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October 11, 2021

California Citizen's Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: San Joaquin County – State Redistricting Narrative

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present San Joaquin County's plan for State Redistricting. We have also submitted maps as requested by the deadline of October 11, 2021.

General Overview

San Joaquin County is currently represented by two Congressional Districts, three Assembly Districts, and one Senate District. During the beginning of the redistricting process, San Joaquin County conducted significant outreach and education to its residents and community to determine how they would like their districts drawn.

We heard from several community leaders that they wanted the County to be represented without other counties in those districts, if possible, for better representation and because of shared values and interests. The County then conducted surveys (online and phone) and public outreach to see how county residents wanted their districts drawn.

San Joaquin County State Redistricting Advisory Group

On July 12, 2021, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors created an Advisory Group to help provide education and outreach to the public on the State Redistricting process. Email invitations were sent to over 300 individuals and organizations in San Joaquin County. The Advisory Group was comprised of 20 community groups and organizations throughout the County.

Online Survey

The County conducted an online survey from August 9 through August 15 to San Joaquin County residents. The response from the community was strong. Our consultants were hoping for a minimum of 1,200 to a successful maximum of 4,000 responses. By the second day of the survey, we had already surpassed 4,000 and by the end of the week, over 9,000 responses were received. After the compilation and analysis, it was determined that 7,511 surveys were fully completed.

There were five major questions in the online survey including questions about state redistricting lines and the major issues facing San Joaquin County:

Question 1: Shared Interests In Your Community

Major issue in San Joaquin County – WATER/PRESERVING AGRICULTURE

The online survey showed that the top issue for San Joaquin County residents no matter what community was “water”. While that is a complicated issue and could vary depending on the community the phone survey (see details below) did show that one of the top issues of concern was the drought but other issues of concern were water quality and water availability.

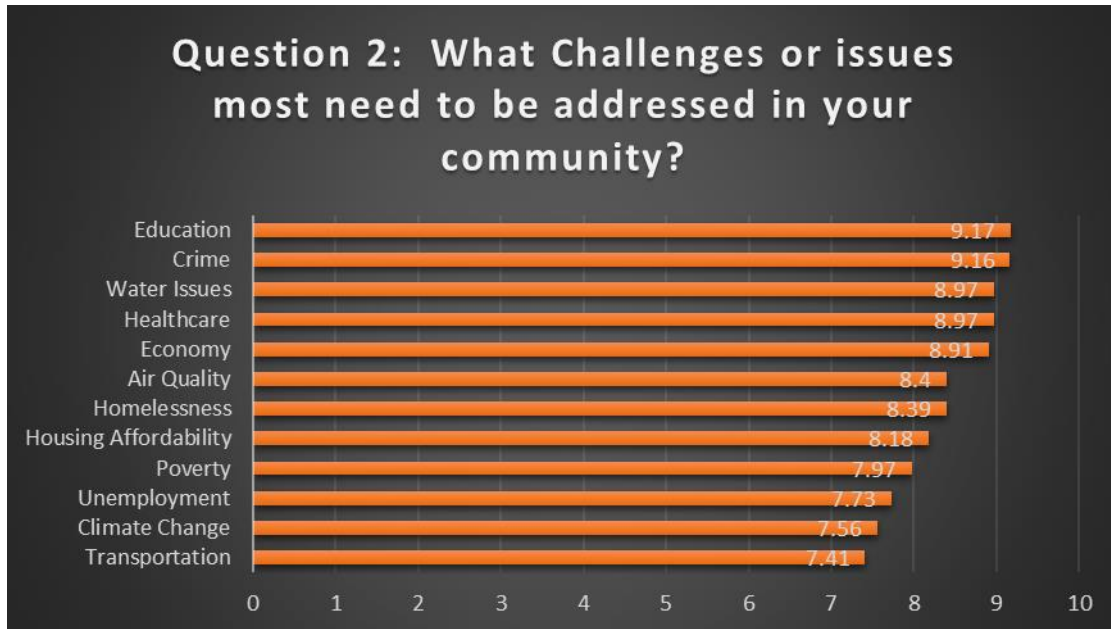
Preserving and Enhancing Agriculture

Preserving agriculture was also a top issue reinforced during the public outreach meetings and in public comments to the California Citizen’s Redistricting Commission (Commission). At the public outreach meeting in Lodi, for example, it was noted that agriculture was a \$7 billion industry and it was imperative to keep the agricultural interests together when drawing new lines.

The chart below shows results from the online survey and top categories of issues that residents believed were shared interests in their community:



Question 2: What Challenges or issues more need to be addressed in your community?



