

May 18, 2011

Office of the City Clerk
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: San Jose Redistricting

Although the City Charter allows this Commission to make a recommendation to the City Council with a 10% population deviation from largest to smallest district, the Redistricting Commission has the tools it needs to draw much more even and fair districts. Though you are trying to balance many interests, you would do well to use fairness as a guiding idea over the course of your final meetings. If you end up adopting a plan that pushes the edges of deviation, do it knowing that you will probably leave the City with a major problem in ten years that will require major redistricting surgery. However, the closer you go to making these districts even now, the more manageable the challenges will be for future Commissions. I urge you to keep these issues in mind before you vote on any plan for the City Council.

Thank you,



Fred Vela