



**REDISTRICKT
LONGBEACH**

**REDISTRICTING
PARTNERS**

The Commissioner Role

January 20, 2021



The Commissioner Role

This panel will feature 2011-2020 California Redistricting Commission Member Connie Malloy interviewing two other seasoned independent redistricting Commissioners regarding their roles and reflections, inviting questions from Long Beach's Commissioners, staff, and the public.



Cynthia Dai – 2010-2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission member.



Carlos Marquez - 2011-2012 San Diego Redistricting Commissioner.



California Redistricting Commission

Connie Malloy and **Cynthia Dai** were each members of the inaugural California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The California Commission was groundbreaking – for the first time in the state’s history, district lines would be drawn without a focus on incumbency or political party by an independent body comprised of everyday Californians.

Their backgrounds were varied, but none of them had any professional redistricting experience.





California Redistricting Commission

The work of redistricting at the state level in 2011 included many factors that the Commission had to balance.

- **A Charge** under Prop 11 and 20 to change the system of Redistricting that had for years protected Incumbents and political parties.



- **Connecting the Public** to the process when many either distrusted the redistricting process or were unaware how it would impact them.

- Simply **getting the job done** in a limited timeline was a challenge.



California Redistricting Commission

- Working with new **redistricting terms** such as “compactness,” “contiguity” and other rules and terminology specific to the process
- Understanding **Communities of Interest (COI)** was critical to the Line drawing process – but how Were they to identify these?
- The **Federal Voting Rights Act** would help drive the line drawing process, but also create challenges for maps that were simple squares and circles.





California Redistricting Commission

Another key factor was just the varied personalities on the commission.

The ethnic, geographic and skillset diversity of the commissioners provided opportunity.



Varied backgrounds and strong opinions can be valuable in producing a good final work product, but also created challenges.

Getting the commission to work together as a team, with everyone filling **their role as a commissioner** was important to the success.



California Redistricting Commission

Your commission has the added pressure of needing to conduct redistricting in a COVID era.

Likely will need to monitor the process in other cities and state redistricting in order to learn and develop best practices.





San Diego Redistricting Commission

Carlos Marquez was a member of the San Diego Redistricting Commission – an independent Commission charged with both redrawing the council lines in 2011, and adding a new seat.

The San Diego Commission had a **long history** as one of the first municipal independent redistricting commissions.

The city was also growing significantly from 2001-2011, making the job of the commission even more complex.





San Diego Redistricting Commission

Large population changes and the additional seat that was created by voters signaled major changes in the future lines.

Specifically, the commission had competing goals in trying to strengthen an historic African American district, expand opportunities for the cities growing Latino and Asian populations and preserve or expand the opportunities for LGBTQ voters in a key district that has been a pipeline for regional and statewide elected Gay and Lesbian elected officials.





San Diego Redistricting Commission

The LGBTQ community as a **protected community of Interest** is based on core redistricting principles and was supported by San Diego, Sacramento and the State Redistricting Commission.

Community is bound by some of The same factors that define Protected classes in the **Voting Rights Act.**





San Diego Redistricting Commission

VRA Principles (1982 Amendments)

History of **official discrimination**

Voting is **polarized** based on membership in a protected class

Group is **discriminated** against in socioeconomic areas, such as education, employment, and health.

Overt or subtle appeals against discriminated group in campaigns and extent to which group have won elections.

The degree that elected officials are **unresponsive to the concerns** of the minority group.





San Diego Redistricting Commission

The LGBTQ district created by the commission process goes back three decades and has resulted in electing councilmembers who have become the backbone of LGBTQ political power in CA.



1993 – 2000: Sen. Christine Kehoe

2000 – 2008: Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins

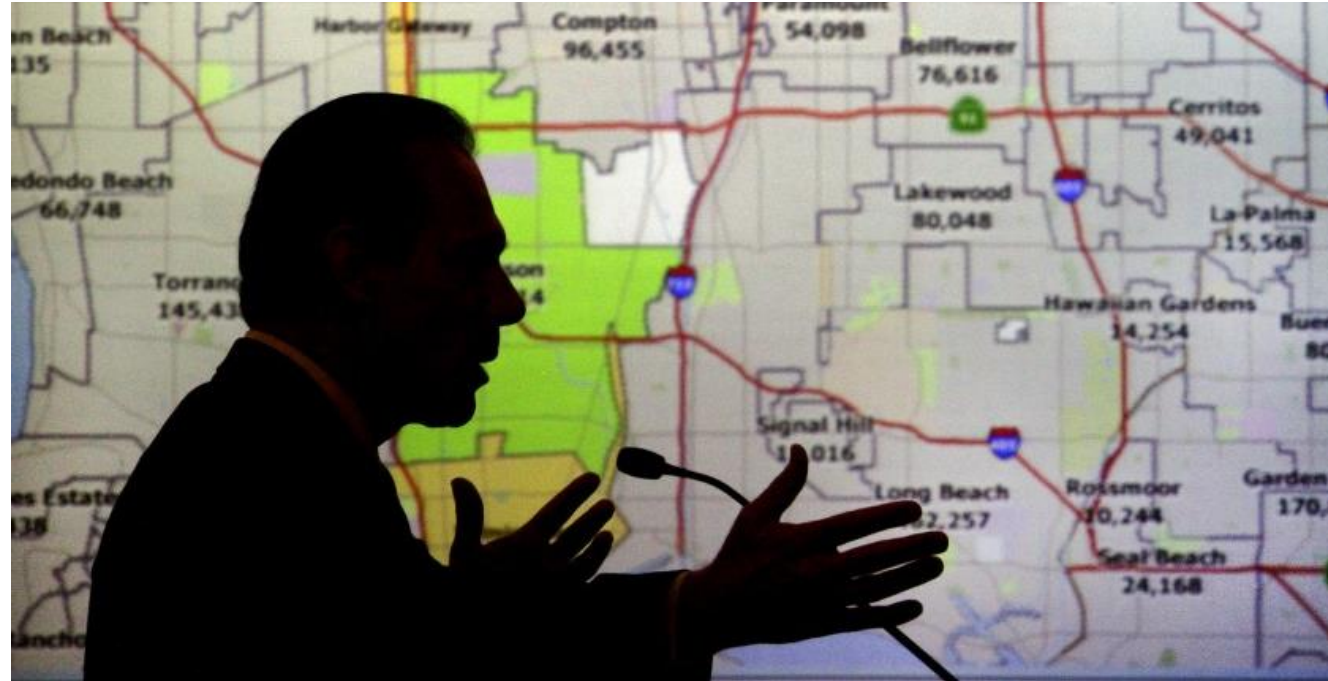
2008 – 2016: San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria

2016 – 2020: State Assemblymember Chris Ward

Current: Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn



The Commissioner Role



This is your chance to hear first-hand from other redistricting commissioners who were in your shoes ten years ago, sitting on their first commission, and learning about the process.



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