

Date 9/16/2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Re: San Joaquin County's Congressional, State Senate, Assembly Districts

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for the time and sacrifice you have made to ensure California's communities have quality representation at both the State and Federal levels. 2010's Redistricting Commission's Districts were a marked improvement over prior Districts. We look forward to working with this year's commission to improve on the work of the 2010 Redistricting Commission.

San Joaquin County is self-contained, with natural physical barriers. These include the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and the Altamont to the west, open agricultural lands to the north, the foothills to the east, and the Stanislaus River, and open agricultural land to the south.

Our uniformed geography and common land-use issues lend it to a single representative unit. And because population centers outside the county are somewhat distant and accessible only by congested highways, county residents tend to look within San Joaquin County's borders for jobs, transportation, services, entertainment, and culture.

San Joaquin County has numerous unique characteristics that unify us. The Agricultural industry provides \$5.732 billion in total economic contribution to the County and directly supports approximately one out of every 11 jobs. Transportation, logistics, and warehousing industries are the bulk of the County's employment growth due to our strategic location and multi-modal transportation network. This network includes the Port of Stockton, Stockton Terminal Railroad connecting to the BNSF and Union Pacific Railroad, Stockton Metropolitan Airport, I-5, I-205, I-580, and State Route 99. In addition, we have unique challenges with health equity, education, air pollution, and workforce development.

It is essential to continue with the production of Agriculture and work toward jobs that will provide a sustainable income for families now and in the future. We are at ground zero for many of California's most challenging water threats, which also threaten other regions. Therefore, the importance of representation at the State and Federal level is vital to the future of our communities and job creation.

Our County socio-economic issues are different from other Counties, with data showing almost 41% of our citizens speak another language than English at home. We have learned to work together to build a better future for all residents while understanding the needs of our diverse population.

Our primary request is to maintain our communities of interest, ensuring cohesive representation at all levels of government. Preliminary population data supports one Congressional District, one Senate District, and two State Assembly Districts nested within the State Senate District. If the San Joaquin County population is not large enough to fulfill district requirements, we request the remainder is met with Stanislaus County residents.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you to ensure San Joaquin County residents get the best quality representation for the decade to come.

Sincerely,

(Name)
(City of residence)

Jane E. Hernandez-Honey
Lodi / Lockeford, CA

Background: Every 10 years, after publication of updated census population data, district boundaries must be redrawn, so our districts correctly reflect our population. The Citizens Redistricting Commission is responsible for drawing new district lines for Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization districts. Public input is critical to ensuring district lines are drawn to keep communities whole to the extent possible and grouped with nearby communities with similar interests. Learn more at: <https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/>.

How to Comment: Individual letters/emails hold more value than identical form letters. We are asking community members to write their own correspondence using the sample content below. In addition, a sample letter is included which can be mailed or emailed. Please edit the sample so each piece of correspondence is slightly different. THANK YOU!

Commenting Basics:

- Begin with your County or City
- What are your communities shared interests? What brings you together? What is important?
- Are there nearby areas that you want to be in a district with you? Nearby areas that you don't want to be in a district with you? Why or why not?

Suggested Data Points:

- We have natural physical barriers that make the County self-contained
- We have the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and the Altamont to the West
- Agricultural lands to the East
- Stanislaus River and open agricultural lands to the south
- San Joaquin County population is approximately 779,233 people
- San Joaquin County is a major agricultural region and transportation center
- The County is economically dependent on the success of agriculture which provides \$5.732 billion in total economic contribution to the area; and agriculture directly supports one out of 11 jobs in county.
- Transportation and warehousing sectors dominate the County's employment growth due to our strategic location and multi-modal transportation network
- Nearly 25,000 residents regularly travel to the Bay area for work
- Foreign born citizens data shows 23.30%; Language other than English spoken at home shows 40.90%
- Median Household income shows \$64,432.00
- Bachelor's degree or higher shows 18.80%
- The employment rate shows 55.60%
- Population: White at 56.5%, Black or African American at 7%, Asian at 15.6%, Hispanic at 41.4%

Key Take Away Points:

- Our County is a very culturally diverse community
- We are a major agricultural region and directly supports about one out of every 11 jobs in the County
- We are very different than most other communities as it relates to economic and socio-economic issues
- Over the years San Joaquin County has developed the ability to work together, while understanding the needs of a multi-cultural community
- Staying together would support representation of equal population, cover the Voting Rights Act, show contiguity, respect geographical boundaries and nesting
- Our unique issues share agricultural, water, air quality, transportation needs, health equity, education, and workforce development

Suggested Request: I request San Joaquin County communities be united through the creation of one Congressional District encompassing all the County; one Senate District encompassing our entire County; and two State Assembly Districts nested within the Senate District.