

FW: New submission from Contact Us

1 message

CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 3:12 PM

To: Shalice Tilton <stilton@ndcresearch.com>, Andrea Sheridan Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>

Cc: "Anderson, Nancy" <nanderson@countyofsb.org>

This will be included in the next public comment packet.

Best,
Reese

Reese Ellestad

Fiscal & Policy Analyst | County Executive Office

**P** 805-568-3403 **W** www.countyofsb.org

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From: Douglas Johnson <djohnson@ndcresearch.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 9:33 AM
To: CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>
Subject: Fwd: New submission from Contact Us

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Forwarding, as the message below came in directly to an NDC email address.

Douglas Johnson
National Demographics Corporation
djohnson@NDCresearch.com
phone 310-200-2058

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 9:04 AM
Subject: New submission from Contact Us

Name

Colleen Estrada

Email

cgestrada@gmail.com

Message

I endorse Tom Martinez for the Redistricting Committee. I am a resident of Santa Ynez, CA.

From: [Mikey](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: IV-UC needs to be slit up
Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021 10:07:28 AM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I think that the IV - UC population is totally irrelevant to Solvang, Buellton and other northern towns. The IV sector skews the District 3 county vote and needs to be changed.

Thank you,
Michael C. Schaumburg
805 679-3068

From: [D Adams](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#); [Williams, Das](#); [Nelson, Bob](#); [Hartmann, Joan](#); [Hart, Gregg](#); steve.lagavino@gountyofsb.org
Cc: [Denice Spangler Adams](#)
Subject: Redistricting Commission composition & maps; Public Comment 6/19/2021
Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021 10:39:33 AM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Commissioners and Supervisors:

The composition of the Redistricting Commission is NOT representative of Santa Barbara County! Democrats are disproportionately represented!

The shenanigans played by those seeking appointment including highly political known Democrat operative and Fund for Santa Barbara VP Kate Adams should be unlawful and at minimum are unacceptable.

For activist Democrats to re-register as 'No Party Preference' voters to gain appointment to the Commission must be called out. Now these loyal Democrat operatives MUST be replaced with legitimate long standing registered No Party Preference voters who are registered NPP for a reason. NPPs do not related to either party. Moreover, NPPs give up voting privileges in most primary elections.

Additionally, both Youth under age 26, and Whites of Hispanic/Latino/ Mexican decent are not adequately represented either despite a significant number of college students, and Hispanics being the majority demographic in SB County. What happened?

Tell the public: Why was the motion for Lupe Alvarez's nomination not even deserving of a second by not ine of ten other Commissioners?

Today, 6/19/21 is your first meeting. Your maps will determine election outcomes for the next 10 years.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Commission composition needs to be RE-analyzed and then new appointments made to reflect county demographic composition.
- 2) IV and UCSB need to be added to District 2 with SBCC to ensure student and renter representation
- 3) Those resident voters in unincorporated areas in South County RE-assigned to Districts 1 and 3 to ensure homeowner and families are represented.

Cordially,
Denice Spangler Adan's
District 1 - Montecito homeowner
41 years
CallDSA@gmail.com
805-680-3939

From: [Shelley Trost](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: District 2 Letting my voice be heard
Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021 10:48:39 AM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing today because I am feeling that voters in Santa Barbara are not really counted and are overridden by UCSB students who are not from here, live here for four years (if that) and leave. They are voting the extreme ideals they are taught on college campuses, which are very one sided. I feel UCSB students should vote in their home towns as absentee ballots until they are out of school. Then, if they stay in SB or Goleta and plan to live and work here, their vote can count.

Thank you,
Shelley Trost
805-705-7555
280 Arboleda Road
Santa Barbara CA 93110

From: [Barbara Batastini](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Cc: [Barbara Anne](#)
Subject: Citizen for Fair Re-districting
Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021 11:13:41 AM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors ,

I am a third generation citizen that is actively paying attention to the re-districting committees efforts in creating fair district lines that would reflect the county's demographic composition .

