

Dear Redistricting Commission,

Stanislaus County is the home to the Assyrian community, a unique community that should be kept whole through the redistricting process. Assyrians or sometimes referred to in the news as “Iraqi Christians,” and not to be confused with Syrian nationals from the country of Syria, call Stanislaus County home.

While the Assyrian community doesn’t just live in Stanislaus, it plays a big role in the community at-large. The community hosts cultural and religious events that serve as gathering places not just for members of the community, but for many Stanislaus County residents of different cultures and faiths. For example, in Ceres (between Modesto and Turlock), the Assyrian community holds the annual Mesopotamian Food Festival. This festival is open to the public and uses food and culture to bring cultural awareness to one of the many unique ethnic groups that make Stanislaus County such a great place to live and raise a family.

To keep the community’s voice whole, it is crucial not to divide Stanislaus County and, by extension, this unique community between Congressional districts.

Thank you for your time and for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Julie Carroll, Stanislaus County

P.S. For educational purposes please see the excerpt from Wikipedia and a map of Assyrian halls and churches in Modesto/Ceres/Turlock area for your reference.

Assyrian Americans (Syriac: ܐܣܘܪܝܐܝܐ) refers to people born in or residing in the United States of Assyrian origin.

The largest Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac diaspora is located in Metropolitan Detroit, with a figure of 150,000.^[5] High concentrations are also located in Phoenix, San Jose, **Modesto (Stanislaus)**, San Diego, Los Angeles, **Turlock (Stanislaus)**, and Chicago among others.^[6]

