



Citizens Redistricting Commission Q&A: Why Should I Care?

Q: What does redistricting mean?

A: Redistricting means to redraw the lines of an election district. In California these districts must be adjusted every ten years following the census.

Q: Why is redistricting important? What does it do for me?

A: Redistricting equals representation. It determines who is represented, how well they are represented, and what laws are passed.

Q: Why should I care about redistricting? Aren't jobs, schools, and housing more important to our families?

A: Redistricting is directly responsible for how much money goes to your children's schools, jobs that are created in your neighborhood, and the development of affordable housing for your community.

If you aren't an active redistricting participant, your neighborhood and community could be divided up and lose their unified political voice for at least 10 years.

Q: What do you mean "divided up"? How can my community lose its voice if we actively vote in state elections?

A: Throughout California's history Asian American, African American, and Latino communities have had district lines drawn through them in a way that weakens their political voice. The needs and concerns of active voters could become less important if their community represents 10% of a district's populations instead of 30-40%.

On the other hand, communities of color can also suffer when they are "packed" into a single district in order to minimize their political voice.

Q: How can I make a difference? I've never been involved in politics before.

A: In 2008, California voters created the new Citizens Redistricting Commission*. Fourteen (14) ordinary and committed Californians will draw the new district lines for our state beginning in November 2010.

YOU can play a direct role in making sure that your community stays intact and fairly represented. You can A.) **APPLY** to the commission b.) **HELP** to organize your community around this issue, or c.) **CONTACT** the Greenlining Institute (below) for more information on how you can help.

*Responsible for re-drawing state Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts.

Please contact the Greenlining Institute for more information:

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