

Steve Croft  
Vice Mayor

Vicki L. Stuckey  
Council Member

Ariel Pe  
Council Member

Todd Rogers  
Council Member



Jeff Wood  
Mayor

October 6, 2021

Mr. Neal Fornaciari  
Chair, California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
721 Capitol Mall Suite 260  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Fornaciari:

The City of Lakewood appreciates this opportunity to comment on the state redistricting process. As the Commission undertakes its constitutional duty to redraw the Assembly, Senate and Congressional boundaries in the state, we request that the division of communities of interests (COI) be minimized and that the Commission take into account the characteristics that these COIs share that result in more effective representation.

Lakewood is currently a part of Assembly District 63 and Senate Districts 32 and 33. Both AD 63 and SD 32 tie the most northwestern point of the Gateway Council of Governments, Bell/Huntington Park, to the most southeastern, Lakewood/Long Beach. It goes without saying that social, economic, and transportation issues of these vastly different corners of the Gateway Council of Governments vary greatly.

Our city is most similar to communities like Cerritos, Norwalk, Downey, Paramount, Bellflower, Artesia, La Mirada, Whittier and Hawaiian Gardens, with whom we share lower densities and local economic and transportation interests, and common fire and law enforcement agencies. Data supports our commonality with the cities mentioned above. The area has similar household median income (the majority of the area falls in the \$60,011 – \$77,270 range); similar type of housing data (the majority of the area is owner-occupied housing units); and the area is very diverse as evidenced by the high diversity index. Additionally, most of these cities already work together on regional issues such as homelessness, public safety, and economic development, to name a few. Keeping these communities together would meet a preponderance of the Commission's criteria for a COI.

In conclusion, areas on the northwestern half of the proposed district are much more urbanized, have greater densities, and share little of the environmental and transportation interests with Lakewood. The city would be better served and represented if it was aligned with cities with similar interests such as those mentioned above. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Wood".

Jeff Wood  
Mayor

# Lakewood