

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:09:43 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am grateful for the work you have begun to do in order to choose the final 6 commissioners who will serve as your colleagues on the Citizen's Redistricting Commission. I was able to watch some of your discussion today and was impressed with the holistic approach you are taking to ensure that all Californians are represented.

As a candidate and as a member of the public, I wanted to address some of the comments that I heard today. Thank you to Commissioners Kennedy and Taylor for noting that I bring a youth voice to the important discussions to be had regarding redistricting. Not only am I representative of an age cohort (Millennials) that now outnumbers Baby Boomers across the US (according to the Census Bureau), but given my extensive work with and on behalf of students and children, I am also well-positioned to ensure the voices of young people are represented in the Commission's work. **It is important to note that third-graders (eight year-olds) right now will be voting in elections guided by the boundaries established by this commission. It is imperative that youth voices are heard throughout this process.**

Second, I echo the concern about geographic representation on the Commission and believe a fair commission will represent, to the extent possible, the geographic diversity of the state. I am an adopted-Angelena, having spent a decade living and working here in the heart of Los Angeles. That said, **I am an Inland Empire native** - I grew up and went to college in San Bernardino County, and nearly all of my family (including dozens of extended family members) still lives and works in San Bernardino County. I view the Inland Empire as much my home as LA and my experiences there inform much of my community work in Los Angeles. Further, due to the statewide nature of my work on behalf of students and families over the years, I have spent years working with and learning from schools and communities across California, including the Bay Area, Sacramento, the Central Valley (where my father's family is from), Orange County, and San Diego as a member of many statewide collaboratives and campaigns. I encourage the Commissioners to take a broad perspective when it comes to ensuring geographic representative diversity on the Commission.

Thank you again for pursuing this phase of the work with thoughtfulness and care. Californians are relying on you to ensure that their voices are heard throughout the next 10 years.

Sincerely,
Angela M. Vázquez, MSW