

November 2, 2021

Honorable Council President Nury Martinez and Fellow City Councilmembers
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Los Angeles City Council Redistricting

Dear Honorable Council President Martinez and Fellow Councilmembers,

Every ten years the City's redistricting process is meant to ensure a fair, democratic, and representative plan by which council districts are redrawn to preserve equal representation and communities of interest, so voters can elect their representatives – not so elected representatives can select their voters. Following hundreds of hours of dedicated volunteer time by the Council's own appointed Commissioners, who heard from thousands during public input, the Los Angeles City Redistricting Commission has presented the Council with a map for consideration.

The undersigned individuals respectfully urge you to avoid undermining the very essence of a representative democracy as you review the current Commission map. While we recognize the Council's right and ability to make minor adjustments based on knowledge and experience, extensive changes for the sole purpose of benefiting existing representatives is neither appropriate nor in the public interest. As proud Angelenos and community leaders, we are writing to encourage you to respect the work of your Commission and not allow personal interests to drive redistricting in Los Angeles.

We join Common Cause and the Chair of the 2021 Los Angeles City Redistricting Commission in calling for an independent redistricting process. The City of Los Angeles, and the City Council in particular, stands at a difficult nexus of fundamental public distrust and the need to make transformative policy decisions that will place the collective needs of Angelenos first. Placing a charter amendment that creates a true independent redistricting process on the ballot for voters to consider will help in the rebuilding of public trust needed to sustain efforts to transform the city.

Respectfully,

Bill Allen
President & CEO, LA County Economic Development Corporation

Kim Belshe
Executive Director, First 5 Los Angeles

Kathleen Brown
Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips

Elise Buik

President & CEO, United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Geoffrey Cowan

Director, USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership & Policy, USC

John Emerson**Kathay Feng**

National Redistricting Director, Common Cause

Wendy Greuel**Antonia Hernandez**

President & CEO, California Community Foundation

George David Kieffer

Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips

Stewart Kwoh

Founding President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice (retired)

Michael Lawson

President and CEO, Los Angeles Urban League

Andy Lipkis

Founder & President, Tree People

Cindy Miscikowski

The Ring Group

Maria Salinas

President and CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

John Semcken

Senior Vice President, Majestic Realty

Michele Siqueiros

President, Campaign for College Opportunity

Matt Toledo

CEO, ProVisors

**Organizations have been listed for identification purposes only.*