



Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County

LWV Cupertino/Sunnyvale

LWV Los Altos - Mountain View

LWV Palo Alto

LWV San Jose/Santa Clara

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley

Sept. 22, 2021

2021 Advisory Redistricting Commission
Board of Supervisor Districts
Santa Clara County

Subject: LWVs of SCC Communities of Interest Testimony

Dear Commissioners,

Local organizational structure of the League of Women Voters:

Within the County of Santa Clara there are five Leagues each of which represents a group of cities and is represented on the LWV Santa Clara County Council. The Council coordinates our county-wide activities. It is the LWV Santa Clara County Council that is writing you today.

Just a little background:

As you may be aware, the League of Women Voters was a major leader in the effort to bring fair redistricting practices to the State of California and then in turn worked to proliferate redistricting best practices to the remaining states. The League strongly supports the establishment of independent citizens redistricting commissions. We are very proud of the leadership the State of California has taken in redistricting and the willingness of so many local jurisdictions within California to embrace redistricting best practices.

Why we are writing you today – Keep Cities together:

Collectively we are very interested in continuing the excellent work that has previously been done within the County on Redistricting and specifically want to focus on creating fair maps that can lead to the best synergies within the communities of interest represented within the maps. To that end we encourage you to keep cities together where possible. We recognize San Jose, being the largest city, will need to be split, but please do keep the smaller cities intact within the same district. Where you are not able to keep a city intact, we strongly encourage you to divide cities along their district lines. The cities with districts are currently working to draw lines to reflect their communities of interest. Please allow those cities to complete their work and then follow those new district lines when dividing a city. Also, we encourage keeping small cities that work closely together in the same district.

We are here to help:

Thank you for your important work on redistricting and for the opportunity to present to you. Our Leagues are working on many redistricting efforts both directly on drawing the lines and indirectly through educating the community, promoting events, providing input and more. If we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,
LWV Santa Clara County

Tom Picraux, Chair
LWV SCC

Elaine Manley & Tracey Edwards, Co-Presidents
LWV CU/SU

Karin Bricker, President
LWV LA/MV

Liz Kniss, President
LWV PA

Carol Watts, President
LWV SJ/SC

Sophia Kao, President
LWV SWSCV