

Richard Gallegos



March 11, 2025

Dear Members of the California Redistricting Commission:

I am writing to you as an engaged member of our community with a deep commitment to education, equity, and public service, to share my perspective as you continue the critical task of redistricting. My name is Richard Gallegos, and I currently serve as the Coordinator and Instructor of the Criminology Program at Reedley College, a Hispanic-Serving Institution in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. Through my professional roles and volunteer efforts, I have worked tirelessly to support the diverse needs of our region, and I hope to offer insight into the importance of fair and equitable representation in this process.

At Reedley College, I oversee and teach within the Criminology Program, preparing students—many of whom are first-generation and from underrepresented backgrounds—for careers in criminal justice and public safety. As a member of the Latino Faculty Association, I advocate for the inclusion and success of all students and faculty, reflecting the demographic richness of our area. My service on the college's Equity Committee further underscores my dedication to addressing systemic barriers and fostering an inclusive educational environment.

In addition to my programmatic responsibilities, I am actively involved in shared governance at Reedley College. I serve on the Academic Senate, where I contribute to shaping institutional policies, and on both the Curriculum Committee and the Academic Standards Committee, where I help ensure academic rigor and accessibility for all students. These roles have given me a nuanced understanding of how structural decisions—like those in redistricting—impact communities at the ground level. Beyond campus, I volunteer with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), working to raise awareness and support policies that enhance public safety and save lives.

Most notably, I was honored to be selected as a member of the Fresno County Redistricting Committee, where I contributed to the 2021 redistricting efforts. This experience provided me with firsthand knowledge of the complexities and stakes involved in drawing district lines, as well as a deep appreciation for the need to prioritize community voices, particularly those of historically marginalized groups.

I also want to take a moment to express my gratitude to the California Redistricting Commission for your dedication and hard work. Redistricting is a monumental task that requires balancing diverse interests, analyzing complex data, and ensuring that every

Californian's voice is heard. Your commitment to transparency, fairness, and the democratic process does not go unnoticed, and I am thankful for the time and effort you invest in shaping a more representative future for our state. Your work lays the foundation for stronger communities, and I am honored to contribute my perspective to your efforts.

I am deeply interested in serving as a replacement person for the California Redistricting Commission because of my extensive experience in education, equity advocacy, and community service, coupled with my prior involvement in redistricting efforts. As the Coordinator and Instructor of the Criminology Program at Reedley College, a Hispanic-Serving Institution, I work daily to empower a diverse student body and address systemic challenges, giving me a grounded perspective on how fair representation shapes opportunity. My service on the Fresno County Redistricting Commission in 2021 provided me with practical insight into the redistricting process, reinforcing my commitment to ensuring district lines reflect the needs of communities like mine in the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, my roles on Reedley College's Equity Committee, Academic Senate, and as a member of the Latino Faculty Association have honed my ability to navigate complex issues with fairness and collaboration—skills I would bring to the Commission. I am motivated by a desire to contribute to a transparent, equitable process that strengthens California's democracy, particularly for underrepresented voices I've spent my career uplifting.

I am grateful for your service on this commission and would be happy to provide further input or answer any questions about my experiences. Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Thank you for your time and consideration as you shape the future of our community.

Sincerely,

Richard Gallegos

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