Are you aware of the impact of redistricting on your community?

Have you ever noticed that your neighbor across the street may have a different Congressional representative than you? Well if you haven't, this is the time to take notice and take action. Every ten years, following the Census count, governmental district lines are reassessed. Historically, this was done by state legislators, but in November 2008, California State voters, passed Proposition 11 which created an independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to help address the problem of gerrymandering and problems like the one mentioned above. This commission has been meeting over the last few months, and it is not too late to let them know what you, a constituent and voter, wish to see happen to our Assembly, Senate and Congressional Districts.

The Commission released district maps on July 29, and the public will have 14 days to comment. Maps are available to view at wedrawthelines.ca.gov.

A key consideration in determining district lines are Communities of Interest (“COI”) and defined by the California Constitution as “A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Examples of such shared interests are those common to an urban area, a rural area, an industrial area, or an agricultural area, and those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process.”

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa voted last month to write a letter to the Commission and ask them to consider our revisions. The key point of the letter was: include our community of Westchester, Playa del Rey and Playa Vista together with areas where we believe we have a COI.  The current California State Assembly district has the Playa Vista, Marina del Rey, Venice and Mar Vista in a separate district from Playa del Rey and Westchester.

Although a daunting task to remap the districts in California, it is something that needs to be done right, and community input is vital.  We encourage you to share your opinion and ask the Commission to keep our community together and aligned with other areas with whom we share common interest.  Send your email to votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov or find other contact information at wedrawthelines.ca.gov

If you want to get involved in what is going on in your community, attend the next Neighborhood Council Board Meeting which is held on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Community Room of the Municipal Building at 7166 Manchester Avenue in Westchester.

Join us in the effort of urging the Citizens Redistricting Commission to keep our community together. Please don’t divide our community!

You can learn more about this at www.redrawca.org/ and wedrawthelines.ca.gov/