



**ALEX PADILLA**  
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

January 27, 2021

Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission  
915 I Street  
New City Hall  
Sacramento, California 95814

Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission  
411 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Los Angeles Independent Redistricting Commission  
12400 Imperial Highway  
Norwalk, CA 90650

San Francisco Redistricting Taskforce  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

San Diego County Independent Redistricting Commission  
1600 Pacific Highway  
Fourth Floor, Room 402  
San Diego, California 92101

Dear City Clerks and County officials overseeing redistricting,

I respectfully urge the LGBTQ community be identified as a community of interest in the redistricting process. In 2011, California made steps in the right direction when the LGBTQ community was identified as a community of interest. For the first time, in 2021 same-sex marriage data will be available to better design and draw districts that are centered around the LGBTQ population.

According to a 2016 report by The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, LGBT women tend to face bigger socioeconomic obstacles like poverty and income, compared to their male counterparts. As we undergo the current recession amid the pandemic, we must ensure the LGBTQ community has the political representation it deserves.

The Fair Maps Act requires the protection of communities of interest. I would advocate for the recognition of the LGBTQ populations as "a population that shares common social or economic interests" and recognize that these populations have faced discrimination in employment, health, education and the workplace, have been subject to state and local policymaking that has infringed upon their rights, and, as a result, they necessitate additional protections from vote dilution that could occur in the redistricting process.

Further, within the Act's requirements, I would recommend that Commissions work with LGBTQ centers, organizations and local leadership in order to fulfil their charge to outreach "through good government, civil rights, civic engagement, or community groups or organizations" as you inform the public about redistricting in your community.

Finally, I advocate that Commissioners work with available datasets to identify same-sex heads of households in the US Census, and, where available, utilize data that is made available from organizations or members of the public as to the areas of greatest LGBTQ concentrated community of interest, and how to protect these communities through the redistricting process. A request to recognize the LGBTQ community as a community of interest has also been sent to the director of the United States Census.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Schwab', with a stylized, flowing script.

James Schwab  
Acting Secretary of State



**ALEX PADILLA**  
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

January 27, 2021

California Redistricting Commissioners  
Citizens Redistricting Commission  
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: LGBTQ Community of Interest for Congressional Redistricting**

Dear CA Redistricting Commissioners:

I respectfully urge the LGBTQ community be identified as a community of interest in the redistricting process.

Historically, the California LGBTQ population was largely absent from legislative and congressional redistricting process. In 2011, California made steps in the right direction when the LGBTQ community was identified as a community of interest. For the first time, in 2021 same-sex marriage data will be available to better design and draw districts that are centered around the LGBTQ population.

According to a 2016 report by The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, LGBT women tend to face bigger socioeconomic obstacles like poverty and income, compared to their male counterparts. Further, their 2013 report found that the LGBTQ population was more likely to experience poverty after the last recession when compared to non-LGBTQ population. As we undergo the current recession amid the pandemic, we must ensure the LGBTQ community has the political representation it deserves. Maintaining the LGBTQ community as a community of interest is imperative to increasing the representation of the LGBTQ population.

Further, I urge for the State Redistricting Commission to accept data of LGBTQ organizations and local communities of input testimony.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or my Deputy Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, Tiffany Mok, at (916) 653-7244 or [Tiffany.Mok@sos.ca.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Mok@sos.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Schwab".

JAMES SCHWAB  
Acting California Secretary of State



**ALEX PADILLA**  
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

January 27, 2021

Dr. Ron Jarmin  
Acting Director  
U.S. Census Bureau  
4600 Silver Hill Road  
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Ron Jarmin:

I write to urge the release of data tables as part of the American Community Survey that identify LGBTQ populations at the Census Block Group level, where it can be done effectively and protect the privacy of communities.

This can be achieved either through the inclusion of such data in the PL-94-171 Census Redistricting Files, or through other data products that are available at the same time, ensure that this data on a critical community of interest be available in time for states and local governments to utilize such data in the redistricting process.

Historically, the California LGBTQ population was largely absent from legislative and congressional redistricting process. In 2011, California made steps in the right direction when the LGBTQ community was identified as a community of interest. For the first time, in 2021 same-sex marriage data will be available to better design and draw districts that are centered around the LGBTQ population.

According to a 2013 report by The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, the LGBTQ population was more likely to experience poverty after the last recession when compared to non-LGBTQ population. As we undergo the current recession amid the pandemic, we must ensure the LGBTQ community has the political representation it deserves.

Finally, I encourage Census officials to work with the State Redistricting Commission and other agencies to inform them on timing of data releases and support their use of these datasets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Schwab".

James Schwab  
Acting Secretary of State, California