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This may have parallels elsewhere in the state but here is the political situation in the Southeastern LA County region extended.

In the last redistricting cycle there was a push to unify Long Beach city and Long Beach unified into one district for Congress, State Senate and the State Assembly and they were largely successful, while North Long Beach successfully argued to be kept separate from the rest of the city. I suspect that to happen again.

The City of Lakewood is split between four school districts (ABC Unified, Bellflower Unified, Long Beach Unified and Paramount Unified. Parents in the Long Beach Unified and Paramount Unified School Districts feel their voices are not being heard by those districts and their childrens' needs are not being taken care of. When former Mayor and current Lakewood City Councilman Todd Rogers led a group of parents and Lakewood city leaders to create a Lakewood Unified School District to address these problems, the California state legislature shut them down and denied them, mostly because of the power the Long Beach Unified School District wields and their elected representatives did nothing to help them or their children. Many in those portions of Lakewood feel like this is the case today, but are not hopeful that Long Beach will get its way again and deny them the ability to have more control of their childrens' education.

Likewise there is a split between the small City of Signal Hill & Eastern Long Beach (the 3rd, 4th & 5th Long Beach City Council Districts) versus the rest of Long Beach as Eastern Long Beach has felt they are supporting the rest of Long Beach, while the see less education dollars going to them and less law enforcement to protect them as Mayor Robert Garcia has led a round of cuts to police funding which has fallen hardest on the 3rd, 4th, & 5th districts. Their representatives in the state legislature and in Congress have not addressed their concerns or needs, ignoring them in favor of the Downtown and port sections of Long Beach which are in the Western part of Long Beach.

The cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, and Lakewood have worked well together in the past and I suspect late in the process if they are not already united together in the same districts they will send letters from their councils to get them put within the same districts. Likewise the cities of Downey and Norwalk have shared interests and have worked together particularly regarding transportation and water issues, as well as working with the four cities to their south & La Mirada to their east, which they are involved with as parts of the Cerritos College District. And the cities of Cerritos and La Mirada share issues involved with their bordering industrial park areas, the Coyote Creek River Bed and the Los Angeles County/Orange County line which they would appreciate having common representation in addressing these issues as well.

The Whittier Hills is far more connected to Diamond Bar, Hacienda Heights, La Habra Heights, Rowland Heights and Walnut than the unincorporated Whittier which is tied closer together with the cities of Downey, Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs.

Commerce and Hawaiian Gardens are in essence small cities which are controlled by casinos who essentially control who serves in local government representing their casinos. Likewise, these small cities as well as the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Lynwood, Maywood, Montebello, Pico Rivera, South Gate and Vernon have developed reputations for political corruption or at the very least machine politics, where a political family of the area and their cronies run everything for the benefit of the

political machine which is always seeking more power to their south and east as to their west is the more powerful City of Los Angeles which they know they cannot dominate or influence.

Last but not least, the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles probably would like to be represented by the same representatives with the Los Angeles City community of San Pedro and Western Long Beach being in the same districts as they currently are with their Assembly & State Board of Equalization Districts. They would probably at least want to be represented by the same member of Congress, if not all four representatives that you will be drawing lines for. The City of Carson and the Los Angeles City communities of Wilmington and Harbor City would probably also want to be part of whatever district that includes both ports.

Forgive me for not giving my real name, but as a resident of Long Beach, I fear political retribution from Long Beach City Hall, given my job, where I live and past actions from the current Mayor.