



Redistricting Report | February 19, 2021

This week's big news is the resignation of Daniel Claypool from the Executive Director post at California's Citizens Redistricting Commission. The rationale for his decision to step down wasn't entirely clear. He hasn't offered any comments himself and the Commission didn't go beyond thanking him for his service in a [prepared statement](#). The Commission has tapped Deputy Director Alvaro E. Hernandez, a veteran of state service with the Franchise Tax Board, to fill in as the top staffer on an interim basis going forward.

Close watchers of the Commission were intrigued with Claypool's hiring last October, as he led the Commission's staff through the 2011 process. One big question for the current Commission is whether it will follow the inaugural Commission's lead and build upon that work for the 2021 cycle, *or* whether this Commission was more interested in charting its own course and start fresh. Claypool's hiring was as good a signal as anything that the Commission was interested in drawing upon those experiences from last cycle. With his departure four months in, the answer is again unclear.

Will Claypool's early exit put the Commission behind?

Readers from [last week's Redistricting Report](#) will remember that the ongoing Census delays are the primary driver of this redistricting timeline. Last Friday, the Census Bureau dropped the bombshell that [September 30 is the new deadline](#) being eyed by the Biden Administration for releasing the redistricting-level data file that the Commission and public agencies around the country will use to redraw their districts, meaning it's unlikely the Commission will produce draft maps before November 2021.

It's really too early to understand what other impacts the pushed-back Census might have on the next set of dominoes – the 2022 primary elections! Other states like [Oregon](#), [Maryland](#), [North Carolina](#), and [Virginia](#) are starting to eye alternate plans,

either to their redistricting process or their election schedule in 2022.

The current CA Commission deadline of [next year's Valentine's Day \(Feb. 14, 2022\)](#) will fall nearly two months after the signature-in-lieu process for candidates begins and five days after the deadline to turn in those signatures. We presume [this set of deadlines](#) is getting a serious look.

Finally, many of our readers know Redistricting Partners was a leading advocate for LGBTQ+ inclusion in the redistricting process in 2011 with partners like Equality California. This cycle the drumbeat is starting much earlier, with an article this week from the [Bay Area Reporter](#) and a podcast [with Out in the Bay](#) featuring commissioners who are already supporting a focus on LGBTQ+ communities of interest.

More to come. Have a great weekend!

Data delay weighs on redistricting plans

Besides being the potential deadline for [@WeDrawTheLines](#) to complete final maps for California, Valentine's Day 2022 is also slated to be the start of the filing period for candidates in the 2022 primary, as [@DanCALmatters](#) points out:

<https://calmatters.org/commentary/2021/02/california-census-data-delay-redistricting/>

California redistricting commission revs up its work

[@eBARnews](#) looks at the ways [#redistricting](#) can impact the [#LGBTQ](#) community's representation in the [#CAleg](#). The article states at least

3 [@WeDrawTheLines](#) commissioners are on the record in support of respecting an LGBTQ community of interest.

https://www.ebar.com/news/latest_news/301965

Drawing Political Lines; Challenging Marriage-Equality Governor

The [@OutintheBaySF](#) podcast features a discussion about the [#LGBTQ](#) community's stakes in the CA's [@WeDrawTheLines](#) [#redistricting](#) process.

<https://www.outinthebay.org/drawing-political-lines-challenging-marriage-equality-governor/>

Politics Report: The Special Election Is Upon Us

“Redistricting year is now redistricting years,” [@CapitolEVAN](#) said.

<https://www.voiceofsandiego.org/topics/politics/politics-report-the-special-election-is-upon-us/>

Biden administration: Alabama has no standing in fight over Census immigrant count

[@AP](#) reports that the Biden Justice Department is now on the record in court against the Alabama case, which is the last one pending over whether undocumented immigrants can be excluded from the [#reapportionment](#) count.

<https://www.al.com/news/2021/02/biden-administration-alabama-has-no-standing-in-fight-over-census-immigrant-count.html>

How the battle over redistricting in 2021 could decide control of the U.S. Congress

Virginia and New Jersey will use their old maps for their 2021 legislative elections. Meanwhile, around half of U.S. states have legal deadlines calling for new maps to be completed in 2021, which could be impossible given the delay.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-politics-redistricting-idUSKBN2A11CX>

The GOP Cheat Code to Winning Back the House

[@RonBrownstein](#) plays off the recent [@BrennanCenter](#) report to explore how potential [#gerrymandering](#), the filibuster, [#HR1](#) will play into the next decade's worth of power in Congress. Definitely worth a read:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2021/02/democrats-need-hr-1-and-new-vra-protect-party/617987/>

Census Data Delay Likely Means No Redistricting Session This Fall

Maryland may forego any [#redistricting](#) process this year and wait until the legislature reconvenes in Jan. '22 to draw lines, according to [@marylandmatters](#).