I can say that it is quite obvious that shenanigans of sorts have been going on with the disproportion 3rd district . IV and UCSB need to be added to district 2 to correct the unbalance .

This is a disgrace to our community and unfair for many reasons . This illegitimate monopoly effects the entire community and its time the people of this community realize and do something about it .

Please redraw the lines in a fair manner .

Sincerely ,
Barbara Batastini
District 1

Sent from my iPhone

May 16, 2021

County of Santa Barbara
Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101

Dear Commissioners:

Several months ago, the City Council, City of Guadalupe, strongly supported Mr. Lupe Alvarez for one of the Redistricting Commission members currently moving forwards towards a full 11-member Commission. We believed then, and do now, that Mr. Alvarez will serve the Commission with the highest degree of professionalism, has the skills relevant to the redistricting requirements and challenges and represents the Hispanic/Latinix population of Santa Barbara County. Additionally, Mr. Alvarez has first-hand knowledge of the environment representative of the Santa Barbara North County area where over 46% of the population is Hispanic/Latinix.

Mr. Alvarez is impartial in his decision-making ability and would always focus on the Redistricting Commission goals and objectives regarding its charge in applying the formulas for the upcoming County redistricting process.

Lastly, north Santa Barbara County requires a Redistricting Commission member who is familiar with the north county area residents as well as the entire Santa Barbara County's five supervisorial districts. Mr. Alvarez does represent the City of Guadalupe, an incorporated city, and will represent Santa Barbara County residents, especially the Hispanic/Latinix.

In support of the Redistricting Commission efforts, we strongly urge consideration of Mr. Lupe Alvarez for an appointment to the Redistricting Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at ariston.julian@me.com or 805-868-5933 should you have any questions regarding this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Ariston D. Julian
159 Surf Bird Court
Guadalupe, CA. 93434

From: [D Adams](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Appoint Tom Martinez to 5th District Vacancy at 6p Today, SB County Admin Bldg Anapamu at Anacapa Streets
Date: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 8:35:02 AM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Chairman and Commissioner Glenn Morris, Fifth District,

Vice Chair Commissioner Norman “Doug” Bradley, Third District, and Commissioners Cheryl Trosky, First District
Karen Twibell, First District
William McClintock, Second District
Megan Turley, Second District,
Kevin Kaseff, Third District
James Bray, Fourth District
Amanda Ochoa, Fourth District
Jannet Rios, Fifth District
Kathryn Adams, Member-At-Large

Chairman Morris and Redistricting Commissioners,

Today, please appoint **Tom Martinez** to fill the 5th District Vacancy. Demographically, there is an under-representation of conservatives, youth and ethnic Hispanic surnamed citizens on the Commission and an over-representation of Democrats.

The recent appointment of member-at-large Kate Adams added to the left lopsided composition of the Commission . Changing party registration to No Party Preference to gain appointment is wrong when an individual is known to be a Democrat loyalist and high profile activist.

The Commission is to have proportional representation which it does not.

With that said, the appointment today of Republican **Tom Martinez** is essential to help bring required representation to the Commission.

Cordially,
Denice S Adams
Montecito, 93108
41 year resident District 1
Native Southern Californian
CallDSA@gmail.com
805-680-3939

FW: My endorsement of Tom Martinez as with district commissioner

1 message

CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 3:49 PM

To: Shalice Tilton <stilton@ndcresearch.com>, Douglas Johnson <djohnson@ndcresearch.com>, Andrea Sheridan Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>

Cc: "Anderson, Nancy" <nanderson@countyofsb.org>

Please see the message below.

Reese Ellestad

Fiscal & Policy Analyst | County Executive Office

**P** 805-568-3403 **W** www.countyofsb.org

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From: Laurie PUNCHES <laketahoelogcabin@gmail.com>**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 9:08 PM**To:** CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>**Subject:** My endorsement of Tom Martinez as with district commissioner

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to endorse the appointment of architect Tom Martinez as a fifth district commissioner.

