
From: Trae
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Redistricting Oakland: District 7 - General Written Comment on COI's

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Tracy Wilson and I'm a D7 resident of Oakland.

Deep East Oakland is the COI for me. It is where I was raised, where my mother's daycare business has been located for over 37 years, it's where my brother and his family resides, and where I currently reside. It's also where the Roots Community Center is located, as well as various black churches, other community organizations and nonprofits that have impacted the community positively with their efforts. I went to school Elementary - High School here. I grew up here, volunteered here, and had my first job here. I've formed long lasting friendships and relationships here and I have more memories than I can count here. Together I see all of this - all of us as a collective. Our joint experiences, lives, efforts, and close proximity has fostered a sense of togetherness when faced with the many disenfranchising endeavors to divide, deprive, disable, prevent and strip this community of its rights to equality, representation, its voice, opportunities, and equity.

I read the responses to the Redistricting Commission's Survey for the residents of districts in Oakland. The responses for District 7 residents, (Deep East), are in favor of splitting up D7 and some of the comments are not from AA/Black residents. "The Hills want to split from the "flat lands" is a reoccurring comment as well.

This area in East Oakland is home to over 40,000 residents of Black/African descent. Blacks/African Americans comprise almost half (46%) of the voting-age population in this COI, followed by Latinos/Hispanics (23%). It's critical to keep this large AA/Black community and voting bloc centered in districts that preserve AA/Black political power in this community. The true name of this COI is the Black Cultural Zone.

We need to keep the BCZ COI together to secure the black voices within this community and to make sure that they can continue to speak as one voice that represents all goals, strength, and body. Splitting us up lessens our impact, our values become skewed, and our voices undervalued as well as silenced by others who are unfamiliar with what we have come to know about our community in familiarity and shared experiences. **Map E** seems to be the choice that best meets what I believe ensures that the unified AA/Black political strength within these districts remains.

Redistricting Commission, what will you do to ensure that my COI will be protected, maintain our collective power, structured to value our voices, and consider the needs of the residents within it?

**** This email was sent from an external source. If you do not know the sender, do not click on links or attachments. ****