

As former Commissioners, we'd like to address Agenda Item 9A re: Impact of Census Delay on CRC Calendar and Electoral Cycle. We understand that Legislative leadership has sent a letter to the CRC asserting an accelerated timeline for producing maps based on the use of Census legacy format data expected August 16. We do not agree with the Legislature's interpretation of the California Supreme Court's ruling extending constitutional deadlines (as detailed by former Chair Angelo Ancheta in a separate memo). Regardless of whether the Legislature opts to use legacy format data in lieu of final PL 94-171 redistricting data expected September 30, **the extension gives the CRC a full four-and-a-half months after receipt of this official data—until mid-February—to complete final maps.** If you still want the Court to give a definitive answer, then you should seek their opinion. And even then, the CRC's timelines need to remain flexible: the Census Bureau may encounter more problems, and the [lawsuit](#) challenging the Bureau's "differential privacy" method (also of concern to California lawmakers) may further delay release of the final data.

Californians voted to establish a citizens commission *free from the influence of the Legislature* to transparently draw electoral lines in collaboration with the public. While the Court provided extended deadlines, **only the CRC can determine the timeline within these constraints necessary to fulfill its constitutional mandates.** We are concerned that the Legislature is unduly pressuring the CRC to complete its task at a speed that will prevent meaningful public participation.

**We urge you to set a reasonable timeline that enables you to do your jobs well: to draw maps that provide fair representation.** In our experience, the most significant and actionable public comment came after the release of the first draft maps. In fact, the volume of input was so substantial that we ultimately elected not to release second draft maps in favor of thoughtfully incorporating that input into our final maps given limited time. You must allow members of the public and the groups that advocate for historically underrepresented communities adequate time to analyze your draft maps, gather feedback from their constituencies, and respond with concrete suggestions. Cramming this in over a couple of weeks during an eagerly anticipated post-pandemic winter holiday season is unlikely to yield useful testimony.

We recommend that you **set realistic expectations, then seek to outperform them.** Everyone appreciates the reasons for trying to move as quickly as is prudent to avoid inconvenient delays in 2022 elections. However, people will be less forgiving if a publicized deadline is missed or can only be achieved by sacrificing transparency or public engagement in the name of expediency.

A gentle reminder that **you serve the people of California, not politicians, would-be candidates, or election administrators.** As you decide on a timeline, we hope you will not bow to pressure for legislative convenience. The Commission's independence is guaranteed by our state Constitution. We urge you not to undermine that independence and set a negative precedent that will impact future CRCs to come.

Respectfully yours,

2010 California Citizens Redistricting Commissioners

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