Mr. Martinez will negotiate wise, fair and equitable boundaries.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Laurie PUNCHES



FW: Redistricting Commission composition & maps; Public Comment 7/6/21

1 message

CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 3:13 PM

To: Shalice Tilton <stilton@ndcresearch.com>, Douglas Johnson <djohnson@ndcresearch.com>, Andrea Sheridan Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>

Cc: "Anderson, Nancy" <nanderson@countyofsb.org>

This will be included in the next public comment packet.

Best,
Reese

Reese Ellestad
Fiscal & Policy Analyst | County Executive Office

P 805-568-3403 W www.countyofsb.org

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-----Original Message-----

From: Peggy Wilson <peggy.j.wilson@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 2:38 PM

To: CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Cc: CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>; Williams, Das <DWilliams@countyofsb.org>; Nelson, Bob <bob.nelson@countyofsb.org>; Hartmann, Joan <jHartmann@countyofsb.org>; Hart, Gregg <gHart@countyofsb.org>; steve.lagavino@gountyofsb.org

Subject: Re: Redistricting Commission composition & maps; Public Comment 7/6/21

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

I am concerned about the Redistricting selection and the balancing of ALL voices in our County. Presently, the current committee is highly weighted to one side and ABSENT of Hispanic input.

I am asking you to support and Vote for Local Architect Tom Martinez to this Redistricting Commission. Tom is a community leader and is very familiar with the needs of the North County Residents- PLEASE VOTE FOR Tom Martinez as a fifth district Commissioner to the Redistricting Commission. Mr Martinez will represent the citizens of Santa Barbara County by negotiating a fair and equitable boundary.

Sincerely,
Peggy Wilson
District 2

FW: Tom Martinez

2 messages

CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 3:58 PM

To: Shalice Tilton <stilton@ndcresearch.com>, Andrea Sheridan Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>, Douglas Johnson <djohnson@ndcresearch.com>

Cc: "Anderson, Nancy" <nanderson@countyofsb.org>

Please see the message below.

Best,
Reese

Reese Ellestad
Fiscal & Policy Analyst | County Executive Office

P 805-568-3403 W www.countyofsb.org

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-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Blough <dan@danblough.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:18 PM

To: CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Subject: Tom Martinez

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Please except this email as my very strong endorsement of Tom. I have known him for more than 40 years and always found him to extremely fair, thoughtful, and the guy who always does the right thing!

Daniel D. Blough, CCIM
President
Dan Blough Construction Inc.
2353 A Street
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Email: dan@danblough.com
Cell# 805 680-9666
CA RE Broker License 00413433
CA Contractor License 496903

Shalice Tilton <stilton@ndcresearch.com>

Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 4:29 PM

To: Clare Burgess <clare@tripepismith.com>, Jerald La Madrid <gerald@tripepismith.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Shalice Tilton, Sr. Consultant
National Demographics Corporation
714-308-0726
stilton@NDCresearch.com
www.NDCresearch.com

FW: Reference for Tom Martinez

1 message

CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 2:41 PM

To: Shalice Tilton <stilton@ndcresearch.com>, Douglas Johnson <djohnson@ndcresearch.com>, Andrea Sheridan Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>

Cc: "Anderson, Nancy" <nanderson@countyofsb.org>

Please see the message below.

Best,
Reese

Reese Ellestad

Fiscal & Policy Analyst | County Executive Office



P 805-568-3403 **W** www.countyofsb.org

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From: Kevin Walthers <kevin.walthers@hancockcollege.edu>**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 2:25 PM**To:** CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>**Cc:** 'Tom Martinez' <tom@martinezassoc.net>**Subject:** Reference for Tom Martinez

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To the members of the redistricting committee,

I write today on behalf of Mr. Tom Martinez as a candidate for the Santa Barbara County Redistricting commission. Tom has long been an active leader in Santa Maria, serving on many boards and committees that are designed to promote the health and well being of our most vulnerable citizens. I know him as a thoughtful leader who can always be counted on for his integrity.

