



April 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL to elections.commission@sfgov.org and lucy.bernholz@sfgov.org

San Francisco Elections Commission
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Concerns regarding Elections Commission's Redistricting Task Force appointees

Dear President Bernholz and Elections Commissioners,

Our organizations are deeply concerned that the draft supervisor district maps created so far by the city's Redistricting Task Force fail to adequately reflect the input shared by communities of interest, particularly those made up of the most vulnerable and least represented people in our city. We are especially alarmed to see draft maps that would diminish the voting power of low-income, immigrant, renter, LGBTQ+, and people of color neighborhoods.

We write today with recommendations for how the Elections Commission can take action this week to reinforce the duties and obligations of the task force members appointed by the Elections Commission to support a fair and equitable redistricting process.

As those of you who served on the Elections Commission in 2021 may recall, the League collaborated with and advised the Elections Commission, Department of Elections, Board of Supervisors, and other stakeholders to encourage timely and transparent action on the task force application process, member selection, and ordinance passage. LWVSF has attended every task force meeting and listened closely to public comments from San Franciscans. Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus has been monitoring local redistricting around the San Francisco Bay Area and providing community education to help the public engage in their local process.

According to [Ordinance 094-21 \(BOS File No. 20606\)](#) convening the task force, and as echoed by the September 27, 2021 "[Duties and Obligations of the Redistricting Task Force](#)" memorandum from the Office of the City Attorney, the task force "is responsible for redrawing supervisorial district lines in accordance with the law and for making appropriate adjustments based on public input provided at community meetings." This

includes the duty to draw districts that “reflect communities of interest within the City and County” ([S.F. Charter § 13.110\(d\)](#)).

For months, dozens of historically and systemically excluded communities in San Francisco have put in substantial time and effort to tell the task force about their communities of interest and how their communities should be respected in the draft maps. Yet, with just a few days left in the mapping process, the needs of many of those groups have been left out of the draft supervisor maps made by the task force.

Map 4D received overwhelming community support and was advanced by the task force. Yet, at 2:53am on Tuesday, April 5, the task force reversed its previous decision to advance map 4D, and voted map 4B forward instead. Major decisions that affect San Franciscans for the next ten years should not be made in the early hours of the morning without public oversight and transparency.

We call upon you to take action and speak to the Redistricting Task Force members who were appointed by the Elections Commission and reinforce to them their duty and obligations to give due weight to the public input of historically and systemically marginalized, vulnerable, and disadvantaged communities. We also recommend you call a special meeting of the Elections Commission as soon as possible regarding these urgent concerns.

Your public service is greatly appreciated. We are available to speak with you about any of the above issues. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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