

February 4, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
*Sent via electronic transmission*

**Re: Community Outreach Materials**

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your recent thoughtful discussions about public outreach, and especially for all the work you and your staff have done on public outreach materials.

In all of your work, we would urge that you avoid the use of the words 'citizen' and 'voter.' Our elected officials represent **all** Californians, not just citizens or those who vote for them. The use of 'citizen' or 'voter' can have the unintended consequence of making some Californians feel excluded or less important in the redistricting process, such as those who are not citizens or not voters because of their age, immigration status, or incarceration. We find that 'Californians', 'people', 'community members', or 'residents' work well as substitutes.

The Commission's use of inclusive language is particularly critical because of its goal of obtaining input from all Californians as it moves forward with its tasks. For example, all Californians may have valuable perspectives about their communities of interest, regardless of whether they are 'citizens' or 'voters'. The Commission will be able to obtain more comprehensive and better information about communities of interest if all Californians feel the Commission welcomes their participation.

We look forward to our continued work together to ensure robust public input on this crucial process and your ongoing deliberations.

Sincerely,

League of Women Voters of California  
Advancement Project California  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles  
California Black Census and Redistricting Hub  
California Common Cause  
California League of Conservation Voters Education Fund  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Disability Rights California  
Inland Empire United  
Mi Familia Vota Education Fund  
NALEO Educational Fund