

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
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Good Evening,

I write to provide outside perspective to the Commissioners on the Redistricting Committee. I am a Democrat who lives in the the City of Alameda, and I want to share my observations.

Watching this debacle over the past few days has left me wondering if the 8 Commissioners recognize and fully understand their responsibilities. This observation requires me to be blunt.

I strongly recommend the following to each Commissioner.

1. Select 4-5 Latinos for the Commission. Latinos represent over 40% of Californians. If Latinos are not represented at a level of 25-33% percent of the commission, then there will probably be an immediate challenge to the makeup of the Commission, possibly in the creation of a lawsuit BEFORE the lines are even drawn. This would be unprecedented and make a mockery of the independent re-districting process after only 1 iteration. The biggest threat to Californians is a judicial challenge to an unrepresentative Commission's decisions. Latino engagement matters, and more than you seem to realize.
2. Get 2-3 people with a legal background on the commission immediately. The current group of Commissioners looks like a toxic mess. No Commissioner should say things like "Northern California Represents less than 1% of Californians" to exclude a region. How about "Northern California will have representation from 14 commissioners?" Likewise, no Commissioner should allude that each Asian country or region deserves representation. Imagine if Latinos demanded a representative from a specific Latin American country or region? That would be a mess because there are over twenty Latino countries, too. The current Commissioners need immediate candid legal advice and guidance from fellow Commissioners on how to protect the integrity of the Commission's decisions, and that has not (and perhaps cannot and will not) be provided from auditor staff.
3. How the Democrats could protect Orange County and throw the North Coast and Northern California under the bus is just baffling. I wonder if this is an underhanded way to further exclude Latinos because the Commission seems to return to reducing the number of Latino Commissioners from 4 to 3 after the NorCal (LeMond) slates are disapproved. It may be unintentional, but that's not what it looks like from my perspective.
4. Why are the Republicans protecting Northern California and Latinos at the expense of Orange County, and not the Democrats?

5. If you are going to weigh heavily on the comments from Orange County, then weigh heavily on the comments from the hundreds of Latino organizations and individuals pleading for fair representation, which at this point isn't anywhere near the 40% of the representation needed. The Commissioners that identify as Democrats have given a preposterous amount of weight to the pleas from Orange County but the numerous Latinx Comments seem to fall on deaf ears during deliberations.

6. Please stop focusing on geography at the expense of the racial and ethnic diversity - specifically for Latino/a and Asian candidates. This focus on Orange County and Northern California is absurd.

7. Regarding compromise, stick to it. Agreeing to the LeMond Slate Vote #2, then abandoning it makes the Commissioners that identify as Democrats look preposterous and rogue. That was just absurd and embarrassing.

To repeat, you are positioning yourselves to get sued if you fail to provide fair representation to Latinos. We are the largest ethnic minority group in California, and growing. Please bring a couple lawyers or trained legal professionals into the Commission. The auditors attorney and staff attorney can't speak candidly like a Commissioner can.

This is a disaster in the making. Fix it and fix it fast. Because I fear partisan litigators are taking notes, and planning to challenge your work before you even start working on the maps.

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