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2021/02/17/census-data-delay-likely-means-no-redistricting-session-this-fall/>

Gerrymandering is about to get even more chaotic

[@axios](#): "Huge states with diversifying and expanding populations — including Texas,

Florida and North Carolina — will likely feel some of the most significant impacts."

<https://www.axios.com/redistricting-chaos-delay-census-data-midterm-election-bbe8cd4d-388b-4eac-aff7-b10e901dcdad.html>

Missouri lawmakers consider making ballot initiatives harder for voters to pass

The Clean Missouri [#redistricting](#) reforms was approved by 62% of the state's voters in 2018, so Republicans last year put an amendment on the ballot to repeal it and are now trying to make it harder for future initiatives to qualify.

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article249323870.html>

Census Delay In Releasing Population Data Throws States Into Chaos

[@WIExaminer](#) looks at how some states are looking the shape their [#redistricting](#) processes and upcoming primary elections around the current [#Census](#) delays.

<https://patch.com/wisconsin/across-wi/census-delay-releasing-population-data-throws-states-chaos>

Politics: Delays have redistricting and legislation banging up against deadlines

The [#Census](#)' late September delivery date is 45 days after Oregon's deadline. The mess will land in the OR Supreme Court, which will referee whether the [#ORleg](#), the secretary of state, or even a 5-judge panel does the [#redistricting](#).

https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/politics-delays-have-redistricting-and-legislation-banging-up-against-deadlines/article_6ff12164-7188-11eb-ba77-af0954bbdc89.html

New Brennan Center Report: The Redistricting Landscape, 2021–22

[@BillMoyers](#) summarizes the recent [@BrennanCenter](#) report on this [#redistricting](#) cycle (and reposts a terrific interview with RF'd author [@davedaley3](#)):

<https://billmoyers.com/story/new-brennan-center-report-the-redistricting-landscape-2021-22/>

'Not for party, but for people': Groups ask senators to remove partisanship from redistricting

A Republican legislator in Nebraska is proposing a bill to transfer [#redistricting](#) duties to an independent commission.

https://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/not-for-party-but-for-people-groups-ask-senators-to-remove-partisanship-from-redistricting/article_6a7842d7-9c22-5309-ab9c-5c4c5428e400.html

How Delayed Census Results Could Impact Upcoming Elections

North Carolina's Elections Board Director says >4 months are needed between [#census](#) data release and election season to begin. She also doesn't think March '22 primary elections for House races is very realistic and suggests they be pushed to May '22.

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/charlotte/politics/2021/02/17/how-delayed-census-results-could-impact-upcoming-elections#>

Census delay creates redistricting uncertainty

Illinois' Republicans are floating the idea of moving the state's 2022 primary elections in order to provide more time for candidates to file following the announced [#Census](#) [#redistricting](#) delays.

https://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/census-delay-creates-redistricting-uncertainty/article_a28e3046-2d89-5c18-aa3a-215c784aef9e.html

Census delays likely to lead to bitter redistricting fight in Illinois

What will happen when [#Census](#) delays push Illinois' [#redistricting](#) past its June 30 constitutional deadline? It's not pretty, but it could involve a stovepipe hat.

<https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/2021/02/19/illinois-census-delays-may-mean-late-redistricting-maps-state/4492962001/>

April decision expected for Montana's second U.S. House seat

Montana has always had just 1 at-large seat in Congress, so the Big Sky State is very eager for [#reapportionment](#), as it's expected to finally get a 2nd House seat to require its first ever congressional [#redistricting](#)!

https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/april-decision-expected-for-montanas-second-u-s-house-seat/article_636e1345-e58a-575d-aa3f-f57749806a4d.html

Placer County Supervisors approve redistricting timeline, committee

Placer County begins its [#redistricting](#) process.

<https://goldcountrymedia.com/news/188236/placer-county-supervisors-approve-redistricting-timeline-committee/>

Board invites residents to serve on San Bernardino County's redistricting commission

San Bernardino County is seeking residents to serve on the new [#redistricting](#) commission voters created it this past November. Applications are due April 5.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/board-invites-residents-to-serve-on-san-bernardino-countys-redistricting-commission/article_0069f9ee-6d80-11eb-bf7f-dfde2c4417d0.html

Stanislaus County to redraw supervisor districts. Will the map reflect racial diversity?

Stanislaus County in CA's Central Valley get ready for [#redistricting](#) under the new FAIR MAPS Act requirements that are now in place.

<https://www.modbee.com/news/politics-government/article249340120.html>

What a Week: Time to think redistricting

[@PleasantonNews](#) is ready for a redraw at the Alameda County Board of Supes, where the District 4 seat stretches from Ruby Hill to the Oakland Coliseum and the Piedmont border.

<https://www.pleasantonweekly.com/news/2021/02/18/what-a-week-time-to-think-redistricting>



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