



April 11, 2022

To: San Francisco Redistricting Task Force [rdtf@sfgov.org](mailto:rdtf@sfgov.org)

CC: San Francisco Elections Commission [elections.commission@sfgov.org](mailto:elections.commission@sfgov.org)  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors [Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org)  
Mayor of San Francisco [MayorLondonBreed@sfgov.org](mailto:MayorLondonBreed@sfgov.org)

*Transmitted via electronic mail*

**Re: 2022 San Francisco Redistricting Task Force Processes**

Dear Honorable Commissioners and Staff,

California Common Cause is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. We have played a key role in bringing fair redistricting to California communities by passing both statewide and local reforms to make redistricting more transparent, independent, inclusive, and accessible.

We have been monitoring the events that have transpired since the April 4th Redistricting Task Force (“RDTF”) meeting when after receiving significant community input, the RDTF voted 6-3 at 2:53am to reverse its previous decision to advance an earlier map that was passed by an 8-1 vote. The manner and time of these decisions alarmed us – as Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus, and the League of Women Voters of San Francisco noted in their April 6th letter to the Elections Commission, “[m]ajor 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.” It should not be surprising that late night decisions undermined the public trust because the earlier 8-1 vote to advance Map 4D signaled that the RDTF had decided to move in a particular direction. Similarly, at the April 10th meeting the RDTF took a 30-minute break and made a sudden 3am reversal of a previous map decision. We are troubled by the lack of notice to reversal of major decisions.

**We had hoped that the RDTF would extend its greatest efforts to ensure a transparent, accountable, open, and equitable process where the results reflect the weight of public input of historically and systematically marginalized, vulnerable, and disadvantaged communities.**

Further, the San Francisco Charter lacks clarity on the order of priority for redistricting criteria, which creates opportunities where community testimony and input is not central to the process.

This absence of clarity in the San Francisco Charter must be examined and addressed.<sup>1</sup> State law has created a direct avenue for a community-driven process that prioritizes the needs of constituents and not those of politicians. The FAIR MAPS Act (Bonta, 2019), which California Common Cause sponsored, created new standards for city and county redistricting that are designed to enable communities of interest to better engage in the process, creating transparency and trust between local government and community members. Among its provisions, the FAIR MAPS Act established a set of substantive redistricting criteria for cities to follow, in ranked order, when drawing new district lines. Central to this order of principles is communities of interest preservation.<sup>2</sup>

We appreciate your attention to these matters. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at [phernandez@commoncause.org](mailto:phernandez@commoncause.org)

Sincerely,



Pedro Hernandez  
Legal and Policy Director  
California Common Cause

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<sup>1</sup> We are encouraged by the Election's Commission's intent to create a series of recommendations to inform the next redistricting task force, and our organization will be available as a resource for those deliberations.

<sup>2</sup> CA Election Code, sections 21500, 21601, and 21621.