

2021 California Redistricting:
STOP THE EAST/WEST SPLIT
Restore the Neighborhoods of Greater Wilshire

From the onset of the 20th Century, when former bean and oil fields were developed into city blocks, Greater Wilshire in the City of Los Angeles has been a “community of interest” — long before that term came into political vogue.

Our geographic area — west of Western Avenue, east of La Brea Avenue, south of Melrose Avenue, and north of Olympic Boulevard — was created by the western expansion of the City of Los Angeles — away from Downtown and toward the Pacific Ocean. But, because of the 1930s Great Depression, the movement further west paused, and great stability developed in the Greater Wilshire community, with its local-serving businesses, apartments and now-historic, century-old homes.

This stability was accelerated by the adoption in 1976 of the Wilshire Community Plan by the City of Los Angeles, formalizing the distinct neighborhoods of Greater Wilshire where our residents and business people work together, in recognition of our common economic, historic, political and social interests.

The boundaries of Greater Wilshire were officially recognized by the City of Los Angeles in the early 2000s, when the City created a community-based political subdivision named the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council — with boundaries of Western Avenue on the east, Olympic Boulevard on the south, La Brea Avenue on the west and Melrose Avenue on the north.

Please see the accompanying map.

The residents of Greater Wilshire share similar living standards, use the same schools, restaurants, grocery stores, houses of worship, shops, and transportation facilities (roads, buses, and — very soon — the Wilshire Subway extension), and have similar work opportunities. Long-time local newspapers, the *Larchmont Chronicle* and *Beverly Press*, joined for the past decade by the online *Larchmont Buzz*, serve this specific community of interest.

In the City, this area has had effective and fair representation because almost all of Greater Wilshire is in City Council District 4. However, a bitter blemish on this record of fair representation occurred in 2009, when an arbitrary and bureaucratic dividing line was created that split our community for the purposes of monitoring statistics by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and equalizing the population between the brand new LAPD “Olympic” Division and our traditional LAPD Wilshire Division.

Confronted with the vocal Greater Wilshire objection to this LAPD dividing line, LAPD promised it was only for LAPD’s internal purposes . . . and that it would have no impact on the divided communities. “You might even get better police response,” the community was told.

The actual impact has turned out to be a nightmare. Not only is Greater Wilshire subject to disjointed policing, but your predecessor California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC), circa 2010, adopted the artificial LAPD dividing line for creating Assembly, State Senate, and House of Representatives districts! This political division of our community of interest was a first in our one-hundred-year history.

Our residents and businesses have been marginalized. We have suffered through a decade of ineffective and unresponsive representation. Our community of interest has been split in two.

We ask the current CRC to **STOP THE EAST - WEST SPLIT!** Move the Assembly, State Senate and House of Representatives boundaries that separate **AD 50** and **AD 53**; **SD 24** and **SD 26**; and **HR 33** and **HR 34**. Put those district dividing lines at their logical place — along Western Avenue, the eastern boundary of Greater Wilshire. **RESTORE our community of interest.**

Thank you very much.

06-30-2021