

*** 2022.05.11 DRAFT ***

Recommendation on Publicly Explaining
Election Districts and Line Drawing Decisions

1. **Redistricting Engagement Subcommittee recommends that commissioners avoid giving verbal or written explanations of specific line drawing decisions.**
2. If a commissioner does comment on a specific election district, we recommend the comment:
 - a. Be fully consistent with the district's description in the 2020 CRC's *Final Reports on the Maps, December 27, 2021*
 - b. Generally dwell on the commissioner's own personal thoughts and considerations related to that district ("I" statements) rather than speaking for the whole CRC ("we" statements)
 - c. Mention any particular mapping considerations (e.g., actual examples of COI testimony) in the context of the wide range of factors we considered, so to make it clear that no one consideration is "the" explanation for a given line
 - d. Avoid mention of race or ethnicity except in cases of VRA districts, unless it is made explicitly clear that these were not predominating considerations
 - e. Refer, as appropriate, to the CRC's:
 - Final Report
 - Mapping Playbook
 - Ready Reference
 - Post-Maps talking points
 - Post-Maps slideshow
 - Video archive (= the official record, supplemented by available transcripts)
3. Other factors that might be mentioned include:
 - a. General demographic changes in California 2010-20; the loss of one Congressional seat
 - b. The 2020 CRC's decision not to start with the 2010 CRC's maps (partly explains "Why did my district change?")
 - c. How all line drawing decisions involved compromises; our goal was the spread the pains and gains as evenly as possible
 - d. How all line drawing decisions necessarily affected adjacent and even distant districts
 - e. How all districts evolved over numerous different days of discussions and different drafts
4. We encourage commissioners to consult our Executive Director and Chief Counsel when considering invitations to speak about our maps. We request that commissioners keep Redistricting Engagement Subcommittee informed of events in which they participated (date/group/topic).