Hello,
As an Illinois native and former, part-time public official currently living in Riverside, I greatly appreciate a non-partisan re-districting commission. (See current northern Illinois congressional district map below.) With that being said, I have significant concerns about re-districting nationwide and, especially, in California this year.

As you're aware, there was unprecedented volatility with the Census. Unnecessary, additional survey questions were suggested as well as a pre-mature end to census operations 'on the ground' had their own unique diminishing impacts on the process. The additional questions can be seen by a reasonable person (i.e. not necessarily a liberal or moderate) as an attempt to 'shape' who completed surveys (who counts). For example, if it was thought there was a citizenship question, it could be surmised that those who aren't citizens may as well not participate. Clearly, a person can be here lawfully without being a citizen. Yet, this can get lost in a national, 155 character twitter debate, social media rant, or brief conversation, etc. Further, if there was a family with mixed citizenship, (i.e. one spouse who was a citizen and one who wasn't), that household may not have wanted to participate out of concerns for the 'connectedness' of governmental entities. (Some counties are a lot more cooperative with ICE regarding inmate release than others). Although this is a tech age, the dissemination of accurate information can be delayed or even obstructed as we're seeing today with Covid19. So, just because correct information finally came out, it may have been after a person was contacted to participate in the Census survey. Additionally, door to door sampling efforts were either curtailed or less effective, given the pandemic. Additionally, it's my understanding that the census survey collection time-frame was cut short. If anything, during a pandemic, one would think the usual time-frame would have been extended or allowed to remain the same. The signature collection period for a certain California election was extended by 3 months, due to concerns for not allowing people to express their opinion or sign a petition, yet the census process was cut short.

I am not sure if the Commission has any State or federal Constitutional or regulatory wiggle room. Yet, I suggest that the Commission work with the Legislature in a non-partisan manner to agree upon a process whereby either no changes are made (i.e. zero sum gain),
or not all population or district losses are carried-out. It stands to reason if there’s less
time to obtain surveys, during a pandemic, population
estimates would be less than the number of residents actually present.

As you’re well aware, this data will be relied upon not for 2, 4, or 6 years, but 10 years.
Not having sufficient head start slots, SNAP resources, veteran
re-entry and economic development block grant programs will disenfranchise and short-
change at least half a generation. It would also
do so disproportionately not only to densely populated urban area (i.e. inner-cities),
though rural areas like parts of Kern County

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