



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REDISTRICTING 2021

June 29, 2021

Senator Steven M. Glazer
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: Support for Senate Bill (SB) 594 (As Amended S/3/2021) If Amended

Dear Senator Glazer:

The Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (LA County CRC) would support your SB 594 if it is satisfactorily amended to address a concern arising from the delayed availability of 2020 U.S. Census data. SB 594, as currently amended, would clarify or loosen deadlines for several types of redistricting, but not for the state-mandated county redistricting commissions designed to be independent of county supervisors.

The LA County CRC is one of those commissions. Our concern is that delayed availability of U.S. Census data will make it exceedingly difficult for us to perform our duties with due care if we must adopt a map of Supervisorial districts by the “map adoption deadline” (MAD) in state law.

We now face a MAD of December 15, 2021. Before adopting our final map, we must hold two public hearings over a period of at least 30 days. We will need time to meet and draw draft maps before the public hearings, and time afterwards to meet and agree upon a final map. All our deliberations about maps must occur in duly noticed public meetings with opportunities for public comment.

In an ordinary decade, we and the public would already have the Census data needed for redistricting. Yet we currently do not expect to have the data available in a form suitable for commission and public use before

Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission

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about September 30 of this year. Our commission would like more time with the data, and more time for public review and comment on our draft maps, before the MAD.

As you know, the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission, the only other commission in California with a mandate like ours, has requested an amendment extending its MAD to January 15, 2022. We hear from that commission that you may not be advancing SB 594 this year because of the new “opposite house” bill limit imposed by agreement between Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon.

Here we ask that you pursue via legislation a MAD extension to January 15, 2022, for our commission too. If you do, expect our support.

Perhaps you can recast SB 594 as a committee bill from the elections committee you chair, which would exempt the bill from the new limit. Or perhaps you will move SB 594 forward after all or place its provisions in another bill.

Regardless of the path forward, please include this amendment to Elections Code § 21534(d)(1):

(d) (1) The commission shall adopt a redistricting plan adjusting the boundaries of the supervisorial districts and shall file the plan with the county elections official by the map adoption deadline set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 21501, or January 15, 2022, whichever is later. The commission shall not release a draft map before the date set forth in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 21508.

Our Executive Director has reached out to our county elections official to learn the latest date to which the MAD could be postponed while still allowing his office to properly conduct an election with an election day of June 7, 2022. Although his office has replied that any MAD extension would present “operational, technological and other challenges,” we have yet to receive a clear answer about whether or when those challenges would be surmountable.

LA County CRC members serve without pay. A MAD extension would not help us financially. But commissioners and community group members alike know that we can do a much better job — with more public input and careful consideration — if we get more time after the delayed data finally become available than current law allows.





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Please consider our position and let us know if you will amend and move SB 594 (or its contents) forward as we suggest here.

Sincerely,

Daniel Mark Mayeda, Co-Chair
Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting
Commission

Carolyn Williams, Co-Chair
Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting
Commission

cc: Assembly Committee on Elections
Nicolas C. Heidorn,
Staff Director, Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments

