



July 15, 2020

California Redistricting Commissioners
Shape California's Future
California State Auditor
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

We offer our congratulations on your selection as members of the second Citizens Redistricting Commission and wish you luck in your initial task of selecting six additional commissioners based on their high qualifications and to ensure the Commission reflects this state's diversity. Having reviewed the same applications while preparing for the legislative strike process we know first-hand the difficult decisions you face weighing the relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, and appreciation of the state's diversity of the many strong applicants.

You also face the challenge of correcting clear deficiencies in the diversity of the Commission resulting from random chance, most critically the lack of any Latinos among the "lucky eight" as your predecessors referred to themselves. Such diversity is critical both to engendering public trust in the process and guaranteeing the Commission produces the best lines possible. Fortunately, you have many highly qualified applicants to choose between.

Serious problems have arisen with the deadline to adopt those lines due to an announced delay in the release of Census data. To support the Commission's work and provide certainty as soon as possible, the Legislature initiated litigation to extend this deadline. The California Supreme Court has announced they will issue a ruling on Friday, and we will continue to work to make sure the Commission has the necessary time to adopt new maps for the state.

In the lead up to this revised deadline we look forward to supporting your efforts and working with you to deliver the official redistricting database, provide public access to redistricting software, ensure funding for the Commission's efforts, and consider proposed statutory amendments for future redistrictings. The Legislature has already contacted representatives from the Auditor's office to provide an update to you on the status of these efforts once the full body is seated.

Again, congratulations on your selection and good luck as your hard work begins.

Regards,



TONI G. ATKINS

Senate President pro Tempore
Senator, 39th Senate District



ANTHONY RENDON

Speaker of the Assembly
63rd Assembly District

Cc: Stephanie Ramirez Ridgeway, Chief Counsel, Office of the California State Auditor