so Gerrymandered that it is often used as the example of how not to do it. These district lines were obviously drawn with some sort of deal in mind. The interests of the citizens were not taken into consideration. Saratoga is part of Silicon Valley. We are a bedroom community for workers at Intel, IBM, Google, and countless other businesses. Looking at a map you can see our district goes over the Santa Cruz Mountains and down the coast. Much of that area is agricultural. We don't have the same interests and concerns. The boundaries need to be changed.

Saratoga has a very large Asian population, if that figures at all into your decision.

I was concerned at the meeting that the focus was so much on the areas in the east part of the Santa Clara Valley that our concerns might go unnoticed. Our district lines are so bad that it's easy to think you will obviously see this problem and fix it. Now that I see the magnitude of your task, I'm not so sure anything is obvious!

I am a member of the League of Women Voters and you probably know that the League was a sponsor of the proposition that made your commission possible. As a League member and a proud citizen of the state, I want you to know how much your efforts are appreciated. You are to be commended for taking on this huge task.

Sincerely,

Ann Roberts

Ann Roberts

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Saratoga, CA 95070