

STATE CAPITOL
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 3123
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
OFFICE (916) 319-2079
FAX (916) 319-2179

DISTRICT OFFICE
1350 FRONT STREET, SUITE 6046
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
OFFICE (619) 531-7913
FAX (619) 531-7924



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January 8, 2021

Citizen Redistricting Commission

RE: AB 2172 - Counting incarcerated persons for redistricting

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission Members,

I am writing to strongly encourage the Citizens Redistricting Commission to “deem each incarcerated person as residing at his or her last known place of residence, rather than at the institution of his or her incarceration” pursuant to Election Code 21003 (d).

As the author of AB 2172, Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, and the newly designated Secretary of State, I am acutely aware that prison gerrymandering funnels political power away from vulnerable communities most in need of fair representation. The Legislature has already taken steps to end this practice in California by mandating local jurisdictions use the adjusted data with the passage of AB 849 (Bonta) of 2019.

It would ask that the California Redistricting Commission ensure that state redistricting does the same so that all communities can have their voices heard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley N. Weber", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Assemblymember Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

District 79