



ALEX PADILLA
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

January 27, 2021

California Redistricting Commissioners
Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: LGBTQ Community of Interest for Congressional Redistricting

Dear CA Redistricting Commissioners:

I respectfully urge the LGBTQ community be identified as a community of interest in the redistricting process.

Historically, the California LGBTQ population was largely absent from legislative and congressional redistricting process. In 2011, California made steps in the right direction when the LGBTQ community was identified as a community of interest. For the first time, in 2021 same-sex marriage data will be available to better design and draw districts that are centered around the LGBTQ population.

According to a 2016 report by The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, LGBT women tend to face bigger socioeconomic obstacles like poverty and income, compared to their male counterparts. Further, their 2013 report found that the LGBTQ population was more likely to experience poverty after the last recession when compared to non-LGBTQ population. As we undergo the current recession amid the pandemic, we must ensure the LGBTQ community has the political representation it deserves. Maintaining the LGBTQ community as a community of interest is imperative to increasing the representation of the LGBTQ population.

Further, I urge for the State Redistricting Commission to accept data of LGBTQ organizations and local communities of input testimony.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or my Deputy Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, Tiffany Mok, at (916) 653-7244 or Tiffany.Mok@sos.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

JAMES SCHWAB
Acting California Secretary of State

