Subject: Problems with Commission's CVAP data?
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Throughout this process I have noticed differences between the Citizen Voting Age Population numbers that I get when I run the data and the numbers that the Commission releases. On 4 different occasions over the past 5 months I have asked Q2 and the Statewide Database team for the description of how they disaggregated the Census data from the block group to block level, so that I could figure out why these differences appear. Despite repeated pledges to request the information from the Statewide Database technicians, no answer has been provided.

In the absence of any information from the Statewide Database, after the plan files were released yesterday our Rose Institute team attempted to analyze the difference on our own. What we found is concerning: in the Citizen Voting Age data used by the Commission, there are some troubling things in the data:

· There are 19,737 census blocks where the total Citizen Voting Age number is greater than zero, but the Census total population figure is zero. I think the assumption would be that there should not be any CVAP population in a block if the 2010 census population is zero.

· Of those, 774 census blocks have a total CVAP number greater than 50, but the Census total population figure is zero. Apparently the problem is not just a rounding error.

· Of those, 191 census blocks have a total CVAP number greater than 150, but the Census total population figure is zero. While there could be differences between the ACS data on CVAP and the 2010 Census total population data, it would be unlikely to explain this large of a difference.

· Of those, 20 census blocks have a total CVAP number greater than 1,000, but the Census total population figure is zero.

· Of those, 4 census blocks have a total CVAP number greater than 2,500, but the Census total population figure is zero.

The census block with the biggest discrepancy has a total CVAP figure of 11,020 and a census total population of zero.

It appears that in the process of disaggregating the data from the Census Block Groups to Census

Blocks, something went wrong. But without an explanation from the Statewide Database regarding their methodology, I cannot confirm what it is that went wrong. Given that the plan data files were only released yesterday I have not had the time to determine if the differences could drop any of the barely-majority CVAP districts below 50%.

- Doug

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