

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:  
PUBLIC MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021  
1:00 P.M.

Reported by:  
Peter Petty

## APPEARANCES

**2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission:**Commissioners

Alicia Fernandez, Chair  
Isra Ahmad, Vice Chair  
Jane Andersen  
Neal Fornaciari  
J. Ray Kennedy  
Antonio Le Mons  
Sara Sadhwani  
Patricia Sinay  
Derric H. Taylor  
Pedro Toledo  
Trena Turner  
Angela Vazquez  
Russell Yee

Staff

Alvaro E. Hernandez, Executive Director  
Marian Johnston, Legal Counsel  
Fredy Ceja, Communications Director  
Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant

Technical Contractors

Public Comment Moderator  
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director

**Also Present**Presenters/Panelists

Jeremy Payne, Equality California  
Rebekah Hook-Held, San Diego LGBT Community Center  
Rosa Diaz, Imperial Valley LGBT Resource Center  
Paul Mitchell, Redistricting Partners  
Eric McGhee, Public Policy Institute of California  
Karin MacDonald, Statewide Database

Public Comment

Dylan Johnson, SEIU California

Public Comment (continued)

Michael Deegan-McCree, California Black Census and Public Redistricting Hub  
Karen Diaz, CHIRLA  
Daniel Ichinose, Orange County Civic Engagement Table  
Cha Zang, AAPIs for Civic Empowerment Education Fund (AAPI FORCE-EF)  
Jodie Filkins-Webber  
Eric Payne, Central Valley Urban Institute  
Adria Orr, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Asian Law Caucus  
Renee Westa-Lusk  
Sky Allen, Inland Empire United  
Helen Hutchison, League of Women Voters California  
Unidentified Caller  
Stan Forbes  
Julia Gomez, ACLU of Southern/Northern California  
Alejandra Ponce de Leon, Advancement Project California  
Stephen Blake  
Samuel Sukaton, California League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

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P R O C E E D I N G S

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 1:00 p.m.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Good morning. Welcome to this Commission meeting. I'm Alicia Fernandez. I'm the Chair for this meeting, and my fellow commissioner, Isra Ahmad is the Vice Chair.

First thing is please take roll call.

MR. SINGH: Thank you. Commissioner Ahmad.

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa.

(No audible reply)

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons.

(No audible reply.)

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

1 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor.

2 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

3 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo.

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

5 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Turner.

6 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

7 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vasquez.

8 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Here.

9 MR. SINGH: You have a quorum, Chair.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did you get Commissioner Yee?

11 MR. SINGH: I'm sorry. Commissioner Yee.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And Commissioner Le Mons is  
14 also here.

15 MR. SINGH: Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, everyone. In  
17 terms of action taken yesterday during closed session, the  
18 Commission did take action to move forward with one of our  
19 Director of Outreach candidates, so we're still going  
20 through that process. So, that's all for that.

21 I also wanted to thank those that viewed our  
22 Spanish presentation last night at 5:00 o'clock, so thank  
23 you for that.

24 And then before I go to public comment, I just  
25 want to give everyone a roadmap of the schedule for the

1 next few days. So, today we will have an LGBTQ panel at  
2 1:15, at approximately 1:15, and then at approximately 3:00  
3 o'clock we'll have demographic shift panel, and after that  
4 panel we will adjourn to closed session and we do not  
5 anticipate coming back tonight.

6 Tomorrow we will resume in closed session, and we  
7 will not return to open session, and that will be at noon.  
8 At 4:00 o'clock tomorrow p.m. there's a Public Input Design  
9 Committee.

10 Then on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. we will return to  
11 open session, and at that point we'll remain in open  
12 session where we'll address the remaining agenda items. At  
13 the conclusion of our meeting, the Legal Affair Committee  
14 will meet.

15 And please review our website for any updates for  
16 that information. And with that, if we could go to public  
17 comment, Katy.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. I will  
19 read the instructions, and to all of those called in,  
20 remember to press star nine to raise your hand.

21 In order to maximize transparency and public  
22 participation in our process, the commissioners will be  
23 taking public comment by phone.

24 To call in, dial the telephone number provided on  
25 the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted,

1 enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the livestream  
2 feed. It is 98199802683 for this meeting. When prompted  
3 to enter a participant I.D., simply press the pound key.

4           Once you have dialed in you'll be placed in a  
5 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press star  
6 nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator.

7           When it is your turn to speak you will hear a  
8 message that says, "The host would like you to talk," and  
9 to "press star six to speak."

10           If you would like to give your name, please state  
11 and spell it for the record. You are not required to  
12 provide your name to give public comment. Please make sure  
13 to mute your computer or livestream audio to prevent any  
14 feedback or distortion during your call. Once you are  
15 waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to  
16 speak, and again, please turn down the livestream volume.

17           And we do have several callers in the queue, and  
18 I will begin opening up the lines.

19           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

20           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor is yours.

21           MR. JOHNSON: Hello. My name is Dylan Johnson  
22 with SEIU California. Can you hear me okay?

23           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, we can.

24           MR. JOHNSON: Terrific. Well, first and  
25 foremost, I just want to thank the council for the

1 opportunity to give public comment today.

2           So, again, my name is Dylan Johnson. I'm with  
3 SEIU California. I'm calling on behalf of our organization  
4 and our over 700,000 members here in California.

5           So, I wanted to call in regards to Item 9A that  
6 was on the agenda. It was titled "Impact of Census Delay  
7 on CRC Calendar and Election Cycle."

8           So, it is our understanding that the  
9 Redistricting Commission is continuing its discussion  
10 around the deadline to adopt its final maps.

11           So, I just wanted to raise a few concerns that we  
12 have on our end. So, as an organization, SEIU California,  
13 we are continually working to engage and mobilize voters  
14 around election, and it has been consistently our  
15 experience, you know, and position that any change in  
16 primary dates can lead to a lot of voter confusion and  
17 voter disenfranchisement, so we are particularly concerned  
18 with, you know, the idea of moving back the June primary  
19 date.

20           You know, the June primary is held the first week  
21 in June and to sort of to move this back by a couple weeks  
22 it would be something that virtually no California voter  
23 has experience with, and so we really see this is going to  
24 impact 22 million registered voters here in California, and  
25 we are concerned that this would, you know, potentially

1 confuse and, worse case, disenfranchise voters here in  
2 California.

3           So, we see this as a very big deal and as  
4 something that should be viewed as a last resort as opposed  
5 to a, you know, the first option.

6           So, we really want to hear on that. And I know  
7 there is concern and we were concerned around having the  
8 redistricting process overlap with the holiday, and that's  
9 what some of this concern of moving it out is coming from.  
10 That's obviously not an ideal situation, but we do think  
11 that there are steps that can be taken to mitigate the  
12 impact of this process taking place over the holidays.

13           So, you know, some of our suggestion to the  
14 Commission we wanted to present potentially requesting  
15 additional supplemental outreach funds, you know, really  
16 keying in on the schedule to avoid key dates that would be  
17 problematic around the holidays, and, if needed, asking for  
18 a short extension of time in order to avoid moving that  
19 primary date of forcing voters to cast their ballot on the  
20 date that's unfamiliar.

21           You know, we've really seen this Commission roll  
22 up their sleeves and do a lot of work to respond to the  
23 challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and so we  
24 know that this Commission is obviously very capable of  
25 tackling these issues, and so we really advocate that we,

1 you know, entrust it in the same kind of way and see it  
2 from the challenge that is definitely manageable.

3 And, you know, we have some time before this data  
4 comes out, and the Commission has a lot that it can do and  
5 has been doing in order to prepare for when that data is  
6 released. So, you know, not just conducting --

7 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, not just conducting the  
9 public input, but continuing the debate and discussions  
10 around the Voting Rights Act.

11 And, so, you know, this Commission has been doing  
12 tremendous work and has been doing a lot of outreach, and  
13 so I think in this intervening time ahead of the data  
14 there's a lot that can be done and is being done by the  
15 Commission.

16 MR. MANOFF: Three minutes.

17 MR. JOHNSON: And we thank you for your time.  
18 Appreciate it.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Johnson, for  
20 your feedback.

21 Invite the next one in, Katy, please.

22 MR. MANOFF: Just a point of clarity, Chair. We  
23 do have quite a few callers. Do you want us to enforce the  
24 three minutes and give warnings, as I didn't get a clear  
25 direction on that?

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, I appreciate that. Thank  
2 you so much. Because we do have a panel that is waiting,  
3 so --

4 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. And just to confirm, the  
5 time is three minutes?

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. So, all the callers  
7 know that we will also open -- we will be in open session  
8 on Thursday as well. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Chair, is the time now  
10 three minutes, or are we still at two minutes?

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor -- I'm  
12 sorry.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry, Kate.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have a caller  
15 whose line is open.

16 COMMISSIONER TURNER: The question was asked was  
17 the time now three minutes, and I thought we were still at  
18 two minutes and have not yet made the decision to move to  
19 three minutes, so I wanted you to just respond to my  
20 question.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Yes, you're correct, it  
22 is two minutes, Kristian.

23 MR. MANOFF: Thank you, Chair. We will do two  
24 minutes with a warning at 15 seconds from two minutes,  
25 callers. Thank you.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And caller 6129, your  
3 line is open and the floor is now yours. Hello?

4 MR. DEEGAN-McCREE: Yes.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor is yours.  
6 Oh, hold on. We'll do it again. Okay. All right, the  
7 floor is yours. Caller 6129, your line is open. Your line  
8 -- oh, now it's not. Okay. The floor is yours. Your line  
9 is open. Please talk, 6129. If you will just talk, the  
10 floor is yours.

11 MR. DEEGAN-McCREE: Can you guys hear me?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, sir.

13 MR. DEEGAN-McCREE: There we are. Good  
14 afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Michael Deegan-  
15 McCree. That's spelled M-I-C-H-A-E-L, D-E-E-G-A-N,  
16 hyphenate, M-c-C-R-E-E.

17 I'm calling in on behalf of the California Black  
18 Census and Redistricting Hub, a coalition of 30 black-lead  
19 and black-serving community-based organizations across this  
20 great state of California dedicated to maximizing black  
21 community participation in the census and redistricting  
22 process.

23 We are also members of another coalition, the IVE  
24 Redistricting Alliance.

25 Today we're calling in specifically to uplift the

1 IVE Alliance's recommendation to urge the Commission to  
2 exhaust any and all avenues to uphold the values and  
3 spirits specifically of the Voters First Act and to fight  
4 to maximize time for public participation in the  
5 redistricting process by setting a January 28th final map  
6 deadline.

7           We support moving the primary election to no  
8 later than June 21, 2022, reason, to accommodate any  
9 necessary shifts to the 2022 election calendar as a result.

10           A December 31st deadline will severely jeopardize  
11 the Commission meeting Constitutional requirements of the  
12 Voters First Act.

13           In addition, a December 31st deadline would have  
14 significant ramification on the ability of the public to  
15 engage meaningfully in a redistricting process and would  
16 threaten to disfranchise California residents by forcing  
17 this Commission to make important decisions that will have  
18 an impact for 10 years.

19           The Voters First Act was built on the principles  
20 of transparency which is what we are all trying to achieve.

21           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

22           MR. DEEGAN-McCREE: This Commission is meant to  
23 uplift and center the voices of residents of California,  
24 therefore, from the three to four weeks that will be lost  
25 due to the various religious, social and cultural holidays

1 in November and December and the potential recall will  
2 certainly --

3 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

4 MR. DEEGAN-McCREE: -- divert the public's  
5 attention away from the redistricting process during these  
6 same months.

7 So, we urge you to use the tools at your disposal  
8 and the community organizations at your disposal to pursue  
9 a January 28 deadline.

10 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds over time.

11 MR. DEEGAN-McCREE: As always, thank you so much  
12 for your service, and we hope that you will consider our  
13 comments today. Thank you so much.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Deegan-McCree.  
15 Next caller, please.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor is yours.

17 MS. DIAZ: Can you hear me?

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, the floor is  
19 yours.

20 MS. DIAZ: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My  
21 name is Karen Diaz, and I'm calling with the Coalition for  
22 Humane Immigrant Rights, CHIRLA. CHIRLA is an immigrant  
23 rights organization from California with national impact.

24 Our mission is to achieve a just society, full  
25 inclusive of immigrants. CHIRLA is one of the largest and

1 most effective advocates for immigrant rights through our  
2 organizing community education and civic engagement. And  
3 we are a member of the IVE Redistricting Alliance.

4 Today I'm calling to uplift our recommendation to  
5 set a January 28th deadline for the finalized maps and  
6 express our support to move the primary election to no  
7 later than June 21, 2022, to accommodate any necessary  
8 shift to a 2022 election calendar as a result.

9 We believe communities are at the heart of why we  
10 have an independent redistricting commission process, and  
11 it will be those communities that ultimately bear the  
12 impact of the final maps for the next 10 years.

13 So, it matters profoundly what deadline is set  
14 at, what additional time after the holidays, CBOs will also  
15 be able to better support communities on analyzing and  
16 providing feedback on the draft maps, on the draft of the  
17 final maps. Thank you so much for your time today.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Diaz. The next  
19 caller, Katy.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor is yours.

21 MR. ICHINOSE: Good morning, Commissioners. My  
22 name is Daniel Ichinose, last name spelled I-C-H-I-N-O-S-E.  
23 I'm a research director of the Orange County Civic  
24 Engagement Table, or OCCET, and that's spelled O-C-C-E-T.

25 OCCET is a multi-racial civic engagement table

1 that was partners -- that is partners with other key  
2 stakeholders in Orange County to form the People's  
3 Redistricting Alliance. It's a coalition censoring the  
4 needs of companies of color and working families in both  
5 statewide and local redistricting processes.

6           So, as a member of the IVE Redistricting  
7 Alliance, OCCEP unequivocally supports recommendations to  
8 both establish January 28, 2022, as the Commission's  
9 deadline to finalize maps and the 2022 primary election  
10 date be no later than June 21st as the corresponding step  
11 to accommodate any necessary changes in the election  
12 calendar.

13           As you know, Proposition 11 was passed in 2009 to  
14 put redistricting into the hands of Californians like you  
15 and me. The Commission we know has an enormous  
16 responsibility and there's no do-over, right. To do right  
17 by our state in the communities we serve it's critical that  
18 the Commission is given ample time to hear from the public  
19 at every stage.

20           Scheduling the deadline for the delivery of final  
21 maps over the holidays we see as counterproductive to the  
22 inclusion of community voices that should really be at the  
23 center of this partnership.

24           Given the importance of the lines you will draw,  
25 we strongly believe that the changes proposed by the IVE

1 Redistricting Alliance strike the right balance between  
2 achieving the level of committee participation that this  
3 redistricting process demands and robust engagement in the  
4 2022 primary election.

5           Thanks so much for the opportunity to comment.  
6 We look forward to working with you throughout this  
7 process.

8           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

9           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Ichinose. Next  
10 caller.

11           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor is yours.

12           MS. ZANG: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My  
13 name is Cha Zang, spelled C-H-A, Z-A-N-G. I'm with AAPI,  
14 Civic Empowerment Education Fund, and we are also a member  
15 of the IVE Redistricting Alliance.

