

# Yes on Prop 11

Time to Hold Politicians Accountable

## Background: What is redistricting?

Every 10 years, after the census, new boundary lines for Congress and California Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts are drawn. Currently, the California state legislature draws those lines. This is a major conflict of interest.

## How would Proposition 11, the California Voters FIRST Act, change redistricting?

- **14-person citizens redistricting commission.** Proposition 11 would create a politically balanced commission -- 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 others. Commissioners would be chosen for their impartiality, skills, and to reflect our state's demographic and geographic diversity.
- **Protecting communities, cities, and counties.** Prop. 11 would create a list of prioritized mapping criteria for the commission to follow. This would ensure that our Constitution, federal and state laws are followed. California's communities, cities, and counties must be respected.
- **Open and public process.** The commission would hold hearings to receive public input. Prop. 11 would end the closed-door political deals by legislators to draw districts that protect themselves.

## How would the commission be formed?

- **Initial screening.** California registered voters are invited to participate. A panel of state auditors (1D, 1R, 1 other) screens applicants for conflicts of interest and narrows the pool to 60 people (20 Ds, 20 Rs, 20 others) based on their skills, ability to be impartial, and diversity.
- **Elimination of bias.** The four legislative leaders can strike up to 24 people from the pool (8D, 8R, 8 other).
- **Final selection of 14 commissioners** From the remaining pool, 8 commissioners are randomly picked (3 Ds, 3 Rs, 2 others) and 6 Commissioners are chosen (2 Ds, 2 Rs, 2 others) by the first 8 commissioners. This ensures an independent, qualified and diverse commission.

## What mapping criteria would the commission have to follow?

In ranked order, the criteria are:

- Districts shall comply with the U.S. Constitution, including equal population requirements.
- Districts shall comply with the Voting Rights Act.
- Districts shall be geographically contiguous.
- The geographic integrity of any city, county, or city and county, neighborhood, or community of interest shall be respected. Communities of interest shall not be defined as having a relationship with incumbents, candidates, or parties.
- To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts shall be compact.
- To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts shall be nested.

*Incumbent residences may not be considered; districts may not be drawn to favor politicians or parties.*

## What is the scope of the citizen's redistricting commission?

- The commission will draw California Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization seats in the next redistricting, 2011, and after each decennial census.
- The state legislature will draw congressional seats, following the same mapping criteria and hearing requirements as the commission.

Please go to [www.YesProp11.org](http://www.YesProp11.org) or [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org) for more information and to read the full initiative.