

From: Lilbert Ontai

Date: Sun, Apr 25, 2021 at 1:13 PM

Subject: Importance of Asserting Your Independence

4/25/2021

Dear Commissioners,

I urge you to assert your independence in appearance, as well as conduct. As an independent constitutional body formed by the citizens of California, it is crucial for you to fully perform re-apportionment anchored with the continued trust by the public, clear of even the slightest impression of partisan politics. There are adversaries who will be quick to pounce on legislative proposals as just another varied example of how independent citizens commissions can be "gamed", however unintended or legitimate a proposal. Unintended perception is a lesson that the 2010 Commission found intractable to resolve even to this day. I urge you to follow your own timeline and process as is necessary for you to complete your historic work on behalf of Californians, work that will long identify you for your impartial independence or conduct unintentionally tainted by partisan influence. Thank you.

Dr. Gil Ontai, 2010 Citizens Redistricting Commissioner