

Links of Interest

Partnership for America's Children Video

https://youtu.be/LnY0KvLN_w

As we think through how to tell our state's redistricting story, this might help our thinking

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/capital-tonight/2020/11/12/redistricting-101-with-susan-lerner-of-common-cause#>

Sent Wednesday, Nov. 4th

Dear Commissioners Ahmad and Turner,

Thank you for the work you are doing to research the civic technology landscape. In case you haven't come across them, I wanted to share a couple of resources, including one that lists several civic tech organizations:

<https://medium.com/tradecraft-traction/navigating-the-field-of-civic-tech-c1f9670c8f69>

<https://airtable.com/universe/exp8LkpapvedfTi6k/navigating-the-field-of-civic-tech>

In addition, Code for America is a civic tech firm that has worked with California state agencies and in the democracy space with nonprofits. Annelise Grimm is a Senior Program Manager there, and formerly worked in the California democracy space as program officer at the Irvine Foundation. She could be a great resource as you explore this and I can make an introduction if you think it would be helpful.

Thank you for all you are doing and your dedication to making this an accessible, inclusive, and tech savvy redistricting process!

Lori Shellenberger
Redistricting Consultant
California Common Cause

From: Stan Hendryx [REDACTED]
Subject: Identification of Communities of Interest

Message Body:

I live in Santa Clara County, but my questions are statewide. How are communities of interest identified? Where can I obtain a listing of all of the communities of interest statewide that are considered for redistricting purposes, and the geographical boundary of each community of interest?

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

From: Alice Scavarda [REDACTED]

Subject: AD 71

Message Body:

Surely it's time to realign the rural communities in this district with the metropolitan areas that are closer. I write specifically of Idyllwild In AD 71 whose representative Andy Vopel, who also serves suburban areas of San Diego. Shift the lines so Idyllwild, Pine Cove, Garner Valley, and Anza are included in AD67 which also includes East Hemet or with AD 42 which includes Palm Desert. Move Valle Vista to AD 67. Thank you for your consideration.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

From: Karen Lawson [REDACTED]

Subject: Public Input Tools & Methods

Message Body:

Commissioners mentioned during today's 11/16 meeting that Communities of Interest tool would NOT be the ONLY method for public input to the CRC process. Is there an Outreach Subcommittee document that describes the other methods being considered?

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

From: Cheryl A Duffy [REDACTED]

Subject: Congressional District 39

Message Body:

Commissioners,

Congratulations on your new appointments and good wishes for a productive endeavor.

We have lived in Chino Hills for 27 years and have watched District 39 grow up. It is unfortunate that this district has been so gerrymandered that it now spans 3 Counties; San Bernardino, Orange and LA. Ideally a Congressional District should be city/community centered thus allowing for representation that reflect the common value of its population. Clearly the boundaries of District 39 were not written with this in mind. I have no idea what the political demographics of this district are but it is apparent that there was significant consideration given to this issue.

My husband and I request that you take a hard look at the mapping of Congressional District 39 and consider a more city/community approach for the future mapping.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

James P. and Cheryl A. Duffy

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

From: Helen Hutchison [REDACTED]
Subject: Nov. 16 statement on behalf of League of Women Voters of CA

Message Body:
Statement to California Citizens Redistricting Commission
November 16, 2020
Helen Hutchison on behalf of the League of Women Voters of California

The Commission is considering the possibility of direct grants to groups to do outreach and engagement. We feel this is not a wise choice; the following outlines our reasoning.

In 2010, the Irvine Foundation made a decision to invest in the future of California government by committing a significant amount of money to educating and empowering the people of the state about the new redistricting process and how we could all be involved. Irvine brought together a coalition of voting rights, minority language, and good government entities. They chose a group of organizations that, as a total group, would be most able to reach the diverse communities in the state and engage them in a meaningful way. This coalition included the LWV of California.

The Foundation was clear about what they wanted and how grants would be decided. We were tasked with creating a unified body of materials which would, in plain language, explain the redistricting process, why communities should care, and how they could become involved in shaping the maps. The materials could be tweaked to fit each organization or community's needs and translated into different languages. They included PowerPoints, booklets, one sheet handouts, instructions about how to define a community of interest and how to draw a map and accompanying explanation to submit to the Commission. Ten years ago, the coalition was well aware of the internet divide and provided guidance for creation of maps that could be done without access to the internet and mapping software. The coalition accomplished the goals set by the foundation in large part because an independent entity set clear goals, assembled a coalition that it believed could meet those goals, and made sure that the goals were met. The coalition was not, in any way, tied to the Commission.

Giving direct grants to groups is not in the best interest of either the Commission or individual groups. If you were to pick and choose who to fund, it would certainly raise the question of favoritism on the Commission's part. And it would place the groups receiving the grants in a difficult position as well. Would we be free to speak out on perceived problems? And what would be the perception of groups who receive grants and also submit maps? We support the idea of the Commission giving a grant to an independent entity which could function as the Irvine Foundation did in 2010 to accomplish a similar goal. But we hope that you will not pursue the idea of direct grants.

To be effective and efficient, the outreach groups need a single organization separate from the Commission and Commission staff to provide uniform guidance for, and coordination with, the other organizations performing outreach. This will lead to optimum public outreach, and therefore the best possible community input to the Commission.

From: Reese Ellestad [REDACTED]
Subject: Follow Up: Commission Consultant

Message Body:
Hello,

My name is Reese Ellestad and I work in the County of Santa Barbara's Executive Office on our County's independent redistricting efforts. We are researching alternatives for demographic and mapping consulting services for redistricting and were hoping you could share any names and information of businesses that you have found or are considering with expertise in this area. Thank you for your time.

Thank you.

Best,
Reese Ellestad