16           AAPI FORCE Education Fund is an alliance of  
17 community organizations serving Asian-American and Pacific  
18 Islanders across the state of California. We advance  
19 policies, campaigns and issues that support working class  
20 AAPI's. Our five Steering Committee Organizations are  
21 Chinese Progressive Association, Asian Pacific  
22 Environmental Networks, Filipino Advocates for Justice,  
23 Hmong Innovating Policies for Justice and Khmer Girls for  
24 Action.

25           In addition, we have member organizations such as

1 Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, Filipino Worker  
2 Center, Takatof Movement, Asian Youth Center and more  
3 across the state.

4 Each of our organizations serves and lives in  
5 different AAPI communities such as the Hmong community in  
6 the central valley, Chinese communities in SF, Filipino  
7 communities in the Bay and in LA the Cambodian community in  
8 Long Beach, in addition to Panjabi communities across the  
9 central valley.

10 I'm calling today to uplift our recommendation to  
11 set the January 28, 2022, as the deadline for finalizing  
12 all -- finalizing maps and to support to move the primary  
13 election to no later than June 21, 2022, to accommodate any  
14 necessary shift in the 2022 election calendar.

15 We believe by ensuring enough time for community  
16 input in the redistricting process is essential so that no  
17 communities are left -- no community is disempowered for  
18 the next 10 years.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Zang. Next  
21 caller, Katy.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. The floor  
23 is yours.

24 MS. FILKINS-WEBBER: Hello, Commissioners. My  
25 name is Jodie Filkins-Webber. I am a former redistricting

1 commissioner, have not had the opportunity to congratulate  
2 you on your service.

3           So, I have not been paying much in the way of  
4 detailed attention to your meetings, but there have been  
5 quite a number of issues that have come to my attention.

6           I understand that you are facing quite a number  
7 of challenges, different than what we did in particular.  
8 But I do want to bring several issues to your attention.

9           First and foremost, it has come to my attention  
10 that a subcommittee held a meeting April 21, 2021, and  
11 pursuant to the memo from the Subcommittee on Governmental  
12 Affairs dated April 24, 2021, it appears as if there were  
13 individuals or community-based organizations who were  
14 identified as "stakeholders" that were invited to this  
15 meeting.

16           But I would like to bring to this Commission's  
17 attention, and I will remind you of this often, I'm sure,  
18 but pursuant to Government Code Section 82-53(a)(3)  
19 Commission members and staff may not communicate with or  
20 receive communications about redistricting matters from  
21 anyone outside of a public hearing.

22           I searched diligently on your website of any  
23 notice of this subcommittee meeting, and while there is no  
24 prohibition under Bagley-Keene, that two commissioners that  
25 make up the subcommittees that I understand that you have

1 cannot -- they can communicate between themselves, but I  
2 caution you that to the extent in which you invite any  
3 third person, stakeholders or otherwise, you are then in  
4 violation of Bagley-Keene and the Ralph Brown Act if you  
5 did not have the meeting in an open public hearing. So, I  
6 --

7 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

8 MS. FILKINS-WEBBER: -- want to encourage you to  
9 make sure that that is being followed because I as a member  
10 of the public am a stakeholder that did not have an  
11 opportunity to participate in that meeting.

12 And just to keep in mind that any back-door  
13 communications, back-room meetings is something that  
14 obviously --

15 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

16 MS. FILKINS-WEBBER: -- the Voters First Act wish  
17 to avoid by pulling the redistricting power from the  
18 Legislature.

19 I also want to bring to your attention that I  
20 have the utmost confidence in your ability, obviously, to  
21 perform and render --

22 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds over time.

23 MS. FILKINS-WEBBER: -- the decisions that you've  
24 made in this particular circumstance. But keep in mind  
25 that you should support your own independence, and while it

1 is encouraging for you to obtain information from  
2 stakeholders, --

3 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes, 30 seconds.

4 MS. FILKINS-WEBBER: -- community-based  
5 organizations and those with interest, I certainly  
6 encourage you to make the best decisions that you're fully  
7 capable of doing. It is not a necessity for you to reach a  
8 compromise with community-based organizations or anybody  
9 for that matter. It's best that you reach compromise --

10 MR. MANOFF: Two, 45.

11 MS. FILKINS-WEBBER: -- among yourself.

12 In regard to the issue of Padilla let me bring to  
13 your attention as my time is waning.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Your time is actually up, so,  
15 please.

16 MS. FILKINS-WEBBER: May I --

17 MR. MANOFF: One minute over time.

18 MS. FILKINS-WEBBER: Will the Chair indulge me  
19 momentarily? I'll be brief.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Very brief.

21 MS. FILKINS-WEBBER: Thank you very much. A  
22 first interpretation of what Padilla would provide you an  
23 additional time frame that's necessary. The fact that you  
24 may have available raw data that the Padilla case did not  
25 necessarily envision should not force you to render a

1 decision based on other individuals that may have an  
2 interest in this process. Your interest is representing  
3 the citizens of the State of California and obtaining the  
4 best opportunity for public participation, and I think if  
5 you apply a strict interpretation of Padilla it will allow  
6 you an opportunity to put out draft maps, because this is  
7 the most important portion of your process in my experience  
8 is that you will receive a significant amount of public  
9 input after the draft maps are put out, so please do not  
10 limit your ability to do that.

11 And thank you very much for your time.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Filkins-Webber.  
13 Katy.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. Caller  
15 7644. Again, caller 76 -- the floor is yours.

16 MR. PAYNE: Good afternoon, Chair and  
17 Commissioners. Eric Payne, Executive Director of the  
18 Central Valley Urban Institute.

19 You may recall we sent a letter in October,  
20 October 19, 2020. We are before you again today to express  
21 deep concern about the administration of lack of thought to  
22 center this work around equity and be more inclusive toward  
23 Central Valley families in the COI process.

24 We're happy to assist you in developing more COI  
25 forums in the Central Valley relative to the one you've

1 already identified in Agenda Item 9E. We believe this work  
2 calls for more if we are truly to be a California for all,  
3 and I do mean all.

4 Thank you for your time. I yield back.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Payne.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And our next caller.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: What do they need to do, Katy?

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Huh?

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: What do they need to do to --  
10 do pound something?

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 9290, the floor  
12 is yours. 9290, go ahead.

13 MS. ORR: So sorry about that. I had actually  
14 double muted myself.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay.

16 MS. ORR: Hi. My name is Adria Orr spelled A-D-  
17 R-I-A, O-R-R, and I am calling with Asian Americans  
18 Advancing Justice Asian Law Caucus.

19 First, I want to say thank you so much to all of  
20 the Commissioners for continuing to thoughtfully take on  
21 these complicated issues.

22 I'm calling today to urge you to continue  
23 protecting this vital public process by committing to a  
24 late January deadline for map approval, such as the one  
25 uplifted by the IVE Alliance recommendation.

1           It is critical for the opportunity for community  
2 input to incur boosts in later stages of map drawing.

3 While the Commission will take valuable community testimony  
4 during meetings in the summer and early fall, significant  
5 parts of the process can only happen after the updated data  
6 are available. And as we all know, the Commission can only  
7 conduct theory analysis for your draft maps after receiving  
8 the updated data.

9           Additionally, community-based groups need that  
10 data to make the map proposals they submit to the  
11 Commission as helpful as possible.

12           But most importantly, once the Commission's draft  
13 maps are posted, community member and community-based  
14 organizations must have sufficient time to review and  
15 provide a response. These reactions are a distinct form of  
16 input that can only happen after the data release. The  
17 same is true for public input on any subsequent revised  
18 maps.

19           Additionally, we know that it is unavoidable that  
20 the key pieces -- that key pieces of the timeline will  
21 overlap with the holidays, which is always a challenging  
22 time to engage people.

23           We believe this will be even more true this year  
24 after so many folks skipped holiday gatherings in 2020.  
25 However, we should not resign ourselves to this overlap.

1 There are still ways to make this overlap more or less  
2 damaging to the integrity of the public input process.

3           These are difficult circumstances and all  
4 stakeholders are being asked to make adjustments. We  
5 vitally believe a late January deadline is an ideal  
6 compromise. It will allow for meaningful time post-  
7 holidays --

8           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

9           MS. ORR: -- for the public to review and provide  
10 feedback on revisions to the draft map.

11           Additionally, while election officials can  
12 provide more insight on the elections calendar in detail,  
13 it is our understanding that this scenario is usable while  
14 keeping the primary election in June.

15           Ultimately, given the circumstances --

16           MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

17           MS. ORR: -- a late January deadline will most  
18 effectively allow the Commission to carry out the open  
19 public process that the California Constitution lays out  
20 and will allow time for the community engagement that is so  
21 essential to this process.

22           Thank you so much.

23           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Orr.

24           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have several  
25 more callers. I would like to remind people who have

1 called in, if you would like to comment to press star nine  
2 to raise your hand, and I will go ahead and open the next  
3 line, or ask them to unmute. And caller 2829, go ahead.

4 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Hello, Commissioners. This is  
5 Renee Westa-Lusk and calling for some clarification. I  
6 have comments to give on Agenda Items 9A and E, but I don't  
7 know when you're going to cover those. Will those be  
8 covered on Thursday?

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, I noted that earlier.  
10 Those will be covered on Thursday.

11 MS. WESTA-LUSK: So, I'll be able to give public  
12 comment then, correct?

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Correct.

14 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Okay. I'll let someone else  
15 talk. Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Westa-Lusk.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And moving down the  
18 line, again, star nine to raise your hand. We don't have  
19 hands raised, I'm just saying. All right. Go ahead.

20 MS. ALLEN: Hello. Can you all hear me?

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can.

22 MS. ALLEN: Awesome. Good afternoon,  
23 Commissioners. My name is Sky Allen from Inland Empire  
24 United. My name is spelled S-K-Y, A-L-L-E-N.

25 We are collective impact people serving Riverside

1 and San Bernardino Counties. We are facilitating the  
2 Inland Empire Redistricting Hub in our region, and we're  
3 also a member of the IVE Redistricting Alliance.

4 I'm calling to urge you to consider January 28th  
5 as your deadline to finalize district maps and to urge you  
6 to express support for a primary date of June 21st.

7 As a local organizer primarily around issues of  
8 civic engagement like elections, census and redistricting,  
9 I really want to stress how imperative it is that community  
10 members are given reasonable amounts of time to learn about  
11 and advocate in the redistricting process.

12 Communities are at the heart of why we have a  
13 redistricting commission in the first place, but it doesn't  
14 mean redistricting, itself, is an approachable topic. We  
15 all need time, both this Commission and groups on the  
16 ground like mine to demystify the process and encourage  
17 public testimony. By design we have less time this year to  
18 do that because of the delay in census data, now the  
19 confirmed recall election in the fall and the holiday  
20 season.

21 Also by design, the primary has already been  
22 moved. It should be noted that our last statewide primary  
23 was in the month of March. So, regardless of the specific  
24 calendar dates, voters are already preparing to change  
25 their notions of when elections are going to be. Voters

1 who know their plans for the first Tuesday of the month are  
2 paying enough attention to pivot. Everyone else, we're  
3 going to be targeting no matter what.

4 So, it's really important that this redistricting  
5 process is done right because we only have one chance to do  
6 it.

7 Extending your deadline to January 28th and  
8 delaying the primary to June 21st would give us all the  
9 opportunity to engage community members around both  
10 elections and redistricting.

11 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

12 MS. ALLEN: Lastly, I want to quickly uplift a  
13 letter I submitted last night around Item 9E, but I'll call  
14 back on Thursday to go over the recommendations we  
15 provided.

16 Thank you all so much for your time and for all  
17 of the work that you do.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Allen.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And moving down the  
20 line, go ahead.

21 MS. HUTCHISON: Good afternoon, Commissioners  
22 This is Helen Hutchison. I'm calling on behalf of the  
23 League of Women Voters of California. My name is H-E-L-E-  
24 N, H-U-T-C-H-I-S-O-N.

25 I wanted to first start by calling attention to

1 the letter that is posted among many in your meeting  
2 handouts today, and thank the staff for posting it over the  
3 weekend. It was sent on behalf of the League of Women  
4 Voters and Common Cause California.

5 We have been asked about the deadline for final  
6 maps and we, along with many others now, would support a  
7 January 28th deadline because it would allow for the public  
8 to fully engage with you as you finalize the maps.

9 Any meeting you hold between December 20th and  
10 January 2nd, arguably even longer than that, cannot  
11 honestly be considered a public meeting as intended by the  
12 Voters First Act. You, as Commissioners, may be willing to  
13 give up family and holiday time, but you would not be  
14 joined in those meetings by members of the wider public.  
15 And the only public members that would join you would be  
16 those that are really true believers, radical special  
17 interests.

18 We do recommend that you figure out the timeline  
19 that works best for you and that will give you -- that  
20 maximizes public input, then you pivot and talk to  
21 elections officials, the Secretary of State and County  
22 Registrars, to determine the best balance between your need  
23 to hold public meetings and get meaningful input to your  
24 work and their need to draw new precincts and hold  
25 elections with all the work that entails.

1 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

2 MS. HUTCHISON: And once you figure that out,  
3 then you can talk to others. But we do caution you that  
4 the Legislature and some of the other interests have  
5 definite interest in both how the districts are drawn and  
6 when the elections are held --

7 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

8 MS. HUTCHISON: -- and still being aware of that.  
9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Hutchison.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And to the next. That  
12 one was my fault. I'm sorry. Go ahead. I apologize.

13 UNIDENTIFIED CALLER: Can you hear me?

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. I apologize.

15 UNIDENTIFIED CALLER: Great. Great. No worries.  
16 So, I've been watching the town council meetings and some  
17 of these meetings just to kind of be more civically minded,  
18 and I'm an engineer. I really am into data and just kind  
19 of a total nerd for a lot of this stuff.

20 And it's kind of odd that you all haven't hired a  
21 data manager. There's no vendor for data management. I  
22 think it would be a really good idea for there to be like a  
23 set understanding for how data is going to be coded, that  
24 there should be a contract with a data vendor, or you have  
25 one on staff. I know in the town council meetings staff

1 has been way underfunded and just so totally overloaded,  
2 and I think it would be a great idea to just have somebody  
3 on staff to be able to handle a lot of this data and sort  
4 of formalize that. So, I'm just putting a public comment  
5 in here to say that I think that that would be a great idea  
6 just to make sure that all of this get handled super well,  
7 that it's formalized, that it's really easy to understand,  
8 and that you can really pull out a lot of the trends that  
9 you need to from a lot of this data.

10 So, that's my two cents. Just wanted to say  
11 that, and thanks so much.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you for your feedback,  
13 and just so you're aware, we do have a subcommittee that's  
14 working on data management, so, thank you so much.

15 UNIDENTIFIED CALLER: Thank you very much.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And the next caller.  
17 Go ahead.

18 MR. FORBES: Hi. This is Stan Forbes, and I  
19 appreciate the opportunity to address the Commission.

20 Again, I'm Stan Forbes, and I was the Chair of  
21 the previous Commission from 2012 to 2017 and represented  
22 in a successful competition with 500 other programs at the  
23 Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

24 We were awarded a \$100,000 grant to visit other  
25 states to share the Commission's success in drawing fair,

1 nonpartisan districts. Spoke to Legislators and the public  
2 in 12 states, and I personally spoke to eight.

3           In each state the Commission was considered thin  
4 its transparency and public participation, but independence  
5 from the Legislature also was critical in establishing the  
6 Commission's gold standard credibility as nonpartisan.

