

**Subject:** 23rd Assembly District and New Recommended Senate District

**From:** Ramon J Martinez <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** 7/14/2011 4:52 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Dear** [REDACTED]

**My name is Ramon Martinez a resident of San Jose, a lifelong resident of California, and an active member of my community.**

**I want to express my dissatisfaction with the San Jose Assembly and Senate district maps that were released by the Commission on June 7th and your recent "visualizations" that discriminate against our Latino community. These maps represent a dilution of the critical political leadership of East San Jose.**

**Our community has historically been disenfranchised, and only recently have we experienced success in electing representatives that truly represent our community. We have worked long and hard to make San Jose and Santa Clara County a community that provides an equitable "level playing field" for working class people of all backgrounds and to have our voices heard locally, regionally and at the statewide level.**

**Your actions to divide our community into three Assembly and Senate districts will completely dilute our voice at the state level and divide our community of interest.**

**I would like to recommend to the Commission that they maintain the 23rd Assembly District as is or with only minor adjustments. I would also urge that the 28th Assembly District be maintained as it is also reasonably compact. The last decade we have elected Assembly Members in these districts that have served our community very well and given us important leadership at the state level. Our local community advocates have worked long and hard to have our political voices heard and your current recommendations are taking us backward, not forward from our current status.**

**I would then recommend that the 23rd and 28th Assembly Districts should be nested together to form a Senate District that combines communities of interest in Santa Clara, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. I recommend this because there are common similarities in these districts that form an effective community of interest. The income and poverty levels are similar, the educational needs are similar, there are cultural similarities, and the employment needs are similar.**

**There is also a transportation corridor that runs through the center of these two districts. Progressive worker families are the key attributes of these combined areas**

**In closing, I would like to remind you that 90 percent of state population growth since 2000 was from Latinos, yet the number of districts where a Latino has a good chance of being elected remains the same or may even go down. I urge the Commission to please fix this before the final maps are approved on August 15.**

**You must also correct the East San Jose split in the final preparation of maps. As the San Jose Mercury News points out "East San Jose is heavily Latino and its fragmentation clearly splits a "community of interest" as defined by law". Finally,**

**We have worked too long to achieve our current level of equitable political and social representation and will not stand idly by and allow this commission to disenfranchise and intentionally discriminate against California Latinos.**

**Sincerely,**

**Ramon J. Martinez**

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Assembly district lines for Santa Clara County, San Jose

**From:** Frank or Barbara Biehl <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** 7/14/2011 11:45 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

I live in the eastern foothills of Santa Clara County, one block outside the San Jose City limits.

Thank-you so much for changing the district lines so my area is now included with San Jose instead of San Benito and Monterey. I did not feel represented when my assembly person lived in Salinas.

But I have one quibble. You have split up my community of interest, the Mt Pleasant area, into two separate assembly districts. Our precinct is in the assembly district associated with North San Jose, Milpitas, and Fremont. Most of the rest of my community, Mt Pleasant, is with the southern San Jose assembly district. The assembly lines were drawn strangely to dip down south of Marten to include the Mt pleasant area foothills in the northern assembly district instead of using story /clayton road as the cut-off. Yet our Senate district very logically splits at story and clayton roads. The Senate District includes the entire Mt pleasant community and combines us with Evergreen, and South central San Jose.

**I think there should be some consistency between state senate lines and assembly districts.**

**I would hope that my small community, Mt Pleasant, which runs between Story to Tully and White to the foothills would be in the same assembly district.**

**The senate district lines more closely mirror our community associations which is with Evergreen. The San Jose city council district # 8 combines mt pleasant and evergreen together.**

In any case, please keep us in a district that is mainly Santa Clara County and not some weird district that includes monterey, hollister, and salinas.

THanks so much for the changes.

Barbara Biehl  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Redistricting for San Jose

**From:** Minh Pham <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** 7/14/2011 8:03 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Esteemed Commissioners,**

**My name is Minh Pham, a resident of San Jose, a lifelong resident of California, and an active member of my community.**

**I want to express my dissatisfaction with the San Jose Assembly and Senate district maps that were released by the Commission on June 7th and your recent "visualizations" that discriminate against our regional community. These maps represent a dilution of the critical political leadership of East San Jose.**

**Our community has historically been disenfranchised, and only recently have we experienced success in electing representatives that truly represent our community. We have worked long and hard to make San Jose and Santa Clara County a community that provides an equitable "level playing field" for working class people of all backgrounds and to have our voices heard locally, regionally and at the statewide level.**

**Your actions to divide our community into three Assembly and Senate districts will completely dilute our voice at the state level and divide our community of interest.**

**I would like to recommend to the Commission that they maintain the 23rd Assembly District as is or with only minor adjustments. I would also urge that the 28th Assembly District be maintained as it is also reasonably compact. The last decade we have elected Assembly Members in these districts that have served our community very well and given us important leadership at the state level. Our local community advocates have worked long and hard to have our political voices heard and your current recommendations are taking us backward, not forward from our current status.**

**I would then recommend that the 23rd and 28th Assembly Districts should be nested together to form a Senate District that combines communities of interest in Santa Clara, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. I recommend this because there are common similarities in these districts that form an effective community of interest. The income and poverty levels are similar, the educational needs are similar, there are cultural similarities, and the employment needs are similar. There is also a transportation corridor that runs through the center of these two districts. Progressive working-class families are the key attributes of these combined areas.**

**In closing, I would like to remind you that 90 percent of state population growth since 2000**

**was from minorities, yet the number of districts where a minority candidate has a good chance of being elected remains the same or may even go down. I urge the Commission to please fix this before the final maps are approved on August 15. You must also correct the East San Jose split in the final preparation of maps. As the San Jose Mercury News points out there is a significant populations of minorities in East San Jose and "its fragmentation clearly splits a "community of interest" as defined by law".**

**Finally, our community has worked too long to achieve our current level of equitable political and social representation and will not stand idly by and allow this commission to disenfranchise and intentionally discriminate against fellow Californians of minority backgrounds.**

**Sincerely,**

**Minh Pham**

**[REDACTED]**

**San Jose, CA 95116**

**[REDACTED]**