# SCA 3, Citizens Redistricting Commission

With proposed amendments, August 2006

## SCA 3 (LOWENTHAL, ASHBURN) WILL:

- END CLOSED DOOR, SECRET DEALS TO GERRYMANDER OUR STATE'S DISTRICTS
- ENSURE THAT REDISTRICTING FOLLOWS CLEAR CRITERIA THAT PRIORITIZE THE RESPECT FOR THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, COMMUNITIES AND CITIES

# SCA 3 CREATES A REDISTRICTING COMMISSION THAT IS DIVERSE AND POLITICALLY BALANCED



**E**VERY EFFORT SHALL BE MADE TO ENSURE THE

COMMISSION IS

"REPRESENTATIVE OF THIS
STATE'S GENDER, RACIAL,
CULTURAL, ETHNIC AND
GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY."

### Step 1: Any Californian may apply for Commission. Screened by panel.

Any California voter may apply. A screening panel of 10 retired state judges (5 Democrats, 5 Republicans) screens the pool of applicants.

#### Step 2: Applicants screened. Diverse pool created.

The nominating panel screens the applicants for qualifications and conflicts of interest (no electeds, lobbyists, employees, consultants, or relatives of these). The nominating panel creates a pool of 55 (20 Democrats, 20 Republicans and 15 from neither major party).

#### Step 3: State lawmakers pick 8 of 11 commissioners.

The 4 legislative leaders (Senate President pro Tem, Senate Minority Leader, Assembly Speaker, and Assembly Minority Leader) can each **strike up to 2** names from the pool. They then each **pick 2** from their own party pool based on qualifications and diversity.

## Step 4: 11 person Citizens Redistricting Commission is created.

The last 3 Commissioners are picked at random from the pool of independents (people not registered with either major party). One of the independents will serve as the Commission Chair.

#### SCA 3 CREATES A HEARING AND VOTING PROCESS THAT IS OPEN AND FAIR



- 1. The Commission must hold **public hearings** around the state. The Bagley Keene Act on public meetings applies. 14 day notice for each hearing must be provided.
- 2. **No secret meetings.** Off the record meetings are prohibited.
- 3. **Vote**. To adopt a map, **6 of 11** Commissioners must vote to approve it (including a Democrat, Republican, and independent).
- 4. Redistricting is done **once a decade**, after the release of new Census data.

#### SCA 3 Requires Mapping Must Follow Redistricting Criteria



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

- 1. Equal Population
- 2. Voting Rights Act
- 3. Geographic Contiguity
- 4. Communities of Interest
- 5. City and County Boundaries
- 6. Compactness

SCA 3 is supported by AARP, California Common Cause, California Nurses Association, League of Women Voters of CA, People for the American Way, State Building & Construction Trades, cities and chambers of commerce from around the state. For more information, please visit www.commoncause.org/ca