

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
Subject: Redistricting Commission Meetings: Digital vs. In-Person Approach
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 10:13:09 AM

Hello,

I am retired, but have taken great interest in government reforms in California, and strongly believe the California Citizens' Redistricting Commission is a model for the entire nation.

I understand we are all adapting to a post-pandemic, highly digital world, but one thing I have found curious about the redistricting process is why some commissioners choose to attend meetings in person versus over Zoom. Especially once the 14-member commission is formed, it appears it would serve the commission to create a Zoom-only or in-person only model to ensure all commissioners are on equal footing.

Specifically, some observations:

- When Commissioner Kennedy and Commissioner Fornaciari were in the room, the camera was not on them when they were not speaking, but the camera was always on all other commissioners who were on Zoom.
- During breaks, Commissioners can have "off-line" conversations in person, which could create potential conflicts and public distrust. While Commissioner Andersen and Commissioner Fornaciari speaking during the break on Tuesday, 8/4 is a positive in relationship-building, for those commissioners who choose not to fly to Sacramento during this uncertain time, they are at a disadvantage.
- While some commissioners choose to attend in person every single time, others continue to toggle between in-person and via Zoom.

For all of us who are eagerly rooting for the success of this commission, we hope the commission takes great pride in transparency and process in its own leadership and processes. This will be of even greater import once community meetings occur. Having strong ground rules for engagement between commissioners, and ultimately the public will be a key element of success.

Sincerely,
Matthew W.