



We Draw the Lines

*Activist Toolkit for Fair Districting
and Redistricting*



California



Holding Power Accountable

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California Common Cause

453 South Spring Street, Suite 401
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 623 - 1216

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Website: ca.commoncause.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/commoncauseca](https://www.facebook.com/commoncauseca)
Twitter: [commoncauseca](https://twitter.com/commoncauseca)
Instagram: [cacommoncause](https://www.instagram.com/cacommoncause)
YouTube: [youtube.com/user/CACCommonCauseTV](https://www.youtube.com/user/CACCommonCauseTV)

On-Site Organizer Contact Information

Helen Grieco (415) 531-1774
Alvin Valverde (310) 527-1768

Design and editing by William Brega, Helen Grieco, Gavin Healy, and Nivea Krishnan

About Common Cause

Common Cause was founded in 1970 by John Gardner as a vehicle for citizens to make their voices heard in the political process and to hold their elected leaders accountable to the public interest. Today, Common Cause is one of the most active, effective, and respected nonprofit organizations working for political change in America. Common Cause strives to strengthen our democracy by empowering our members, supporters, and the general public to take action on critical policy issues. Now with nearly 1.2 million members and 30 state organizations, Common Cause remains committed to honest, open, and accountable government, as well as encouraging citizen participation in democracy.

Mission Statement

Common Cause is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to restoring the core values of American democracy, reinventing an open, honest and accountable government that serves the public interest, and empowering ordinary people to make their voices heard in the political process. We believe that by banding together, citizens can make a difference. We throw a spotlight on issues that affect all citizens. We work to strengthen public participation and to ensure that the political process serves the public interest, rather than the special interests.

Staff

Helen Grieco

HGrieco@commoncause.org
Northern California Organizer/
Student Director

Jonathan Mehta Stein

JStein@commoncause.org
Executive Director

Avni Desai

ADesai@commoncause.org
Program Manager

Alvin Valverde

AValverde@commoncause.org
Operations Manager

Kiyana Asemanfar

KAsemanfar@commoncause.org
Program Manager

Office Locations

Los Angeles Office

453 S. Spring Street, Suite 401
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 623-1216

National Common Cause Office

805 15th Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 833-1200

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Introduction

OUR MISSION

California Common Cause is dedicated to building a democracy that includes everyone. We work on voting rights, redistricting reform, government transparency, and money in politics to end structural inequalities in our state and local democracies and to create governments at all levels that are accountable to and reflective of California's communities.

“California Common Cause has led the charge to make California the nation's gold standard for voting rights. Their work has been vital to improving representation and increasing political participation among all Californians.” – US Senator, Alex Padilla

OUR WORK

Since 1970, California Common Cause has led dozens of successful efforts to reform government and the political process, elevating the voices and power of everyday people. We have helped enfranchise hundreds of thousands of Californians through reform in three key areas: elections, redistricting, and money in politics.



Elections

CCC reshapes elections for today's voter by:

- Making voter registration simple, streamlined, and same day
- Ensuring voters can choose when, where, and how they vote
- Simplifying elections, ballots, and the voter experience
- Making voting meaningful and accessible to all



Redistricting

CCC advocates for redistricting by the people, for the people by:

- Empowering people, not politicians, to draw the lines
- Driving change with tools, support, and community organizing
- Ensuring line-drawing is fair, transparent, and representative
- Preparing diverse communities to lead and inform redistricting



Money in Politics

CCC builds a better democracy by:

- Lifting voters' voices above big money
- Creating people-focused campaign finance systems
- Making government responsive to everyday people

For more information, visit us at commoncause.org/California.
Contact us at (213) 623-1216 or california@commoncause.org.

OUR APPROACH

California Common Cause engages the left, right, and center to enact reforms that strengthen our democracy. Key elements of our approach include:

Finding common ground to push for uncommon solutions

With a reputation as a trusted, good government organization with partnerships across the political spectrum, we have been able to bridge divides among diverse stakeholders and forge solutions to intractable issues that curb political participation.

Guiding policy change from start to finish



California Common Cause takes a comprehensive approach to policy change. We have a track record of success at every stage of the policymaking process.

Making sure the political process works for everyone

Communities of color, youth, language communities, and other marginalized groups are more likely to face barriers to political participation. California Common Cause works with diverse communities to knock down these barriers and elevate their voices.

OUR IMPACT



We made voting more accessible by sponsoring and passing Online Voter Registration in 2011. This work contributed to nearly **850,000 CALIFORNIANS REGISTERING TO VOTE** within the first months of its implementation.



We led the effort to pass the Voters FIRST Act, establishing an open independent redistricting process that resulted in a **29% INCREASE IN CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF COLOR** in the first election with the new maps. **36,000+ CALIFORNIANS** applied to serve on or gave testimony to the commission.



We led coalition efforts to **IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY** and pass bills that strengthen disclosures by candidates, initiatives, and elected officials. Our advocacy helped secure **\$14 MILLION FOR A MODERN, USER-FRIENDLY DISCLOSURE PORTAL** for the public to access.

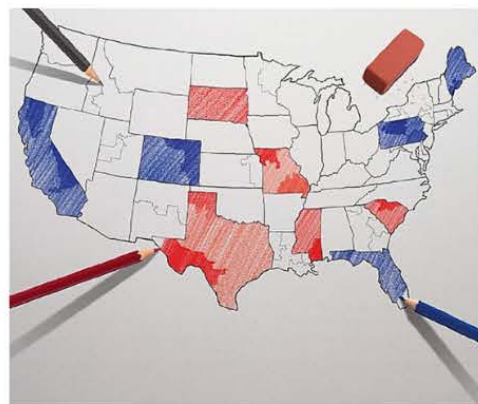
Our Work to Establish Fair Redistricting in California

On February 14th 1990, Ed Salzman, a political savant in the mid to late 20th century, claimed in his opinion article “Seeking Villains in a Sacramento Swamp” that legislative districts in California were gerrymandered. This meant incumbents drew their own lines to make it easier for themselves to get reelected and harder for regular communities to have a voice. In essence, politicians could choose their voters instead of the voters choosing their politicians. Given there were no reforms passed, in the year 2000, the next decennial, the majority party ran the redistricting process.

Finally, in 2008 California Common Cause and our allies successfully passed the Voters First Act, Proposition 11, which changed the California Constitution to create the Citizens Redistricting Commission. This commission was formed to amend the redistricting process by giving citizens the power to draw fair district boundaries without the influence of special interests and politics. Specifically, the reform tasked the commission with redrawing the California Senate and Assembly districts.

Two years later, Proposition 20 was passed, again amending the California Constitution to give the California Redistricting Commission the power to draw Congressional districts. Proposition 20 also defined communities of interest and deemed that they should be included in a single district. Also in that same election, Proposition 37, a ballot measure which sought to return the redistricting process back to the politicians, failed.

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission has been regarded throughout the nation as the best practice for redistricting. Since its establishment, some California counties and cities have adopted redistricting commissions, as well as other states. The purpose of this toolkit is to continue our work to reform the redistricting process by providing residents the information and steps necessary to establish redistricting commissions in their county, city, or school board.





WE BELIEVE THAT VOTERS
SHOULD CHOOSE THEIR
POLITICIANS, POLITICIANS
SHOULDN'T CHOOSE
THEIR VOTERS.



Principles

Introduction: Why Districts?

The idea of a democracy, a system of government beholden to the people, originated from the Greeks. The word *demokratia* -popular government- means that the supreme power of a government lies with the people and is exercised by the people directly or indirectly, usually via a system of free elections. The origins of a society wherein the people can directly choose who is elected/what policies are enacted (direct democracy), or the option to elect a person to represent their own beliefs (representative democracy) can be traced back to the Greek city-state of Athens. Athens is widely known as one of the first democracies in the world and came about around the sixth century B.C. An Athenian democracy at its core held the same belief as many democracies around the world today, which is that citizens of a country should have a say in how the country is run. Despite the many flaws of Athenian democracy, namely only allowing male adult citizens to vote, it was a progressive new form of governance that gave more power to the people.

As nations' sizes grew and developed, a direct style of democracy became challenging, so representative democracy was created. The Romans created a census to estimate the population for the purpose of representation and taxation. Then, they established the practice of citizens periodically electing a single person from a group of people (a district). This person was elected to best represent the beliefs of the people of their district. These elected people would create, debate and vote on legislation on behalf of the people from the district they represented.

