

For Sharing

Census Numbers For Dividing Up House Seats Delayed Until April 30, Bureau Says

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/27/961247853/census-numbers-for-dividing-up-house-seats-delayed-until-april-30-bureau-says>

The link to the report referenced by Taina Vargas in her presentation to the Commission, Jan. 26, 2021.

<https://www.initiatejustice.org/project/democracy-needs-everyone/>

New York Times article on redistricting.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/31/us/politics/gerrymander-census-democrats-republicans.html>

List of CA organizations who work with the farmworker community.

<http://covid19farmworkerstudy.org/es/colaboradores/?lang=es>

Minnesota Star Tribune article on “California Black Freedom Fund”

<https://www.startribune.com/zuckerberg-part-of-100m-california-black-freedom-fund/600018985/>

Link to fund organization: <https://cablackfreedomfund.org/>

Link to radio interview with WNYC Studios' Politics with Amy Walter: Restoring Faith in American Institutions, featuring Commissioners Andersen and Sadhwani.

At 32:06 Redistricting Partners explain the process and at 34:46 is the segment with Commissioners Andersen and Sadhwani.

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/takeaway/episodes/politics-amy-walter-restoring-faith-american-institutions>

Public Comment

Steve Chessin

Sat, Jan 30, 12:29
PM

to votersfirst

The timelines specified in both the California Constitution (Article XXI Section 2) and the Government Code (GC 8252, 8252.5, and 8253) for the work of the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) were written with the assumption of a June primary. Fortunately, even though the primary was moved to March in 2020, it will be in June in 2022.

In fact, current law now has the primary in June in Gubernatorial years and March in Presidential years. This means that (unless the law is changed yet again) the 2032 primary will be in March, and it is not clear to me that the current requirement that the maps after the 2030 census be produced by August 15 of 2031 will give candidates sufficient time to plan a March 2032 primary run.

I would suggest that, when the CRC finishes the maps, it consider whether the timelines in the Constitution and the Government Code should be rewritten to be relative to the date or month of the primary (that is, written to be so many days or weeks prior to the primary), rather than written as absolute dates, and if so make the appropriate recommendation to the Legislature. Having relative dates, rather than alternative dates based on whether the primary was in March or June, would make the language future-proof in case some future Legislature changed the primary to, say, April or May.

While GC 8251(c) allows the Legislature to amend the timeline in the Government Code upon the recommendation of the CRC, changing the timeline in the Constitution will require a vote of the people. Thus the recommendation should also include the appropriate amendment to the California Constitution. I also note that GC 8251(c)(5) prohibits the Legislature from making changes to the law in years ending in 9, 0 or 1, but they could do it in 2022 with a corresponding Constitutional Amendment on the June or November 2022 ballot.

Sincerely,
--Steve Chessin