

Policy on Communications about Redistricting Matters

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission is committed to creating a transparent, inclusive, and impartial redistricting process for all Californians, which includes advancing our mandate to outreach to and engage Californians on the redistricting process.

The Commission’s constitutional and statutory provisions impose transparency requirements in addition to those in Bagley-Keene, which specifically apply to “communications about redistricting matters.”¹

Redistricting means the redrawing of election district boundaries.² “Communications about redistricting matters” thus refers to the Commission’s line-drawing activities.³

Outside of a public meeting, commission members and staff may not communicate with or receive communications from anyone about matters regarding how lines should be drawn, all line-drawing by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, and all revisions to maps after receiving public comment.

¹ Gov’t Code Sec. 8253 (a)(3) states “Commission members and staff may not communicate with or receive communications about redistricting matters from anyone outside of a public hearing.”

² Section 1 of Article 21 of the California Constitution equates redistricting and line-drawing, instructing CRC to “adjust the boundary lines of the congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts (also known as ‘redistricting’)”

³ The Commission has adopted a plain language interpretation of “redistricting matters” to mean the Commission’s line-drawing activities, including when the Commission and its staff receive public input as to district lines, when the Commission is applying ranked criteria enumerated in Subdivision (d) of Section 2 of Article 21 of the California Constitution, and when drawing district lines, which is consistent with applicable federal and state laws.