



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

September 13, 2011

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 420 (Davis)—Request Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The League of Women Voters of California is pleased to support AB 420 (Davis) and requests your signature on this measure. AB 420 would request the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) to count an incarcerated person as residing at his or her last known place of residence, rather than at the institution of his or her incarceration, in drawing new district lines following the 2020 census. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation would be required to provide that residence information to the CRC for all inmates incarcerated in state adult correctional facilities, except for those whose last known place of residence is outside California.

The current practice of counting prisoners as residing in the locality where they are incarcerated means such localities receive more representatives, and the localities where prisoners came from and will return to receive fewer representatives, than is warranted. Since California's prison population is disproportionately comprised of people of color, AB 420 addresses an inequity that adversely affects political representation among California's Latino and African American populations.

Voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. Both the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 require that the redrawing of districts must not dilute the effective representation of minority citizens.

“One person, one vote” means that districts that include or exclude people who don't or do live there, respectively, are wrong. We support AB 420 in order to end prison-based gerrymandering in California and urge you to sign this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer A. Waggoner'.

Jennifer A. Waggoner
President

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Cc: Assembly Member Mike Davis