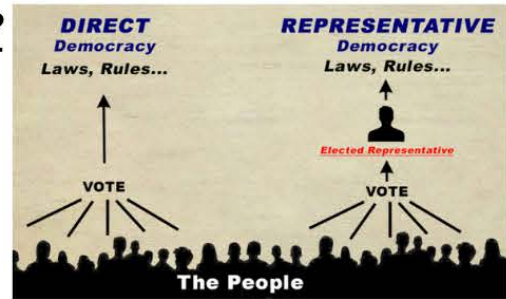
Representative Democracy

The United States Constitution is founded upon the democratic principles of representative governance that were born thousands of years ago. Our representative democracy is also governed by the principle of popular sovereignty. This means that the government's purpose is to serve the people by electing representatives to express the will of the people. This principle is in the Declaration of Independence: "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Popular sovereignty is also in the preamble of the Constitution with "We the People of the United States." The founders created our government as a system where elected leaders would represent the interests of the people. We understand this as "indirect" or "representative" democracy. As such, representatives are chosen by the people to make decisions for them. We are a republic, believing that the supreme authority comes from the people who are represented by a body of citizens, also known as our Congress.

How do we choose these representatives?

Our Constitution Requires a Census

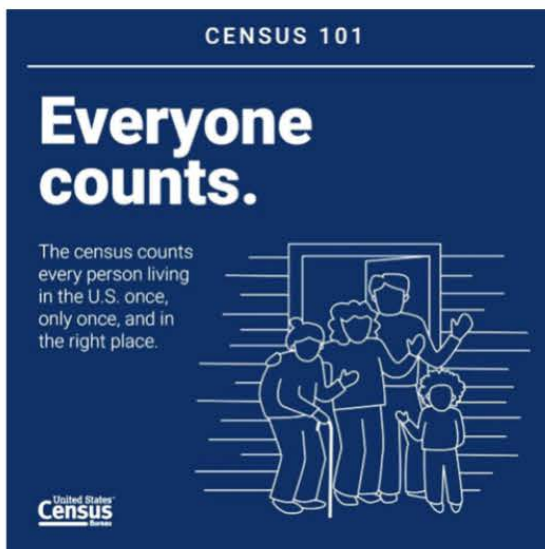
Article 1 Section 2 of the United States Constitution states how there shall be a national decennial (once every 10 years) census conducted during every 0 year (1990, 2000, 2010...).



This process is built into the Constitution: “The actual Enumeration [Census] shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner, as they shall by Law direct.” Therefore, the Constitution requires a census in order to achieve fair representation. The census itself is the tabulation of the number of people in a given city, district, state, and in the United States as a whole. This is also done to find the demographics of any given area (the gender, racial, ethnic, and economic makeup of that area) to fairly allocate resources for communities. With all the information gathered from the census, federal and state legislative districts are created. This is why states like California and New York have more Congressional seats; the census determined that they have the most people and therefore have the greatest numbers of representatives in the United States. In California, counties are districted, but cities are either not districted, in which case elections are for at-large representatives, or they are districted and elections are for district representatives.

From this Census, districting and redistricting takes place—why does it matter to you?

Districing and Redistricting Matters to You

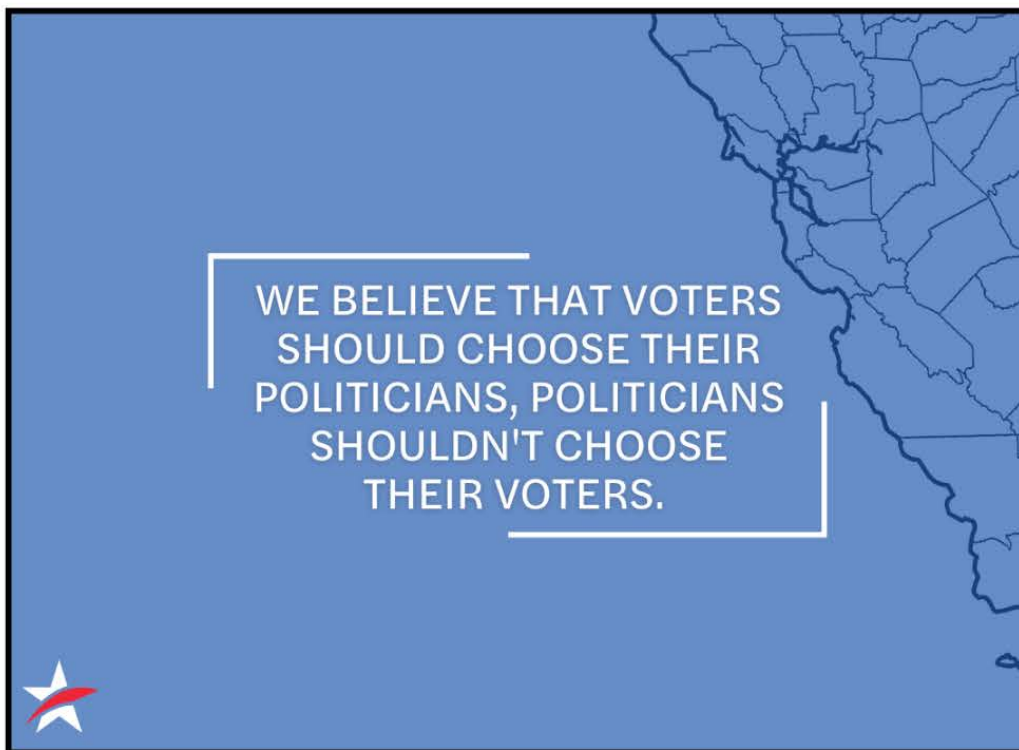


Representative democracy is predicated on authentic representation, the idea that those who are elected to represent their citizens do so in a way authentic to citizens' beliefs. However, in the 1800s, America as a nation was still fairly young, figuring out how to govern its citizens through best practices. Even with this intention, a practice was established that corrupted fair representation--gerrymandering. A famous early example of gerrymandering within the United States comes from Massachusetts' Governor, and former Vice President of the U.S., Elbridge Gerry.

Governor Gerry decided to slice up the state of Massachusetts into districts that would favor his political party, the Democratic-Republican Party. Governor Gerry showed the districts he created to the residents of Massachusetts and those in State government. Many noted how peculiar some of the districts looked, one even resembling a lively salamander. Everyone took note of this salamander-shaped district and named it gerrymandering. Despite the funny background, gerrymandering was and remains a very serious problem for democracy.

Gerrymandering has been used to exclude communities from political power, most notably communities of color. Regrettably, this practice is still used by politicians in some states, counties, and cities today. The best way to end gerrymandering is to establish Independent Redistricting Commissions, which was first done nationally, in California, through the passage of propositions and laws.

Fair representation-- It all comes down to how the lines are drawn and by whom.

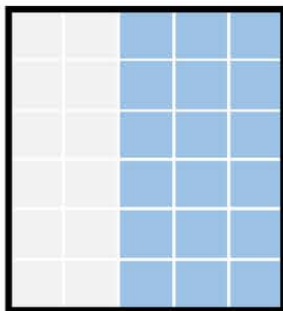


Practices

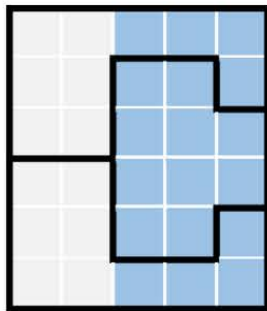
Introduction: How Are Districts Created or Gerrymandered?

The fundamental challenge to true representation is gerrymandering. This is the practice of manipulating district lines to ensure one party's dominance over another and/or to ensure an incumbent keeps their elected seat in government. Redistricting has been used at times to prevent minority voters from gaining political power by drawing districts that resulted in those voters having less of a chance of electing their candidate(s) of choice. This is known as minority vote dilution, and it commonly occurs in two ways, packing and cracking.

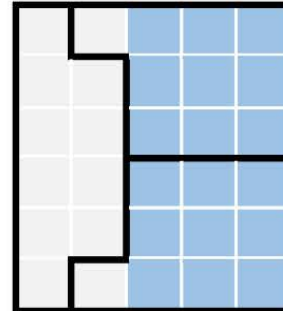
Packing is the term used when minority voters are compressed into a small number of districts when they could effectively control more. An example of packing is when mapmakers draw one district that is over 90% of a single minority group (BLUE), when they could draw at least two districts with 50% single minority group.



60% Blue Wards
40% Grey Wards

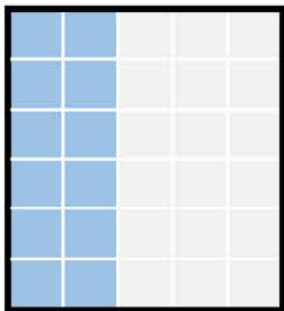


3 Districts: 2 Grey, 1 Blue
Blue wards are "packed"

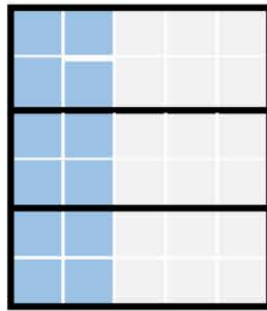


3 Districts: 2 Blue, 1 Grey
Proportional Outcome

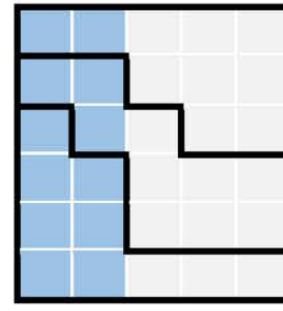
Spreading minority voters thinly into many districts is known as cracking, splitting, or fracturing. An example of cracking can occur if three districts are created with 40% of a minority population in each. If the minority population (BLUE) were placed within one district where they are 70%, the minority community can elect a candidate of their choice.



