



CITY *of* CALABASAS  
PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Calabasas Urges Residents to Get Involved in Proposed Redistricting**

In November 2008, California voters passed the Voters FIRST Act, authorizing the creation of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw new district lines, taking the job out of the hands of the California Legislature and transferring it to the citizens. In 2010, the VOTERS FIRST Act for Congress added the responsibility of drawing Congressional districts to the Commission.

The Calabasas City Council has been very proactive in making sure the five cities that make up the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments (Calabasas, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Agoura Hills and Westlake Village) remain together in the same legislative districts. These cities share common interests and when combined, equal roughly 100,000 residents. Furthermore, the COG cities are all served by the same County Sheriff's Department, the same County Fire Department, and each is located at the foot of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Most of the region is also contained within the same water district and school district. The five COG cities routinely work together to deal with the threat of wildfire and most of these cities are in designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The Commission's proposed boundaries ignored the City's input and are a nightmarish mash-up of jagged lines that lump together communities with little or no commonalities or mutual interests.

Currently, the five COG cities are represented by three different members of Congress and three different state Assembly members. Calabasas itself (population 24,000) is divided into two separate Assembly districts. When cities share a common voice on so many issues, it is problematic to have so many different legislative representatives. The five COG cities are represented by the same State Senator and the same County Supervisor, and the City of Calabasas strongly urges the Redistricting Commission to follow this concept and put all five cities in the same Assembly and Congressional districts as well.

The City of Calabasas is urging residents of the area to speak up and get involved in the process. The Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (LACCRC) and the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC) are looking for public input to help draw political boundaries, and so often hear only from the largest and most powerful interests.

“As the deadline looms for the final release of these legislative maps, we strongly encourage Calabasas residents and other local stakeholders to join our City Council in affirmative advocating for the Conejo Valley region to be included together within the same districts,” said Calabasas Mayor James R. Bozajian. “For better or for worse, we will live with these boundaries for the next decade.”

There are many ways for residents to make their voices heard – online or in person.

To submit comments regarding the Congressional, State Senate, or State Assembly lines, please go to <https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/contact>.

To comment on the County Supervisorial districts, please visit <https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/> for more information.

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