2020 Census redrawing the lines for the next 10 years
I am a resident of Upland, CA and am eager to correct a wrong done to our city in the 2011 redrawing of districts, notably the Congressional district. Upland is part of the Inland Empire, not part of the metropolitan Los Angeles area. The Inland Empire starts at the San Bernardino/L.A. county line and reaches as far as Riverside and the City of San Bernardino.

When we moved here in 1977, we chose NOT to live in Los Angeles County because it had higher property taxes and sales tax. We don't tend to shop there as we go east to Rancho Cucamonga or stay in our own town. LA County’s Covid restrictions were more draconian than our county’s. We did not want to be part of freeways, crowded cities, and mass transit. We wanted a rural area with houses on large lots and only one and two story houses. We like to drive our cars. We liked the lemon trees and orange trees that still dot the one time powerhouse of the fruit industry. We liked the independent nature of the people. The people were solid middle class who worked hard and valued family life. We liked the family atmosphere on our cul-de-sac where we all knew each other and kept an eye out on all the kids of the neighborhood. Though there has been tremendous growth in the past 2 decades, it still has a small town atmosphere.

An injustice was done in the 2011 redrawing of our congressional district. Prior to 2011, the 27th district was located entirely within LA County. In 2011, the committee decided to split our city into 2 areas. Instead of splitting it lengthwise, they split it horizontally. They took the Republican leaning north half of Upland and the San Antonio Heights area and put it with the 27th district that leans heavily Democrat. Our voice was deliberately diluted. The southern part of town, which leans left, was put in the 31st district. Republican Gary Miller was able to win in 2012 but a Democrat has held the seat since 2014. I believe it happened because of the redistricting. I also think the bill passed to take the top 2 vote getters from the primary has decimated our 2 party system. It has rendered the Republican Party impotent.

I read in a Public Policy Institute of CA article that state legislators drew the lines in 2000 and largely protected incumbents in the process. At the time I thought it sounded unfair. But actually, it gave more voice to Republicans than we have now. Our country has always set great store in protecting the minority. That is gone in California. Our elected officials sit in guarded offices and rarely can you meet with them in person. If you want to drop off papers, you put it through a mail slot or leave it by the door. Our representatives are in fear of their lives and don't want “We the People” anywhere near them. You may meet with a staff member who goes through the motions of listening, but your point of view never matters.

I have 2 Democrat senators, a Democrat congressman, a Democrat state senator, and a Democrat state assembly member. I have no voice. There are 4 times as many
Dems as Republicans in our congress make-up. There are 3 times as many Dems than Republicans in the state assembly and the state senate.

I don’t know what the answer is but this is not democracy. This is totalitarianism. I would definitely like my city made whole and put in the 31st district. I would like the same done for the assembly and the state senate. We have nothing in common with those LA cities. If you find any other cities that had done to them what was done to Upland, I would appreciate it if you would fix it.

Thank you for the chance to participate in the redrawing of districts.

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