

From: Kevin Elliott
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 4:48:03 PM
To: VotersFirstAct <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>
Subject: The makeup of this Commission

For starters, I want to be clear that I am not suggesting that any Commissioner currently seated is not appropriate to the task of the CRC. I'm not sure that you are, but I will stipulate to the thorough process that brought you to your positions. What I wanted to share with you is a thought about your successors in the future. There is no one on this Commission who is a plumber or a carpenter by trade, or a stay-at-home parent or a gig economy worker. And yet we have plenty of all of those in California. They are very good people.

You are remarkably well-educated and as a group, a real product of academia. You have impressive CVs and distinguished careers. But you don't begin to reflect California other than in your group photo. You are beautifully diverse ethnically and that shows. But Californians who do the real work that makes the state function (when it does) are not represented here, though they are far and away the majority of Californians.

I watched a number of your video interviews that were part of your selection process. You are mostly well-spoken and you seem like an interesting group. But it is clear that you appear to be purposefully elite; technocratic elites that the vast majority of Californians would never meet or know.

I have turned my interest to the work of this Commission because of the destructive gerrymander in place. We have owned our current home since 2003 and in that period, we have lived in 3 different congressional districts. Our state senate district has changed twice and our state assembly district has remained constant. I jokingly say that I'm apparently one of the voters most feared by institutional incumbency.

I opposed the creation of this body because this responsibility belongs to the Legislature. I would no sooner support a We Collect the Revenue Commission to decide how taxes should be raised. But our Legislature is deeply flawed and mostly broken. So, your Commission is surely going to do no worse than the legislature with the Constitutional obligation to draw legislative districts.

Please give some thought to what it might be like to have a carpenter, a stay-at-home parent and an Uber driver with a high school education, on this Commission. That would be real proportional representation and a signal of real diversity in your mix. It might bring forward a good conclusion in far less time and at far less expense than I presume the cost has been of the last couple of work products of this panel.

Thank you for your service and for giving a thought to this perspective. I will be glad for a reply but none is required. I look forward to following the work of this Commission.

Kevin