

May 18, 2011

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

Re: San Jose Redistricting

I am a resident of downtown San Jose and very concerned about the status of the City's Redistricting process. I am most concerned that this process has become very political, and some very basic ideas are getting lost.

At the beginning of this process the concept of one-person, one-vote seemed to be important, but since there are now plans for 1%, 5%, 7.5% and 10% deviations in population you should know that you risk allowing this process to look very political. At times the Commission has bent over backwards to try shoe-horning some noisy neighborhood associations into areas that just don't fit. Every time you do that, it causes a ripple effect that other districts need to make up. And as you increase the deviation, you increase the chances that the work of the next Commission will cause significant pain for some parts of our community.

However, if you draw fair lines where the 10 districts represent an equal number of people, all of us will share the burden. San Jose residents expect you first and foremost to adhere to fairness. Please adopt standards to meet that goal above all else.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nithin Mathew". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Nithin Mathew