Your willingness to volunteer for this daunting task is commendable. There is no doubt that adding Tom Martinez to the commission will be of great benefit to your work and will benefit all of us in Santa Barbara County.

With great thanks,

Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.

Superintendent/President

1-805-346-1001 Office

1-805-242-2461 Google Voice (Mobile/text)

Allan Hancock College
800 S. College Dr.
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Facebook | Instagram | hancockcollege.edu



3 attachments



image003.png
14K



image005.png
18K



image006.png
9K

FW: Candidate for Redistricting Committee

1 message

CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Fri, Jul 30, 2021 at 8:05 AM

To: Shalice Tilton <stilton@ndcresearch.com>, Douglas Johnson <djohnson@ndcresearch.com>

Cc: Andrea Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>

Please see email received for CIRC. Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Cardona <mike0421@icloud.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 3:52 PM

To: CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Subject: Candidate for Redistricting Committee

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Redistricting Committee members

I am writing this email as my endorsement for Mr. Tom Martinez to become a member of SB County Redistricting Committee. I have known Tom for many years, he is an outstanding representative for the County of Santa Barbara through his involvement in many civic duties and community based organizations.

As the former Chief Building Official for the City of Santa Maria I dealt with Tom on many levels during my tenure, both as an Architect, that represented his clients with professionalism and knowledge, buy also as the Chairman for the City of Santa Maria Building Code Board of Appeals committee. As the chairman he preformed the role of a mediator resolving issues relating to construction modifications and/or code interpretations. His ability to interpret building codes and construction practices made him one of the best persons I have ever worked with in that position. He as been in this position for more the 20 years, and has been a great asset to the City and the public.

Tom has lived in Santa Barbara County his entire life, he is a great supporter of all things "SB County" and would be a perfect candidate for this position.

Mike Cardona



July 29, 2021

To the members of the redistricting committee,

It is an honor to be writing to you about the character, integrity and community mindedness of Tom Martinez. I've know Mr. Martinez for over 30 years and he is an active leader in Santa Maria. His service on varying boards and committees has always been focused on the well-being and equity of our community members.

Adding Tom Martinez to the commission will not only benefit the work you are so generously volunteering to do, you will also have the added bonus of a local businessman who is willing to roll up his sleeves and work alongside you.

With gratitude,

Shannon K. Seifert

Shannon K. Seifert, C.E.O.

*Santa Maria Valley YMCA, 3400 Skyway Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 937-8521 www.smvymca.org*

FW: Letter of Support for Tom Martinez - SBC Redistricting Committee

1 message

CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>

Mon, Aug 2, 2021 at 3:05 PM

To: Shalice Tilton <stilton@ndcresearch.com>, Douglas Johnson <djohnson@ndcresearch.com>, Andrea Sheridan Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>

Cc: "Anderson, Nancy" <nanderson@countyofsb.org>

Please see the message below.

Best,
Reese

Reese Ellestad

Fiscal & Policy Analyst | County Executive Office

**P** 805-568-3403 **W** www.countyofsb.org

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From: FRANK ORTIZ <frankortiz910@comcast.net>**Sent:** Saturday, July 31, 2021 12:03 PM**To:** CEO Redistricting RES <redistricting@countyofsb.org>**Subject:** Letter of Support for Tom Martinez - SBC Redistricting Committee

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Glenn Morris, SBC Redistricting Committee Chair;

Please let this email message serve as a letter of support for an appointment of Tom Martinez to serve on the Santa Barbara County Redistricting Committee. I have known and worked with Tom for nearly 25 years, with many of those years during my tenure as fire chief for the City of Santa Maria. Mr. Martinez's work as an architect was always respected by our Staff and he was always able to produce the desired product that met the needs of fire & life safety in the Santa Maria Valley.

