

April 26, 2021

Sent Via Email

Orange County Board of Supervisors
Hall of Administration, Board Hearing Room
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701
response@ocgov.com

Re: Public Comment on the Supervisorial Redistricting Process for the April 27, 2021 Meeting

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

As you know, the redistricting of federal, state, and local legislative boundaries is required every ten years following the decennial census. More than a simple exercise to ensure districts are equal in population, redistricting impacts how responsive elected officials are to communities at all legislative levels. Too often, the process is used to solidify the power of one political party over another, with little regard for the needs of communities federal, state, and local elected officials are bound to serve.

Given the vital support county services provide to the most vulnerable here in Orange County, it is critical that community needs rather than party politics guide how Orange County Board of Supervisor district lines are drawn. To promote a community voice in the 2021/2022 redistricting process, partners from throughout the county have organized the People's Redistricting Alliance (PRA), a multiracial coalition of community-based organizations (CBOs) and residents. Through robust local organizing, research, mapping, and advocacy with the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC), Orange County Board of Supervisors, and other stakeholders, the PRA centers the lived experiences and needs of low-income communities of color and working families.

The PRA is organizing both CBOs and residents to participate in statewide and local redistricting processes by: (1) educating them about redistricting, its impact on their political representation, and how the processes established by decision makers work, (2) creating a space through which they identify communities of interest (COI) important to them, (3) mobilizing both to participate in CCRC, Orange County Board of Supervisors, and other public hearings, and (4) working closely with them to create congressional, state, and local legislative redistricting proposals that best represent their interests. If necessary, the PRA will also partner in litigation efforts to ensure maps comply with both the federal Voting Rights Act and California state law such as A.B. 849 and 1276.

As you decide how to approach drawing new legislative boundaries this year, it is important to note that any process must comply with both federal law and new state law requiring community input, transparency, and nonpartisanship. These requirements are laid out in a more detailed companion letter submitted under a separate cover. Given the time needed to meet these requirements, we urge you to agendize redistricting in May and begin preparing and executing your plan to redraw county supervisorial lines.

The CBOs and residents who make up the PRA offer ourselves as a resource as you work to comply with both federal and state requirements, better understand our communities and their needs,

and create legislative districts that promote a greater voice in county government for everyone. We can be reached through the Orange County Civic Engagement Table (OCCET) at redistricting@occivic.org.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

The People's Redistricting Alliance

ACLU of Southern California

AHRI Center

California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

Council on American-Islamic Relations

Latino Health Access

Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance

Orange County Civic Engagement Table

Orange County Congregation Community Organization

Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development

Orange County Environmental Justice

Orange County Voter Information Project

Pacific Islander Health Partnership

Resilience Orange County

South Asian Network

VietRISE