

November 12, 2021

City of San Diego Redistricting Commission

Please relay my comments to the Redistricting Commissioners prior to Saturday's meeting.

Dear Commission Chair Hebrank and Honorable Commissioners,

The San Diego Communities Collaboration map radically undermines the work of the 2011 Redistricting Commission, which led to the election of the most diverse City Council in San Diego history.

Instead of making modest changes to reinforce this success, the SDCC map reshuffles almost one-third of San Diego's population into new districts to produce a map that is *more favorable to whites*.

Compared to the current City Council map drawn in 2011, the SDCC map *strengthens white majorities* in 4 districts (D1, D3, D5, D7), eroding gains achieved since 2011.

Comparison with 2020 election returns for Measure A, the affordable housing bond, (see below) reveals the political leaning of those enhanced white majorities. Specifically, the SDCC map would *empower voters who opposed affordable housing* by concentrating their votes in three new districts (D2, D5, D7).

The map *reduces Latinx representation* in 5 districts (D3, D5, D6, D7, D9) and dilutes it within a much whiter 6th district (D1). In some cases, the changes are small; the pattern is big.

Arguments for the SDCC map emphasizing Latinx empowerment in a multi-ethnic "coalition district" (D2) seem unfounded in light of CVAP numbers revealing that whites would remain 59% of voters in the new D2 (a perspective reinforced by the leaning of those voters reflected below).

The SDCC map *dilutes AAPI political influence* by concentrating AAPI voters in D6, which they have already proven they can win, and *reducing AAPI representation elsewhere*. AAPI representation in D1 would be reduced to 5% compared to 26% today, with the expectation that this proportion would rise this decade through new housing in the University Community Plan Update and growth at UCSD.

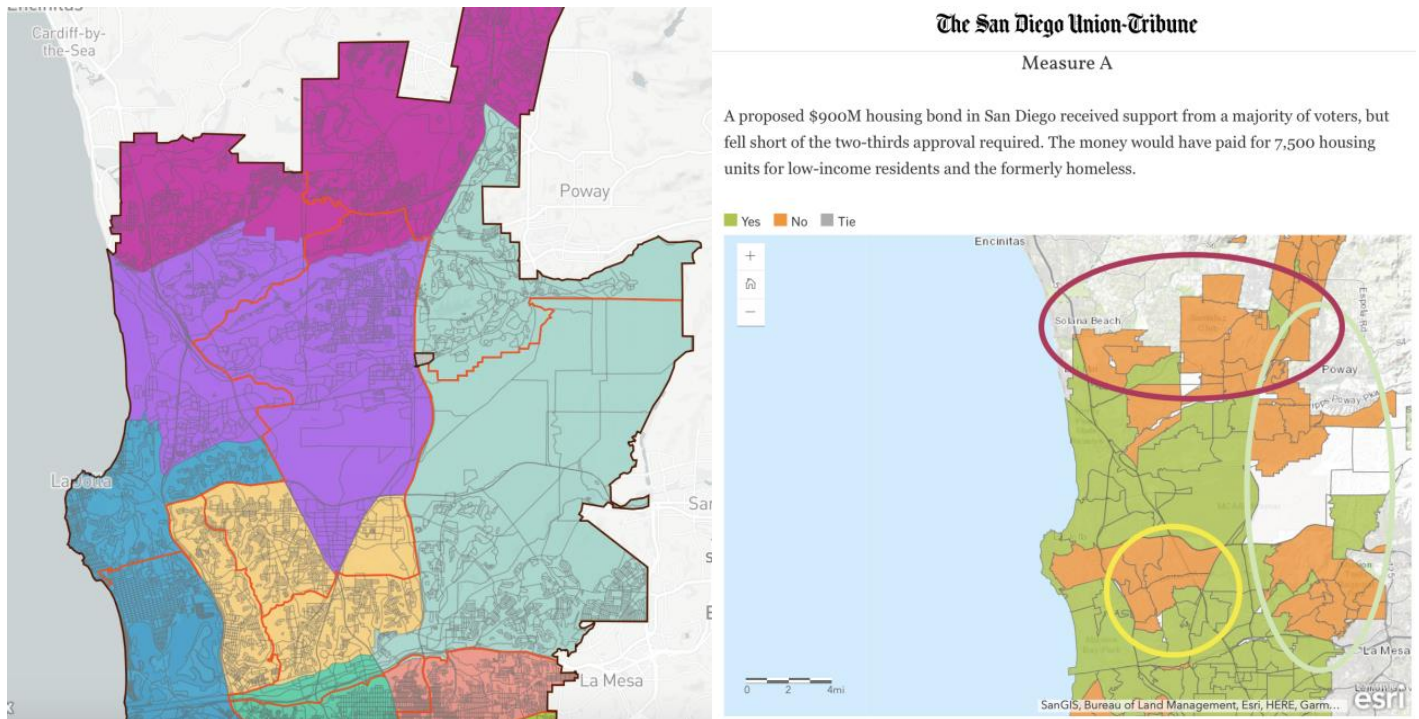
Finally, the SDCC map is drawn to *serve the financial interests of large real estate firms* over voters by concentrating their properties in one district where lobbyists have testified that their Council member won't be distracted by having to address other 'disparate interests' - also known as 'voters'.

The Commission should reject these entreaties (and the SDCC map that represents them). Redistricting is about voters. Property interests have no legal standing in the process.

Sincerely,
Andrew Wiese, PhD
University City

See figure, page 2.

Concentration of 'Anti-Affordable Housing' Voters in Three New North of 8 Districts



The San Diego Communities Collaboration map would *consolidate in three new districts (D2, D5, D7 - shown in yellow, magenta, and green) voting majorities opposed affordable housing* in 2020.

SDCC Map (left) compared with 2020 voting returns for Measure A, affordable housing bond (right). 'No' voters shown in Orange. For comparison, red lines (left) show current City Council Districts that mix these voters with 'Yes' majorities.

Sources: SD Redistricting Commission, <https://districtr.org/plan/70727>; San Diego *Union Tribune*: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/politics/story/2020-11-07/how-san-diego-county-voted>