Tom is a fellow Rotarian, and his volunteer work to the Community can be epitomized by the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self". He was instrumental with the development of Rotary Centennial Park, and he can be seen annually as one of the key leaders with the "Christmas Parade of Lights". These are just a couple of instances why Tom Martinez was recognized a few years ago by the Santa Barbara Foundation with their

Celebrate Philanthropy Program.

Tom would be a valuable asset to the Redistricting Committee because he wants to participate for the right reasons; which are fairness and efficiency for all concerned throughout our County of Santa Barbara. He is a good person, and I am confident he will represent the citizens well and do the right things for all.

Thank you for your consideration with appointing Tom Martinez to this committee.

Sincerely,

Frank Ortiz

427 Cameron Ave

[Santa Maria Ca 93455](#)

Philip A. Seymour
Attorney at Law
4894 Ogram Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 692-9335
pseymour@silcom.com

August 3, 2021

Santa Barbara County Independent Redistricting Commission
c/o County Executive Office
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 406
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Selection of Replacement Commission
Agenda Item 6, August 4, 2021

Dear Commission Members:

The Commission is unfortunately again in the position of having to choose between two seemingly well qualified candidates, one of whom is a registered Democrat and one a registered Republican who also happens to be Hispanic. This situation comes about through no fault of the Commission. Tragically, despite the Commission's efforts to maintain diversity based on ethnic as well as other considerations, an imbalance has come about due to the repeated resignations of Hispanic Commissioners for personal or professional reasons, along with the limitations imposed by the initial selection of the candidate pool by the County Elections Officer. The resignation of Commissioner Rios, however, also brings about an underrepresentation of Democrats on the Commission, i.e., 4 out of 11 seats, while Democratic voters comprise almost half (47 % to be more precise) of the registered voters in Santa Barbara County. Appointment of the Democratic candidate for her vacant seat will restore the Commission to the legally mandated balance of Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated Commissioners based on the political affiliations of registered County voters.

While the limited choice presented to the Commission is unfortunate, the only legally defensible outcome is clear. A copy of my May 6, 2021 letter containing a more detailed analysis of the issue is attached for reference. The Independent Redistricting Commission Ordinance has not changed. The bottom line is that the plain language of the Ordinance mandates that the Commission do whatever is necessary within the constraints of the candidate pool to maintain proportional representation on the Commission as related to the political affiliations of County voters. Proportional representation based on considerations such as age, gender or ethnicity is desirable, but is not mandated and does not have priority over proportional representation by political affiliation. Where, as here, the Commissioner being replaced was a registered Democrat, the situation is specifically controlled by subsection 2-10.9A(4)(j)(1)(C)(3) of the Ordinance, which provides:

“If any vacancy occurs in the commission by reason of the death, removal or resignation of any commissioner, the remaining members of the commission shall select a replacement commissioner from the pool of most qualified applicants previously selected by the county elections officer, utilizing the criteria set for in subsection (4)(h)(3). To the extent practical the replacement commissioner shall be selected to maintain the balance of district representation and political affiliations that existed prior to the vacancy.”

This mandate is further reinforced by the following language found in subsection 2-10.9A(4)(h)(3), which governs the initial overall composition of the Commission:

The five commissioners shall also consider political party preference, selecting applicants so that the political party preferences of the members of the commission, as shown on the members’ most recent affidavits of registration, shall be as proportional as possible to the percentage of voters who are registered with each political party in the County of Santa Barbara, as determined by registration at the most recent statewide election.

