

To the Monterey County Citizens Redistricting Advisory Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula and the League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley have serious concerns about the criteria being used in the local redistricting process. According to the Monterey County Redistricting website one of the criteria for redistricting is "Protection of incumbents and other 'political' factors."

<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/redistricting/redistricting-criteria.asp>

The national League of Women Voters and the California League have both studied redistricting and developed standards for any redistricting plan. One major point is that the "plan should not allow the goal of protecting incumbents..."

Furthermore, paragraph (e) of Section 2 of Article XXI of the California Constitution states that the "place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidates, or political party."

We believe that inclusion of the "protection of incumbents" criterion is inconsistent with the unbiased drawing of supervisorial districts. We urge you to remove "the protection of incumbency and other political factors" from your list of redistricting criteria.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Mar, President, LWVMP

Mary Ellen Dick, President, LWVSV