60% Grey Wards
40% Blue Wards



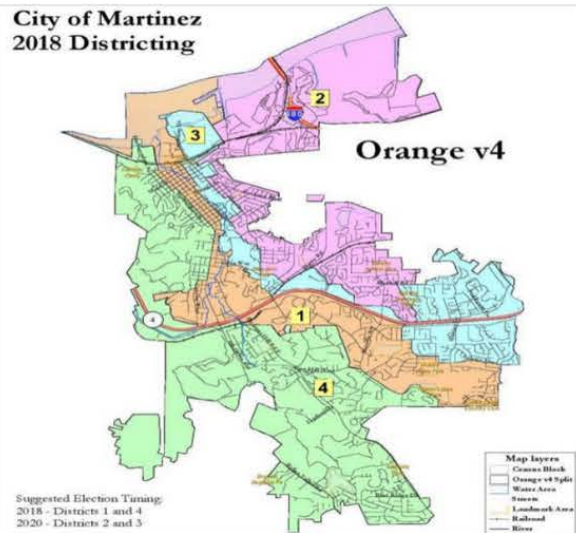
3 Districts: 3 Grey, 0 Blue
Blue wards are "cracked"



3 Districts: 1 Blue, 2 Grey
Proportional Outcome

Not only does gerrymandering manipulate the district lines, it also negatively impacts the allocation of essential resources and services. Authentic district lines will properly indicate the community's need for a hospital, public library, school, police and fire department, etc. Therefore, the practice of gerrymandering has real costs to the residents, to you the voter. Furthermore, these district lines are set for a full decade which means that a gerry-mandered district will have negative consequences for the entire time. Therefore, redistricting matters to you! A gerrymandered district does not serve the voters, it serves the politicians. Ending gerrymandering will enable fair and equitable representation. Fair redistricting is the best practice to achieve a truly representative democracy.

City of Martinez
2018 Districting



For your vote to have an impact on who is getting elected and the policies they enact, the creation of fair and equitable districts is critical.

Criteria for majority-minority districts:

(Protected under VRA, section 2)

- The minority group is sufficiently large and geographically concentrated to make up a majority in a district.
- The minority group is politically cohesive. This means that the individuals that make up the group vote in similar patterns, e.g. they usually vote for the same candidates.
- The white majority votes together to defeat the minority-preferred candidates.
- Given the “totality of circumstances” listed above, the minority group has less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the electoral process and to elect representatives of its choice.
- Other types of districts include: minority coalition districts, crossover districts, influence districts
 - Minority Coalition District: A district where the racial minorities make up a majority of the population and these voters vote together to elect the minority-preferred candidate (not legally required by VRA)
 - Crossover District: A district where some majority voters "cross over" to vote with racial minorities to elect the minority-preferred candidate
 - Influence District: A district where a racial or ethnic minority group does not make up a majority of voters but has enough members to substantially influence an election or the decisions of an elected representative

California Federal Representation: 53 Congressional Districts

*These districts are drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission

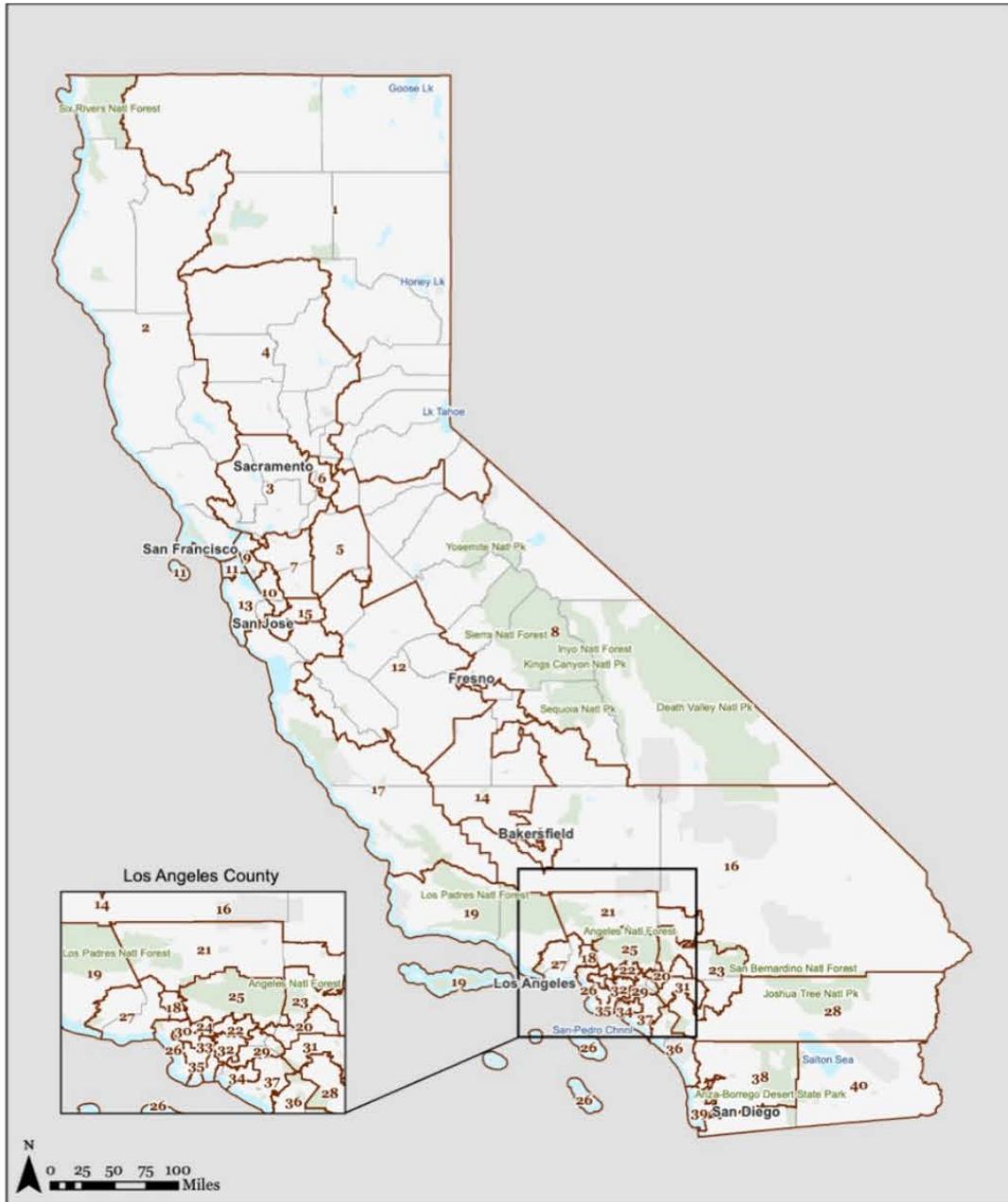
California Congressional Districts



California State Representation: 40 Senate & 80 Assembly Districts

*These districts are drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission

California State Districts



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California State Assembly Districts



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California Board of Supervisors: 58 County Districts

At the county level it is typical that the districts within counties are adopted by the Board of Supervisors directly, who are elected by those who reside in the county. The exceptions to this are that Santa Barbara, San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco Counties are drawn by redistricting commissions.



California City Representation: By-District or At-Large?

Cities: Charter/General Law

In 2001, the state of California passed the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA). The overarching goal of the CRVA was to eliminate at-large elections that unfairly hinder minority representation. The CVRA allowed residents to sue their city on the basis of racially biased voting. Additionally, the CVRA also allowed for plaintiffs to sue school districts for this too. Thus, after the passage of the CVRA residents sued their cities in order to get districts implemented. However, there was an issue with the CVRA, it never specified what would happen if a case was presented by a charter city. In 2018, SB 1018 finally extended the right for all cities to establish any manner of redistricting commission. There are pros and cons to at-large vs district elections, but when there is evidence of minority disenfranchisement CA Common Cause supports moving to districts.