This above language clearly requires appointment of a Democrat to maintain proper balance on the Commission. Appointing another Republican, in contrast, would have the effect of giving Democrats and Republicans equal representation (four each) on the Commission, even though registered Democratic voters outnumber registered Republicans by a margin of almost 2-1 in our County. [Specifically, Democrats comprise approximately 47% (111,222 out of 238,334) of the registered voters in the County, while Republicans comprise barely 25% (59,764 out of 238,334).] While this might be acceptable to some partisans, it is clearly not what was intended by the drafters of the Redistricting Ordinance or the voters who approved it. Such an unrepresentative political balance could also seriously undermine the credibility and effectiveness of the Commission. Achieving greater diversity on the Commission is a worthy and commendable goal, but it cannot be pursued at the expense of the fair political balance required by the Ordinance and mandated by the voters.

Appointing another Republican here also would not actually serve the interests of fair representation of the Hispanic community. Just the opposite. The great majority of Hispanic or Latino-identified voters in Santa Barbara County are either registered Democrats (37,834 out of 69,099, or 55%) or unaffiliated (21,130 out of 69,099, or 31%). Registered Republicans constitute a mere 15% (10,135 out of 69,099) of Hispanic voters. Appointing yet another Republican to the Commission based on Hispanic ethnicity would thus actually run directly contrary to the stated political preferences of over 5 out of every 6 registered Hispanic voters.

Philip A. Seymour

Philip Seymour
Attorney on behalf of Santa Barbara County
Democratic Central Committee

Philip A. Seymour
Attorney at Law
4894 Ogram Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 692-9335
pseymour@silcom.com

May 6, 2021

Santa Barbara County Independent Redistricting Commission
c/o County Executive Office
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 406
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Selection of Replacement Commissioner
Agenda Item 5, May 12, 2021

Dear Commission Members:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Democratic Central Committee. The Central Committee shares the concerns of all County citizens, regardless of political leanings, that the Citizen's Redistricting Commission Ordinance ("Redistricting Ordinance" or "Ordinance"), adopted by majority vote of the County electorate, be fairly and impartially administered by your Commission. For obvious reasons, the Central Committee is also concerned that the Commission not be manipulated to confer unfair political advantage on our opposing political party, and that the Redistricting Ordinance not be applied in a manner which undermines, in fact or in appearance, the impartiality of the Commission.

The Central Committee fully appreciates the difficulties faced by the Commission at this time. The Ordinance requires that Commissioners be selected from a list of 45 applicants (nine from each supervisorial district) determined to be most qualified by the County Elections Officer. The County Elections Officer is not directed to consider age, gender, ethnic background or other demographic factors in selecting these 45 applicants. Consequently, the pool of 45 potential commissioners was not required to be balanced – and in fact manifestly was not balanced – to reflect the County's political, ethnic, age and gender makeup. The Commission's ability to fully balance these political and demographic considerations when selecting Commissioners was thus seriously compromised even before the selection of Commission members began. This problem is aggravated by the fact that the first five Commissioners were chosen by lottery, leaving only six seats to be filled using the balancing criteria of subsection 2-10.9A(4)(h)(3).

As you know, subsection 2-10.9A(4)(h)(3) states as follows:

(2) The six appointees shall be chosen based on relevant experience, analytical skills, and ability to be impartial, and to ensure that the commission reflects the county's diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, age and gender diversity. However, formulas or specific ratios shall not be applied for this purpose. The five commissioners shall also consider political party preference, selecting applicants so that the political party preferences of the members of the commission, as shown on the members' most recent affidavits of registration, shall be as proportional as possible to the percentage of voters who are registered with each political party in the County of Santa Barbara, as determined by registration at the most recent statewide election. However, the political party preferences are not required to be exactly the same as the proportion of the political party preferences among the registered voters of the county. For this purpose, voters registered without stating a party preference or registered with any party that had a total registration of less than five percent in the County at the time of the last statewide election shall be considered unaffiliated. Unaffiliated members shall also be appointed to the commission in rough proportion to the percentage of unaffiliated registered voters at the time of the most recent statewide election.

