

Redistricting CA FACT SHEET



What is redistricting?

Every ten years, we count every person in the U.S. through a process called the "Census." This count gives us a snapshot of how many people there are and where they live.

Once we know how many people live in California, we can divide the population evenly into districts for the State Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization. This is called "redistricting." Historically, the State Legislature has drawn these district maps. In 2011, a citizens commission will be in charge.

Why is redistricting important to me?

It is important that elected representatives listen to the public's interests in order to ensure that our votes matter. A critical step is to draw district lines that keep communities intact. The way district lines are drawn affects how politicians represent constituents' interests. When communities are kept whole, we have a greater ability to hold politicians accountable.

How will redistricting work in California?

In 2008, the voters passed Proposition 11, the Voters First Act. For the first time, a new 14-person commission called the Citizens Redistricting Commission will draw the state district maps.

The California State Auditor will help create the commission. From Dec. 15, 2009, to Feb. 12, 2010, the Auditor will accept applications from interested citizens. The commissioners will be selected by Dec. 31, 2010.

Once the commission is formed, it will hold meetings around California to listen to residents describe their communities, neighborhoods and what issues are important to them. The commission will take all this input and draw district maps with an equal number of people in each district. This public hearing period runs from Jan. 1, 2011 to Sept. 15, 2011.

I am interested in serving on the commission. What is involved?

What will the commission do?

The Citizens Redistricting Commission will:

- Draw new district maps for the Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization
- Evaluate data, statistical materials and other relevant information
- Seek and listen to public testimony and comments on the maps
- Hire staff, legal counsel, and consultants.



Would I be a good commissioner?

A good commissioner is someone who:

- Has an open mind, putting aside personal interests and loyalties
- Is mindful of California's diversity
- Makes factually sound decisions
- Cooperates with other commissioners to achieve agreement on decisions.

What's the pay?

The compensation for commissioners is \$300 a day, plus reimbursement of personal expenses, when doing commission business.

Find out more at:

www.commoncause.org/redistrictingca

What is the time commitment?

The commissioners will decide on a meeting schedule. The commissioners may spend 10 – 40 hours a week or more on their responsibilities. The bulk of the work will happen in 2011.

When do I need to apply?

Dec. 15, 2009 – Feb. 12, 2010

The application process to be commissioner starts. Find the application form at:

www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov

What are the qualifications?

- You must be a registered voter in California for at least the last 5 years with the same party (or non-party) affiliation.
- You must have voted in at least 2 of the last 3 statewide general elections.
- You must have relevant analytical skills, be impartial, and appreciate California's diversity.

Who is disqualified?

An applicant is disqualified if, in the past ten years, he or she, or any member of his or her immediate family, has:

- Been appointed to, elected to, or been a candidate for federal or state office
 - Served as an elected or appointed member of a political party central committee
 - Served as paid congressional, legislative, or Board of Equalization staff
 - Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or the campaign committee of a candidate for elective federal or state office
 - Been a registered federal, state, or local lobbyist
 - Contributed \$2,000 or more to any congressional, state or local candidate in any year
- Additionally, staff and/or consultants to, persons under contract with, or any person with an immediate family relationship with, the Governor, or a member of the Legislature, Congress, or the Board of Equalization may not be a commissioner.
- Commissioners will be restricted from certain activities, including public office, for either 5 or 10 years.