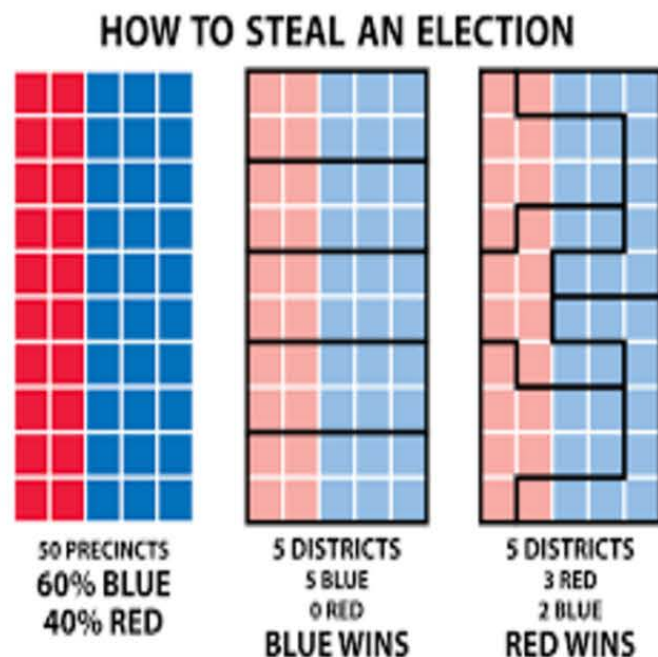
Laws & Models for Drawing District Lines

Federal Laws Governing Redistricting:

1. Proposition 11 Voters First Act: 2008
 - o This ballot initiative sought to create a Citizens Redistricting Commission. It sought to take the power of redistricting away from state legislators/politicians.
2. Proposition 20 Voters First Act for Congress: 2010
 - o This ballot initiative gave the power to draw congressional districts to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Model For State Redistricting:

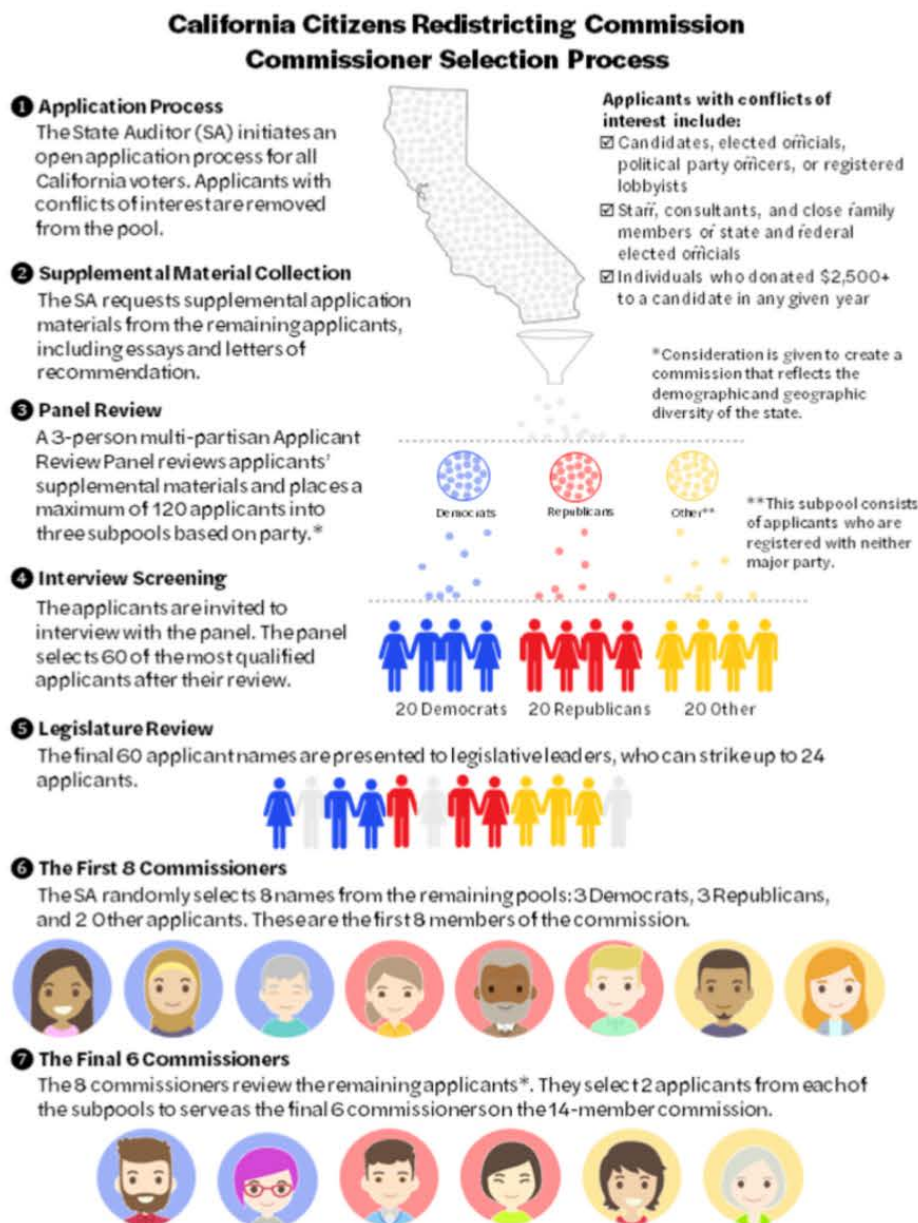
The California Redistricting Commission (CRC) is a 14-person Redistricting Commission consisting of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four people who are registered with neither of the two main parties. After every decennial Census, the CRC redraws California's congressional, state legislative, and Board of Equalization lines based on the Census data and comments from the public.



How Does the CRC Draw District Lines?

The CRC is forbidden from drawing districts to benefit a party or candidate and cannot consider the addresses of incumbents or candidates. All commission deliberations must take place in public hearings and district lines must be drawn based on the following criteria:

- Have equal population and comply with the Voting Rights Act
- Keep city and county boundaries lines intact and preserve
- Communities of Interest
- Be geographically compact, where it does not conflict with the above criteria
- Nest two Assembly Districts in every Senate District, and nest 10 Senate Districts in every Board of Equalization District, where it does not conflict with the above criteria



To learn more, visit:

<https://www.commoncause.org/california/ca-redistricting-tool-kit/>

<https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov>

Independent Redistricting Commissions

- Santa Barbara County
- San Diego County
- Los Angeles County
- San Francisco County

These 4 counties have taken the right steps towards the elimination of partisan gerrymandering, but that is only 7.69% of California's counties. We need to do better!

Laws Governing Local Redistricting:

1. SB 976 (Polanco) California Voting Rights Act: 2002

- Changes minority voting rights laws in California. Provides plaintiffs grounds to address discriminatory, racially polarized voting practices and institute an district based elections to remedy this. This law follows the Federal Voting Rights Act that addressed discrimination faced by communities of color by protecting them through all stages of the electoral process including drawing district maps.

2. SB 1108 (Allen): 2016

- Authorizes any city or county to establish an independent redistricting commission by resolution or ordinance. A city or county that wishes to establish a commission must determine the number of commissioners and their method of selection from among the qualified residents who apply. The resolution or ordinance establishing a commission must comply with certain criteria to ensure the commission is transparent, engages the public, and is politically impartial.

3. AB 2123 (Cervantes- Corona): 2018

- Grants a 90-day extension to cities sued in California Voting Rights Act claims, so that they have more time to transition from at-large to by-district elections. It can be very difficult, in only the 90 days currently allowed by law, for a local government or civil rights or community-based organizations to identify underrepresented communities, educate them about districting and its importance, and encourage and facilitate their participation in the process. The extra 3 months will allow for greater community engagement and education in the initial districting process.

4. SB 1018 (B. Allen-Santa Monica): 2018

- Current law allows cities and counties, but no other local government, to set up independent commissions. SB 1018 authorized school districts and special districts to set up independent commissions. The bill also clarifies that commissions may be used for an initial districting, makes commissions easier to adopt, and authorizes cities to contract with their county to have the county's independent redistricting commission draw the city's districts. Finally, SB 1018 protects best practice by prohibiting independent commissions from drawing lines to benefit or discriminate against a political party.

5. AB 849 (Bonta-Alameda) The Fair Maps Act: 2019

- The Fair Maps Act is the first significant reform of California local redistricting law since the 1940s. Modeled off the requirements already in place for State redistricting, this bill creates standardized, fair redistricting criteria that keeps communities together and prohibits partisan gerrymandering. It also requires local governments to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings. This bill would also better align the local redistricting timeline to allow for more opportunities for public participation in the map drawing process.

6. AB 1276 (Bonta-Oakland): 2020

- A fair city and county redistricting process, with sufficient time for public input and drawing maps, is important to building representative and inclusive democracy at the local level. This bill made necessary changes to the timeline for the local redistricting process established in AB 849. AB 1276 required maps to be adopted up to 205 days before the election, as opposed to 151 days under current law, allowing sufficient time for both drawing maps and for candidates to run for office in the new districts. The bill also extended the local redistricting timeline to account for delays in Census data reporting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Models For Local Redistricting:

The way local district lines are drawn impacts who gets elected and whether elected officials are responsive to the community. When district lines actually reflect our communities, we have a greater ability to elect candidates of our choice and hold politicians accountable. When district lines slice up communities and protect incumbents, the opposite is true.

