



City of Sebastopol City Hall



Mayor
Guy Wilson
City Council
Michael Kyes, Vice Mayor
Kathleen Shaffer
Sarah Glade Gurney
Patrick Slayter

July 19, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sirs/Madams,

City Manager
Jack Griffin
City Attorney
Larry McLaughlin
City Clerk
Mary Gourley

The City of Sebastopol City Council has reviewed the most recently available legislative and congressional redistricting maps. The City of Sebastopol is located in western Sonoma County. We have a number of concerns regarding the maps we have reviewed.

These concerns are based on our review and consideration of the issues, relationships, dependencies, mutual interests and interactions we have with our neighboring cities in Sonoma County and the County as a whole. The cities of Sonoma County have long had involved and cooperative working relationships with one another and have many issues and concerns of mutual interest. Our economies, civic activities and delivery of municipal services are intertwined in many ways. A redistricting that splits the City of Sebastopol into two separate legislative and senatorial districts and/or separates the City of Sebastopol from the other cities in the county, except the City of Santa Rosa, and the larger area of western Sonoma County that relies upon the City of Sebastopol to serve as its principal market and service delivery community, is completely unacceptable.

Concern 1. With respect to State legislative and senate districts, it is difficult to precisely determine where the boundary of new NAPA legislative district is in relation to the City. One interpretation indicates the boundary follows the natural physical boundary of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. A second interpretation places the boundary somewhere within the city limits of the City.

In the event the second interpretation is correct, or more accurate, the City is strenuously opposed to having the City placed in two separate legislative and senatorial districts.

Concern 2. Given the uncertainty above, should the City of Sebastopol find itself included with only the City of Santa Rosa as the only Sonoma County communities tied to the Napa legislative district and the NBAYECONTRA senate district, the City opposes as strongly as possible the idea or proposal that it or a portion of it be separated from the vast majority of Sonoma County communities, including the small cities of Sonoma County and the unincorporated areas of western Sonoma County.

The drawing of the NAPA legislative district and NBAYECONTRA senatorial district with what can only be called the gerrymandering of the City of Santa Rosa and possibly a portion of the City of Sebastopol is illogical in many ways. We understand that new districts must be drawn with minimum amounts of population, however, the bizarrely shaped boundary which effectively splits Sonoma County in two cannot be the best way to meet that requirement.