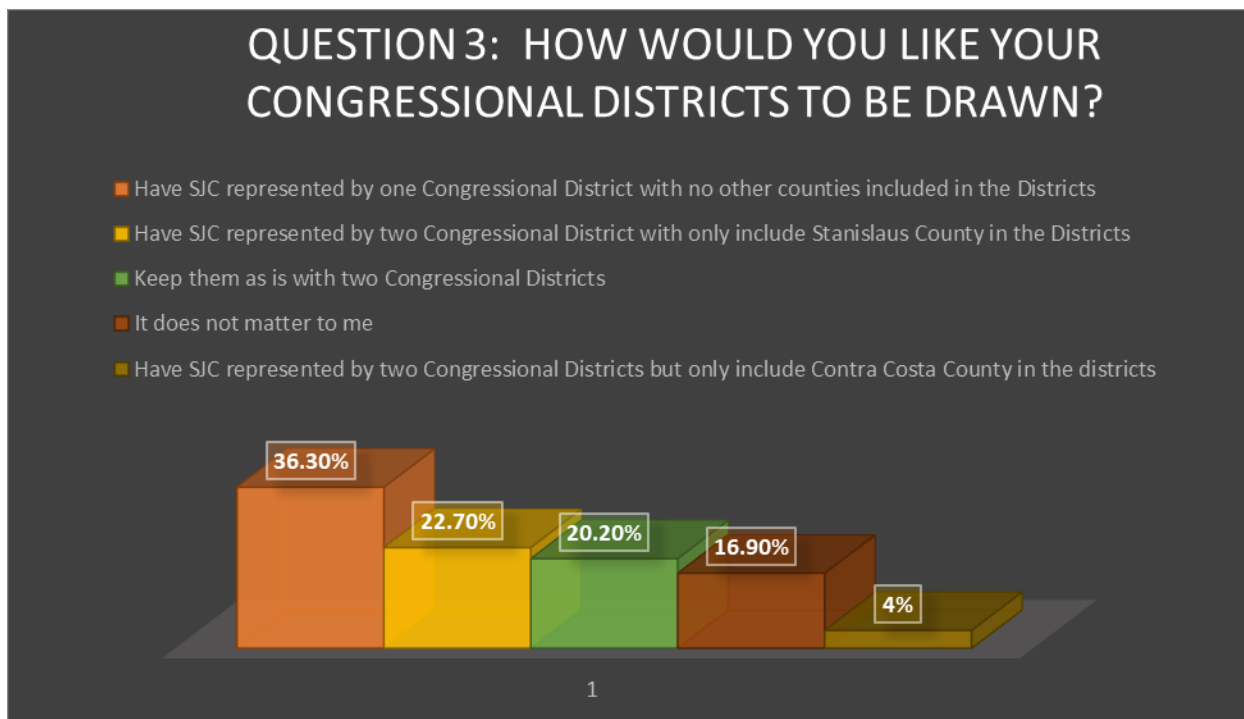
Congressional Districts

The predominant message from all outreach efforts was “education” and comments from community groups and the public was having one Congressional Representative to represent San Joaquin County. Currently, San Joaquin County is represented by two Congressional Representatives, and in those districts other counties are included.

- Congressional District 9 - Represents the majority of San Joaquin County including Stockton, Lodi, and the eastern portions of the County. This district also represents portions of Contra Costa County (Antioch, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, Oakley), and a small portion of Sacramento County (Galt).
- Congressional District 10 – Represents a majority of Stanislaus County and a small portion of San Joaquin County (Escalon, Manteca, Ripon and Tracy).

Question 3: How Would You Like Your Congressional Districts To Be Drawn?

The online poll showed that a slight majority preferred that San Joaquin County be represented by one Congressional Representative:



In addition to the online poll, the phone survey also showed that residents wanted to be represented by a single representative (65.3%), and in several comments to the Commission there were several requests to keep San Joaquin County together as much as possible.

