

MOTION

RULES & ELECTIONS

The recently reformed City Charter approved by voters in 1999 requires that a commission of 21 members of the public prepare a redistricting plan to be presented to the City Council for consideration. The Charter also specifies that districts boundaries are to keep neighborhoods and communities intact, to follow natural boundaries, and to create districts that are geographically compact.

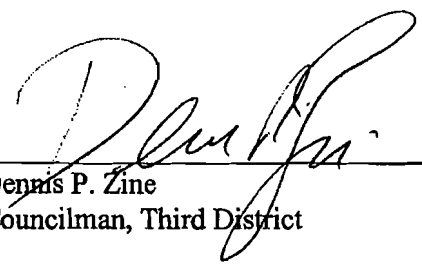
Often, prominent geographic features such as rivers, mountains, ports and lakes are used to make common sense political sub-divisions. In Los Angeles, the Santa Monica Mountains / Hollywood Hills serve as the most dominant feature and create two wonderfully unique portions of our City; the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles Basin. Scenic Mulholland Drive and Griffith Park are easily recognizable as a demarcation between these two regions.

Keeping political district boundaries within each of these regions would maximize the proportional representation to best serve each of these vital parts of the City. In the most recent redistricting, the number of council districts that stretch across these mountains was reduced from three to two. The next step would be to reduce that number to only one district that would straddle the mountains in the next redistricting.

A unique situation exists for this City Council to consider policies relating to redistricting that will have no impact on any current member's re-election. Because every member of the Council has either been elected to their final term or will seek re-election to their second term before the next round of redistricting. This will allow policy considerations to be free of any self interest as recommendations made to the next citizen redistricting commission, and will serve to enhance the charter guidelines to create geographically compact districts that keep communities intact.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council adopts as a policy recommendation for the next citizen redistricting commission to convene after the 2010 census to reduce the number of Council Districts that combine communities of the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles Basin as a priority to implement the intent of the Charter.

PRESENTED BY:


Dennis P. Zine
Councilman, Third District

SECONDED BY:

