



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REDISTRICTING 2021

August 22, 2021

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

Dear Senator Glazer,

RE: OPPOSITION TO SB 594 (AS AMENDED 8/16/2021) UNLESS AMENDED

The County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission (LA County CRC) opposes SB 594 as amended 8/16/2021. SB 594, as currently amended, which would modify or clarify responsibilities related to redistricting and elections, but would not alter the mandates governing state-mandated county redistricting commissions designed to be independent of county supervisors, such as the LA County CRC.

Our main concern, as before, 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) currently in state law.

That MAD is December 15, 2021. Before adopting our final map, we must hold hearings over a period of at least 30 days. We will need time before then to complete pre-map-drawing hearings, to roll out map-drawing software with up-to-date data for public use, and to meet, draw, agree on, and post draft maps. And we will need time after the final hearings to meet, consider minor modifications to draft maps, and agree on 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 (the LA County CRC) 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 late September of this year. The commission would like more time with the data, and more time for public review and comment on our draft maps, before the MAD.

County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission

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Our county-level MAD and the “state redistricting deadline” faced by the state’s Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) are currently the same. Yet while SB 594 now clearly anticipates that a court will extend the state deadline (which comes from the state constitution), the bill would not similarly extend our MAD (which is within the Legislature’s control). It could do so, and should do so.

As in our previous letter dated June 29, 2021, the LA County CRC asks that you pursue via legislation a MAD extension for our commission. The state CRC recently voted to request an extension of its deadline to January 14, 2022. We now ask that SB 594 include a matching extension to our MAD. (We believe that the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission is seeking a similar extension.) The Legislature should address the needs of independent county redistricting commissions. We will oppose SB 594 until it does. So please amend SB 594 to propose this change 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 14, 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.

We further note that SB 594 seeks to make various changes to the Elections Code relating to candidate nominations for particular statewide offices in order to accommodate an extended redistricting deadline for those offices. If the above map adoption deadline is extended by the amendment we request above, the legislature should consider adding “County Supervisor” to the office listed in proposed Elections Code §8162(a)(1).

Finally, we are newly concerned about SB 594 seeking to amend an old section of law that says **all** county boards of supervisors must draw new supervisorial district lines every decade. We do not want that requirement considered enforceable as to our county as part of a statute enacted later than our mandate. We therefore ask that you amend the current Section 2 of SB 594 by adding “*if the county does not have an independent or citizens redistricting commission established pursuant to state law,*” immediately after “21500. (a) Following a county’s decision to elect its board using district-based elections, or following each federal decennial census for a county whose board is already elected using district-based elections,”.

LA County CRC commissioners and community members alike know that the commission can do a much better job — listening better, hearing more, and giving more careful consideration to public input — with more time than current law allows. Please amend SB 594 accordingly.





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Sincerely,

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

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

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