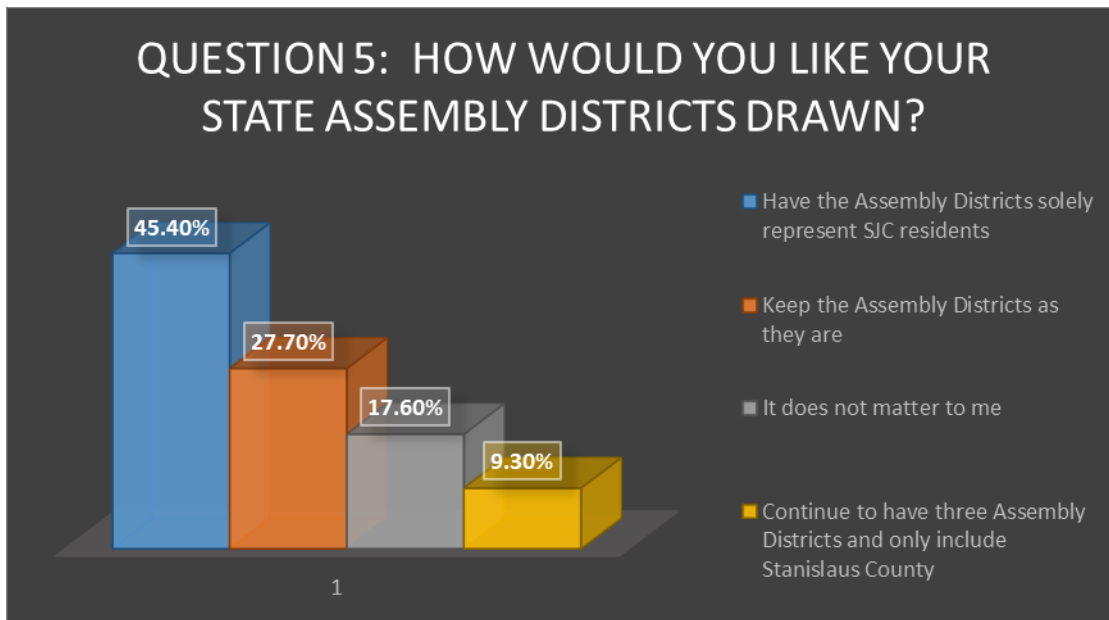
As noted above, the issues and shared values that make San Joaquin County a community of interest are the strong agreement on the issue of water and preserving agriculture across the County, in every community.

Assembly Districts

Outreach and survey results showed San Joaquin County residents want to be represented by two Assembly Districts, if possible, and have the majority of the Assembly Districts’ population in San Joaquin County.

- Assembly District 9 – Represents mostly Sacramento County and only a small percentage of San Joaquin County. Currently, this district only represents 13% of San Joaquin County residents from the Lodi area.
- Assembly District 12 – Represents part of Stanislaus County and part of San Joaquin County. San Joaquin County areas are from the Eastern part of Stanislaus County border up north to Lodi, and west until Stockton. This District represents Escalon, Lathrop, and Manteca and Ripon.
- Assembly District 13 – Represents the western side of San Joaquin County including Stockton, Tracy, and Mountain House.

Question 5: How Would You Like Your State Assembly Districts Drawn?



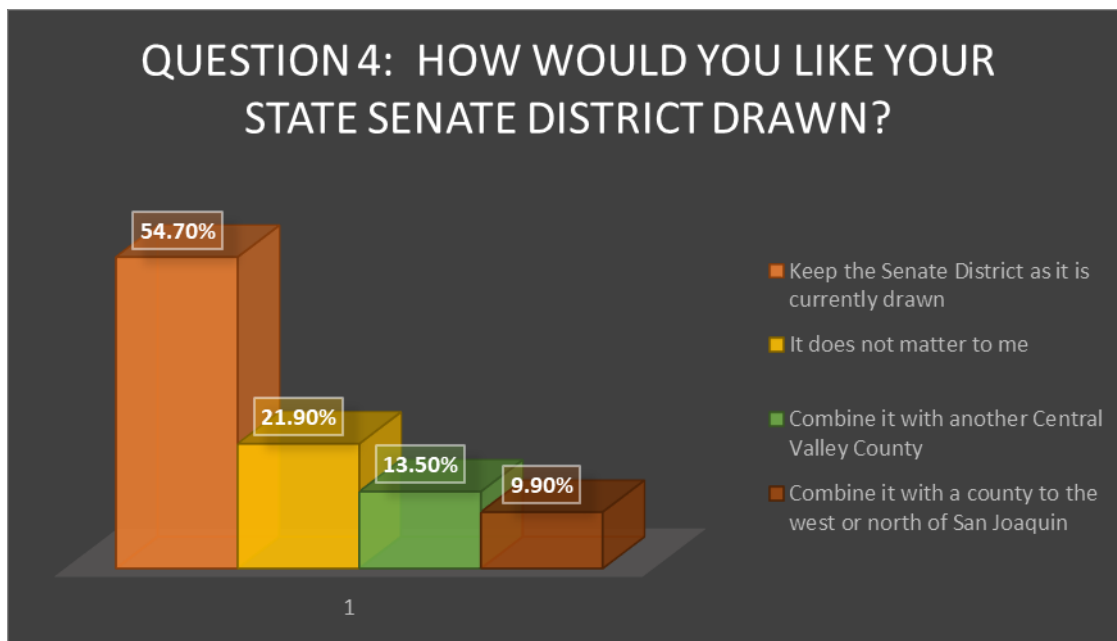
The online survey results (see above) show that 45.4% of residents want the Assembly District solely represented by San Joaquin residents. In the phone survey and in discussions during public outreach, it was noted that if we had to have another county represented in these Districts due to population adjustments, most County residents preferred to be in a district with Stanislaus County due to the similar interests and values regarding agriculture and farming.