7           The simple fact is the public doesn't trust the  
8 Legislature. It believes the politicians will gain the  
9 system and it simply isn't possible to have an independent  
10 Commission. They were astounded that we were truly and  
11 completely transparent, independent, nonpartisan and  
12 successfully resisted political influence. Most important  
13 and, indeed, the only current situation has with the public  
14 is its integrity, including perceived integrity. Once the  
15 public believes the politicians are able to influence the  
16 process, whether true or not, the public's trust in the  
17 Commission will be at risk. The loss of that trust, the  
18 maps' integrity could become in question. Integrity once  
19 lost cannot be recovered.

20           Therefore, I urge you to ignore the letter from  
21 the Legislature asking you to accelerate the process and to  
22 assure that all Commission discussion comply with open  
23 meeting requirements. The Commission needs to take the  
24 time necessary to let the public fully express their views  
25 how the lines should be drawn. The Commission must avoid

1 any appearance that politicians are driving or even  
2 influencing the process. I urge you to start a timeline  
3 that meets the Commission's and the public's needs, not the  
4 Legislature's. Do represent the people of California who  
5 gave you independent power because they trust you, not the  
6 politicians, to draw fair districts.

7 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

8 MR. FORBES: Try to avoid any appearance of  
9 betraying that trust. Thank you.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Forbes.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And the next caller.  
12 Go ahead.

13 MS. GOMEZ: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My  
14 name is Julia Gomez and I a voting rights staff attorney at  
15 the ACLU of Southern California.

16 I'm here calling on behalf of the ACLU of  
17 Southern California and the ACLU of Northern California.  
18 Together our Voting Rights Team works to protect and  
19 advance civil rights and liberties, including the right to  
20 vote and the right to fair representation. We seek to  
21 ensure that all communities, and in particular historically  
22 unrepresented communities, have a meaningful and fair  
23 access to engage in our democracy.

24 Historically the ACLU has worked on redistricting  
25 at the national, state and local level, including in the

1 state of California. We haven't really been participating  
2 in statewide Commission meetings because we, instead, have  
3 been focusing on local redistricting. However, we felt  
4 compelled to call in today because we are very alarmed and  
5 concerned by the redistricting timeline that's resulted  
6 from the census delay, and it's now overlapped with the  
7 holiday season that will surely prevent Californians from  
8 having a meaningful opportunity for public input on the  
9 maps you adopt.

10 We're also concerned that the timeline does not  
11 provide the Commission with adequate time to ensure  
12 compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act. We urge you  
13 to adopt a timeline that gives you sufficient time to  
14 assess and create, if necessary, majority, minority  
15 districts and to ensure that those districts are, in fact,  
16 effective in providing minority communities the ability to  
17 elect candidates of choice. These analyses take time.  
18 They take rerunning election data. They take community  
19 input, and they cannot be done over the holidays.

20 Similarly, Californians need time to review  
21 proposed maps and submit maps of their own. They, too, are  
22 going to be assessing Voting Right Act compliance and  
23 whether it's possible to create majority, minority  
24 districts.

25 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

1 MS. GOMEZ: We require adequate time to prepare  
2 and engage in that public input process, and they've  
3 already stated that the current timeline poses real and  
4 significant difficulties in engaging the public.

5 We, therefore, urge the Commission --

6 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

7 MS. GOMEZ: -- to adopt a timeline that truly  
8 provides opportunities for public input and engagement.

9 Thank you for your service to this Commission and  
10 for your attention.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Gomez.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And the next caller.  
13 We still do have a couple of raised hands. I would like to  
14 remind those calling in to press star nine to raise your  
15 hand indicating you wish to comment, and I will ask the  
16 next caller to unmute. Go ahead.

17 MS. PEONCE DE LEON: Good afternoon,  
18 Commissioners. This is Alejandra Peonce De Leon, A-L-E-J-  
19 A-N-D-R-A, P-E-O-N-C-E, with Advanced New Projects  
20 California.

21 Calling on behalf of the convenor for the IVE  
22 Redistricting Alliance and weighing in and echoing a lot of  
23 the positions that are partners have raised already through  
24 public comment about carving enough time for community  
25 residents to engage in the redistricting process and

1 supporting, you know, the position to set the final map  
2 adoption for January 28th and supporting to move the  
3 primary election no later than June 21st.

4           Something that I wanted to uplift is that our  
5 alliance brings a very valuable lens to this issue because  
6 our partners are both engaged in mobilizing  
7 underrepresented communities for redistricting and for  
8 election, so our recommendation really reflects the  
9 understanding of what's needed on the ground to engage  
10 residents and voters on both fronts.

11           We have been taking a lot of time in really  
12 thinking through and really thinking about, you know, why  
13 state. And for us it really comes down to what do voters  
14 and residents need to fully engage in the redistricting  
15 process.

16           For us, in redistricting we need time for  
17 communities to understand and analyze the redistricting  
18 data because this isn't something that is very simple and  
19 accessible to everybody. Time is needed to draw the  
20 initial maps and communicate with each other and address  
21 potential conflicts, prepare testimony and advocacy,  
22 analyze, you know, your draft maps --

23           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

24           MS. PEONCE DE LEON: -- as final maps and provide  
25 feedback. So, all of this requires time. And we feel that

1 in terms of the timeline that we are suggesting, we feel  
2 like it is an optimal timeline where it does compromise on  
3 both ends, but at the end of the day it's really about  
4 ensuring that communities --

5 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

6 MS. PEONCE DE LEON: -- are fully engaged and are  
7 enfranchised, not just for this election, but for the next  
8 ten years. Thank you.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Peonce De Leon.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And the next caller,  
11 and I'd also like to remind those in the queue to press  
12 star nine to raise your hand indicating you wish to  
13 comment.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Katy, I think that some who are  
15 still on line already gave comments. I'm not sure.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Oh, okay. Well, right  
17 now we have one hand left raised.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: So, we will go with  
20 that.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Definitely.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 8514, go ahead.

23 MR. BLAKE: Thank you. My name is Steven Blake,  
24 B-L-A-K-E, private citizen, and I'll try to keep this  
25 short.

1 I am calling about the Public Input Committee's  
2 Meeting earlier this month. It was good to hear experts  
3 talk about how they put public maps together. However, I  
4 am very concerned about their repeated use of the term at  
5 that meeting of a "unity map." It especially bothered me  
6 when it was picked up by the Commissioners.

7 There can be only one true "unity map," yours in  
8 the final maps that the Commission draws. That is what  
9 you're hired to do. That is the Commission's job. It  
10 should not matter if a map is submitted by an individual,  
11 by a neighborhood, or as a consolidation of several groups.  
12 That map only represents their ideas and one perspective.  
13 Language like "this is a unity map," creates the image that  
14 size dictates importance and that they should be moved to  
15 the top of the stack. If the public believes certain  
16 groups are getting special treatment, fewer people will  
17 participate in the process. No one, no matter how well  
18 intended should ever be perceived as trying to displace the  
19 Commission's role.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you  
21 today.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Blake.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And, Chair, that was  
24 our last hand raised, so I --

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We'll go with that?

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, we're going to move on,  
3 and I am extremely sorry for our LGBTQ panel. We're  
4 running a little behind, but that doesn't mean that you  
5 need to condense your presentation, so I am going to turn  
6 it over to Commissioner Sinay and Fornaciari.

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Great. Thank you. And  
8 everybody is -- I see Rebekah, Paul, Jeremy. I don't see  
9 Rosa. There is Rosa, okay. We're all here.

10 Thank you for joining us. It's an exciting time  
11 for the Redistricting Commission, so we thank you for your  
12 patience, and we're also excited that you got to  
13 participate and hear all the different, you know, democracy  
14 in action.

15 Today we -- for the Commissioners there's a lot  
16 of different -- we brought in different panels at different  
17 times just to kind of raise our awareness and understanding  
18 of how to do outreach out in communities in our zones as  
19 well as in the state in general.

20 And today we have together a LGBTQ panel, both  
21 looking at the urban and the rural community. It's a  
22 diverse community. It's not a monolithic community.  
23 Obviously we have members from the community on the  
24 Commission as well as allies.

25 Today we thought it would be very helpful to kind

1 of get an overview, and also understand some of the  
2 research that was done last time and that will be done this  
3 time around the community and as a community of interest.

4 We are going to start with Jeremy from Equality  
5 California, and then we will move over to Rebekah Hook-Held  
6 from the LGBT in San Diego, and she will give highlights,  
7 San Diego as an example of how important redistricting and  
8 communities of interest are, and Rosa Diaz from the  
9 Imperial Valley LGTB Resource Center will give her  
10 perspective on outreach into the rural communities. And  
11 then Paul Mitchell from Redistricting Partners will share  
12 some research that they did in 2010 and some research that  
13 they're doing in 2020.

14 Jeremy, it's all yours.

15 MR. PAYNE: All right. Thank you so much and  
16 good afternoon, Commissioners. Thank you so much for  
17 having myself, Jeremy Payne, Associate Program Director  
18 with Equality California.

19 I was also happy to hear the amount of public  
20 participation and comments that preceded this presentation.  
21 I'm very excited about the future of this Commission.

22 I'm going to show my screen and just do a  
23 presentation I put together to kick us off. Give me just a  
24 second to get this ready. All right.

25 This is going to be a quick overview preceding

1 the presentations of my colleagues here. This will give an  
2 overview of California LGBTQ population just to get some  
3 perspective of our role in the redistricting process  
4 throughout California and plus locally and statewide.

5 Before I begin I just wanted to give some  
6 background on my organization that I am representing,  
7 Equality California, which is the largest nation -- largest  
8 statewide LGBTQ+, lesbian, gays, bisexual, transgender and  
9 queer civil rights organization. We have over 900,000  
10 members as part of our organization.

11 Our mission is to bring the voices of LGBTQ+  
12 people and allies to institutions of power in California  
13 and across the United States, striving to create a world  
14 that is healthy, just and fully equal for all LGBTQ+  
15 people.

16 As Commissioner Sinay mentioned, it's not a  
17 monolithic community or identity. There is great and vast  
18 diversity that comprises the LGBTQ+ community.

19 For my agenda I will go through a quick overview  
20 of California's LGBTQ+ population, giving some data  
21 statistics on Californians here, and then guidance,  
22 understanding discrimination marginalization that is  
23 experienced by the LGBTQ+ community to this day.

24 There are still challenges and fights for  
25 equality despite things like marriage equality that has

1 passed, there's still other efforts that have been  
2 undermining the basic civil rights and protection of the  
3 community.

4           And on kind of a more positive note I will want  
5 to spend some time on what the LGBTQ+ contribution is in  
6 California's redistricting process at the local and  
7 statewide level.

8           And, of course, there's time for a Q and A for  
9 questions, or I can just pass along to my colleagues to see  
10 us along the way.

11           So, to get us started on LGBTQ+ population, as  
12 you can imagine, as you know, California is home to the  
13 nation's largest statewide LGBTQ+ population, and we have  
14 key LGBTQ+ population centers that are well known, like the  
15 city of West Hollywood and the Castro neighborhood in San  
16 Francisco and the Hillcrest neighborhood in San Diego to  
17 name a few.

18           Gallup estimates over two million Californians  
19 identify as LGBTQ+, which is 5.3 percent of the adult  
20 population. And our internal polling shows that  
21 approximately 12 percent of registered California voters  
22 identify as LGBTQ+, showing the strong voting patterns of  
23 the LGBTQ+ community as a unified voting base.

24           When you consider the impact that stigma, and  
25 discrimination and the influence that may have on

1 acceptance and outright identification, we estimate the  
2 actual total of the LGBTQ+ population be closer to four  
3 million or 10 percent of California's total population.

4 Of course, we kind of feel to the understanding  
5 that people may not be comfortable being out, or expressing  
6 that in a poll or survey when they're asked.

7 As for the diversity of California's LGBTQ+  
8 community and the community as a whole, the majority of the  
9 LGBTQ+ adults in California identify as Latinx, Asian,  
10 Black, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian  
11 Pacific Islander or multi-racial such as myself. And it's  
12 estimated 1.3 million LGBTQ+ adult immigrants reside in the  
13 U.S. today. So, that's nationally. And approximately 22  
14 percent of those are undocumented.

15 For California specifically, we have an estimate  
16 of around 60,000 undocumented LGBTQ+ adults living here.

17 So, there is some great diversity of our LGBTQ+  
18 community, and there are considerations to take when  
19 looking at some of the discrimination and marginalization  
20 that's based on a community, so that will start my next  
21 section here.

22 So, as you may already know, given the history of  
23 the LGBTQ+ community that's in the mainstream historically,  
24 we have been underrepresented in the halls of power and  
25 frequently denied access to key social institutions and

1 support networks. And despite the rise in acceptance of  
2 LGBTQ+ people, the community continues to fight for basic  
3 civil rights while still experiencing hate and  
4 discrimination that perpetuates disparities of health and  
5 well-being. And that is to this day.

6           There are disparities in healthcare access where  
7 many in the community can't find affirming healthcare that  
8 affirms and identifies and recognizes their gender  
9 identity.

10           And, of course, there are mental health  
11 disparities that are created or caused because of a history  
12 of discrimination and early attempt at bullying. That kind  
13 of impacts the use in schools where many LGBTQ+ students  
14 are unable to kind of achieve academic success because of a  
15 lot of the harassment they are facing.

16           And there's stigma that still prevails within the  
17 community and throughout the nation. Those that are HIV  
18 positive face stigma throughout their entire lifetime and  
19 that is still a kind of a gray area that many have to  
20 navigate and continue to fight for basic rights and basic  
21 abilities to kind of do things in our community when it  
22 comes to healthcare access.

23           So, specifically for California I wanted to  
24 highlight some basic civil rights and protection violations  
25 that have occurred in California's history, starting us off

1 in 1978 with the Briggs Initiative which sought to ban  
2 LGBTQ+ people from working in California base schools.

3 More present day, 2000, California voters passed  
4 Proposition 22 the Knight Initiative, which limited  
5 marriage between one man and one woman.

6 And one of the most infamous cases, California  
7 voters passed Proposition 8 in 2008, and took away the  
8 freedom to marry for same-gender couples.

9 But some of this is still happening, and only a  
10 few years ago, 2014, less than a decade ago, proponents of  
11 a veto referendum for AB 1266 sought to repeal  
12 nondiscrimination protections for transgender students,  
13 gathering nearly 620,000 signatures. So, that is a  
14 significant proportion of the population that was able to  
15 kind of still spread discrimination openly, openly  
16 discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community, especially  
17 LGBTQ+ youth.

18 And, so, I just wanted to provide some examples  
19 of a official discrimination or kind of violations in  
20 California's history, but there's also I think nationwide  
21 that impact the LGBTQ+ community as a whole.

22 HIV is criminalized in more than half of our  
23 states. Gay and bisexual men are still restricted from  
24 donating blood, regardless of HIV status, and that kind of  
25 plays into the HIV stigma that I mentioned previously.

1 Transgender and gender nonconforming people have  
2 extraordinary difficulty accessing affirmative healthcare  
3 and mental health services. And I will kind of share how  
4 that contributes to the LGBTQ+ population.

5 And across the country there have been hundreds  
6 of legislative attempts and ballot measures, successful and  
7 unsuccessful, fortunately, to restrict or eliminate basic  
8 civil rights for LGBTQ+ people.

9 And even this year there has been attempts to  
10 eliminate basic civil rights for transgender people. So,  
11 again, the most marginalized within the LGBTQ+ community  
12 are facing the brunt of these attacks.

13 Though the attacks on both physical, emotional  
14 and kind of conceptual in terms of the physical transgender  
15 women, specifically transgender women of color, experience  
16 violence every day and are being murdered, but still fear  
17 turning to the police for help because of their gender  
18 identity.

19 LGBTQ+ children make up an estimated 40 percent  
20 of all youth experiencing homelessness, and, of course,  
21 that's largely because they so frequently do not find  
22 acceptance at home, which again, contributes to lack of  
23 academic success, high drops outs and then living on the  
24 streets and facing health status (indiscernible) forever.

25 And even in terms of our political realm, LGBTQ+

1 elected officials and public figures face publicized  
2 homophobic, biphobic and transphobic attacks. And there  
3 was a record number of those just in the last year during  
4 the 2020 election cycle.

5           And, so, I just wanted to highlight that we're  
6 still a discriminated and marginalized community, despite  
7 some of the advances that we've had in terms of marriage  
8 equality. I don't want to underplay the importance of  
9 that, but I do want to score how important it is to  
10 understand what the ultimate LGBTQ+ community is facing in  
11 the modern day.

12           And, of course, moving on to a more positive  
13 note, I would like to focus on the LGBTQ+ press  
14 contributions in California's redistricting history.

15           And to start us off there's probably nothing more  
16 important than knowing in 1976 what happened in San  
17 Francisco, when San Francisco voters nearly passed  
18 Proposition T which moved the election of supervisors from  
19 at-large district elections which allowed the LGBTQ+  
20 community to elevate leadership from within their  
21 communities.

22           This very redistricting process was paramount to  
23 the election of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to  
24 serve as an elected official in the state of California.

25           But I don't want to highlight how redistricting

1 has benefited one specific individual, but more to show how  
2 this empowered the local LGBTQ+ community, because the  
3 Castro district, which was the district that was formed by  
4 Harvey Milk's representation, to keep allowing this key  
5 LGBTQ+ population center to uplift and identify leaders  
6 that were representative of their community, regardless of  
7 who it was. They have been able to have greater reflection  
8 and representation because of this process..

9           And so, this has allowed folks like choice  
10 candidates that are representative and just in the context  
11 of this map, that Castro area would be in around District  
12 5, which still remains a board supervisor district  
13 currently right now, which is now, I believe, number eight,  
14 San Francisco. And that's where Harvey Milk served.

15           Moving to the more modern-day system, the  
16 California Citizen's Redistricting Commission, in 2011  
17 Equality California worked with redistricting partners, who  
18 are here with us today, and other LGBTQ+ organizations on  
19 the development of a plan, strategy, dataset and testimony  
20 before the ECRC and local redistricting commissions which  
21 resulted in several districts that maximized the strength  
22 of the LGBTQ+ vote, which is mentioned as a strong voting  
23 base, and representation across the board.

24           And, so, this was really showing the work of  
25 LGBTQ+ community organizations under a joint cause, which

1 was really grounded in supporting LGBTQ+ people power,  
2 civic activism.

3           Being able to create districts that are  
4 representative of the community so that people can elect  
5 the candidate that is representative of the actual  
6 neighborhood.

7           And just across the board, bringing LGBTQ+  
8 voices, priorities and ideas into the mainstream, now that  
9 the community is being recognized and included in these  
10 power stations, which is one of the kind of biggest  
11 factors.

12           And for 2011, the redistricting process, this  
13 work began with our LGBTQ+ neighborhood. These historic  
14 sites where our community has come together and resided  
15 together in the safety and proximity of each other. These  
16 geographic areas of high LGBTQ+ density allowed us to  
17 create maps which kind of showed where LGBTQ+ neighborhoods  
18 were and allowed us to advocate for keeping them together  
19 to continue the strengths and protections of this  
20 marginalized community.

21           Equity service process was recognized throughout  
22 California, not just for the LGBTQ+ boards out there, but  
23 for all marginalized populations that have historically  
24 been left out or lacked a voice in the redistricting  
25 process.

1           And in terms of the future we hope that this  
2 process and approach is carefully considered in the 2021  
3 redistricting process so that the state of California can  
4 remain that beacon of hope for LGBTQ+ people across  
5 California, the nation and the globe.

6           And that kind of wraps up my presentation. I'm  
7 more than happy to take questions now, but if it's a matter  
8 of time, be more than happy to pass along to my colleagues  
9 to present on their presentation.

10           COMMISSIONER SINAY: We can take a few minutes.  
11 Are there questions right now, or do Commissioners want to  
12 wait? Okay, we'll keep moving forward. Rebekah, you're  
13 on.

14           MS. HOOK-HELD: Excellent. Thank you. Hopefully  
15 everyone can hear me okay.

16           My name is Rebekah Hook-Held. My pronouns are  
17 she or hers, and I'm the chief public affairs and civic  
18 engagement officer at the San Diego LGBT Community Center.

19           Thanks so much, Jeremy, for setting the stage for  
20 the panel. I think it's really important to really talk  
21 about how this is not just a statewide effort, and I'm  
22 going to give a local example on some local redistricting  
23 efforts that much like Harvey Milk has really led to a  
24 legacy of a LGBTQ and empowerment district in San Diego.

25           And, so, in the City of San Diego it's been long

1 in the making, and I'm going to start our journey in the  
2 1990's. This is in -- the work to create an LGBTQ  
3 empowerment district has been accomplished not in  
4 isolation, but in collaboration with other empowerment  
5 communities, and lots of community engagement in the  
6 process.

7           As Jeremy mentioned, the LGBT community is well  
8 represented and is a strong voting bloc. And, so, when  
9 called upon, when engaged to participate in civic  
10 engagement activities like redistricting, we have a history  
11 of showing up and really communicating our wishes for what  
12 that might look like.

13           A few key things that led to San Diego's LGBTQ+  
14 empowerment district was first, and Jeremy mentioned  
15 something similar in San Francisco, was creating district-  
16 only elections. So, really focusing on electing folks who  
17 are from communities to represent us in government. And,  
18 so, rather than going to a citywide, doing local -- I'm  
19 sorry, doing primaries that represented the community and  
20 then sending them out to citywide elections, this really  
21 allowed for local representation to be reinvested in the  
22 general election.

23           But that was a really key turning point in 1990,  
24 and then what led to the 1993 election of Christine Kehoe,  
25 who was the first openly LGBT person in San Diego County to

1 be elected.

2 I talked to Christine in preparation for today's  
3 talk, and one thing she wanted to share with me was --  
4 well, there were two things. One is that what she heard  
5 from voters after being elected was that she was so excited  
6 -- they were so excited that she doesn't just care about  
7 LGBT issues. She cared about their trash pickup and their  
8 potholes. And that's all to say that LGBTQ elected leaders  
9 have a full breadth and diversity of experiences that  
10 they're going to bring to elected power, and we want to  
11 lean into that and communicate that to the voters, that  
12 we're not just there to talk about LGBTQ issues.

13 And the other thing that she shared with is how  
14 important it was, her election, to really spread  
15 countywide, which lead to the first DA in the country to be  
16 elected who was an out lesbian, Bonnie Dumanis. And then  
17 has led to what is now 25 years of elected leadership from  
18 the LGBTQ community. And it's created a true pipeline of  
19 LGBT elected leaders throughout not only the city, but the  
20 state where we have, you know, Senate President pro tempore  
21 Toni Atkins being the leader of the State Senate and so on.

22 One thing that I want to underscore is through  
23 the empowerment district it not only created this one  
24 district; it's now created more opportunities for LGBT  
25 electeds throughout the city. And in 2018, there was three

1 LGBT folks representing at the City Council.

2 I want to reflect, though, on some challenging  
3 times in terms of creating this empowerment district.

4 In 2010, it was not very contentious in ensuring  
5 that the LGBT empowerment district stayed intact in 2000,  
6 but in 2010 was a real test. An additional district was  
7 being added to the City of San Diego's City Council, and as  
8 part of that the LGBT empowerment district was going to  
9 carved out in order to create that new district.

10 Organizers were prepared to defend the LGBT  
11 empowerment district while also uplifting the creating of  
12 these other racial empowerment districts that were really  
13 important to us.

14 The final maps that we created, created several  
15 empowerment districts, including two from the Latinx  
16 community, one for the Black community and one for the LGBT  
17 community.

18 But in this effort we left a lot of work to do.  
19 The LGBTQ empowerment district in San Diego became less  
20 racially diverse, which, as Jeremy mentioned, is not  
21 representative of our LGBT community at large. That was  
22 concerning to us, and it was a real barrier to uplift the  
23 AAPI community and create their own empowerment district.

24 So though I wasn't involved in any of those  
25 redistricting efforts, it's really led to some lessons that

1 we plan on working on in this redistricting effort.

2           One, reinvesting and continuing that robust  
3 engagement for community. How can we show up? How can we  
4 lend our voices? How can we organize people to just share  
5 what they want to share, to keep communities intact and  
6 tell about the rich diversity within each of those  
7 communities?

8           And, so, we're going to be leaning into those  
9 lessons learned to ensure that the LGBTQ empowerment  
10 district is also representative of our full diversity of  
11 our LGBT community, but also helps advocate stronger for  
12 those other communities who may not have ensured their own  
13 empowerment district. And, really, we think of each other  
14 as working in that coalition and collaboration as we have  
15 gone through, you know, several of these cycles.

16           And, so, that's really where the success of San  
17 Diego has created a long pipeline of elected officials in  
18 leadership, in government, but also in full and rich  
19 collaboration with our other, you know, justice partners,  
20 our other community partners to ensure that we all have a  
21 seat at the table.

22           I'm happy to take questions, but I quickly just  
23 wanted to paint a picture that San Diego has elected more  
24 LGBTQ people than San Francisco, and that's a badge we wear  
25 with pride, and this process is part of it, and I'm hoping

1 this Commission will do what it can to really listen to the  
2 community and bring that forward. So, thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Rebekah. Does  
4 anyone have any questions for Rebekah? All right. Rosa.

5 MS. DIAZ: Hello. I'm Rosa Diaz. I'm the  
6 founder and CEO of the First Imperial Valley LGBT Resource  
7 Center in Imperial County.

8 And I just want to say that it wasn't easy for me  
9 to come out as a lesbian, more so because I did so after  
10 receiving a Bachelor's in Christian education. I had a  
11 really important position in my local church. I was doing  
12 a little bit of everything. I was very well respected, got  
13 married, got divorced. Prior to getting divorced I had two  
14 daughters. And they were already in high school when I  
15 finally said after years, and years, and years of battling  
16 with my orientation and my faith, I finally came out to the  
17 church. I told them I love you all. I love what I do, but  
18 I'm a lesbian. I can't create a way. I can't find therapy  
19 to help me, you know, if that was an answer. I tried  
20 everything.

21 I went through moments of depression, sadness,  
22 and fear, a lot, a lot of fear. What if people find out?  
23 There goes my position in church, there goes my reputation,  
24 there goes everything else.

25 Finally, when I came out at the age of 50, I was

1 trying to find a group, a support more than anything, and  
2 so I called the local college with has an LGBTQ club. I  
3 called some friends who were part of the community, but I  
4 couldn't find there what I was looking for, and it was  
5 people to communicate with, talk to, about why it took me  
6 so long to come out, what do we do now?

7 I know that there's a party scene. I don't want  
8 to be part of that. I want to be part of the educational  
9 support. And part of my life -- most of my life was  
10 serving. I wanted to serve. Where do I serve? Where do I  
11 go to give the support that I'm looking for right now, and  
12 there was, unfortunately, nothing. Here we are in a --  
13 Butte County I think is the ninth biggest county in  
14 California, but we're so divided because we're an  
15 agricultural area where to get to the next town you go  
16 through miles and miles of cattle, and fields, and carrots,  
17 and lettuce, and watermelon until you hit the next town.  
18 So, where do I go? I'm from Brawley, so the biggest  
19 cities, Calexico, El Centrol where some of the stuff --  
20 some stuff was happening. It wasn't easy to get there.

21 I couldn't find that support, so, what did I do?  
22 What I felt I was meant to do, and that was start my own  
23 support group, not knowing if anybody was going to show up.  
24 I put it out in the local paper. First thing I ever read  
25 anything about this population, LGBT, but I was still a

1 coward. I used my middle name instead of my first name,  
2 because people don't know my middle name. So, I put my  
3 middle name out there saying, hey, you're invited to an  
4 LGBT support group. They won't know that it's me. And  
5 that's how scary it was.

6 So, here we have our first meeting and didn't  
7 know if anybody would show up. There was no confirmation.  
8 It was on a Tuesday evening. The door opened at 6:30, the  
9 support group starts at 7:00. I sat there on an empty  
10 stage with some chairs in a circle not knowing if within  
11 the next half an hour those chairs would be -- I would see  
12 somebody sitting in those chairs.

13 And to my surprise, people who are HIV positive,  
14 people who are married, people who are cohabitating, same  
15 sex partners, they came to the support group and I was,  
16 wow. This is amazing.

17 But all I knew is what I knew in my personal  
18 experience, and that was scripture and gospel music, and  
19 what do I tell them. So, I told them my story, and six  
20 months later after telling them my story, they said this is  
21 what we need. We need HIV support groups. We need  
22 transgender services. We need lesbian groups. We need --  
23 and I was like, aye yi yi. I wasn't ready for all these  
24 meetings. I thought you guys would be pointing me to the  
25 places where I can get the support. They didn't have it.

1           So, I called local agencies asking what do you  
2 offer the LGBT population. Well, everything is on paper,  
3 but nothing was in action. Everything was, oh, we're still  
4 working on it. After 10 years you're still working on it.  
5 It's a shame.

6           I can't send people who are seeking transgender  
7 services to this place, or that place, or the other, so I  
8 make connections with San Diego. I make connections with  
9 Palm Springs. I go with where they have. And how can we  
10 get that started here?

11           Little by little, with the help of those who are  
12 coming to the support group, we started getting things  
13 done. And here we are six years later, the LGBT Resource  
14 Center, which still, and I'm so glad that Rebekah has  
15 shared how LGBTQ politicians and leaders have come forward  
16 to support. Imperial County still lacks those leaders.

17           Just recently we had our lavender graduation this  
18 past Saturday and as new CEO of the El Centro Chamber of  
19 Commerce happens to be a married gay man and he came and  
20 introduced himself to us, and he says I'm here to help.  
21 Wow, that doesn't happen often.

22           So, what I'm saying is that this local -- this  
23 rural community needs a lot of help. It has a high  
24 unemployment rate. We serve many people who are  
25 undocumented. We're actually helping immigrants who are

1 being housed at different hotels because -- and they're  
2 calling on us to assist with that. There is just so much  
3 work that needs to be done. But when it comes to the LGBTQ  
4 services, this is -- this place, the Resource Center, is  
5 where we can provide information, support groups. Support  
6 groups that were nonexistent in Imperial County are now  
7 happening here. A lot of one-on-one counseling, HIV  
8 testing and then treatment after we get a positive test and  
9 so forth. And we cannot do it without the support of local  
10 politicians and government.

11           So, this is why I think it's very important how  
12 we move forward. And still the stigma. Still many  
13 politicians and leaders in the county don't want to be  
14 familiarized with our population, but we're getting there  
15 little by little. We're getting there. Thank you.

