



Mapping California's Future

You can participate in a once-in-a-decade opportunity to map California's future!

For decades, the state legislature designed the districts from which we elect our representatives to the legislature and congress. The result? A series of gerrymanders that protected parties and incumbents while ignoring community interests. For example, in 2001 the Berryessa area of northeast San Jose, an area with a large concentration of Asian American voters, was divided into four Assembly districts, effectively leaving that community without the opportunity to elect their own representatives. Organizations like *(name of your organization)* are determined that in 2011, the district maps will be drawn to keep communities like Berryessa intact and hold politicians accountable.

In 2008 the people of California put a stop to this kind of disregard for the voters and their communities by passing Proposition 11 — the Voters First Act. Now the responsibility for drawing new district maps for the state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization will go to 14 voters chosen to serve on California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission. With a state as big and diverse as California, who draws the lines — and how those lines are drawn — will truly shape the future of our state. The commission gives this power to real people — political candidates, lobbyists and big political donors can't serve.

The commission will be made up of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four members from neither party, so every view will be heard. You may be one of the right people to do this job — or you may know someone who is. How do you get involved or encourage others to? It's easy to apply; go to www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov for details. Applications will be accepted online between December 15, 2009 and February 12, 2010. You'll also find much more information at www.commoncause.org/redistrictingCA.

Now's your chance! Step forward and be a part of historic change in California!

More sample newsletters on our website: www.CommonCause.org/RedistrictingCA