We believe we get better district lines, and avoid gerrymandering, when independent, community-run redistricting commissions are in charge, instead of politicians.

There are four redistricting models used to draw district lines for cities and counties:

1. Redistricting by City Councils and Boards of Supervisors:

- This model gives politicians the sole power to draw the new district lines and adopt new district maps. Under this model, politicians can gerrymander districts to protect their incumbency and their party's majority. They can also draw the new district lines to undermine communities and limit representation.

2. Advisory Redistricting Commission:

- This model gives a redistricting commission an advisory role in the process of drawing the new district lines. Typically, the advisory commission will hold hearings and draft a map, but the Board of Supervisors or City Council has the power to adopt, modify, or ignore the advisory commission's recommended map.

3. Hybrid Redistricting Commission

- This model is a combination of an advisory and independent commission. This commission will have the power to draw and adopt new district lines. However, they are required to take into consideration input from the Board of Supervisors or City Council. This commission can choose whether or not to implement the considerations.

4. Independent Redistricting Commission:

- This model provides the commission full independence from the Board of Supervisors or City Council. The independent redistricting commission holds hearings, draws draft maps, and adopts a final map. Typically, independent commissions do not consider incumbent addresses or partisan advantage.

To learn more, visit:

<https://www.localredistricting.org>

Currently, we have these city redistricting commissions in California:


California City Redistricting Commissions

Independent Commission:	Advisory Commission:		 Independent
→ San Francisco	→ Stockton		 Advisory
→ Berkeley	→ Dinuba		 Hybrid
→ Roseville	→ Downey		
→ Oakland	→ Los Angeles		
→ Long Beach	→ Seal Beach		
→ San Diego	→ San Jose		
→ Sacramento	Hybrid Commission:		
	→ Modesto		
	→ Escondido		
	→ Chula Vista		

These 16 cities have taken the right steps towards the elimination of partisan gerrymandering, but that is only 3.31% of California's cities. We need to do better!



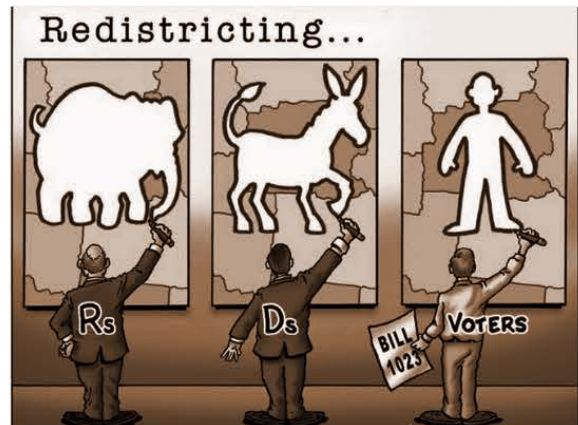
WE BELIEVE THAT VOTERS SHOULD CHOOSE THEIR POLITICIANS, POLITICIANS SHOULDN'T CHOOSE THEIR VOTERS.



Fighting for an Independent Commission

Introduction: What You Can Do To Support Fair Districting

Initiating a plan to end gerrymandering can be daunting but is nonetheless achievable. In the 2016 election cycle, Measure L was presented to Sacramento voters that would establish an independent redistricting commission. The measure was passed thanks to local activists and members of CA Common Cause. Our allies also helped to pass AB 849 in 2019, which created new rules for redistricting. In 2018, CA Common Cause supported Menlo Park in an effort to establish new districts and Martinez to address gerrymandering in their districts. This year, we are working with residents around the state to establish independent redistricting commissions. Residents like you can work together to fight for good governance practices and the team at CA Common Cause is here to help!



Preliminary Questions & Research



Counties:

- All counties have districts, and district lines in most counties are drawn by the Board of Supervisors. What process does your Board of Supervisors use to draw these lines?
- Has there ever been a discussion and/or criticism of how the Board of Supervisors drew the districts in their board meetings, local news, or published commentaries?
- Has the Board of Supervisors ever discussed using a commission to draw the districts?
- Based on this information, is fighting for a redistricting commission feasible?

Cities:

- Does your municipality (city or town) have districts or is it at-large, meaning no districts? If they have districts, either the city council or commission will draw the lines—what process do they use to do this?
- Has there been any discussion or criticism on how the city council drew the districts by residents, in the news, or in public commentaries?
- Has your city or town council ever discussed using a commission to draw the districts?
- Based on this information, is fighting for a redistricting commission feasible?

Local Fair Redistricting Campaign Checklist

CHECKLIST

- Establishing a redistricting commission is winnable
- Establish a steering committee for your campaign (minimum of three members)
- Prepare a potential campaign timeline
- List potential support/elected officials, community leaders/organizations
- List potential opposition/elected officials, community leaders/organizations
- List potential volunteer sources and how many you will need
- List ideas for actions to support your campaign
- List media and social media resources and contacts
- List potential sources for funding

Campaign Plan: Vision/Goals/PowerMapping/Strategy/Tactics

The following templates can be utilized for any campaign you work on moving forward. Here are some initial thoughts and questions to help you get started with your redistricting campaign:

Vision: To establish methods to implement fair districting and redistricting.

Goal: Do you want to establish a redistricting commission or work to change the existing redistricting rules?

Power Mapping: Examining your ability to achieve your goal.

Strategy: Passing an ordinance, resolution or a ballot measure to establish the commission or, to adopt changes to existing redistricting rules.

Tactics: What actions will you take to achieve your campaign goal?

Research Prompts:

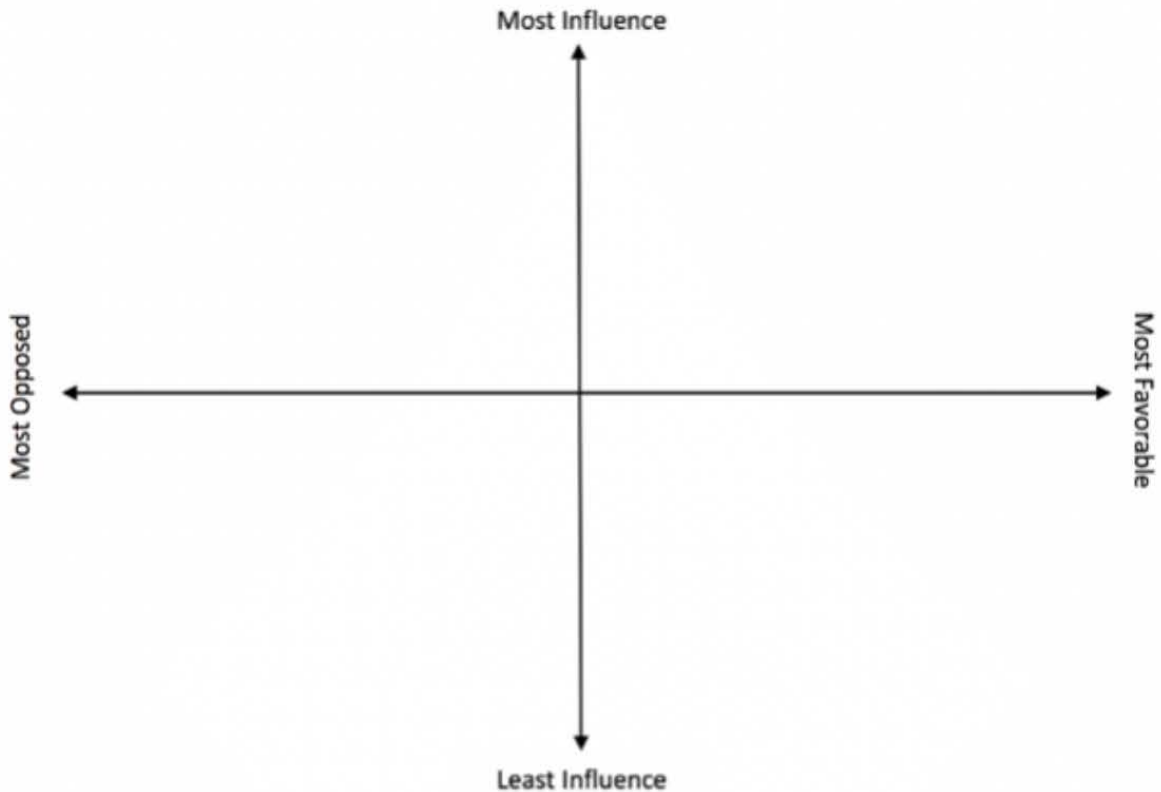
- What community organizations in California focus on redistricting?
- Which local and state politicians have drafted and/or supported fair redistricting reform? How can you contact them?
- Who are the key stakeholders in your community when it comes to redistricting?
- What successful mobilization strategies have other community organizers used?
- How can you use your current network to help drive forth your campaign?

