

This document is related to item number 13 on the October 28-30 agenda and is intended to provide the Commission background information behind the intent behind scheduling a closed session to discuss cyber and information security during the meeting to be held November 4-6.

I am writing this document because the Commission began discussions on this topic in an open session and I was feeling that further discussions should be held in closed session. I followed up with Counsel to ask if we could hold a closed session under of Bagley-Keene which she agreed was appropriate. Finally, this is the first subsequent meeting where we could schedule time to discuss this topic due to the 14 day requirement for posting agendas.

My thoughts on Cyber and Information Security

Information the Commission will use to draw new statewide maps will come from a number of sources including census data, Voters Rights Act and Racially Polarized Voting analysis, and input from individuals and organizations interested in redistricting. The validity of this information is of paramount importance for a fair and equitable redistricting process. In order to attain this goal, the Commission must do its best to safeguard the information in its possession, understand the provenance of all information submitted to the Commission, and make certain that individuals or entities who may wish to manipulate the process for their own purposes cannot.

A robust cyber and data security strategy is required to:

- Ensure that the Commission's web site, cloud-base data storage systems, and computers are protected from unauthorized access
- Ensure that the information the Commission is using to draw maps is generated and submitted by valid and appropriate sources
- Ensure the integrity of the draft and final versions of the Commission's maps

A security strategy is only effective if potential adversaries are unaware of that strategy. In recognition of that, section 11126(c) (18) of the Bagley-Keene Act allows for such security concerns to be discussed in closed session. Support of two thirds of those members present is required to go into closed session to discuss security issues.

The agenda for the November 4-6 meeting includes a closed session to discuss cyber and information security in more detail. We are hoping to include guest speakers on the topic.

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