

City of Tustin

District Elections



First off, as a 25 year home owner in the City of Tustin, California, I find it very upsetting that an organization that knows nothing about our city, threatens our city with a law suit over how we as a city conducts its election business. Our city is not like many of the larger cities in this state and we are now being forced to change the whole chemistry of how our city will be run. I understand that this can become a costly battle – but that battle should have been brought to us the voters, the **stakeholders** of the community and not just dismissed as a costly event and roll with the flow.

During the presentation, the firm handling this district map asked us citizens to describe our community. I would say that our community is the entire city, not just certain neighborhoods. I can't think of any time when any area of our city hasn't been represented by any of the elected officials that have chosen to run and get elected by the citizens of this city.

However, to describe the immediate community that my family lives in – I would say it is like a Mid West community where everyone knows their neighbors. Most of us arrived in California from other states. Myself personally I know people in most of my neighborhood. My children have grown up here, played with fellow neighbor children and grandchildren. We've been to weddings, funerals, graduations, retirements, Take neighbors to Doctors, sit with them over bad news and joyous news. Cooked more meals than I care to mention for those in need. If we don't see someone we go and check on them to assure that all is okay. Even people whom we see on a walk that live in different sections of the neighborhood we stop and talk.

When we were blessed to have a grocery store on 17th Street, we helped our elder neighbors who walk from the apartment complex with their groceries. Loved hearing the chit chat of them being out socially in the market for their daily meal. We all support the Christmas season kick off at Enderle Center, or walk down to Columbus Tustin park to catch a soft ball game of a neighbors daughters.

The newer younger families that move into the neighborhood aren't quite sure what to make over the fact that we know each other. We don't just drive into the garage and shut the door before getting out of the car. However they appreciate the fact that we can watch their kids for an afternoon, or take care of their pets when they go off to travel.

So how does this apply to an election map – who knows. All I know is that we treat each other with respect. We have many different political views but at the end of the day can share a laugh with each other. We support the same opinion on items such as the airport staying in its current plan of no noise after 11:00 PM and before 7:00 AM. We all would love to have a small grocery store back on 17th as it was so convenient to send the kids or dash up for a loaf a bread or gallon of milk. Not too many are interested in the cities plan for apartment complex going into that area mainly because of the traffic we already face. We all laugh when the unincorporated area of Santa Ana calls themselves “North Tustin”, when we are really the true “North Tustin”. Yet that other area has more political influence than us.

Again, Tustin is one community yet being forced by an organization that doesn't understand our city into separating us into four sections. I honestly feel that this will change the fabric of our city in ways we can't describe. With almost an equal amount of homeowners to renters – those who rent can always move away to another city, but the homeowners will bear the burden of decisions that might not be made as a “whole” thought, but a district thought.



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