

REGION 4: LOS ANGELES

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**First New Christian
 Fellowship Baptist
 Church**

Fax

To: Redistricting Commission From: Norman Johnson, Sr.

FAX: 916 651-5911 Pages: 2

Phone: _____ Date: 13 July 11

Ref: _____ CC: _____

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Coalition of Concerned Clergy

Los Angeles, CA 90047

July 12, 2011

To: The California Redistricting Commission

We the undersigned clergy, urge the Redistricting Commission to adopt the initial draft proposal, i.e. the 2-3-4 plan as a fair and just alignment of the political representation for African Americans in Southern California. We are deeply concerned about the dilution of African American political strength in the final draft of the commission's report.

We have observed the commission and coordinated with our allies in various coalitions to express the concerns of engaged religious communities. We respect the dynamic nature of political life in our communities and have been active participants in civic affairs ranging from the local to international concerns. As African American religious leaders; we appreciate what it takes to build coalitions in order to get things done.

The areas we serve, largely in South Los Angeles, are connected to the places our congregants live, work and contribute their talents in a large variety of activities from public service, to private enterprise, non-profit work and volunteerism. Religious communities are at the forefront of developing partnerships with our Latino and Asian brothers and sisters.

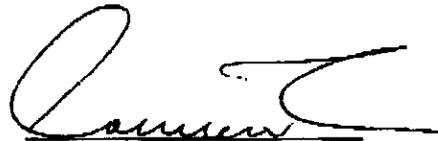
The history of Los Angeles is that of racial, ethnic and socio-economic collaboration and compromise. Recently, we have worked to advocate for mass transit, improved education, implementation of President Barack Obama's healthcare reforms and First Lady Michelle Obama's healthy lifestyle initiative. Such projects have drawn on the strengths of various community partners to benefit us all.

South Los Angeles is best served with a "status quo" set of legislative and congressional districts. In the 2-3-4 configuration, we have the opportunity to elect individuals sensitive to our concerns in two senate districts, three congressional districts and four assembly districts. We know that the African American presence in Southern California has enriched democracy in our state and that all benefit when African Americans have a strong political voice. Such a voice speaks from the perspective of a moral imperative that no one is left out. This is the best of the African American religious tradition and the guiding principle of our work and witness.

Sincerely,



Pastor William Monroe Campbell
Mount Gilead Missionary Baptist Church



Reverend Louis Chase
Hamilton UMC

Dr. Norman Johnson, Sr.
First New Christian Fellowship

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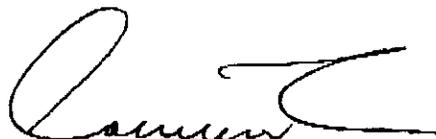
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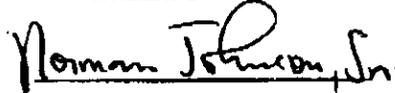
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