

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 10:47:36 PM

August 5, 2020

Dear Commissioners:

Today, I waited in the queue from 4:00 p.m. until the adjournment to provide public comment. I was never recognized. I am unsure as to why AT&T dismissed me, repeatedly, so I am submitting these comments now in writing.

Thank you for your work and diligence in selecting the final Commissioners. All of the final candidates are highly qualified and have proved their dedication by enduring this selection process. I have been following the process and have been watching these deliberations.

I am an attorney, working in California as the Chief Operating Officer of CalCERTS, Inc. I submitted a letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Peter Blando during the selection process and would like to affirm my support for him.

I have heard the Commissioners advocate for selection of an attorney. I agree that legal counsel is essential to the work being conducted; however, legal counsel support will be made available. Understanding the validity and vulnerabilities of data is far more essential. In my company I just recently hired a new CTO to specifically help with data analytics. This hire was made to ensure my legal strategies are based on valid assumptions. Mr. Blando would bring this skill set to the Commission.

In addition to his technical and management skills, Mr. Blando has strong people skills and an affinity for process. He was selected to advocate for UC Davis staff as Staff Assembly Chair, and also served as a delegate to the UC Council of Staff Assemblies which covers interests throughout all UC campuses. He has served on difficult committees that commanded great public scrutiny, such as the Pepper Spray Committee at UC Davis. Mr. Blando is skilled at *creating processes* to facilitate difficult decisions, something the Commission could find beneficial.

Further, as many of the Commissioners have identified, the county of current residence is not fully instructive of the experience or understanding represented by a candidate. Mr. Blando has lived throughout northern California including San Francisco, Solano, and Glenn counties. He can voice understanding of the diversity of the region, including direct experience in numerous economic industries ranging from technology to agribusiness.

As several of the Commissioners mentioned today, the "boxes" being checked by the selection of the final candidates should be balanced with the personal experience reflected in the applications. Mr. Blando brings to the table a unique set of skills. His experience working with complex issues centered around representation, data, diversity, and community, are all at the heart of the Commission's mission. He will be a passionate advocate and I encourage you to choose him as your colleague.

Thank you for your hard work during this process.

Sincerely,

Shelby M. Gatlin, Esq.