Critically, the Ordinance requires that the Commission be balanced "as proportional as possible" to the percentage of voters who are registered with each political party in the County of Santa Barbara, as determined by registration at the most recent statewide election." Subsection 2-10.9A(4)(h)(3) also directs that in addition to selecting candidates on the basis of "relevant experience, analytical skills, and ability to be impartial," the selection process should seek to ensure that the Commission "*reflects* the county's diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, age and gender diversity." The Ordinance, however, does not further define what it means to "reflect" diversity, nor does the Ordinance give priority to racial or ethnic diversity over age, gender or other forms of diversity. Instead, the Ordinance expressly forbids the Commission to utilize "formulas or specific ratios" when considering demographic diversity. This is in direct contrast with the requirement that selections be made as "proportional as possible" to the statistical percentages of registered Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters in the County.

The bottom line here is that the Ordinance requires roughly proportional representation based on political affiliation. Consideration of other factors, including demographic diversity, is important, but cannot override the mandate for proportional representation of the two major political parties and unaffiliated voters. This conclusion is further reinforced by subsection 2-10.9A(4)(j)(1)(C)(3) which governs replacement of commissioners. This subsection provides:

"If any vacancy occurs in the commission by reason of the death, removal or resignation of any commissioner, the remaining members of the commission shall select a replacement commissioner from the pool of most qualified applicants previously selected by the county elections officer, utilizing the criteria set for in subsection (4)(h)(3). To the extent practical the replacement commissioner shall be selected to maintain the balance of district representation and political affiliations that existed prior to the vacancy."

Here again, the Ordinance specifically mandates that priority be given to maintaining proportional representation based on political affiliation to the extent practical.

B. Compliance with the Redistricting Ordinance Requires Appointment of Registered Democrat to Fill the Current Vacancy

Due to the resignation of former Democratic Commissioner Hudley, the Commission currently includes three registered Democrats, three registered Republicans, and four unaffiliated commissioners. At the time of the last statewide election, however, the County electorate was composed of 47% registered Democrats (111,222 out of 238,334); 25% registered Republicans (59,764 out of 238,334); and 28% unaffiliated voters (67,348 out of 238,334). Democrats are thus entitled to 5 seats, unaffiliated commissioners to 3 seats and Republicans to a maximum of 3 seats. The Ordinance does not require mathematically perfect proportioning, but only rough proportionality. Even taking that into account, however, Democrats are entitled to a minimum of 4 seats on the Commission, one more that is currently seated. The consequences of this are obvious. The Ordinance requires the Commission to do what it can to restore proportionality in terms of political preference. This can only be done by selecting a replacement who is a registered Democrat.

C. The Republican Opposition Has No Legal or Moral Basis

Notwithstanding the actual terms of the Ordinance discussed above, the Republican Party and allied conservative California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (“Chambers”) have demanded that the Commission disregard the requirement for proportional representation based on political affiliation, and instead appoint a replacement commissioner on the basis of Hispanic ethnicity. As their attorney points out, all three remaining Hispanic or Latino citizens in the selection pool are Republicans. Selection of one of these candidates would thus further aggravate the underrepresentation of Democrats on the Commission, and actually give Republicans, who represent only 25% of the electorate, more seats than Democrats, who represent approximately 47%, or nearly twice as many actual voters in the electorate. The Republicans’ request cannot legally be granted for reasons stated above. It should also be understood that granting such a request is manifestly inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the Redistricting Commission, and would seriously compromise any appearance of neutrality and impartiality on the part of the Commission itself.