16           COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you so much for  
17 telling your story and also raising our awareness of how  
18 different it is to come out in rural community versus urban  
19 centers.

20           MS. DIAZ: Right.

21           COMMISSIONER SINAY: We need to take a break at  
22 2:30. Paul, how long is your presentation?

23           MR. MITCHELL: I can swing that.

24           COMMISSIONER SINAY: You can swing that?

25           MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, sure.

1           COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. So, I think what  
2 we'll do is we'll have Mr. Mitchell do his presentation,  
3 and then we'll take our break and come back so we can have  
4 a conversation. Sound good?

5           MR. MITCHELL: Great.

6           COMMISSIONER SINAY: All right. I see a lot of  
7 heads nodding.

8           All yours, Paul.

9           MR. MITCHELL: Thank you very much. I'm going to  
10 start up the PowerPoint and move you guys over here so I  
11 can look at you while I talk.

12           Thanks for having me here today. Paul Mitchell  
13 with Redistricting Partners. We're working with the  
14 Equality California and a number of LGBTQ groups around the  
15 country, actually, this year in redistricting efforts. The  
16 work that your Commission sparked in 2011 has definitely  
17 expanded from its early days in San Diego up to the State  
18 Commission, a lot of local governments, and out now  
19 nationally.

20           So, I'm going to go through a few points, but,  
21 first, while I was waiting and we had plenty of public  
22 comment, including from two former commissioners, I was  
23 reminded of the last Commission. And I did a little math  
24 while I was waiting and it looked like that the last  
25 Commission from the time they first met to the time they

1 finished was 243 days, and you have 244 days left -- that  
2 was 243 days from them being formed to adopting final  
3 lines. You've been in place for 244 days, and you have 248  
4 days left. So, if it feels like you're halfway done, that  
5 might actually be the case.

6           But to this topic, the work that we did in 2011,  
7 it really was developing a COI tool before there was a COI  
8 tool. We built data to provide the Commission with  
9 information that could be put on the maps, with heat maps  
10 and data down to the census block level to help them  
11 identify in the public hearings where that LGBTQ population  
12 was. And that mapping was then supplemented by the  
13 testimony from the public, which is so invaluable in terms  
14 of really putting a face to the issues and being able to  
15 hear the stories like the stories you've heard today from  
16 members of the LGBTQ community around the state.

17           It's important that when you're listening to  
18 communities of interest and there's definitely a lot of  
19 this within the LGBTQ community, that you look at where  
20 they're geographically identified, their cohesiveness, how  
21 tight knit the community is, how much they vote in tandem,  
22 how much their issues are related to one another, and then  
23 how those issues are impacted by federal and state elected  
24 officials and their policymaker. It's those three things  
25 that really make the testimony powerful and can supplement

1 the data.

2           The dataset we built, and will be building a  
3 similar dataset this cycle, included a number of different  
4 elements in order to create essentially a blended or  
5 synthetic metric to put into maps and allow the Commission  
6 to identify the population. That included membership of  
7 LGBTQ organizations. It included the state's domestic  
8 partner database, which until recently if you were under 65  
9 and a domestic partner it was only for same sex couples.  
10 It included political donations against Prop. 8 and Prop.  
11 22. It included some data from the census which we would  
12 love to work with the Commission to try to improve around  
13 same sex heads of household, and that data comes in from  
14 the census at the census tract level.

15           It also included a thing called POSSLQ, and  
16 POSSLQ is an old algorithm that census created in the  
17 1970's when they were trying to identify opposite sex  
18 cohabitating households, unmarried couplies. But that same  
19 metric can be used to identify same sex cohabitating  
20 households, and to use those algorithms on a voter file  
21 stripped of any partisanship or any other information, but  
22 simply looking at the composition of those households and  
23 then mapping that.

24           And so, in total we were able to develop in 2011  
25 something that was roughly a million different data points

1 in order to create this blend, and then again, map it and  
2 show it and have community of interest testimony around it.

3 So, in 2021 we do have the opportunity for  
4 potentially some additional data points, but again, we  
5 might look to the Commission and the way that you have and  
6 pull you have potentially with the census to try to improve  
7 this.

8 There is census tract information on same sex  
9 couples, both married and unmarried, in the American  
10 community survey. It's at the census tract level, which as  
11 you'll learn as you go from the census tract to the block  
12 group, to the block, it's harder to really manipulate that  
13 data and make it work in the districting context when it  
14 comes in those really big census tract level data.

15 The data from the decennial census also has  
16 household characteristics that will identify same sex  
17 households, but that is not going to come in the PL file or  
18 the legacy files. It's supposed to come in a supplemental  
19 file called the householder characteristics, which last we  
20 heard from the census might come a month or two after we  
21 receive the actual redistricting dataset. So, we might ask  
22 your help to try to push that up, if possible.

23 Like I said earlier, the original COI tool  
24 essentially was the LGBTQ dataset, the first general  
25 statewide mapping of a community of interest outside of

1 census datasets that are normally used in a statewide  
2 context for redistricting. And these allowed us to create  
3 essentially heat maps around the state to identify where  
4 this population is. And that data and those numbers are  
5 critical in the process.

6 But what's even more critical is really thinking  
7 about the LGBTQ community and its need to be really  
8 elevated as a community of interest.

9 So, the LGBTQ community is protected by the Civil  
10 Rights Act, and that Civil Rights Act protection was  
11 extended in the recent Supreme Court case.

12 And the principles of the Voting Rights Act,  
13 which only applies to ethnic minorities, can extend when  
14 you think about those principles to some of the  
15 characteristics of the LGBTQ population, and I want to kind  
16 of go through these a little bit first.

17 So, in 1982, a extension of the Federal Voting  
18 Rights Act made these points really the rationale for why  
19 we have the Voting Rights Act, why we need, say, Section 2  
20 protections or protections under Section 5 of the Voting  
21 Rights Act.

22 So, that includes history of official  
23 discrimination. And we heard Jeremy talking about the  
24 Briggs Act, the Prop. 22, Prop. 8 and that there's still  
25 national and statewide attempts to restrict LGBTQ rights.

1           Voting being polarized, and as we know, issues  
2 like Prop. 8, Prop. 22, obviously there's been polarized  
3 voting, and then there have been other measures around the  
4 country that have had really severe polarized voting based  
5 on LGBTQ populations. The group is discriminated against  
6 in socioeconomic areas such as education, employment and  
7 health. And, again, as Jeremy pointed out, that these are  
8 still continuing and in specific areas of transgender  
9 healthcare and active bills in the Legislature to address  
10 issues of that disparity.

11           Overt or subtle appeals against discriminated  
12 groups in campaigns. We saw this as recently as the last  
13 election cycle with a candidate for Congress being attacked  
14 by a sitting and still sitting member of Congress for being  
15 gay, in California in 2020.

16           So, that still happens, and that's not even --  
17 that's the overt discrimination and appeals to  
18 discriminated groups and campaigns. But there's tons of  
19 other subtle appeals.

20           The extent to which communities have won  
21 elections. I'll tell you, hearing today from Harvey Milk  
22 forward there have been a lot of examples of the community  
23 being able to elect a candidate of their choice when  
24 districts empower them and when they're drawn in a way to  
25 make sure that their voice is not silenced.

1           And then finally, the degree to which elected  
2 officials have been unresponsive. And we see this in the  
3 continued criminalization of HIV, the transgender  
4 healthcare and violence concerns, and I'm just going to  
5 tell a personal story.

6           I was a legislative staffer, and it wasn't that  
7 long ago that I was a legislative staffer in a meeting with  
8 Democrats, a leadership meeting, where one of the  
9 legislators, not currently still in office, but one of the  
10 legislators stood up and was talking about a bill that was  
11 coming up that day and said, "I don't want to vote for one  
12 God damn more Mark Leno gay marriage bill." And this was  
13 in California, and this was modern times. And the fact  
14 that we still have elected officials, statewide, federal  
15 and local that are unresponsive to the needs of this  
16 community is a further reason why this needs to be an  
17 elevated community of interest.

18           And this Commission broke ground. In 2011 when  
19 we came forward your Commissioners and your demographer,  
20 Karin MacDonald, were extremely responsive to this need in  
21 this community and to the idea that they could work with us  
22 to make sure that this data around the community could be  
23 exposed and be made available in the districting process,  
24 and to invite testimony from this community.

25           And that has continued to this day. This current

1 Commission should be praised. Several members already have  
2 been outspoken about this issue and have said in, you know,  
3 not subtle words that they're going to fight to make sure  
4 that the communities like the LGBTQ community are empowered  
5 through this districting process.

6 So, with that, I want to thank you for having us,  
7 and I know we need to have a break, and I left you one  
8 minute, Commissioner Sinay.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: You practiced well. Thank  
10 you, Paul. Commissioner Fernandez -- I mean Chair  
11 Fernandez, I will give it back to you.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, we are going to go  
13 ahead and go to break, and if everybody can be back at 2:45  
14 and we can continue on with questions. Thank you.

15 (Off the record at 2:29 p.m.)

16 (On the record at 2:45 p.m.)

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Welcome back, everyone, and we  
18 will continue on with the LGBTQ panel, and at this point we  
19 are at -- do any commissioners have questions?  
20 Commissioner Sinay, did you want to go ahead and facilitate  
21 that or --

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I can do that. Neal, unless  
23 you want to jump in.

24 I do want to acknowledge that this panel was put  
25 together by Commissioner Fornaciari and I. Sorry to call

1 you Neal. And who has questions, or comments, or thoughts?

2 Yes, Commissioner Toledo.

3 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I'm curious. This is for  
4 Mr. Mitchell. So you talk about an enhanced community of  
5 interest for the LGBTQ community, and considering the  
6 community through the lens of shall we say a heightened  
7 community of interest. But you also talked about the VRA  
8 and how it might extend to or some of the analyses extend  
9 to the LGBTQ community. I'm wondering if you know of any  
10 precedence across the country where that's been done?

11 MR. MITCHELL: No. So, I think that there are  
12 parallels in the concepts that underlie the undergirding of  
13 the VRA and why protected classes need that protection, and  
14 what defines them, and how they're different than other  
15 kinds of communities of interest.

16 And, obviously, with the Voting Rights Act there  
17 will be a time at which you'll look to your Voting Rights  
18 Act legal counsel and say can we or are we required to  
19 regarding these districts actually consider race in a way  
20 that you wouldn't normally be able to do because of the  
21 Voting Rights Act.

22 This will be a different situation in that the  
23 LGBTQ community you can draw districts while looking  
24 straight into the LGBTQ community and drawing districts to  
25 maximize their voting power without the same kind of

1 complications that you have with the Voting Rights Act.

2           But I think the simple point, and we've talked  
3 with legal counsel, and some of the people who come and  
4 testify before your Commission, testing about the VRA,  
5 we've talked to them about the fact that some of the same  
6 arguments that bolstered, especially in those 1982  
7 amendments, that bolster the need for majority, minority  
8 districts, that those same kind of principles can apply to  
9 other kinds of communities of interest, and it just happens  
10 that the LGBTQ community almost checks all of those boxes.

11           COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you.

12           COMMISSIONER SINAY: Anyone else? Commissioner  
13 Sadhwani.

14           COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sure, thank you, and  
15 thank you to all of the panelists who are here today. This  
16 is super-informative, and I actually teach a class in  
17 California politics and really already thinking about  
18 different ways, much of the information I can use in the  
19 classroom in the future. So, thank you for that.

20           I just want to kind of follow up on this thought  
21 process around the VRA. And when we go about doing our  
22 work, thinking about LGBTQ communities as communities of  
23 interest I think certainly there's many parallels as to  
24 protected communities under the VRA.

25           And yet at the same time, while there are certain

1 areas where we see compactness in the LGBTQ community,  
2 there's also LGBTQ folks living everywhere across the  
3 state.

4           How do we -- what advice do you have for us as we  
5 proceed over the next several months at thinking about  
6 outside of those kind of key areas that you outline where  
7 there are concentrated communities or compactness as we  
8 might think about some of your perspective, how should we  
9 go about approaching those communities as well if we want  
10 to consider them as communities of interest?

11           MR. MITCHELL: Well, I'll dive in here first.  
12 But first off, you're right that the idea around these  
13 communities of interest is that if you can draw them into a  
14 district wherein you're maximizing their ability to elect a  
15 candidate of choice and you're putting a community of  
16 interest into an area, that geographic compactness is  
17 really valuable, and insofar as certainly communities, it's  
18 not just LGBTQ communities, but other communities, even the  
19 African-American community in California, you see it's  
20 dispersed more through the state than it used to be. And  
21 it really is true.

22           In fact, one of the books that I have on my shelf  
23 is called, "Mapping Gay LA," and this was an old book that  
24 you can borrow if you want to use it for one of your  
25 classes. But it looked at the creation of gayborhoods and

1 the fact that they existed in part because the community  
2 felt as though they could be themselves. They felt as  
3 though they could be protected, and there was a necessity  
4 in certain areas for those gayborhoods to really come up.  
5 And as the state, this state in particular, has become more  
6 affirming of the LGBTQ community it has caused more people  
7 either (a) to disperse, or simply more people in more rural  
8 communities to be willing to be themselves. One of those  
9 two or both of those kinds of things have allowed for more  
10 dispersed population.

11           So, I think you're going to find this challenge  
12 in almost everything that you're doing. You're going to  
13 find communities that spread beyond their historic bases,  
14 and part of the job is going to be to identify where  
15 they're geographically dense, how you can protect them, and  
16 in areas where they're not geographically dense, how and  
17 where you balance the needs of protecting those communities  
18 with other communities of interest.

19           So, it really is kind of the art of this process,  
20 and it's why that COI tool that has been developed, even  
21 before you guys got seated, that COI tool is going to be  
22 really critical and testimony is going to be really  
23 critical. Because it's real easy to just kind of not see  
24 some of these populations in rural communities. The Inland  
25 Empire is an example. But they're there and they should be

1 a part of the conversation.

2           COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, Jane -- I mean  
3 Commissioner Andersen.

4           COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. That sort of  
5 leads directly into my question also. A lot of these,  
6 they're clearly communities of interest. There's no  
7 question. But a lot of them, the smaller communities of  
8 interest, particularly in rural areas, in other areas, you  
9 know, you say, well, we have to identify. It's very, very  
10 hard. Can we use leverages of your groups to help bring  
11 all these people forward and use our -- you know, we're  
12 advertising the community of interest tool because that way  
13 if we can get -- the more people we can get, including the  
14 LGBTQ community, to use that tool, it has a spot to give  
15 testimony on it. And it's involved in the first draft of  
16 our maps. You don't have to wait for the second draft.  
17 You can put it in now.

18           But if you can -- I really appreciate where  
19 everyone is coming from and the hard road that has come  
20 down. And to come forth within the public with our group,  
21 it is just monumental. It's wonderful. And if we can  
22 continue to have your participation to help us identify all  
23 the different communities and have everyone come and use  
24 our COI tool. I'm hoping that -- and is your -- the data  
25 that you've already been using, is that also compatible

1 with our community of interest tool, or do we have to also  
2 process it to intubate it?

3 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. I think Jeremy can talk a  
4 little bit about what they're going to be doing to try to  
5 work around the state to get people participate with the  
6 COI tool. On the data side, it is absolutely something  
7 that can be drawn down to the census block level and then  
8 utilized kind of as a layer of the COI tool, or in the  
9 future there could be some integration with that, and we're  
10 happy to provide that.

