

From: [Jean-Huy Tran](#)
To: [COSD, Redistricting](#)
Subject: Letter to Commissioners: Prison Gerrymandering
Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021 5:06:33 PM
Attachments: [Letter to IRC - Prison Gerrymandering.pdf](#)

Hi,


I am submitting this letter on the behalf of 11 community & labor organizations to urge the Commissioners to take attention & special care to the issue of prison gerrymandering. Please feel free to reach out to me if you want to have a dialogue on this issue important to us & our communities.

Thanks,

jean-huy tran (*he/him/his*)

Organizer

[Center on Policy Initiatives](#) ||| **Policy Action**



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June 24, 2021

County of San Diego
Independent Redistricting Commission
Chairman David Bame
redistricting@sdcounty.ca.gov

RE: Ending Prison Gerrymandering in San Diego County

Dear Redistricting Commissioners:

We are writing to strongly support the San Diego County Redistricting Commission's intent to count incarcerated people at their last place of residence in San Diego, rather than the institutions outside the county where they are imprisoned.

Counting incarcerated people as residents of their prison institutions is known as 'prison gerrymandering', a harmful practice that inflates the political influence of areas where prisons are located while denying vulnerable communities an equal voice.

In public presentations, the Commission has made clear your plan to end this practice of prison gerrymandering by using adjusted state prisoner reallocation data alongside federal census data for San Diego County's redistricting. We applaud you for doing so.

We also urge you to apply these fair counting standards to residents of county/federal incarceration facilities. Other counties - Kern, Kings, Monterey, among others - do not include these prison populations in local redistricting and San Diego should not either.

Going forward, you may face pressure to move faster towards final maps without using the prisoner reallocation data. Don't. Please uphold a fair redistricting process that ends prison gerrymandering and ensures all communities have an equal voice.



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