How to Plan and Run Successful Grassroots Campaigns

1. Vision	What problem do you want to solve? If you could design the outcome, what would the solution look like?
2. Goal	What specific solution would help you achieve your vision? Your goal should aim to (a) improve people's lives, (b) be specific and measurable, (c) be winnable, and (d) be inspirational. Example: "Pass the Dream Act Now."
3. Assessment/Power Map/Target	Do research! Has this solution been tried before? Who supports your solution? Who is opposed to your solution? And what power do those stakeholders have to help you win? How can you influence those key stakeholders? List them.
4. Strategy	Plan your strategy to win. Would a Judicial, Legislative, Executive, Community, or Public Education strategy be best? This in part depends on who you need to convince to win.
5. Tactics	How will you best carry out your strategy? Examples: Protests, Rallies, Strikes, Community Forums, Media, Lobby Visits, Petitions, and Op-eds.

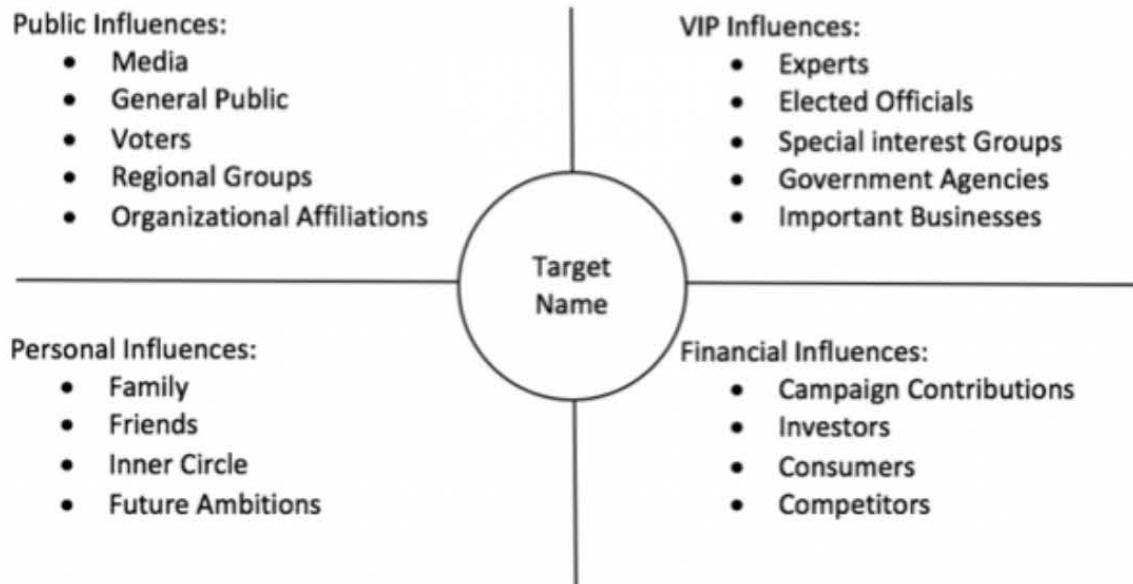
Power Mapping

Locate your stakeholders and decisionmakers on the axes most appropriate for your goal or objective.

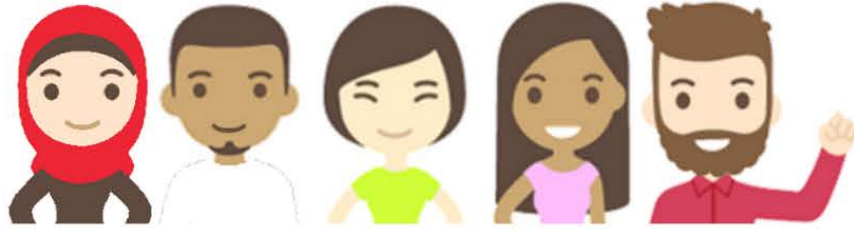


Target Chart

Identify a target and what activities or actions might be required to move them in your favor.



TAKE ACTION!



Checklist for Successfully Running Your Campaign

To see examples of each item on the list below, visit our website: www.commoncause.org/california/our-work/ensure-fair-districts-reflective-democracy/local-redistricting/

CHECKLIST

- Campaign name & logo
- Campaign Tagline & slogans
- Informational materials
- Create website & social media
- Petition for supporters to sign
- Resident support letter & endorsement form
- Coalition support letter & endorsement form
- Sign up for volunteers
- Sign up for campaign updates/collect emails or texts
- Email messages for every stage of your campaign
- Text messages for every state of your campaign
- PowerPoint presentations
- Media and social media graphics/ads
- Calendar for local events to promote your campaign

*Consider including these elements in your campaign

Campaign name, logo, tagline, and slogans:


You don't need a campaign name, logo, tagline, or slogan, but they will help you publicize your efforts and attract new allies.

Informational Materials:

Create an informational flyer, postcards, and/or brochures to explain the who, why, what, and where of your campaign. Consider creating materials in the languages that are spoken in your community.



Let's Work Together for Fair Redistricting



Who: CA Common Cause is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to restoring the core values of American Democracy, reinventing an open, honest, and responsive government that works for the public interest, and empowering ordinary people to make their voices heard.

What: To work with residents and coalition allies to establish an independent redistricting commission to draw the new Santa Clara City Council district lines using 2020 Census data.

Why: We believe that voters should choose their politicians, politicians should not choose their voters. We want redistricting done by the people and for the people. City Council district lines need to be drawn through a fair, transparent, assessable public process led by an independent commission of diverse Santa Clara residents.

How: Sign up for our Zoom educational forums on redistricting. Help us spread the word to all the residents of Santa Clara you know! Help us establish an independent redistricting commission. If a redistricting commission is established, apply to serve!

When: Join US NOW! At: <https://tinyurl.com/y4u9xucf>

*For more information contact
Helen Grieco, hgrieco@commoncause.org, (415) 531-1774*

→ "Fair Redistricting" is the name CA Common Cause chose for the mapping campaign.

→ CA Common Cause designed a logo for each city that includes the campaign title and city name.

→ The graphic includes information about the campaign and how other residents can get involved.

→ CA Common Cause designed a logo for each city that includes the campaign title and city name

Petition for supporters to sign:

Search the internet for "how to create a petition" and select an option that best suits your campaign. Your petition can be online and/or printed - however, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic we recommend an online version. Your petition should include a statement of your mission that people can sign to support. It should also include a place for them to give you their name and contact information. This can be their email address, phone number, or social media information. We suggest providing people with all possible contact avenues so they can choose the one most suitable for them. Your petition can include a box for people to check to sign up to be a volunteer and to agree to receive texts from your campaign.

Menlo Park Independent Redistricting Commission Petition



Holding Power Accountable

To: Menlo Park City Council
From: [Your Name]

Menlo City Council Members,

I am a resident of Menlo Park and I support establishing an Independent Redistricting Commission to draw the new districts from the 2020 census data. Independent redistricting commissions are used in cities across California, including cities small, medium, and large. In fact, California established a statewide independent redistricting commission to draw our congressional, state senate, and state assembly districts over a decade ago, and states around the nation have been imitating us ever since. An independent redistricting commission comprised of qualified, diverse Menlo Park residents would cost the same as the Advisory Redistricting Commission, but would have final authority over what future City Council districts look like, ensuring full independence from the elected incumbents who have an inherent conflict of interest in ensuring district lines that benefit them.

Sincerely,
Concerned Residents

First Name

Last Name

Email *

Zip/Postal Code *

Not in the US?

I am a resident of Menlo Park.

- Yes
 No

I believe that voters should choose their politicians, politicians should not choose their voters. I support establishing and Independent Redistricting Commission in Menlo Park.

- Yes
 No

I will tell my friends, neighbors, family and co-workers about this! You can download the flyer from [HERE](#) and send it.

- Yes
 No

I would like to volunteer to help establish and Independent Redistricting Commission in Menlo Park.

- Yes
 No

I would like to attend the Redistricting Educational Forum.

- Yes
 No

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.

Mobile Number:

(555) 555-5555

Endorsements for individuals and organizations to join your coalition:

Create an endorsement letter to outline your campaign and what their support entails. Create an endorsement form (for example, a Google Forms) for individuals and organizations to build support for your campaign. This will also protect you so you have their official agreement as a supporter of your campaign.

The screenshot shows a form titled "Common Cause Holding Power Accountable" with the subtitle "Menlo Park Organizational & Individual Coalition Allies Endorsement Form Menlo Park". It includes a checkbox for "Yes, we believe that voters should choose their politicians, politicians should not choose their voters." Below this is a section for "ORGANIZATIONAL ALLY ENDORSEMENT" with a list of activities: sharing materials, networking, publicizing Zoom meetings, recruiting residents to Zoom House Parties, networking to help elected officials, recruiting residents to give testimony, staying informed about community events, and ongoing outreach to residents.