11 We're also going to be working with other  
12 vendors. As you know, there are other mapping tools, and  
13 your Commission has the technical capability to pull in  
14 information from other mapping tools as well, and we'll be  
15 working with them.

16 So, Jeremy might be able to speak to the  
17 engagement that they're expecting from members of --

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. I do understand.  
19 I'd love to hear from Jeremy. One quick thing. There is  
20 one issue. There are many, many other mapping tools, but  
21 the community of interest tool, it doesn't have to have the  
22 reprocess. The information goes directly into our line  
23 drawers can then grab that. So, I'm sort of trying to  
24 promote a little bit more, make sure everyone is aware of  
25 that additional step of data management which is required

1 by us.

2 But, now, please, Jeremy, Mr. Payne, go ahead and  
3 please, we'd love to hear your ideas.

4 MR. PAYNE: Absolutely. Equality California has  
5 a long history of nonpartisan civic engagement among the  
6 LGBTQ+ community. It's really grounded in our mission of  
7 developing the people power, making sure that the grass  
8 roots is leading the charge.

9 And so, Equality California served as potentially  
10 a state convenor of LGBTQ+ orientations around the state.  
11 Not so much the kind of authoritative rule, but just in  
12 kind of we have relationships with LGBTQ+ orientations  
13 large and small in the rural pockets of our state. And we  
14 will be working with them so they understand the value and  
15 importance of engaging in their local communities.

16 We are a trusted messenger, Equality California,  
17 to the LGBTQ+ community, but these local LGBTQ+ resource  
18 centers are the true trusted messengers, and they can speak  
19 and vouch for the importance of getting involved in this  
20 local redistricting commission, or locally involved in the  
21 California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

22 So, when it comes to community input and  
23 organizing and being a part in participating in a COI tool,  
24 this is something that we will be advocating for and making  
25 sure that all partners are educated and involved, so our

1 communities can be as dialed in and participate as much as  
2 possible, giving public comment, participating in the COI  
3 tool, anything they can do to be a part of the process is  
4 what we are aiming for.

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Jeremy. Rebekah  
6 or Rosa, would you like to add anything from kind of the  
7 local perspective on how you were thinking about  
8 redistricting and engaging your local communities in the  
9 effort?

10 MS. DIAZ: When it comes to reaching out to those  
11 towns that are still far from the cities, the main cities  
12 being Brawley, El Centro and Calexico, we helped with the  
13 census. We're now helping with COVID vaccinations. And  
14 one of the things that we're able to do is go out into  
15 those rural communities, set up some type of kiosk or  
16 resource table, put up our flags and provide information in  
17 both English and Spanish to the community.

18 I think that communication is extremely important  
19 when it comes to change in our communities. Many people go  
20 about their day-to-day and they're not informed. And this  
21 is where we step in and provide that information, even in  
22 how we've impacted our community with the services and the  
23 identities and orientation which was -- for many in our  
24 community it just wasn't a topic of conversation. Here we  
25 are now in local parades, marching with our rainbow flag,

1 our trans flag, our queer flag, and you should see people  
2 in the community. They don't know whether to applaud or  
3 question. There's so many different reactions. Some  
4 people really give us a lot of hooray when we go by on  
5 these parades that are so very conservative.

6           So, what I'm saying is that it takes a group of  
7 people who knows the community to go out there and  
8 communicate and disperse the information, and I think that  
9 that is one thing that we've been pretty powerful in. So,  
10 definitely communication, information, and getting trusted  
11 messengers to help with that.

12           COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Rosa, and I know  
13 that you've invited the Commission to do a presentation to  
14 your volunteers next week, or later this week, so, thank  
15 you.

16           Rebekah.

17           MS. HOOK-HELD: The only other thing I would add,  
18 and it's also a sort of slight echo, is it's about breaking  
19 down what you all are doing. I think part of it is, you  
20 know, we go about our daily lives. We're not quite sure,  
21 you know, unless you're really into this work or you work  
22 in this work it's not really on your radar, especially as  
23 we come out of the pandemic.

24           And, so, the Center really sees our role as a  
25 conduit of really digestible information, and connecting

1 people to know how to engage.

2           So, you know, as you all are talking about this  
3 tool, you know, I'm thinking about, well, how do we even  
4 tell people what the tool is, how to open it, how to walk  
5 through it.

6           I know these are all things you're thinking  
7 about, too, because we're not the only community of  
8 interest, but we ran into similar things with the census.  
9 We ran into the similar things when it came to, you know,  
10 the election primary date changing to March, right.  
11 Because these are things that I as a community trusted  
12 messenger we're used to leaning into and saying, new  
13 update. Here's the next time for civic engagement for you  
14 to participate and here's how.

15           And the other is, is that, you know, Paul, you're  
16 speaking my language. We really love data, and, so, you  
17 know the Center has a robust data file and a voter file  
18 that we plan on utilizing to really turn out people and  
19 connect with them on about what's at stake, where their  
20 neighborhood is at and connecting them to access and  
21 information, how to utilize the tool.

22           And, so, I think that part of it is taking from  
23 broad strokes in general communications and also then  
24 dialing down to our communities of interest, saying -- you  
25 know, not sounding the alarm, just saying like the time is

1 now to speak up and have their voice heard when it comes to  
2 redistricting and being represented at all levels of  
3 government.

4           The other thing I'll slightly just add is that,  
5 you know, we're not just talking about the state, and maybe  
6 the county and local civil levels. You know, we're really  
7 thinking about how school districts represent us and what  
8 does that really look like. We're thinking about the  
9 community college school district and what does that really  
10 look like in terms of representation. And, so, I talked  
11 about how the LGBTQ community in San Diego has been doing  
12 this for a while, and in that we're able to grow into where  
13 we're really able to focus and try to flex our muscles a  
14 little bit.

15           COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Rebekah. Anyone  
16 else have any questions? Yes, Commissioner Kennedy.  
17 You're on mute, Commissioner Kennedy.

18           COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Sorry about  
19 that. Going to Commissioner Sadhwani's point earlier, you  
20 know, Palm Springs is probably the example in California of  
21 a compact LGBTQ community to the point that the entire City  
22 Council was LGBTQ at one point for a short time until the  
23 city went to district election, you know. So, I guess, you  
24 know, that begs the question if you've got, you know, a  
25 compact but smallish community not big enough to constitute

1 even an assembly district of 400,000 and some, you know,  
2 then what are we looking at doing.

3 And, you know, I just also wanted to take the  
4 opportunity to thank Jeremy, Rebekah, Rosa and Paul for  
5 your presentations and your work. I only wish our friend  
6 George Zander could have lived to see you addressing the  
7 Commission today.

8 And to Rebekah and Rosa in particular, you know,  
9 you always have, and this is not to disrespect any of my  
10 colleagues, but if you want to request a particular  
11 commissioner to address a group at the center, that's part  
12 of our speaker request form. So, feel free to request  
13 someone even if they're not your assigned outreach zone  
14 commissioner. Thanks.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, Commissioner Toledo.

16 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Just curious. In thinking  
17 about Commissioner Kennedy and Commissioner Sadhwani's  
18 point about, you know, communities of interest and just the  
19 size of the LGBTQ community, I'm wondering, has there been  
20 work done to potentially do community-type or unity-type of  
21 mapping with the LGBTQ community and other groups? I don't  
22 know what those groups might be or who they might be, but  
23 other historically excluded groups?

24 MR. MITCHELL: I think Jeremy might be able to  
25 speak to that. Equality California is part of the IVE

1 Alliance, correct, Jeremy?

2 MR. PAYNE: Yes. We are a member of the IVE  
3 Redistricting Alliance, working alongside a number of  
4 community-based organizations that are not LGBTQ+  
5 themselves, but work within other marginalized communities  
6 to make sure we uplift and elevate all voices. That's  
7 important to Equality California as was mentioned a couple  
8 of times that the LGBTQ+ community is not a monolith  
9 identity. When we uplift our Black community, we uplift  
10 the LGBTQ+ community and vice versa.

11 And, so, we understand the value of lifting up  
12 all marginalized communities that have not had as much  
13 representation in the redistricting process, and so we are  
14 honored to be part of the IVE Redistricting Alliance that's  
15 helped form maps and ideas that benefit, hopefully the  
16 LGBTQ+ community, but all communities are actually  
17 representative of the communities we're working in, so,  
18 yeah, we are actively working alongside others to kind of  
19 best strategize on how we develop our COIs and go from  
20 there.

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, Commissioner Turner.

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. I wanted to  
23 start out again by thanking all of you. Thank you Jeremy,  
24 Rebekah, Rosa and Paul for your presentation today.

25 I wanted to go back. Rebekah, when you were

1 talking earlier, it's kind of where I've been hanging out,  
2 too. Yes. We want to teach the folks how to use the COI  
3 tool, and access it and all those other things. And I  
4 think going a step beyond to the degree we're certainly  
5 looking at it as a Commission, but as I'm in conversations  
6 with other community groups, to the degree that you can  
7 take the importance and the lived experience of individuals  
8 you've represented and encourage or come up via TikTok, via  
9 the infographic, something that would be specific to you  
10 constitutes that's following you. And I'm saying that  
11 matter for everyone that's watching the hearing.

12           It would be so important for people to say not  
13 just submit or in addition to submitting COI in your  
14 neighborhood and what's important, play it out a little bit  
15 further and talk about what happens if you participate and  
16 if you do not participate. What are some scenarios that,  
17 you know, how you may have your voice muted as opposed to  
18 how you'll be able to garner more power, et cetera? And I  
19 think as that's done in fun ways, everything is on social  
20 media right now. And I think it would be something that's  
21 engaging and people will actually pay attention to a little  
22 bit more if it's being shared in that manner and people go,  
23 oh, yes, I do want to take the time to do a COI, but now I  
24 understand why and the difference it can make for me and  
25 the folks that's near and dear to my heart.

1 MS. HOOK-HELD: I really appreciate that,  
2 Commissioner Turner, and, you know, to really underscore,  
3 we -- you know, I think we all live intersectional lives in  
4 some aspects, right. And, so, one of the things, you know,  
5 we're really hoping to do is to peel that back a little  
6 bit, you know, to say that, yes, the LGBT representation is  
7 important, but we also know there's lots of other things  
8 that are important, lots of other pieces of your identity  
9 that are important to be represented through this process  
10 as well. And, so it's that collaboration, and to make it  
11 fun. I think we're a bunch of geeks right now, nerding out  
12 about redistricting. But to bring that to their level  
13 about why it matters and how to engage it in a fun way, I  
14 appreciate that.

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Sadhwani, you  
17 just had your hand up? No, okay. Anyone else?

18 Well, thank you so much, Rebekah, and Rosa, and  
19 Jeremy and Paul. It's been great having you. You've given  
20 us some good food for thought, and I'm sure you will all  
21 continue to be engaged in our process and bring many behind  
22 you. This is the time to start having the conversations  
23 that communities of interest and having people think about  
24 how they want to identify their communities and let us  
25 know.

1 Thank you again, and have a great day.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, thank you so much.

3 MS. HOOK-HELD: Thank you so much for the  
4 invitation.

5 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

6 MR. PAYNE: Take care. Have a great rest of your  
7 week.

8 MS. DIAZ: Thank you.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, now, I did see Eric  
10 was logged in somewhere and Karin is, too. Okay.

11 So, next --

12 MR. MCGHEE: Yes, I'm here.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: You're there, Eric. I saw you  
14 come and go, and Karin too as well.

15 Thank you so much. We're going to move on to  
16 Agenda Item 14, which is the Demographic Shift Panel. I  
17 will pass it on to Commissioner Sadhwani and is it Yee?  
18 Yes, okay, good. Thank you.

19 And thank you both for being here today.

20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Commissioner Yee, do you  
21 want to introduce our panel?

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'll defer to you.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, okay. Well, we are  
24 very excited to welcome Eric McGhee from the Public Policy  
25 Institute of California, and our line drawer, or the head

1 of our line drawing team, Karin MacDonald as well to join  
2 us this afternoon.

3           As we have reported for some time, surely for  
4 quite some time, we had a chance to connect with the Public  
5 Policy Institute of California, and they graciously offered  
6 to provide an update on some of the trends that we've been  
7 seeing in terms of California's demographic change over the  
8 last ten years. We had started, I think, having this  
9 conversation back in December and we now actually, of  
10 course, know and have the reapportionment data that was  
11 released yesterday. So, certainly I think this is a timely  
12 -- timely conversation as we await the actual redistricting  
13 data.

14           So, I'm going to pass it over to Eric to begin,  
15 and he's going to provide the analysis from PPIC, and then  
16 Karin is here also to help kind of frame this information.  
17 So, as we learn more about the data trends that we're  
18 seeing in California, Karin from the perspective of our  
19 line drawer will kind of help frame this in terms of what  
20 kinds of things we might be thinking about in terms of our  
21 outreach and provide some potential recommendations for us  
22 as well.

23           So, Eric, can I pass it over to you?

24           MR. MCGHEE: For sure. Thank you so much.

25 Thanks, everyone for having me today. I'm going to try to

1 share my screen and see that this works. All right. Can  
2 everyone see that?

3 COMMISSIONER YEE: Perfect.

4 MR. MCGHEE: Is that good? Okay.

5 So, this is work that I put together with my  
6 colleague, Jennifer Paluch, at Public Policy Institute of  
7 California, and we're going to be presenting some maps of  
8 population change in California from 2010 through 2019.  
9 And this was originally the Commission asked us to ask for  
10 sense where outreach might be most effective to sort of  
11 plan outreach. I think these maps also may be helpful just  
12 as kind of background information about how the sort of the  
13 state's -- the geography of the state's population has  
14 changed over the last, you know, almost 10 years. So,  
15 hopefully, it will have those dual purposes.

16 So, the first question is what are we mapping?  
17 So, what we mapped out was total population, which means  
18 we're including children and noncitizens here because we  
19 wanted to get a total sense of what a community was like  
20 and how large it was.

21 And then we're having -- we're going to break  
22 down that total population for three separate groups.  
23 We're going to have the Latino share of that total  
24 population, the Asian share of that total population and  
25 then the Black or African-American share of that total

1 population in each case.

2           Where are we getting this information from?

3 Well, for the starting point in 2010, we're using the  
4 decennial census, so the actual enumeration. In 2019,  
5 we're using the American Community Survey, and I think you  
6 guys maybe at this point are a little familiar with what  
7 the American Community Survey is, but I just wanted to  
8 emphasize that it is a survey, so the smaller the unit of  
9 geography that you're working with, the smaller the sample  
10 size and the wider the -- larger the margin of error is  
11 around your estimate. So, you can only kind of drill down  
12 so far with the ACS before you start having to make some  
13 tradeoffs.

14           And, so, we chose these particular datasets to  
15 try and offer the best balance of having both the latest  
16 data, the most recent information, and the smallest level  
17 of geography. So, we could show you block groups, a very  
18 small level of geography with the ACS, but then we'd have  
19 to use five-year averages, so we wouldn't be showing you  
20 2019. We'd be showing you 2015 through 2019, and we'd be  
21 blurring some change that's been happening over the last  
22 few years in California. Certainly, the population of  
23 California has slowed down just in the last few years.