Senate District

There is currently one Senate District representing San Joaquin County – Senate District 5. This District represents all of San Joaquin County and a small portion of Stanislaus County (Modesto, Riverbank, and Salida) as well as Galt in Sacramento County.

Overwhelmingly, in the online survey residents did not want any changes to this District. In fact, many of the comments to the Commission, comments were submitted suggesting Senate District 5 as an example for the 2021 maps since it represents predominantly San Joaquin County residents.

Question 4: How Would You Like Your State Senate District Drawn?



Phone Survey

The County also conducted a phone survey of 300 San Joaquin County residents to align with the County’s demographics. The phone survey was from September 2 through September 23, 2021.

- The key findings from the phone survey found nearly two-thirds (65.3%) were in favor of keeping the voting districts exclusive to San Joaquin County and not including any other county.
- 68.2% favored an alignment with Stanislaus County if they had to align with another county.
- The top three issues of concerns among phone survey respondents were the economy (76%), water issues (64%), education, and schools (60%).

Public Outreach Meetings

The County also conducted three public outreach meetings around the County in order to increase public awareness of the State Redistricting process and held several community group outreach meetings as requested. The County also created a website with information on the State Redistricting process, which included 1) a toolkit with information on how to get involved, 2) all of the survey information and 3) social media posts.

San Joaquin County Recommendations

After review of all public input and a presentation to the Board of Supervisors, the County is providing the following recommendations to the Commission regarding San Joaquin County district maps.

Congressional District – One Congressional District

The County is submitting a new Congressional District made up of San Joaquin County excluding a portion of the Mountain House area in order to meet the population thresholds. This new district will ensure the interests of San Joaquin County residents are represented without being overshadowed by the interests of other counties. While the County did not want to exclude any area of San Joaquin County in this map, due to population requirements, this map comes close to meeting the population threshold of 766,066. It keeps a portion of Mountain House, including Delta College, within San Joaquin County.

In addition, this will keep within one district the communities of interest with shared values and interests including preserving agriculture, water, and maintaining our local economy and resources. These issues have been raised repeatedly during public input during our outreach and discussions.

Assembly Districts – Two Assembly Districts

The County is submitting two Assembly District maps, one on the western side and one on the eastern side of the County. The western district map represents the urban areas of the county and would be north/south in configuration, excluding Lodi and the rural northern area. The eastern District map would represent the rest of the county to keep the rural areas of interest together but also include portions of Stanislaus County.

- New Assembly District West: This new Assembly District would include the urban areas of Stockton and Tracy.
- New Assembly District East: This new Assembly District would include the rural incorporated areas in the northern and eastern part of San Joaquin County, in addition to the cities of Lodi, Manteca, Escalon and Ripon. This District would also include portions of Stanislaus County (Salida, Riverbank, Oakdale, Waterford and Turlock) in order to meet the population requirements.

These two new district address comments the County received requesting two Assembly districts in the County, that Lodi be included in the rural portion of a district and not be in a District with Sacramento County. This also addresses comments from Stanislaus County residents that they would like to be aligned with the eastern portion of San Joaquin County. Having the Eastern District would also ensure that agricultural interests are kept together in one district.

Senate District – One Senate District

As stated previously, the existing State Senate District 5 is often held up as an example of what the community would like for new districts because it represents most of San Joaquin County. Due to comments from Commissioners that drawing the lines would be from a clean slate, the County wanted to include a map as close to the existing State Senate District as possible to ensure that boundaries encompass San Joaquin County.

The new County proposed map would represent all of San Joaquin County and a portion of Galt and a small portion of Stanislaus County due to population requirements. However, this map is not exact, and the Commission will have to adjust it to meet the population requirements.

This map addresses public comment and feedback the County received to maintain the State Senate boundaries. In the online poll, 54% said to keep the district as is.

In closing, we sincerely appreciate the opportunity to comment and the want to thank the Commission for their hard work and dedication to this important process of redrawing the district lines. My Co-Chair, Supervisor Robert Rickman, County staff, Advisory Group members and the residents of San Joaquin County did a phenomenal job in this redistricting effort which hopefully will assist you in your mission and serve as a model 10 years from now.

We have included the online survey and the phone survey reports the County conducted. There is more information available on the County's website: <http://sjgov.org/stateredistricting>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Winn". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Vice-Chair Chuck Winn, Chair of San Joaquin County State Redistricting Advisory Group

Attachments

c: San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors