



November 2008 Redistricting Initiative “November Plan”

I. Overview: 14-Person Redistricting Commission (5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 other)

II. How is the Commission Chosen?

Step 1: The Applicant Review Panel narrows the pool to 60 persons.

- The State Auditor creates a public and transparent application process.
- The State Auditor establishes an Applicant Review Panel for the purpose of screening applicants, comprised of three randomly selected qualified independent auditors (1 D/1R/1other)
- The Applicant Review Panel selects 60 of the most qualified applicants (20R/20D/20 other) on the basis of relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, and appreciation for California’s diverse demographics and geography.
- The Applicant Review Panel presents the pool of 60 nominees to the four leaders of the CA State Legislature.

Step 2: The four Legislative Leaders have the option of striking applicant names from the pool of 60.

- The Legislative Leaders may strike up to two applicants from each subpool of 20 (a total of 8 possible strikes per pool). The pools may be reduced to 12 D/12 R/12 other.

Step 3: The 8 Commissioners are named through random drawing; 6 Commissioners are selected by the 8.

- The State Auditor randomly draws 8 names from the remaining pool of applicants (3D/3R/2 other).
- The 8 Commissioners then review the names remaining in the pool and choose 6 Commissioners (2D/2R/2others). They will be chosen to ensure the Commission reflects California’s diversity and analytical skills and ability to be impartial.

Eligibility

- a. California voter registered with the same political party or unaffiliated with a political party for the past 5 years or more.
- b. Must have voted in two of the last three statewide general elections.

Disqualifications and other restrictions

- a. For the preceding 10 years, neither a commission member, nor a member of his or her immediate family, may have done any of the following:
 - Been appointed to, elected to, or have been a candidate for federal or state public office.
- b. For the preceding 4 years, neither a commission member, nor a member of his or her immediate family, may have done any of the following:
 - Served as an officer of a political party, or as an officer, paid staff, or paid consultant of a candidate's campaign committee.
 - Served as an elected or appointed member of a political party central committee.
 - Been a registered federal, state or local lobbyist.
 - Served as paid staff for the state legislature, Board of Equalization or Congress or any individual legislator, Board of Equalization member or member of Congress.
 - Given \$2,000 or more to a candidate for state legislature, Board of Equalization or Congress.

Staff and consultants to, persons under a contract with, or immediate family relationship with the Governor, a member of the Legislature, a member of Congress, or a member of the State Board of Equalization,

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are not eligible to serve as members of the commission. Commissioners are not permitted to hold public office in California, serve as paid staff for the Legislature or any individual legislator or to register as a federal, state or local lobbyist during their terms on the Commission or for 5 years thereafter.

III. Mapping criteria (in order of priority)

- a. Districts must comply with the US Constitution, including equal population requirements.
- b. Districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act.
- c. Districts must be geographically contiguous.
- d. The geographic integrity of any city, county, or city and county, neighborhoods, or communities of interest must be respected. Communities of interest do not include relationships with incumbents, political candidates, or political parties.
- e. Districts must be compact.
- f. To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts must be nested.
- Incumbent residences may not be considered; districts may not be drawn to protect incumbents.

IV. Public Input

- a. The Commission must establish and work through an open hearing process that is subject to public notice and promoted through a thorough outreach program to solicit broad public participation.
- b. The Commission must display draft maps for public comment to achieve wide public access.
- c. Public comment must be taken for a minimum of 14 days from the date of public display.

V. Transparency

- a. The Commission must comply with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.
- b. The Commission must provide a minimum of 14 days public notice for meetings (3 days for emergency meetings).
- c. All records related to and data considered by the Commission must be made broadly available, in multiple formats.
- d. Restrictions on ex parte communications
- e. The Commission must issue a report explaining the basis upon which it made mapping decisions and include definitions of the terms and standards used in drawing the maps.

VI. Commission Support

- a. The Citizens Redistricting Commission must hire commission staff, legal counsel, and consultants as needed.
- b. Commission staff will be subject to the same conflict-of-interest criteria as Commissioners, as appropriate.

VII. Adoption of a Plan

- a. 9 members will represent a quorum.
- b. 9 votes will be required for any official action.
- c. 9 votes (3 D, 3 R, and 3 other) are required to adopt a plan.
- d. The Commission must complete redistricting by a date-certain - September 30, 2011.
- e. The final redistricting plan shall be subject to referendum.

VIII. Scope

- a. Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization seats will be drawn by the Commission in the next redistricting, 2011.
- b. Congressional seats will be drawn by the state legislature, following the same mapping criteria and hearing requirements as the Commission.