



Top 5 Things to Consider when Preparing to Testify

#1 – There is “UNITY” IN COMM-UNITY! Get your neighbors involved!

Attend a community meeting in your area or help to organize one, and include key stakeholders. Imagine you are describing your community to a visitor from out of town – What are the common goals, concerns, or policy issues affecting your community? What social and economic interests do you share? How are your community’s interests different from those of the surrounding communities? Write these down. *Contact us, we can help!*

#2 – Use geographic points or landmarks to DEFINE COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES

In redistricting, geography matters. Think about major streets, freeways, transportation lines, schools/school districts, cities and counties, neighborhoods, community and cultural centers, parks, business districts, and other identifiers that define the boundaries of your community. Be sure to draw a line around those geographic points you feel are essential to your community’s social and economic interests. Use a free software like GoogleEarth or HealthyCity to draw your map (both are available online).

#3 – BE STRATEGIC: Build a Broad Coalition!

Showing that you have the support of a diverse group of stakeholders will give legitimacy to your argument. Identify nearby communities that share many of the characteristics of your community and reach out to stakeholders – both those who may be likely allies and those who may have different interests than your own. Find out whether they are planning to testify, how they will describe their community, and whether there are any opportunities to collaborate.

#4 – COLLECT EVIDENCE to support your case

Once you’ve brainstormed a list of your community’s social and economic interests, gather data to support that these interests do exist and are cohesive. American FactFinder is a great place to start: <http://factfinder.census.gov>. You may wish to include data on household incomes, educational levels, employment industries, land use (i.e. commercial, residential, single-family vs. multi-family residences, institutions, prisons, senior facilities, etc), languages spoken at home, the existence of cultural or community centers, existence of community organizations working on a particular issue, or other information that may be relevant to your particular plea.

#5 – SHOW UP & Testify ☺

The Citizens Redistricting Commission will post the schedule of public hearings on their website at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov. Check back regularly for updates.

CONTACT US!

The Greenlining Institute

(Multi-ethnic; Northern CA, Southern CA, and Central Valley)

Contact Michelle Romero at micheller@greenlining.org or 510-926-4016

Visit us online at

<http://www.greenlining.org/initiatives/redistricting>

Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy

(Multi-ethnic; Central Coast)

Contact Chris Lanier at chris@coastalalliance.org or 805-658-0810 x 205.

Visit us online at

<http://www.coastalalliance.com>