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Waterfront top priority, says Glover

By

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Contra Costa Supervisor Federal Glover said this week he was “actually looking forward” to representing Martinez on the county’s governing board.

“At some point you have to get past some of the things and move on,” referring to recent prickly turf wars between the five supervisors over the mandated redrawing of district boundaries.

“Certainly you can see the difficulties we’ve had in selecting the districts, it’s a struggle. I’m ready to move on and represent Martinez, I think it’s going to be a good community to be a part of, I look at Martinez and Pittsburg with some similarities,” Glover told the Gazette in a phone interview Wednesday.

Last week, three of the five supervisors voted to adopt a map that groups Martinez with Hercules and Pittsburg in District Five, the seat held by Glover since 2000.

Next Tuesday, the Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed final maps. If the redistricting ordinance is approved at that time, there will be a 30-day period during which citizens can file challenges to the districting boundaries. After the 30 days, the new changes go into effect.

The Board must adopt the ordinance by October 31.

Asked what he knew about Martinez and whether he was familiar with the current city council members, Glover named each and said he knew Lara DeLaney and Janet Kennedy well and “have worked with each of them at one time or another on some of the more regional issues.”

Glover said a few of his top priorities for the coming months focused around the waterfront.

“I think we have a great opportunity. The commonality throughout my district is the waterfront and I want to explore that with all the cities. What do we see as opportunity for our waterways and shorelines . . . we’ve talked about ferry systems and economic development. I think having a supervisor somewhat familiar with the waterways,” will be helpful to Martinez, he said.

However, he admitted he was not tuned into the current negotiations between the City, the State Lands Commission and the Department of Boating and Waterways over rebuilding of the Martinez Marina.

“I’ll have to come up to speed,” said Glover.

Although California voters approved the Voters FIRST Act in 2008, shifting the responsibility of redrawing public office districts every 10 years from politicians to a citizen panel, that law did not extend to the county level.

Asked if he thought it was fair that he and his colleagues should be charged with shaping their own districts, Glover replied, “We

may want to take a look at this going forward ... whether it should be a [separate] panel.”

But he didn't recommend a panel make of random citizens.

“I don't know if the citizen-based [district map drawing], if that's the right way to go. It's gotten goofy with some of these districts,” said Glover. “Maybe it should be a panel of judges, not voter approved. It's been really wacky. At the end of the day you don't have anyone to go to that you have put in office, saying you need to fix this.”

Glover promised he and his staff would make themselves accessible to Martinez residents.

“My style is to come in and make sure that anyone who wants to know what we're doing and how we operate, may do so,” he said.

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