Volunteer Sign-Ups:

On your petition form, website, and/or social media accounts, include a sign-up for volunteers. This should include a check box that gives people the option to indicate if they want to volunteer. To build power in your campaign, make sure you capture the information of your supporters on all your platforms so you can stay in touch with them. Suggested resources for sign-ups include Google Forms, JotForm, Sign-Up Forms, and Mailchimp.



Join the Action Team!

Common Cause is fighting to make our democracy more open, honest, and accountable -- and we need your help.

In the past year, Common Cause activists have helped to establish new public financing programs... spread automatic voter registration to several new states... hold the Trump administration accountable... and achieve dozens of other victories.

Are you ready to reach out to other people to hold power accountable in your community, state legislatures, the halls of Congress or even the White House? **Sign up here to join our Action Team** -- a group of dedicated Common Cause members who fight for our democracy online and offline with support and training from our staff.

To learn more about the Action Team (or if you have any questions), email us at grassroots@commoncause.org.

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Zip/Postal Code *

Not in the US?

Which activities are you interested in?

- Organize: lead action teams, get trained, train community members, win reforms in your state and community.
- Volunteer: Help with in office needs at a Common Cause state office.
- Rapid Response: Phonebank, Text Common Cause members, Plan Mobilizations (e.g. petition deliveries, rallies).

Mobile Phone

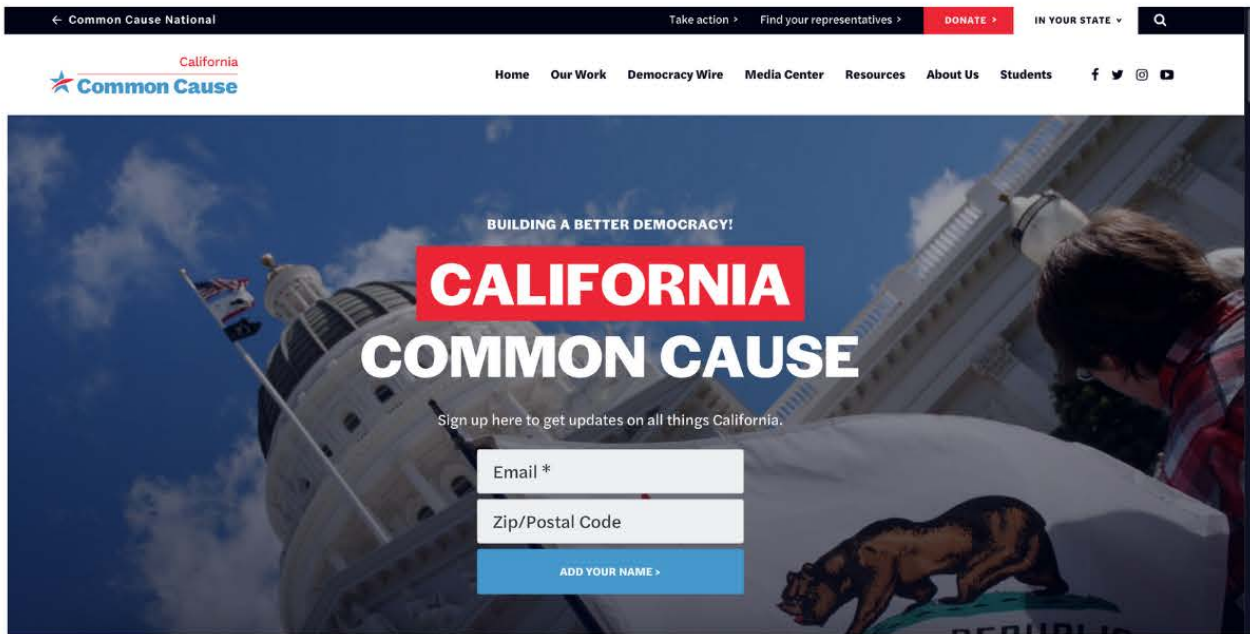
Mobile Opt-In

- Yes, I want to receive text messages.

Add Your Name

Campaign Update Sign Ups:

Providing your supporters with a sign up to receive updates. Plan to send out updates via email, social media or texts to keep your supporters informed.



Educational Presentations:

To build more support for your campaign, offer educational presentations to your community. Create a slide deck (e.g. PowerPoint, Google Slides, Prezi, etc.) that teaches the community, local organizations, and elected leaders the why, how, what, and when of your campaign. Visit www.commoncause.org/california/our-work/ensure-fair-districts-reflective-democracy/ for sample resources that you can adapt to your campaign.



Social Media Graphics, Ads, and Publicity:

Create graphics and advertisements to raise awareness and gain support for your campaign. Spread the word about your campaign through all available means of publicity. Use local papers, radio, television, social media, and community news services like NextDoor. The most affordable way to publicize your campaign is to get earned media, rather than paid media. Creating an event that is newsworthy can get your campaign free media coverage. Visit twitter.com/CommonCauseCA for social media examples that you can adapt for your campaign.

Graphics should have the campaign name and a short paragraph that acts as a call to action for residents in that city



Make sure that materials have the logo of all organizations involved so residents know who is a part of the campaign

The bottom of the graphic includes the campaign slogan and website for residents to get more information about the mapping process

Calendar of Events:

Create a calendar of events for your campaign. This should include important campaign deadlines as well as volunteer/community engagement opportunities. Publicize events on your website, through social media, emails and texts. Ask your supporters to make you aware of any other events that would help spread the word about your campaign.



What you are asking individuals to do for your Fair Redistricting campaign:

CHECKLIST

- Share our materials via email, text, social media, local media, NextDoor etc.
- Network with community leaders and orgs to invite to our campaign planning sessions
- Publicize Zoom Redistricting Educational Forums Network to build our base of resident support
- Recruit residents to host Zoom House Parties to expand our base of support
- Network to help us meet elected officials and candidates to gain their support
- Recruit residents and allies to testify at city council meetings
- Stay informed about community events so we can share our campaign materials and/or present at the event
- Keep reaching out to residents in your community and other allies to promote our efforts

Steps to Implement a Fair Redistricting Commission Campaign

Commission Considerations:

We recommend reviewing www.localredistricting.org and its section on the laws governing the establishment of a redistricting commission, their research and resources

Here are important considerations for your redistricting commission to keep in mind:

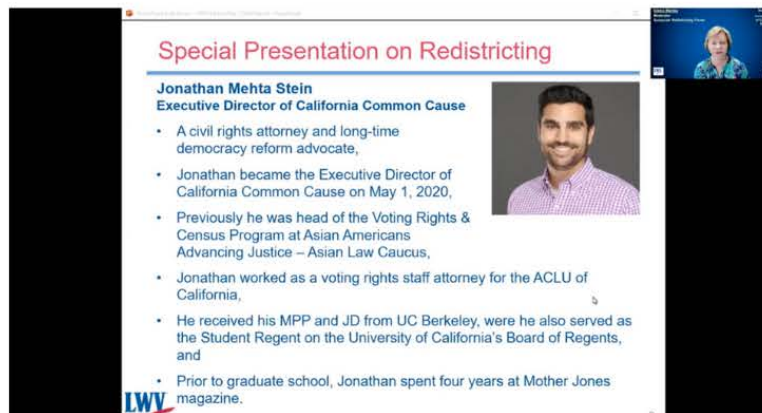
Redistricting Commission Considerations

-  **Commission Size**
Vary from 5 to 21 members. Smaller commissions are easier to manage, while larger commissions allow for a more diverse group.
-  **Commission Diversity**
Encourage the diversity of geography, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, economic/social class, and party affiliation.
-  **Selection Method**
Political appointment, independent appointment, random draw, and retired judges are the main ways to select new members.
-  **Commissioner Qualifications**
Requirements ensure that commissioners are politically independent and knowledgeable about their jurisdictions communities.
-  **Commissioner Restrictions**
Restrictions during and post-service protect the image of the commission as nonpartisan and prevent members from using the position for personal gain.
-  **Administration**
Ordinances may include administrative provisions for the smooth functioning of the commission, including its budget, staffing, and map adoption deadlines.
-  **Public Engagement**
Public comments, outreach, hearings, and notices allow for a more transparent relationship with the community.

 ***Information from www.localredistricting.org**

Community Study Sessions:

CA Common Cause holds study sessions for all interested persons to educate them on comprehensive considerations for creating a redistricting commission. Here is a video presentation explaining the key concepts of how to create a fair and transparent redistricting process for residents of Sunnyvale and the League of Women Voters: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hcuQHgvsHE&feature=youtu.be>



Special Presentation on Redistricting

Jonathan Mehta Stein
Executive Director of California Common Cause

- A civil rights attorney and long-time democracy reform advocate,
- Jonathan became the Executive Director of California Common Cause on May 1, 2020,
- Previously he was head of the Voting Rights & Census Program at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus,
- Jonathan worked as a voting rights staff attorney for the ACLU of California,
- He received his MPP and JD from UC Berkeley, where he also served as the Student Regent on the University of California's Board of Regents, and
- Prior to graduate school, Jonathan spent four years at Mother Jones magazine.

