

Tony Bernhard
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Davis, CA 95616

Thursday, May 20, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: public comment for May 24-25 Commission meeting (Item 9A)

Dear Commissioners:

I previously offered comments to your commission on March 19th and 25th, and have tried to keep up with your process.

As the former County Clerk from Yolo County, I know the importance not only of the redistricting process, but also of the need to respect election calendars and the administrative requirements for conducting error-free elections.

During this week's Legal Affairs Committee meeting, Commissioner Yee discussed the need to balance the redistricting and elections calendars with the fairness of a good partner.

I have reviewed the various timelines that have been evolving and compared them with the timeframes involved in the last redistricting in 2011. Today, with all the changes to the arrival of the census data, I am concerned that, with each iteration of a calendar, fewer and fewer days are being provided for the actual administrative tasks required to carry out a faultless election.

In 2011 the Primary Election was held 295 days after the redistricting plan was adopted. The legacy data plan cuts that time in half [158 days] and The Integrated Voter Engagement proposal would trim that even more: the election would be held only 144 days after a plan were to be adopted.

Here is a table showing the various timetables, highlighting the reduction of days available for election officials to ensure the election process.

	commission selected	days until ←-----→	plan adopted	days until ←-----→	election held
2010-11	12/31/10	227	08/15/11	295	06/05/12
initial plan	08/15/20	365	08/15/21	205	03/08/22
court plan	08/15/20	487	12/15/21	174	06/07/22
legacy data plan	08/15/20	503	12/31/21	158	06/07/22
proposed IVE plan	08/15/20	531	01/28/22	144	06/21/22

Last year's court ruling reduced the elections calendar by a month. The legacy data plan reduces that time by an additional two weeks. The IVE proposal would further reduce the time available for election officials to double check their work—a two-month total reduction from the initial plan—while also delaying the date of the Primary.

Election officials appear to have made good faith efforts to accommodate the delays in the availability of census data. This should be considered while acting as a good partner.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Bernhard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tony Bernhard
Davis, California