

Subject: Public Comment: 8 - San Mateo

From: Ken Sutherland [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 12:27 PM

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

From: Ken Sutherland [REDACTED]

Subject: Menlo Park Gerrymandering

Message Body:

Dear Commission,

The reason we voted for an independent citizen's commission was to stay away from the sort of "creativity" that California has suffered from in drawing district lines for so many years.

The current proposal for Congressional districts carves most of Menlo Park out of its geographic and local government affinity group and attempts to align it with more distant communities. This is wrong, regardless of the rationale used.

The map should be easily colored in by a 1st grader with crayons. This one would take an artist with a fine-tipped brush!!

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 8 - San Mateo

From: Steve Cole [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 12:54 PM

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

From: Steve Cole [REDACTED]

Subject: DO NOT SPLIT MENLO PARK!

Message Body:

Please keep Menlo Park in one congressional district. There can be no compelling reason to split Menlo Park and Redwood city at the boundry of the San Mateo Cty and Santa Clara districts. Keep Menlo Park together!

Thanks.

Steve

Menlo Park, CA

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Menlo Park, 94025 - Not a split District

From: R [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 11:07 PM

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Menlo Park, 94025 - Not a split District

Redistricting Committee Members,

Recent reports from your committee suggest that you are considering splitting Menlo Park and Redwood City into two different Districts. It seems that the guiding principals you set are arbitrarily splitting the local voting communities in a manner that would detract from representation of both. (Note our school districts are split due to boundaries set BEFORE the incorporation of Menlo Park and there is continued talk on combining into one district.)

Specifically, Menlo Park is more homogeneous and more affluent than East Palo Alto and Redwood City. This would argue for aligning us more with Palo Alto, Portola Valley and Atherton. A candidate from Redwood City would have a greater population of similar voters to draw from, if the District was split, but the affluent candidate from Menlo Park would have the marketing and media advantage - which has proven so decisive in past elections. The the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that campaign money is the equivalent of "free speech" but I disagree. I also think a popular, but less well funded, candidate would also think that a 4:1 advantage in fundraising, for example, represents nearly a 4:1 advantage in free speech.

Finally, our last local election, Nov. 2010, had a developer outspend a leading candidate for City Council. This was totally within the law and while there were many issues the battle was over local issues, issues that impacted our community. In a district context, big money could influence the outcome based on issues that impact 1/2 the community. This could skew results with many unintended consequences...which is always a bad thing.

I'm not sure which way is best but current plans concern me for the reasons above. I'm not so worried about getting the wrong person as our representative but I am concerned about the process and capability to replace that office holder with someone that would serve as a better representative (I hate that we passed term limits since voting is supposed to be our method of implementing term limits).

Thank you for accepting this input. I wish you well on your deliberations.

Regards,

Russ Peterson
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Subject: Public Comment: 8 - San Mateo

From: Bill Lamkin [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 10:51 AM

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

From: Bill Lamkin [REDACTED]

Subject: Don't split Menlo Park

Message Body:

Menlo Park should not be split into separate voting districts! The city government and its citizens work very hard to keep the city whole even with El Camino, Middlefield and Hwy 101 physically divided it please do not add to that by splitting the voting district.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: California Congressional District Map

From: Jill Morgan and Doug Keare [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 3:33 PM

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Hi folks,

I want to comment on the districts you have redrawn for San Mateo/Santa Clara counties. Congrats on having so many straight lines. That said, why in the world would you cut out a faucet-shaped piece of Menlo Park and assign it to San Mateo county instead of keeping it with West Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, the communities we most associate/identify with? This seems totally random to me.

Please reconsider and keep us together, in one county or the other.

Thanks,

Jill Morgan

[REDACTED]
Menlo Park, CA

Subject: Public Comment: 8 - San Mateo

From: Pamela Martin [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 10:04 AM

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

From: Pamela Martin [REDACTED]

Subject: not in favor of redistricting

Message Body:

I wish to state that I am not in favor of redistricting and feel the districts should remain as currently set. What is the benefit of change anyway?

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: First Round Draft Congressional Districts - Adverse Impact on Menlo Park

From: "ffcircus" [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 11:17 AM

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

We have lived in Menlo Park for more than 20 years and are writing to express our objection to the first round draft map of Congressional districts.

The first round draft map divides the city of Menlo Park into 2 districts with some of the city in the district to the north and the remainder in the district to the south. If there is any logic behind this division, it is not apparent from the map. To our way of thinking, it makes no sense to divide a close, small town community like Menlo Park into 2 districts. This only further diminishes our importance, especially as compared to much larger cities in both proposed districts.

We urge the drafting commission to reconsider and adjust the current map accordingly, so that all of Menlo Park is contained within 1 district.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob and Diane Frankle

[REDACTED]
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Subject: Public Comment: 8 - San Mateo

From: "William A. Berry" [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 9:03 AM

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

From: William A. Berry [REDACTED]

Subject: Splitting Menlo Park is Crazy

Message Body:

I believe this commission is considering splitting Menlo Park in the new districting. That seems silly to me. Menlo Park seems to me to strongly belong with Palo Alto. West and South Redwood City might well belong with Menlo Park, while East and North Redwood City probably belongs with Redwood Shores and San Carlos.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for the generally good work your team is doing.

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Subject: Public Comment: 8 - San Mateo

From: Tery Griffith [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 12:37 PM

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

From: Tery Griffith [REDACTED]

Subject: Do not split Menlo Park

Message Body:

Splitting Menlo Park, or any small city, town, ets, makes no sense unless it is the intent to give a political advantage to one party or the other. Wake up and serve the people of this state, not the politico's!

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 8 - San Mateo

From: "Patrick E. White" [REDACTED]

Date: 6/25/2011 8:58 AM

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

From: Patrick E. White [REDACTED]

Subject: redistricting

Message Body:

Menlo Park, Atherton & Portola Valley should be kept in one district! Not split up.....

Pat White

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