Asian American Representation in Silicon Valley

April 1, 2021

Rajeev Singh
udairaj@gmail.com
Public Comment for the California Redistricting Committee (CA-18)
https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/
Introduction

- Rajeev Singh
- Indian-American (minority) Voter
- Bay Area resident
- Care about representation of minority interests
Asian-Americans in CA-18

• The Asian-American community is keenly invested in:
  • Success of Silicon Valley’s economy – the 19th largest in the world
  • Driving policies and access to services
    • education,
    • health care,
    • public services and more
  • Representation affects services and accessibility of resources
• Asian-Americans in Silicon Valley are running for political office in large numbers
Redistricting in Silicon Valley should ensure that more Asian-Americans have a chance to be elected to Congress.

- As of 2019, there are 13 congressional representatives of Asian-American descent who are currently serving.
- Congressional District 18 has never had a minority congressional representation.
- The aim of redistricting is to group “communities of interest” so that residents in a city, neighborhood or ethnic group have political representation through voting.
- Representation makes it easier for Asians to feel integrated into their communities and to understand how the system works.

**NOTE:** Many Silicon Valley cities have switched over to district elections and more minorities are getting a chance to be reelected. CA-18 has never had a minority congressional representation, where Asian-Americans are the largest minority community.
Stop Packing of Asian-Americans

- CA-17 with 50% Asian-American has had Asian-American representation since 2001
- Congressional District 18 has never had a minority congressional representation, and Asian Americans are the largest minority community of this district
- It is time to provide CA-18 the possibility of Asian American congressional representation
  - Consider moving cities of Cupertino, Sunnyvale, and Santa Clara from CA-17 to CA 18
  - Make up for loss from the rural coastline and potential areas from San Mateo County
Risk Engagement in Political Process

Representation determines:

- How many road repair projects are funded
- How much affordable housing gets built
- How many fire trucks each town gets

When our neighbors aren’t represented and included in all counts, our entire community loses out.

Asian-Americans are not getting our fair share of resources.
Cook Political Report

https://cookpolitical.com/analysis/house/redistricting/california-2021-redistricting-preview
Stop Cracking the Rural communities

- CA-18’s thriving economies of Palo Alto, Mountain View, Menlo Park, vs. rural coastline that has its own issues with fires, debris flow et.
- Coastline residents complain of a lack of representation

- CA-20 is primarily composed of rural and semi-rural communities.
- Move rural coastline cities of San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties to CA-20.
Prevent Hispanic-American Cracking

Keep the compliance with the Voting Rights Act (1965)

- Congressional District 19:
  - Approximately 41% hispanics
  - Preserve CA-19 to ensure that Hispanics have the opportunity to elect a hispanice congressional representative that has never happened.

- Consider moving areas of San Jose from CA-18 with a hispanic majority into CA-19.
Call to Action

- Ensure representation for:
  - Asian-Americans
  - Hispanic community
  - Rural coastline communities

- Avoid:
  - Packing
  - Cracking