



September 30, 2021

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission  
2282 Tulare Street, Third floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

Sent via email

Cc: John Thompson

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and Members of the Advisory Redistricting Commission,

Redistricting, the drawing of new district boundaries, fosters fair and effective representation for all residents. How those districts are drawn will impact our lives for the next ten years.

Most Fresno County Supervisors have stated on the record that they want to keep the existing supervisorial districts largely the same, with only minor changes to balance population. This approach is not only a mistake; it is likely illegal. It sends a signal to County residents that the County Supervisors have predetermined this process before giving the public an opportunity to participate. This disregards the dramatic demographic changes that have occurred over the last few decades.

This approach is also contrary to law. This time, the Board cannot simply balance the population of existing districts (One Person, One Vote) and comply with the Voting Rights Act. The Fair Maps Act creates a new set of mandatory criteria that must guide the drawing of district lines. Keeping the core of existing Supervisor Districts intact is not one of the ranked criteria.

A different legal standard was in effect the last time the Board went through redistricting and adopted the 2011 District Map, and County Supervisors were permitted to consider or ignore traditional redistricting principles. But, a new supervisorial map in 2021 that is largely the same as the 2011 map (which is largely the same as the 2001) map would likely violate state law.

To ensure fair representation in Fresno County, the Advisory Commission and the Board of Supervisors must start with a blank slate. Public testimony must be heard and considered, and a

map drawn that gathers together communities of interest with similar values, backgrounds, and characteristics. This is required by the California Fair Maps Act.

We ask that you approach this process with the intent of the law, that every resident of Fresno County be equally and fairly represented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Kast", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marianne Kast, President