

Dear Mr. Garrick and Redistricting Commissioners

Thank you for your reporting

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Your article misses the main Voting Rights point of this whole effort. Redistricting is not about keeping one subdivision or commercial business district together or even where elite colleges are placed. It is about preventing political manipulation to gerrymander away the voting rights of racial minorities.

The Chairman's Map and the mislabeled Compromise map only deal with peripheral non voting rights questions. Both of these maps dilute the Hispanic, Black, and LGBTQ voting rights. These Middle Class subdivision maps are focused on housing development subdivisions rather than fair political participation.

The very biased and frankly conflicted commission leadership [two commissioners the Chair and Kosmos are holdover Republican appointees on the SD Ethics Commission] have waited until this last Saturday meeting to even consider the Voting Rights race changes from the current 2010 Council Districts to the new Chairman's / Compromise maps. If those maps continue then it would be better to not have the Commission get the 6 votes on a final map, [Population increases only require Council District changes North of Adams Avenue because of Coastal growth in District One] Four [4] Voting Rights committed Redistricting Commissioners need to state clearly that they are not going to vote for any map that dilutes the number of Hispanic districts and otherwise dilutes the Black and LGBTQ vote.

Both these subdivision shopping district maps are traditional white class power maps that return San Diego to the 1970's Mayor Wilson era control of the City. Both subdivision maps foster more developer growth and stifle neighborhood control. My City Heights community again becomes dominated by the North of Adams Avenue rich and our politics become, again, dominated by political contributions rather than the elected representative's progressive performance.

This commission took no time to apply equal student residency analysis for the other 3 colleges -SDSU, USD, & POINT LOMA but focused on only on La Jolla and the coast. Analysis of other colleges might have shown heavy attendance areas for Hispanic and Black students in the south.

The Chairman ran the clock out on this redistricting game because he had his own Map and Plan. He has had the other commissioners brain storming about dream houses in the sky without ever consulting an architect about the rules of construction. The Commission has yet to consult with their Voting Rights Attorney about gerrymandering rules!

It is obvious, to anyone that understands the principals of redistricting, concerning the use of natural boundaries to prevent artificial gerrymandering, that the two Chairman's maps are gerrymandering to dilute. Both these maps cross into the San Diego River Mission Valley areas and cross major streets and freeways to get the diluting populations the schemers want. Nobody in the Mid City thinks Mission Valley has ever been part of their neighborhoods!

On Saturday, after all the public shouting from coastal, ucsd alumni, and the wealthy is over; four commissioners need to make clear and unequivocal statements that they are not going to vote for the dilution of the voting rights progress already achieved with the current 2010 council districts. Without those 4 votes a new map can not be adopted.

Voting Rights is the NO JUSTICE NO PEACE issue