

From: Lori Shellenberger [REDACTED]
Subject: VRA Counsel RFI

Message Body:

Dear Commissioners - below my signature please find an email I sent to Commissioners Sadhwani and Yee (the VRA subcommittee) during yesterday's lunch break in anticipation of your discussion of the VRA Counsel RFI. Thank you all for your thoughtful consideration of our suggested edits to the RFI.

Kind regards,

Lori Shellenberger
Redistricting Consultant
Common Cause

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Dear Commissioners Sadhwani and Yee:

This email is a follow-up to the public comment I made this morning on behalf of California Common Cause and NALEO Educational Fund regarding the proposed RFI for VRA Counsel. Per Commissioner Kennedy's request, here is a summary of my comments:

* Define redistricting activity to bring clarity to what you are referencing, which we believe you intended to include line-drawing and public accessibility, including hearings and other formats for submitting public comment and testimony.

* In Section V, in the second sentence of the second paragraph, we'd suggest you substitute "expertise" for "experience" (and per recommendation 4, include experience with elections code and other election related activities in Section VI.3); in addition, we'd suggest striking experience w/ Bagley Keane from this paragraph, since your Chief Counsel has that expertise.

* In Section V.3. we'd urge you to avoid reference to any specific line of voting rights cases to avoid the appearance of attaching special importance to one area of litigation over another.

* In Section VI.3 we'd urge you to substitute "all" for "significant" to avoid applicants cherry picking their experience; and to expand the scope of experience to include, in addition to redistricting, districting and other election-related matters so that you can gauge the applicants' involvement with matters or litigation that involves the expansion or restriction of voting rights outside of the VRA.

Thank you again for the tremendous amount of work you have put into the thoughtful memorandum, RFIs, and the plans for moving forward to ensure the Commission is educated on and complies with the VRA. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Lori Shellenberger
Redistricting Consultant
Common Cause

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