



# CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

**DONNA M. JOHNSTON, PRESIDENT**

Sutter County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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July 16, 2021

2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission

Alvaro E. Hernandez

Executive Director

Re: Collaboration to Address Late 2020 Census Data Impacts to Redistricting and Election Deadlines

Dear Mr. Hernandez,

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) requests an opportunity to discuss the motion the 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) unanimously approved July 13, 2021, to seek an order from the Supreme Court of California to extend the Commission's deadline for adopting final maps to extend the Commission's deadline for adopting final maps to January 14, 2022. CACEO would appreciate if this discussion could be scheduled prior to the Commission filing with the Supreme Court.

CACEO recognizes the challenges the delayed receipt of 2020 Census data creates for the Commission to fulfill its duty to reapportion Congressional and State elected office districts. CACEO supports and shares the Commission's goal to provide appropriate public engagement in its work. Counties are currently developing their plans for ensuring citizens have ample opportunity to provide input in the reapportionment of supervisorial districts.

CACEO is very concerned about any modification of the Supreme Court's July 2020 order in *Legislature of the State of California v. Alex Padilla* (2020) 9 Cal.5th 867, 874 and the impact on the June 7, 2022, Statewide Primary Election.

Similar to the Commission's valuable work, County Registrars must complete their work to apply reapportioned district maps to our election management systems in an extremely compressed timeline due to the delay of 2020 Census data, while complying with state and federal statutory deadlines. Likewise, the likelihood of litigation related to newly adopted boundaries and the time needed to resolve those issues must be factored into the timeline.

Counties typically have four months to complete the complex task of assigning voters to the proper set of districts according to their residence. Statewide district changes, such as those your Commission is tasked with, reflect only one set of changes that must be implemented during this timeframe. Boards of Supervisors, municipalities, school districts and special districts will also be submitting updated maps to county elections officials that need to be updated in our election management systems and in place for the 2022 election cycle.

The series of pre-election tasks for the June 7, 2022, primary election are dependent on the redistricting process being timely completed. The first of these is the Signature in Lieu process which many candidates utilize to decrease their candidate filing fee and can serve as their nomination signatures. If the redistricting process is not timely and accurately completed, candidates may be collecting signatures from voters who are not in the new district boundary, and the candidate themselves may have been redistricted out of the area in which they seek to hold office.

CACEO welcomes the opportunity to discuss with the Commission how we can collaboratively balance the duties of the Commission and County Registrars for the best possible outcome for all.

I will follow up with you to schedule a meeting. If you have any questions, please call me at 530-822-7122.

Donna M. Johnston

Sutter County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters

CACEO President