



March 26, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

As the leaders of the California State Legislature, we want to thank each member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission for the tremendous commitment of time and energy that you have undertaken with this important work. We know that the Commission, the State Legislature, the Statewide Database, the Secretary of State, local election officials, and others have been working to address challenges to state and local redistricting timelines along with the elections calendar. These challenges were created by the Census Bureau's February 12th announcement that delivery of the Public Law 94-171 redistricting data would be delayed to September 30th.

While these discussions were ongoing, the Bureau subsequently announced on March 15th that, in an effort to aid states with impacted redistricting timelines, it would release an interim data product ("legacy format summary redistricting data") for the 2021 Census by mid-to-late August. The announcement noted that using such data requires states to have particular expertise and, "any state using legacy format summary redistricting data files would have to accept responsibility for how they process these files."

The Statewide Database has been working diligently to determine whether this legacy format release could be used to meet the mandate for the Legislature to ensure a complete and accurate computerized database is available for redistricting. The Database has determined this interim release consists of the exact same data as the P.L. 94-171 file, only in a more complicated and less refined format. The Database has also concluded the product will meet their needs and can be used to provide earlier delivery of the data necessary for the Commission and local jurisdictions to complete their work.

The processing of this legacy format redistricting data is more complicated than the Public Law 94-171. As a result, the Database will need some additional processing time, but believes it will be able to provide access to unadjusted Census data

approximately two weeks after its release. Once this step is completed and consistent with the original timeline, the Database will be able to deliver the complete computerized database within one more month, including adjusted Census data for incarcerated persons and electoral data to aid compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act.

In *Legislature of the State of California v. Padilla*, the California Supreme Court granted an extension of Commission deadlines to December 15th for approval and certification of final maps. The Court also provided that the Commission shall adopt final maps no later than those dates plus any additional days of federal delay in transmission of census data after July 31st. The computerized redistricting database can be built from the legacy format data, which is expected to be transmitted in the second half of August. As a result, the deadline to adopt maps will need to be extended two to four weeks from the original deadline set by the Court, depending on the actual date the legacy format data is received.

Creating the official redistricting database using this alternative methodology will require the investment of additional state financial resources. The Commission has already indicated it will require supplemental funding, in part to accommodate changing deadlines. Even with the accelerated release of data local jurisdictions will face a significant time crunch. Legislation, hard work by election officials, and additional resources will also be required to adjust election calendars to accommodate this revised timeline. However, these worthwhile investments could achieve our common goal of ensuring the integrity of California's independent redistricting process, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Commission moving forward.

Thank you and we look forward to continuing to coordinate with you on this matter,



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Senate President pro Tempore
Senator, 39th Senate District



ANTHONY RENDON
Speaker of the Assembly
63rd Assembly District



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Senate Republican Leader
21st Senate District



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