



**Northern
California**

April 15, 2022

Sent via email to: elections.commission@sfgov.org; lucy.bernholz@sfgov.org

CC: Redistricting Task Force rdtf@sfgov.org and Martha Delgadillo, martha.delgadillo@sfgov.org

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

Dear President Bernholz and Elections Commissioners,

ACLU of Northern California has worked this year to remind local jurisdictions of their obligations under state and federal law in the redistricting process, and to provide technical assistance to community organizations engaging in the process. We encourage all jurisdictions to ensure that underrepresented communities and communities of interest can engage meaningfully in the redistricting process and have equitable representation in the districts once formed. The full scope of our redistricting work, and letters sent by ACLU of Northern California attorneys to cities and counties in California, are documented at www.aclunc.org/campaign/redistricting-community-empowerment.

In the fast-moving context of a difficult and contentious redistricting process, the April 6th letter that was sent to you went further than findings or positions ACLU of Northern California attorneys have reached in San Francisco or in other jurisdictions. While we call for accountability in government processes, it is also important to acknowledge and apologize for the confusion we have caused, which I do here on behalf of the organization. I also want to provide further clarification.

ACLU of Northern California strives to encourage civic engagement and volunteer activism. In San Francisco, the April 6 letter sent to you by a valued ACLU of Northern California San Francisco chapter leader was intended to reinforce that the process in the city be based on communities of interest being heard. The ACLU of Northern California does not suggest that there was any malfeasance, nor do we endorse the removal of Task Force members or the adoption of a specific map. The letter was intended to draw attention to the concerns of our long-term partners in this work in our region – the League of Women Voters and Advancing Justice Asian Law Caucus.

We also understand that there have been significant developments regarding the process and the proposed map in the last week. We continue to urge residents and community organizations to engage in the process, to express their views about the process and the maps, and for elected and appointed officials to carry out their duties in the remaining steps of the redistricting process. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly with any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Abdi Soltani
Executive Director

American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California

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