To begin with, Hispanic and Latino residents are already adequately represented on the Commission. As Mr. Bell’s letter of April 21, 2021 acknowledges, Hispanic commissioners occupy 3 seats, or 29.7% of the 11 possible seats, while Hispanic residents constitute 39.4% of the County’s population overall. This is a deficit of 1 seat, but not out of range of rough proportionality. Moreover, selecting a Hispanic or Latino replacement commissioner simply to close this statistical gap would violate the Ordinance’s express prohibition on using “formulas or specific ratios” to achieve demographic diversity. As noted before, the Redistricting Ordinance does not require exact proportionality or even roughly proportional representation based on ethnic background. It merely requires that the Commission “reflect” the county’s diversity to the extent possible given all other considerations. Beyond this, no one to this date has seriously

claimed or could claim that the Commission has intentionally excluded Hispanic or Latino representatives. Given the constraints imposed by the County Election Officer's initial selection of potential commissioners, the actual requirements of the Ordinance, and the unfortunate pattern of resignations that have occurred, the Commission has done a remarkable job of ensuring fair, if not mathematically perfect, representation of all demographic groups in the County. The Commission is not required to bend over backwards, much less violate the actual terms of the Redistricting Ordinance merely to appease the Republican Party's or the Hispanic Chambers' interest in imposing ethnic quotas when it serves their political purposes.

As a further matter, acceding to the Republican and Chambers' demands would not actually result in better representation of Hispanic or Latino residents. It would do precisely the opposite. Official statistics from the state-maintained Statewide Database (SWDB) show that the great majority of Hispanic or Latino-identified voters in Santa Barbara County are either registered Democrats (37,834 out of 69,099, or 55%) or unaffiliated (21,130 out of 69,099, or 31%). Registered Republicans constitute a mere 15% (10,135 out of 69,099) of Hispanic and Latino voters. Appointing yet another Republican to the Commission based on Hispanic or Latino ethnicity would thus actually run directly contrary to the stated political preferences of over 5 out of every 6 registered Hispanic or Latino-identified voters. The Republican claim that Hispanic or Latino-identified residents will be better represented on the Commission if a Hispanic Republican is added is pure opportunism and cynicism.

As a final matter, the Redistricting Ordinance is obviously concerned with maintaining the appearance of political balance and neutrality as well as actual balance and neutrality to the extent possible under its terms. As stated in subsection 2-10.9A(4)(b) of the Ordinance, the process for selecting commissioners "is designed to produce a commission that is independent from the influence of the board [of County Supervisors], political parties, campaign contributors or other special financial interests, and is reasonably representative of the county's diversity." This is vital to preserving the long-term credibility of the Commission. For that reason, the Democratic Central Committee has been reluctant to actively take positions regarding the actions of the Commission to date, particularly since the Commission has so far successfully addressed the problems that have arisen from multiple resignations among the original Commissioners. Our Republican counterparts, in contrast, have blatantly attempted to politicize the process, both by falsely accusing others of political bias and suing the Commission or threatening to sue whenever the Commission has not submitted to its demands. Demanding the appointment of a fourth Republican under the guise of seeking ethnic balance is simply another effort to subvert the process to their political advantage, in direct violation of both the actual language and the clear intent of the Redistricting Ordinance. Submitting to such transparently politically motivated demands can only serve to undermine the credibility of the Commission itself. The Commission cannot stop Republicans or their conservative allies from making self-serving false allegations about the biases or motives of the Commission or others, but it can preserve the integrity of the Commission and the respect of the vast majority of County residents by adhering to the rules established by the Redistricting Ordinance itself, and by not submitting to blatantly partisan efforts to manipulate the composition of the Commission for political advantage.

The Democratic Central Committee has great faith in the impartiality of the Commission, and wishes to support the Commission's continued actions to uphold and enforce the terms of the Redistricting Ordinance as adopted by the citizens of Santa Barbara County. The Democratic Central Committee sincerely hopes that the Commission will be able to continue its mission to the end without any taint of political influence. However, in view of ongoing threats and other efforts by our Republican counterparts to subvert the selection process, the Democratic Central Committee also will not sit idly by if the purposes and intent of the democratically enacted Redistricting Ordinance are being thwarted.

Philip A. Seymour

Philip Seymour
Attorney on behalf of Santa Barbara County
Democratic Central Committee