24           We could also tell you it's a single year of the  
25 ACS, but then we've got to go up to a slightly higher level

1 of aggregation to the PUMA level. And so we decided to  
2 choose that as a kind of an optimal tradeoff to provide the  
3 most information and the most recent data.

4           So, but wait a minute. What's a PUMA? Well,  
5 yes, it's a large cat, but in this case that's not what  
6 we're talking about. We're talking about a public use  
7 microdata area. This is the census unit. It's a physical  
8 unit. The census as created consists of at least 100,000  
9 people. In California we have 265 PUMAs with a median  
10 population of around 140,000 people.

11           Now, PUMAs are bad for drawing lines because  
12 they're too high level of aggregation. They can't give you  
13 the level of geographic detail that you need for the line  
14 drawing process.

15           However, they can be useful for mapping out some  
16 of the broader demographic patterns which is what we want  
17 to do here today.

18           The final little nuance before I go into the maps  
19 is how do we define race and ethnicity, because the census  
20 allows people to identify more than one race and ethnicity.  
21 So, for our purposes here we wanted to be -- when we are  
22 describing any given group we wanted to be as inclusive as  
23 possible. So, anyone -- when we talk about Latino, we're  
24 talking about anyone who identifies as Hispanic, no matter  
25 what their race or ethnicity is otherwise. When we're

1 talking about Asian or Black African-American it's anyone  
2 identifying with these groups alone or in combination with  
3 some other group.

4           So, there may be overlap between these groups,  
5 and if you summed them all up they would sum to more than a  
6 hundred percent, but we wanted to provide -- they're not a  
7 huge amount of overlap like Asian, Black African-American,  
8 but there's enough, and we wanted to show sort of the best  
9 sense of how many people in that community, at least in  
10 part, identify with that particular group, so, there will  
11 be some overlap.

12           So, the first map here is just the total  
13 population change. This is just the percent change in the  
14 2010 raw population number.

15           The main places in the state, and anything that's  
16 blue here is an area that has grown; anything that's yellow  
17 or red, orange-red, has lost population.

18           So, the biggest areas of growth that we see are  
19 around the Inland Empire, like western San Bernardino,  
20 Riverside Counties, the Bay Area, especially sort of the  
21 East Bay and the far South Bay and Sacramento. Those are  
22 the big things. San Diego also has seen some growth as  
23 well.

24           You will also note this kind of amazing little  
25 point here in the north. That's where the campfire

1 happened. That really deeply red area is where the  
2 campfire was, and what this is suggesting is since we have  
3 an area of very high growth just to the west, it suggests  
4 that a lot of the victims of the fire relocated just to the  
5 west of where Paradise was.

6 This is showing the same information from the  
7 previous map, but showing it from kind of -- a little bit  
8 more of a redistricting perspective. So, this is showing  
9 each PUMAs deviation from the statewide total increase in  
10 population. And why this is useful is because areas that  
11 have grown slower than the rest of the state, even if  
12 they've grown, will still need to lose districts to areas  
13 of the state that have grown faster than the state as a  
14 whole.

15 And the big difference between this map and the  
16 previous one is Los Angeles, because Los Angeles is a very  
17 highly populated area, but it has -- and it has, in fact,  
18 grown, so if you look at this map, a lot of LA is blue, and  
19 overall LA has increased a little bit in population, but it  
20 hasn't increased as fast as the rest of the state, and so  
21 it's going to need to lose some districts to other parts of  
22 the state, and in particular, as I mentioned, this Inland  
23 Empire grown area where things have increased quite a bit.

24 Now, before I get into the change, some of the  
25 other change for the racial ethnic groups, I wanted to show

1 sort of what -- where these racial and ethnic groups are  
2 found around the state in 2019. So, this is not a change  
3 graph here. This is just showing in 2019 the Latino share  
4 of the population in each PUMA.

5           The Latino population in California is kind of  
6 everywhere in the state, so there's at least a modest  
7 Latino population in many parts of the state. But the  
8 places with the highest concentrations are in sort of  
9 central Los Angeles and in the Central Valley and Imperial  
10 County, and in the Inland Empire. That's where you see the  
11 sort of the highest concentrations, also kind of the  
12 Midcoast as well.

13           This is the same kind of map for the Asian  
14 population in California, and the Asian population is much  
15 more concentrated than the Latino population. In  
16 particular, you see Asian communities in San Francisco Bay  
17 Area, in the Sacramento region, a little bit in Fresno and  
18 Bakersfield, and then, you know, of course, Los Angeles  
19 County, Orange County and San Diego. So, in other more  
20 rural parts of the state you don't see quite as much.

21           And then finally, the Black or African-American  
22 population. Here it's even more concentrated. It's  
23 largely a story of central LA County, the East Bay of the  
24 San Francisco Bay area, and Sacramento with some also in  
25 San Diego. I think this area out here in the desert may be

1 due to some military bases that are out there, but there is  
2 a slightly higher concentration out in that region, too.

3           Now, how has these populations changed? So, this  
4 is now showing, again, the change in the share of the  
5 population. So, the blue areas are parts of the state  
6 where, in this case, the Latino population share of the  
7 population has grown, and the yellow or orange-red type  
8 areas are where it has shrunk. Keep in mind when you're  
9 looking at this that a population can grow overall and  
10 still decline as a share of the total population. If the  
11 population is growing very fast, and if other groups are  
12 growing still faster. So, the -- again, when we come down  
13 to this growth area in the Inland Empire we see that the  
14 Latino population has been growing a lot there as a share  
15 of the total. It's kind of mixed in LA, and then the thing  
16 that stands out here I think the Bay Area actually has seen  
17 the Latino share decline, and as I'll mention in just a  
18 minute, that's not because the Latino population hasn't  
19 grown in the Bay Area; it just hasn't grown as fast as  
20 other groups. But a lot of the state is blue here.

21           Here's the same for the Asian share of the  
22 population, and here the thing that really stands out is  
23 the Bay Area where it has grown quite a bit, but also some  
24 parts of LA and Orange County we've seen some increase.

25           And then this is the Black African-American

1 population. It's a little bit more of a mixed bag. Some  
2 areas are declined; some areas have increased, not a lot of  
3 areas of significant increase, and actually overall the  
4 Black population has been pretty status quo. So, they're  
5 growing at about the same rate as the rest of the state.

6           So, I'm just going to then show you in a little  
7 more detail some of the -- some of the larger population  
8 centers in the state. So, this is all kind of the  
9 information that I've already presented but just zoomed in.

10           So, this is total population change for LA  
11 County, so a lot of the county has seen some modest  
12 declines, but there has been some pockets of kind of larger  
13 increases just south of the central city, and overall the  
14 county has grown a little bit since 2010.

15           Here's the change in the Latino share of the  
16 population in LA. Again, there are some losses in kind of  
17 the central city and east LA, but they've been offset by  
18 some growth in the far north and in the Compton area. And  
19 overall, Latino's population share in LA has been pretty  
20 stable.

21           And here's the same thing for Asians. It's been  
22 increasing in most parts of LA county, overall increased a  
23 little over one percent.

24           And then finally, the Black African-American  
25 population share has been kind of like it is in the rest of

1 the state, sort of a mixed bag, a little bit of decline  
2 here, a little bit of increase there, but mostly kind of  
3 status quo. There's some, like the area around LAX, has  
4 been an area seen in decline and Santa Monica increase.

5           Then moving on to -- these are zones I, J and K,  
6 if you want those labels. This is kind of the -- this is  
7 the Inland Empire, Orange County, San Diego. There's been  
8 -- this is total population change, and this is one of the  
9 growth areas of the state, as I've said now, about between  
10 five and 10 percent growth, especially in west San  
11 Bernardino and Riverside Counties. So, in comparison with  
12 LA, a lot less population decline than we saw in the LA  
13 map.

14           Here's the Latino share of the population for the  
15 same region. Again, big increases in the Inland Empire  
16 area.

17           The Asian share of the population, the biggest  
18 increases have been in Orange County for the Asian  
19 population where the share has increased by more than five  
20 percent in many PUMAs and by four percent overall.

21           And then the Black African-American population,  
22 again, some places that have seen bigger increases or  
23 larger declines, but overall kind of a status quo.

24           And then, finally, the Bay Area. So, this is the  
25 total population change. You can see that most of the

1 growth in the Bay Area, there's a lot of kind of higher  
2 growth areas, but the areas of the most intense growth have  
3 been kind of out in the Dublin, Pleasanton Area out here,  
4 the like Mission District of San Francisco, Santa Clara and  
5 then some other parts of San Francisco, Oakland and then  
6 the exurbs of San Jose.

7           And then you can see up here in the corner where  
8 Sacramento is also a growth area.

9           And this is what I had mentioned earlier, the  
10 Latino share of the population of area has actually been  
11 declining. While that share has -- it hasn't declined very  
12 much, but it has declined just a little bit. But while the  
13 share has declined, the actual number of Latino residents  
14 has grown about eight percent between 2010 and 2019, but  
15 other groups have grown more within the same period of  
16 time, and they haven't kept the pace with the overall  
17 growth in the Bay Area.

18           And one of those groups that has seen a large  
19 increase is Asians in the Bay Area, so you see a lot of  
20 growth, again, around Santa Clara, and in that Dublin,  
21 Pleasanton area. There's some big boom areas for the Asian  
22 share of the population.

23           And then finally, Black or African-American share  
24 in the Bay Area has -- it's kind of the same story as we've  
25 seen elsewhere, although you will note that Sacramento has

1 been an area of relatively large growth, but overall, kind  
2 of some growth here, some decline there, but status quo  
3 overall.

4           And that is the maps that I have to present  
5 today. So, thank you.

6           COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you so much, Eric,  
7 for presenting all of this information.

8           And I think just as a reminder, I think  
9 Commissioner Yee and I reported this previously. The  
10 purpose of this is not necessarily to have us go down that  
11 --now that we've seen some data. We specifically used the  
12 -- you know, had this overlaid with the zone outreach maps  
13 so that as folks are doing their outreach to different  
14 regions of California you have kind of a sense of what it  
15 is that's going on in those regions, and make sure that  
16 you're hitting on some of those groups that may be growing  
17 that you weren't necessarily aware of that had that kind of  
18 demographic shift.

19           And I'm going to turn now to Karin and let her  
20 just provide a little bit of feedback or thoughts on how we  
21 might be able to use this data as we're moving forward in  
22 our process, some things that we might want to think about,  
23 and then, of course, we'll open it up to questions and  
24 discussion.

25           MS. MacDONALD: Thank you so much, Commissioner

1 Sadhwani, and hello, Commissioners, it's nice to be here  
2 with you. And also, thank you to Eric for making these  
3 really beautiful maps. I think we all love maps and it's  
4 really great to see a different set of data maps, because  
5 usually in redistricting we don't deal with PUMA; we deal  
6 with TIGERS, actually. The TIGER file is the geographic --  
7 the geography of the census department, and they must  
8 really like their animals over there. So, PUMA today, and  
9 thank you again, Eric.

10           There are some reasons, of course, to why we  
11 don't use PUMAs. They are not just too large for  
12 redistricting; they also really vary in population. As  
13 Eric pointed out, PUMAs have a minimum of 100,000 people in  
14 them. They're delineated by the states in collaboration  
15 with the Census Bureau. They basically just serve a  
16 different purpose, and they also have estimate data. So,  
17 these are data, again, that are collected by the American  
18 Community Survey, 300,000 respondents roughly every month  
19 throughout the year, and, you know, sometimes on the local  
20 level. I tell people just because you're getting data from  
21 the ACS for your particular jurisdiction doesn't mean that  
22 anybody in your jurisdiction was actually asked any of  
23 these questions. But that, of course, you know, it's the  
24 law of statistics and all of that. But anyway, something  
25 to keep in mind that these are data and also to keep in

1 mind that very soon you will have data from, you know, the  
2 census, a legacy data set, of course, is coming our way,  
3 even a little bit sooner than we had anticipated, and then  
4 we can look at, you know, race and ethnicity and so forth  
5 on a smaller unit of analysis.

6           Also, good to keep in mind that the population  
7 data totals that we're looking at, actually Eric didn't  
8 map, of course, population totals. He mapped percentages,  
9 which is also a little different from what we usually do in  
10 redistricting. But the population data are going to change  
11 once we get the PL94 in the legacy format, and so we will  
12 have updated data. But having said that, one thing that is  
13 going to stay the same that we already have access to is  
14 the citizen voting age population, which is also collected  
15 by the American Community Survey. But, you know, we're not  
16 going to get a different dataset for our redistricting  
17 purposes. So, that's something to be kept in mind.

18           What you're seeing here, of course, is, you know,  
19 these are wonderfully educational maps. They show you the  
20 way that the populations are shifting. They show you  
21 shares of the population. They show you where something  
22 may be happening with districts. We don't really yet know.  
23 I mean I wouldn't want anybody to start hyperventilating  
24 about potentially losing districts. We don't have that  
25 information really yet. We just, you know, have this like

1 very aggregated information available, but, you know, very  
2 soon we will know which way the districts are shifting.

3           But in any event, we do know something about how  
4 some of the, you know, racial ethnic populations have moved  
5 throughout the state, and that will, of course, potentially  
6 help inform your outreach strategy. I think on some level  
7 this will probably support what you already knew, and that  
8 is also a good thing because it's always good to have  
9 different data, an additional data set that helps you  
10 confirm that you're thinking about things the same way.  
11 And, you know, one thing that you've known, of course, all  
12 along is that in Los Angeles you're going to have to do a  
13 lot of outreach because you have a lot of different  
14 population groups living in very close quarters and, you  
15 know, figuring out whether to draw lines there is not going  
16 to be an easy feat.

17           So, you know, collection of communities of  
18 interest in those areas is very important, and you could  
19 also focus your outreach in some areas where you've seen  
20 the most change.

21           So, with that I think I'll leave it right here  
22 and hope that was helpful, and I'm very happy to take  
23 questions, of course, also.

24           COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Great. Thank you so  
25 much. And, yes, I'm glad that you brought up this question

1 around Los Angeles. I was also very concerned when Eric  
2 and you said given some of the population shifts that that  
3 might lead to losing of seats in Los Angeles because I  
4 think we just haven't done any of that analysis yet, either  
5 with census data or even the community of interest  
6 testimonies that we, of course, are going to go out and  
7 receive.

8 I'm going to open it up now to commissioners for  
9 questions that they might have for Eric or Karin about the  
10 ACS data that's been presented here, as well as potentially  
11 about any of the other data information that's been  
12 trickling through in the last day.

13 COMMISSIONER YEE: Just a couple of thoughts  
14 before going into questions. I wanted to especially thank  
15 Eric and the Public Policy Institute for providing this  
16 analysis free of charge to the Commission, which is a very  
17 great gift to us, and excellent work.

18 Also to mention that we did alert our designated,  
19 but not yet hired, analysts from Strumwasser Woocher Becker  
20 about this presentation and they are listening in as  
21 members of the public for now, but taking in with us what  
22 is I think our first look at actual population data. You  
23 know, these are not the numbers that we're going to draw  
24 lines on. It is our first look at actual populations in  
25 California and starting to get oriented towards areas that

1 pay particular attention to and trends to notice. So,  
2 wanted to mention those things.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Commissioner  
4 Yee. Commissioner Fernandez, I saw your hand up.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Actually, I was going to thank  
6 both Eric and Karin for this information, and I was just  
7 going to ask Eric if he forgot to include Zone D. That one  
8 is mine, obviously. But I just think it is very helpful  
9 even though it is an estimate, it's very -- for me it's  
10 helpful to see where the shifting has been. I mean,  
11 granted, we'll have actual numbers shortly, but I think  
12 visually for me because I've been reading it's shifting,  
13 it's shifting, but it's actually nice when you drill it  
14 down to that level to -- you know, they'll say from LA to  
15 this area, but you actually go down further, so thank you  
16 so much. This is very helpful for me.

