

Lynn Gonzales

From: Cheryl Davis <cheryldavis844@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 5:50 PM
To: Rosario Rodriguez; Sarah Aquino; YK Chalamcherla; mkizlowski@folsom.ca.us; AttorneyCityWebsiteMail; kerri@atlanticcorrosionengineers.com
Cc: Robert Dresser
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ON REVIEW OF 8 DISTRICT MAPS
Attachments: District Election Petition supporters.jpg

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mayor Howell, Members of the City Council and City Attorney Wang,

We appreciate the opportunity to review the eight selected draft district maps.

And we were pleased that Mayor Howell proposed including the Dooley map in the final review. This map is the work product of a group of Folsom residents from five different neighborhoods across the city. We are two of those residents. Our group held four Zoom get-togethers between Thanksgiving and New Year's to draft a submission.

We believe the Dooley map differs from the other submissions in several important respects. Our group varied population only to the extent justified by the exclusive factors set forth in the statute. We did not seek to advantage any political party. We did not split communities of interest for any reason other than equalizing current population, maintaining contiguity, or respecting the integrity of a more compelling community of interest. Therefore, we did not consider where current council members reside.

The move to neighborhood elections has broad support from residents of every political affiliation from every corner of the city. Districting cannot become a partisan exercise. We took exception to a comment by former city attorney Bruce Cline at the January 11 public hearing, dismissing this map as the creation of "Dooley and her little Democratic club." We do not know the position of local Republican clubs but are aware that the Folsom Area Democratic Club circulated a petition last year at farmers' markets. We have attached a map of the registration addresses of those who signed, showing how broad the support is. The petition did feature a big blue donkey, which makes it even more remarkable that more than 40% of the signatories were NOT Democrats. The Dooley map is not a partisan map because the law does not allow drawing a map to favor a political party.

After the close of the recent public hearing, Councilmembers shared their thoughts about features of a district map they found important. Our group then met twice after the January 11 public hearing to review the eight final draft maps using Councilmember comments as a guide. Below is a review of the Dooley map in relation to the comments Councilmembers made:

District 1: The Dooley map does keep neighborhoods north of the river in one district. To provide enough population, we include adjacent neighborhoods in the north extending through Briggs Ranch.

District 2: The Dooley map does keep Historic Folsom in a separate district which includes surrounding older neighborhoods down through Natoma Station. The original town and neighborhoods of Folsom have unique concerns such as through traffic, parking, older infrastructure.

District 3: The Dooley map keeps The Parkway and Lexington Hills together as one district.

District 4: The Dooley map groups Prairie Oaks, Willow Springs, Broadstone to East Bidwell plus the new South of 50 neighborhoods

District 5: The Dooley map does keep Empire Ranch intact.

With appropriate revisions to address your approach to South of 50, the Dooley map meets the Council's desired features and does the best job of respecting neighborhoods and communities of interest, consistent with other legal criteria.

Finally, we are concerned that all three consultant maps are designed to retain each current councilmember in separate districts because this appears to be at the expense of FAIR MAPS Act criteria. All three maps split neighborhoods such as Empire Ranch, Prairie Oaks and Broadstone. Two do not create a district in which Asian-American voters, who are a protected class, will have strong influence. An area's relationship to an incumbent does not define a community of interest, so dividing neighborhoods or crossing major roads to separate incumbents is not appropriate. The purposes of the CVRA require that the high-Asian district chooses its councilmember in the same year as the presidential election, when Asian turnout has historically been higher.

We look forward to the public hearing on February 8.

Thank you,

Cheryl Davis
Hildebrand Circle
Folsom

Robert Dresser
Sprig Circle
Folsom

