

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
Subject: Public Comment for August 4 - Selecting Final 6 Members
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 3:21:27 PM

Dear Commissioners –

10 years ago I made it to the cut of about 300, and actively participated throughout the process, attending and testifying at many meetings, and even drawing maps at the consultant's Berkeley office. I believe that I contributed to keeping the state's North Bay districts above the Golden Gate, preserving their community of interest.

As you select the final six members, please keep this thought in mind: Is one party rule a good thing? If you have doubts, you should use the little discretion that you have to select members that will give maximum balance to the complete Commission. To do this, you might want to seek out "decline to state" candidates than have a more conservative leaning. Last time, when members of other parties were chosen, it became clear that smaller political parties tend to be left of center. For example, I don't recall any Libertarian finalists. The result of this was a constant majority of votes on the panel going with the Democrat preferences.

It also turned out that the Republican commission members were, frankly, far less assertive in their positions than the Democrat members, with just one or two exceptions. They also had less activist experience. More spirited debate may have produced more balanced results.

I know that you are heading for a complex and tedious task. I am hopeful that you will seek to have the maximum number of competitive districts. Keeping that goal in mind will make California a better state and enhance our democracy.

Thank you.

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