17 MR. MCGHEE: Yeah. So, the zoom-ins were just  
18 for the sake of keeping the number of maps from getting too  
19 big. We just focused in on the very highest population  
20 centers of the state.

21 But in the initial maps of the whole state, Zone  
22 D, which I believe is Sacramento and to the east, right,  
23 that's in there. You just have to kind of -- and the PDF  
24 that I shared with the -- I shared this presentation with  
25 the Commission and you should be able to zoom in pretty

1 well and have the maps still be pretty clear. So, the maps  
2 in the PDFs are zoomable in that sense, so hopefully it  
3 will be zoomable enough for you to get a sense of what's  
4 going on in Zone D. So, I'm not trying to leave out any  
5 zones, just trying to present that whole-state perspective  
6 and then just hitting some highlights in some particular  
7 high population centers.

8           COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: It's really helpful, and  
9 certainly in those large population centers I think we'll  
10 have a lot of outreach work to do, that, you know, much of  
11 which we've already begun with a lot of our zone outreach  
12 work, of course.

13           Other commissioners have thoughts or questions?  
14 Commissioner Fornaciari.

15           COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So, the changes in  
16 populations we're seeing on these maps are going to be  
17 reflected in the census data; is that correct?

18           MR. MCGHEE: To the extent that they actually  
19 reflect the changes that you're going to see in the census  
20 data, but as Karin pointed out, you know, you don't know  
21 for sure until you get that file.

22           COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right, because I'm just  
23 -- I live just south of Stockton, and, you know, I'm just  
24 thinking about the COVID migration that's going on right  
25 now that's not going to be reflected in the census data

1 which would -- which would, I think, change this map, you  
2 know, maybe significantly. I don't know for sure, but,  
3 yeah, I'm just wondering where in time this data is from.

4 MR. MCGHEE: So, this is just -- the end point  
5 here is 2019 because we don't actually have the 2020 ACS  
6 yet. So, it's even older than that. It's entirely  
7 prepandemic. So, for sure you don't want to say too much  
8 about how things might have changed between then and the  
9 time of, you know, the April 1st census day, but also, you  
10 know, anything that might have happened while after that as  
11 a result of the pandemic, you know, for sure there's lots  
12 of uncertainty here. This is just kind of presenting the  
13 latest detailed geographic data that we can get our hands  
14 on.

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Commissioner Sinay.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: You had mentioned military  
18 base on one of the maps. I'm guessing the military  
19 population is just looked upon -- looked as the general  
20 population as well, right, when we're looking at the  
21 changes of demographics here?

22 MR. MCGHEE: So, yeah. I mean they're going to  
23 show up wherever they are in the ACS data. And I believe,  
24 although I would defer to Karin on this question, I believe  
25 that they will be counted as in that location for the

1 purposes of the enumeration as well. It's wherever you  
2 were on April 1st, right.

3 MS. MacDONALD: Sinay, I, of course, just sent  
4 you a document about that, so we can talk about that later.

5 Again, we need to think about these two datasets  
6 as really very separate. So, the ACS really just has a  
7 completely different way of getting this information than  
8 the PL94, right. PL94 is an in-person enumeration and this  
9 is an estimated dataset. So, they just treat these samples  
10 differently and the data collection differently.

11 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: You know, I have a  
12 question actually in general, perhaps for Karin but also  
13 for my colleagues as well. I'm curious, do we anticipate  
14 that military bases and communities will be testifying as  
15 communities of interest? Do we have any sense of that  
16 happening in 2010? And I don't know that in my zone  
17 outreach that we've been doing any targeted outreach to  
18 such communities, but I'm wondering if that's something  
19 that any other groups -- that any of the other zone  
20 outreach groups have been thinking about.

21 Commissioner Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: With San Diego being one of  
23 the largest active and veteran communities, we have done  
24 outreach to the veterans' community, and I used to work  
25 with Blue Star Families, so it's military families, and so

1 I have reached out to some of the organizations statewide  
2 and nationally who have done -- who work with active  
3 military families and their spouses to see, you know, how  
4 we can do some outreach in that area. And the San Diego  
5 Veterans Coalition is helping us connect with some of the  
6 statewide veterans' organizations and have offered to host  
7 a roundtable just so we can kind of share that  
8 redistricting. So, it is on our radar for this time and,  
9 hopefully, we will get some input because it is critical.  
10 You know, in San Diego you've got Camp -- you know, between  
11 San Diego and Orange County you have Camp Pendleton, and  
12 it's there.

13           And the other piece that a lot of people don't  
14 realize is that over the last ten years, and maybe longer,  
15 military is no longer on bases, but they're living off  
16 base. So that's kind of different than how we think  
17 usually about military communities.

18           MS. MacDonald: If I may add to that also, I  
19 don't think that we had a whole lot of input in 2011 from  
20 that population, but just to echo what Commissioner Sinay  
21 said, on the local level I have worked with a couple of  
22 jurisdictions where there was quite a bit of activity and  
23 people were really participating, and I think on some level  
24 the California Voting Rights Act activity over the last 10  
25 years in California I think is really going to help us

1 because there are more people now that understand and are  
2 really actively participating, I think, in districting and  
3 redistricting also because this has really brought home  
4 that districts are essential to getting representation.  
5 So, I'm really hoping that all of these people that have  
6 participated on the local level over the last 10 years can,  
7 you know, be mobilized to some extent and will participate  
8 in this process also, and they will have some familiarity  
9 with it already.

10 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Great. Thank you so much  
11 for that. Commissioner Kennedy.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah. I've reach out to  
13 the City of Twentynine Palms. Twentynine Palms is the  
14 location of a very large Marine Corps base, and most of the  
15 folks associated with the base live in and around 29 Palms.  
16 They had recently signed a contract with (indiscernible)  
17 for their municipal redistricting, so I reached out to them  
18 and said, you know, we'd be interested in, you know,  
19 working with them to help people understand the differences  
20 between the municipal redistricting and statewide  
21 redistricting, et cetera. So, I'm looking forward to  
22 hearing back from Twentynine Palms soon.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you so much for  
24 that update. That's great and really exciting to hear  
25 about all of this outreach.

1           Before we wrap up, any final thoughts or  
2 questions while we have both Eric and Karin here with us?  
3 Oh, Commissioner Yee.

4           COMMISSIONER YEE: I just wanted to note for  
5 completeness, you know, we didn't ask Eric to include  
6 American Indian, Alaskan native or native Hawaiian to the  
7 populations in these maps basically because at the PUMA  
8 level they're fairly small across the state, but I was just  
9 wondering if either Karin or Eric would like to say  
10 anything about either of those two groups as well and  
11 anything we might note.

12           Certainly, of course, we will pay great attention  
13 to all groups when we actually draw maps and we encourage  
14 community of interest submissions from those groups as well  
15 as all other groups.

16           MS. MacDONALD: Yeah, so thank you, Commissioner  
17 Yee. I would say that on behalf of Haystaq and Q2 we can't  
18 wait for your VRA counsel to come on board and perhaps say  
19 to us make some maps with the CVAP data and show us where  
20 these populations are on this smaller unit of analysis.  
21 So, I think there will be -- of course I know there will be  
22 many, many maps in your future, but hopefully some  
23 demographic maps coming out of our shop your way, and they  
24 will, of course, include all of those population groups  
25 because we can map them on, you know, again, a smaller unit

1 of analysis not as large as a PUMA.

2 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Commissioner Kennedy.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thanks. I'm wondering if  
5 we can come up with some other terminology, because I  
6 really find the whole concept of losing districts to be  
7 something that is going to heighten tensions and really  
8 complicate our work. And I think that we really need to  
9 come up with a different way of expressing that. Everyone  
10 is going to be represented at the end of this process, and  
11 we don't want, even subconsciously, people feeling like  
12 they're not going to be represented.

13 So, I don't know, maybe we can't do it now, but  
14 let's -- I would like us to at least think about a way to  
15 avoid using the phraseology "losing a district" in any of  
16 our communications or documentation. I really find it  
17 problematic and just, you know, let's work together and see  
18 if we can come up with something.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you for that,  
20 Commissioner Kennedy, and I so agree with you on that  
21 point, and a couple of times I've already been asked that  
22 question. It's not as if we're going in the map and just  
23 erasing one district. We're taking a look holistically at  
24 the state. So, I absolutely agree with you.

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I thought you might.

1           COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, I do. I know Fredy  
2 is here with us. Perhaps he can help come up with some  
3 great wording that we could use to really be thinking and  
4 talking about and messaging this component of our work.  
5 We're certainly not looking at the map and just -- there's  
6 going to be complete erasure in one area or another, but  
7 instead, a rethinking and a (inaudible).

8           COMMISSIONER YEE: Gaining neighbors.

9           COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: What was that,  
10 Commissioner Yee?

11          COMMISSIONER YEE: Gaining neighbors.

12          COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Gaining neighbors, I like  
13 that. I like that, yes. And I think this is a great  
14 opportunity to kind of think more creatively just about the  
15 messaging on this for sure.

16                Very good. Well, any final questions or  
17 comments. I think it was really helpful. This was a  
18 really helpful, you know, just kind of first look at some  
19 of the data that we have available to us now, and certainly  
20 this is not the end of our analysis by any means of  
21 thinking about demographic change in the Golden State.

22           Commissioner Andersen.

23           COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I just have a quick  
24 question. When will the 2020 ACS data be out?

25           MR. MCGHEE: Not until the end of -- you'll have

1 the actual enumeration by the time the 2020 ACS comes out.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: And just for, also,  
3 everything that you've done here, that's based on the 2010  
4 census geography; is that correct?

5 MR. MCGHEE: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

7 MR. MCGHEE: And the 2010 enumeration against the  
8 2019 ACS. I'll also so the ACS is great for a lot of -- it  
9 asked a whole bunch of questions about, you know, people's  
10 lives that aren't in the enumeration, so it's a very --  
11 it's very helpful from that perspective. Like anything  
12 about migration, for instance, comes from the ACS. But as  
13 Karin has said, it's not what you would do redistricting  
14 with, so it's just kind of taking the most recent data we  
15 have available to us basically.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Absolutely right. I use  
18 the ACS data quite a bit in much of my research, and it's  
19 great because you can get a lot of different components  
20 that capture a much larger picture of folks on the ground,  
21 but, of course, it's still just an estimate based on survey  
22 data.

23 All right. Well, with that, I want to thank you  
24 both for being here today and sharing with us some of these  
25 demographic changes here in California. Eric, it looks

1 like you have a great puppy behind you there, but thank  
2 you. Thank you for sharing your expertise as well as your  
3 pup. And thank you, Karin, as always, and I'm sure that  
4 we'll be talking more with you in the coming days and weeks  
5 about these demographic shifts and how that will influence  
6 our work.

7           And with that, Commissioner Fernandez, I will  
8 pass it back to you.

9           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great, thank you. Thank you  
10 again Eric and Karin.

11           And, so with that, we will be adjourning to  
12 closed session, but before we do that I do want to take  
13 public comment one last time. So, Katy if you can read  
14 that, the instructions for public comment, please.

15           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I can, Chair.

16           In order to maximize transparency and public  
17 participation in our process, the commissioners will be  
18 taking public comment by phone.

19           To call in, dial the telephone number provided on  
20 the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted to  
21 enter a meeting I.D. number provided on the livestream  
22 feed, it is 98199802683 for this meeting. When prompted to  
23 enter a participant I.D., simply press the pound key.

24           Once you have dialed in you'll be placed in a  
25 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press star

1 nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator.

2 When it is your turn to speak you will hear a  
3 message that says, "The host would like you to talk," and  
4 to "press star six to speak."

5 If you would like to give your name, please state  
6 and spell it for the record. You are not required to  
7 provide your name to give public comment. Please make sure  
8 to mute your computer or livestream audio to prevent any  
9 feedback or distortion during your call. Once you are  
10 waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to  
11 speak, and again, please turn down the livestream volume.

12 And we do currently have one caller with their  
13 hand up, and I will be asking them to unmute.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead.

16 MR. SUKATON: Thank you. Just want to confirm.  
17 Hello. This is Samuel Sukaton from the California League  
18 of Conservation Voters Education Fund. The last name is  
19 spelled S-U-K, as in Katherine, -A, as in apple, -T, as in  
20 Thomas, -O-N as in Nancy. First name, Samuel, traditional  
21 spelling.

22 I just wanted to reach out again to Chair  
23 Fernandez and the members of the Commission. So good to  
24 see you. Definitely appreciate this presentation. As you  
25 know, we're very focused on natural and built geography, so

1 it's very interesting to see how people are moving over  
2 kind of our own kind of community of interest.

3 I wanted to bring back a couple of conversations  
4 that came up this morning. We worked before the last  
5 Commission on Ms. Filkin-Weber's comment about reaching  
6 compromises with organizations.

7 I do want to emphasize I think there might be a  
8 misunderstanding about folks that are lobbying the  
9 Commission for electoral purposes and folks that are  
10 lobbying the Commission around representation, and I just  
11 want to emphasize like they're different people with  
12 different agendas. We're here. We will actually speak for  
13 the trees, and you've seen some of our presentations around  
14 bears and communities around them, so I just wanted to flag  
15 that in addition to kind of rolling in kind of our support  
16 for a January deadline because, again, while trees don't  
17 speak, people that love them do, and getting the call over  
18 Christmas is going to be a little difficult. So, I wanted  
19 to just bring attention to our support of the IVE  
20 Redistricting Alliance letter about a 1/28 deadline and a  
21 6/21 primary, if necessary.

22 But, again, I know there's more conversation  
23 going on. I'm very happy to be here. I'm actually  
24 fielding a lot of reapportionment questions from folks in  
25 the environmental community, myself, so this is very

1 helpful that we're not losing a district, we're just  
2 getting to know a new and different set of neighbors. I  
3 really appreciate, I think it was Commissioner Fornaciari  
4 who brought that up.

5 But I know you're going into closed session. I  
6 hope you have a wonderful rest of the day, and I'm sure  
7 we'll see some of you tomorrow.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
9 Sukaton. And I think that was Commissioner Yee that talked  
10 about getting to know your neighbors. I really like that.  
11 But thank you so much.

12 MR. SUKATON: Terribly sorry. Thank you,  
13 Commissioner Yee.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thanks.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was our only  
16 caller at this time.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. So, let's take a  
18 15-minute break and we, as I mentioned, we will be  
19 adjourning to closed session. We will not be coming back  
20 to open session as a full commission until Thursday. We do  
21 have Public Input Design Committee Meeting tomorrow,  
22 Wednesday, at 4:00 o'clock. So, with that, if everybody  
23 can be back at 4:10. Thank you.

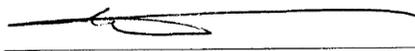
24 (Off the record at 3:56 p.m.)  
25

**REPORTER' S CERTIFICATE**

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of June, 2021.



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PETER PETTY  
CER\*\*D-493  
Notary Public

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MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT\*\*367