

Subject: Public Comment: 3 - Orange

From: Tyler Diep <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, 20 Jul 2011 18:08:18 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

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Subject: Minority Rights

Message Body:

The Voting Rights Act Should Protect MINORITY Communities, like the Vietnamese in Little Saigon and San Jose, or African-American populations in Los Angeles. With 40% and 37% of the CA population white and Latino respectively, the Voting Rights Act doesn't apply to populations this large and well represented. To split Little Saigon (and several cities) to re-draw Loretta Sanchez Democrat seat would be a gross partisan violation of the Voting Rights Act and the intention of voters.

The Voting Rights Act is not a proportional representation system as some who are attempting to redraw the previous incumbent district in Orange County think it is. The act is designed to protect minority communities who have had previous district lines weaken their already small political voice. When a population like the Latino community reaches the 37% population mark in our state and Latino representation reaches 2 members of the United States Senate, 30 Latino members in the House of Representatives, 8 Latino California State Senators and 15 California State Assemblymen, while there are no Vietnamese Senators or Assemblymen in the entire state or Congress - it is clear which community the Voting Rights Act is meant to protect at this point in our history.

That is why ALL of Little Saigon should be included in any Congressional , State Senate or Assembly District lines that the Citizen Redistricting Commission draws - including West Santa Ana, Southwest Anaheim, North Fountain Valley and the entire communities of Garden Grove, Westminster and Midway City.

It may come as a surprise to find that, in terms of raw population, Santa Ana has the highest number of residents of Vietnamese decent in all of Orange County. A map of the Asian population of Santa Ana, Garden Grove and Anaheim in the current CD47 is attached. It clearly shows the concentration of Vietnamese voters in east Santa Ana and South Anaheim.

Recent media reports explain how Democrats have sent their operatives in to the Citizen Redistricting Commission meetings to pretend that these maps hurt Latino voting, when they actually only hurt DEMOCRAT voting. Specifically they "find the proposed realignment of Sanchez's district particularly troubling. The draft maps call for the veteran congresswoman to lose some heavily Hispanic parts of Anaheim and see her district expanded into a heavily Vietnamese-American area known as Little Saigon..."

"...Experts watching the redistricting process unfold said concerns among Hispanic voters might be unwarranted. The Hispanic electorate is no longer the endangered group it once was, and the commission is likely taking into account less well-represented ethnic groups as it tried to even the political playing field, said James V. Lacy, who co-owns a law firm specializing in election law. The draft maps don't appear to violate the Voting Rights Act, and any challenges would be unlikely to withstand court scrutiny, said Lacy." [Hispanic groups dispute new Calif. political maps, Times-Standard, [REDACTED]]

"...An AP story points out that the debate is important in California, where no racial or ethnic group has a majority of the population. Thirty-seven percent of the state's 37 million residents are Hispanic, according to the 2010 Census, while Asians account