

Dear Members of the San Francisco Elections Commission,

We are writing to you to express our shock and dismay that you are considering a motion to remove us from the Redistricting Task Force. For the past seven months, we have spent countless hours volunteering our time, often late into the night, to hear from different residents, communities, and organizations about how we can best adjust San Francisco's district boundaries to reflect the changing population of our city.

The necessary changes that we and our colleagues have been painstakingly poring over for weeks now are difficult decisions, and we are doing our best to weigh the many variables at play. The fact is that due to demographic changes in certain areas of the city, we have no choice but to shift districts so that they are roughly proportional. We are trying to do so in a collaborative process that reflects the concerns we've heard from stakeholders throughout the process. We have not made any final decisions yet—we are still making changes, debating options, and doing the hard, collaborative work to reach a final outcome.

Over the past few days, we have been accused of bias, attacked on social media, and targeted by elected officials and their allies who are trying to intervene in our independent process and influence the districts that they will ultimately represent. This proposal to remove us as Task Force members is not only an attack on the independence of our committee, but it also fundamentally undermines the public trust in our democratic process. If your Commission chooses to remove us from the Task Force only a few days before the redistricting process is finalized and after all the work we've been doing for weeks, the public will not, and frankly should not, have any reason to trust the legitimacy of the process or the fairness of our electoral system.

At a time when voting rights and the integrity of our elections is under attack nationwide, San Francisco should be a place that stands up for democratic values. We are asking you to reject this proposal, shield our committee from these efforts to undermine our independence, and allow us to complete our process free of undue influence and partisan pressure.

We volunteered for this position because we care about our city, we care about our democracy, and we want to do the work to reach the best possible outcome that we can, together. Please stand up for our democracy, the independent redistricting process, and the integrity of our local elections, and reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Raynell Cooper  
Chasel Lee  
Ditka Reiner  
Members, San Francisco Redistricting Task Force