

October 19, 2013

Magdalena Blanco
William Hewitt
Anna Saenz
TJ Costello
Henry Johnson

Mariano Diaz-Miranda
Carmen Llanes Pulido
Maria Solis
Stefan Haag
Ryan Rafols

Rachel Farris
Arthur Lopez
Catherine Coco
Harriett Harrow

Dear Commissioners:

Please note that the New York Times today describes a lessening of the political gridlock in California and a more moderate tone in both partisan dealings and decision-making. The article is entitled *California Sees Gridlock in Governing* and begins on page one of the Saturday, October 19th edition.

I am calling your attention to this news article because it indicates that some observers are crediting three election reforms as major reasons for the lessening of gridlock. **One of these reforms credited with effecting the changes was the drawing of state legislative districts on a nonpartisan basis by the state's independent citizen redistricting commission in 2011.** The other reforms are the state's nonpartisan primary (first used in 2012) and less stringent term limits.

As you know, the California commission selection process was used as the model for the Austin Independent Redistricting Commission. I fully expect that your work will be a success for Austin and a model for cities nationwide. Keep up the great work.

Steve Bickerstaff