

CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

HOW DOES REDISTRICTING WORK NOW?

- Every 10 years, after the Census, California's state legislature draws new district lines for U.S. House of Representative's seats and California Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization seats.
- The California Senate and Assembly hold hearings to receive public input, but then go behind closed doors to make the real deals. Some of the strangest shaped districts are ones where an incumbent moved the lines to create a safe district protected from any competition.
- When the legislature and the governor could not agree, the new districts were drawn by the courts (e.g. in 1971 and 1991). These maps have seen the greatest competition and the largest increases in women and minorities.

WHY SWITCH TO A CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION?

- End closed door, secret deals to gerrymander our state's districts
- Ensure that redistricting follows clear criteria that prioritize the Voting Rights Act, communities and cities
- End the current system of placing politicians ahead of voters' interests

THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE DIVERSE AND POLITICALLY BALANCED

- There must be political balance amongst Democrats, Republicans and others.
- The Commissioners should represent different regions of California, and reflect our ethnic, gender, and demographic diversity.

WHAT SHOULD REAL REDISTRICTING REFORM INCLUDE?

THE HEARING AND VOTING PROCESS SHOULD BE OPEN AND FAIR

- The Commission must hold **public hearings** around the state with enough notice for people to be able to attend and testify about their communities.
- Secret meetings that are "off the record" must be banned.
- Redistricting should be done **once a decade**, after the release of new Census data.

THE MAPPING MUST FOLLOW REDISTRICTING CRITERIA

The Commission must draw the districts following these criteria in this order:

1. Make districts relatively equal in population
2. Respect the Voting Rights Act
3. Geographic Contiguity (a district has to be connected)
4. Respect Communities of Interest and City and County Boundaries

66% of California voters **SUPPORT** creating an **INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION** to draw district lines instead of incumbent legislators

86% of California voters want an open process and an end to back room deals in redistricting

78% of California voters want a redistricting process that keeps their neighborhoods together and divided as little as possible