Below is a sample agenda for a redistricting study session. Terms in red represent our recommendation for best practices.

Top Question: What choices do you need to make when building a redistricting commission?

This document is limited to first-order questions: What kind of commission should be used and how should that commission be composed? This document does not discuss critical questions about the line-drawing process, including “what criteria should be used when drawing districts” and “how many hearings should be held and how can we ensure those hearings are as accessible as possible.” Those topics deserve discussion (though state law does provide baselines/guidance following the passage of AB 849), but likely necessitate a separate conversation.

1. What kind of commission should your city use? Each type is used in several cities around the state. Options:

- **Independent**
 - Commission is appointed by trusted third-party entity. This is required of general law cities. Charter cities can choose their own selection process. (see question 2 below for more information)
 - Commission draws maps and has sole power to select final map
- **Advisory**
 - Commission is appointed by incumbent lawmakers. This is usually how it is done, but is not a legal requirement. The city council can decide how commissioners are appointed.
 - Commission draws maps but incumbent lawmakers have power to modify or disregard, and to select final map
- **Hybrid**
 - Commission typically appointed by trusted third-party entity
 - Commission draws maps; commission and incumbent lawmakers work in combination in some way to select final maps

2. If an independent commission is used, who should appoint commissioners?

Options:

- **Independent Evaluation and Appointment**
 - After an open application process, a selection body that is independent of city council appoints the commissioners. In Escondido, a panel of retired judges reviews applications and appoints commissioners. In San Francisco, the city’s Elections Commission appoints a subset of the commissioners.

- **Independent Evaluation, Random Draw, & Commission Appointment**
 - After an open application process, an independent selection body removes ineligible applicants, evaluates applicants, and creates a subpool of the most qualified candidates. A subset of commissioners are selected at random from that subpool. Those commissioners then select the final commissioners from the remaining applicants in the subpool.
 - Example: In Los Angeles County, the elections office narrows the applicant pool to 60. In Sacramento, the Ethics Commission narrows the pool to 25-30.
- **Pure Random Draw**
 - No evaluation process is used. Applicants put themselves forward and those failing conflict of interest criteria are removed. Commissioners are then selected at random from the remaining pool of applicants. This approach is the purest experiment in citizen democracy and is currently only used by Roseville and Berkeley.
- **Retired Judges**
 - The commission is constituted entirely of retired judges from the county who are selected by random draw. Unlike the other commissions, above, this model prioritizes the impartiality and technical skill of judges over creating a more representative citizen body. The City of Santa Barbara uses this approach.

3. How large should the commission be?

- Commissions vary in size. Settling on the right number of commissioners is a balancing act. Larger commissions may be more geographically and ethnically diverse and have a better collective knowledge of a jurisdiction's different neighborhoods and communities. Smaller commissions may be easier to administer and allow for more in-depth deliberation. Some examples include:
 - San Diego County: 14
 - Escondido and Chula Vista: 7
 - Modesto and San Francisco: 9
 - Berkeley and Oakland: 13
 - Los Angeles County and the State of California: 14

4. What kinds of diversity should be prioritized in the selection process?

- Some commissions require or encourage different types of diversity on the commission, especially geographic and ethnic diversity. For example, Oakland requires at least one commissioner to reside in each of its existing districts. Sacramento requires city staff to reach out to diverse communities when recruiting commissioners and to consider ethnicity and gender in selecting commissioners. Commission diversity can promote public trust in the redistricting process and help ensure a broader base of knowledge of the different communities in a jurisdiction.

- **Commission ordinances can require or encourage diversity of:**
 - Geography (e.g. at least one commissioner from each existing district)
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Economic/Social Class
- Note that the law around affirmative action does not permit the use of strict formulas or ratios. For example, the law governing the CA Citizens Redistricting Commission states that the selection process shall “ensure the commission reflects this state’s diversity, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity. However, it is not intended that formulas or specific ratios be applied for this purpose.” Cal. Gov. Code Section 8252.

5. Should political party affiliation/balance be considered in the composition of the commission? If so, how? Options:

- **Political party affiliation not considered (for cities)**
 - Party registration is not requested from applicants and not considered in the application process. This approach is used in all city-level redistricting commissions in California.
- **Balance of political party affiliations**
 - E.g. the CA Citizens Redistricting Commission, which requires 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 No Party Preference or third party members.
- **Political party affiliation tracks Sunnyvale voter registration overall**
 - E.g. A city with 50% Democrats, 30% Republicans, and 20% NPP/third party would use a commission in which commissioner party registrations roughly track those percentages.
 - This approach is used in several county-level redistricting commissions.
- **Prohibition on all commissioners being of the same party.**
 - This is required under state law for independent commissions created by general law cities or counties.

6. What qualifications should the application prioritize and should the evaluation body be selecting for?

- **Commissions can ask applicants to demonstrate their qualifications on different metrics/topics.**
- Examples from other cities: Chula Vista looks for applicants who show that they have relevant analytical skills, are impartial and civically active. Los Angeles County looks for applicants who show that they have relevant analytical skills, are impartial, and have an appreciation for LA County’s diversity. Sacramento looks for applicants who show that they have relevant analytical skills, are impartial, are collegial, and have knowledge of Sacramento’s neighborhoods and communities.

- The CA Citizens Redistricting Commission requires that the selection process be completed “on the basis of relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, and appreciation for California’s diverse demographics” (According to Cal. Gov. Code Section 8252).

7. What criteria should be mandatory in order for an applicant to be eligible?

- **Commissions can treat different basic qualifications as mandatory to be eligible to serve.**
- E.g. Oakland requires only that an applicant be a resident of the city for the past three years. Stockton and San Diego require an applicant to be a registered voter in the city. Los Angeles County requires applicants to have been registered to vote in the county for the last 5 years without any change in political party affiliation.
- The CA Citizens Redistricting Commission (Art. XXI, Sec. 2(c)(3)) requires:
 - “Each commission member shall be a voter who has been continuously registered in California with the same political party or unaffiliated with a political party and who has not changed political party affiliation for five or more years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment.”
 - “Each commission member shall have voted in two of the last three statewide general elections immediately preceding his or her application.”
- *Limiting the applicant pool to voters makes noncitizen members of the community ineligible to serve.*

8. What conflict of interest criteria should disqualify an applicant?

- **In order to prevent conflicts of interest and to ensure the commission is acting only in the public’s best interest, commissions can treat different past roles, actions, and relationships as disqualifying.**
- Sacramento disqualifies an applicant if in the past 10 years the applicant or any member of their family was a city elected official, staff, or consultant to an elected official, a city candidate, or staff or consultant to a city candidate. Sacramento also disqualifies an applicant if in the past four years the applicant or any member of their family was a city employee or lobbyist.
- Other cities take a lighter approach, for fear of disqualifying too many people and making the applicant pool too small. Berkeley does not permit a commissioner who was a city elected official, a candidate, or an elected official or candidate’s staff member within the last two years and does not permit a commissioner who is, at the time of application, a family member of an elected official, a city employee, or city contractor. Los Angeles simply disqualifies current elected officials and current employees. There are some cities that have no disqualifying criteria at all.
- Under SB 1108 and SB 1018, commissioners for general law city or county independent commissions must meet stringent criteria for impartiality.

- The CA Citizens Redistricting Commission takes a strict approach. It disqualifies anyone who has met any of the following criteria in the 10 years prior to applying:
 - Been appointed/elected to or have been a candidate for federal/state office.
 - Served as an officer or employee of a political party or campaign committee.
 - Served as staff or consultant to an incumbent elected official.
 - Are a family member of an incumbent elected official.
 - Served as an elected/appointed member of a party central committee.
 - Been a registered federal, state, or local lobbyist.
 - Served as paid congressional, legislative, or State Board of Equalization staff.
 - Contributed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or more to any political candidate.

9. What positions should commissioners be barred from during/after their service?

- Commissions can restrict the activities of commissioners during and after their service. These restrictions are designed to protect the image of the commission as a nonpartisan body and to prevent commissioners from using their position to advance their personal financial or political interests.
 - During-service restrictions: In Sacramento, commissioners may not contribute to or volunteer for a campaign for city office while serving on the commission.
 - Post-service restrictions: In Berkeley, commissioners cannot serve on another city commission or be hired as staff for a city elected official for two years, and cannot run for city office in the next election. In Oakland, commissioners may not run for office for 10 years and cannot be hired by an elected official, register as a lobbyist, or receive a non-competitively bid contract for 4 years.

Passing your ordinance, resolution, or ballot measure

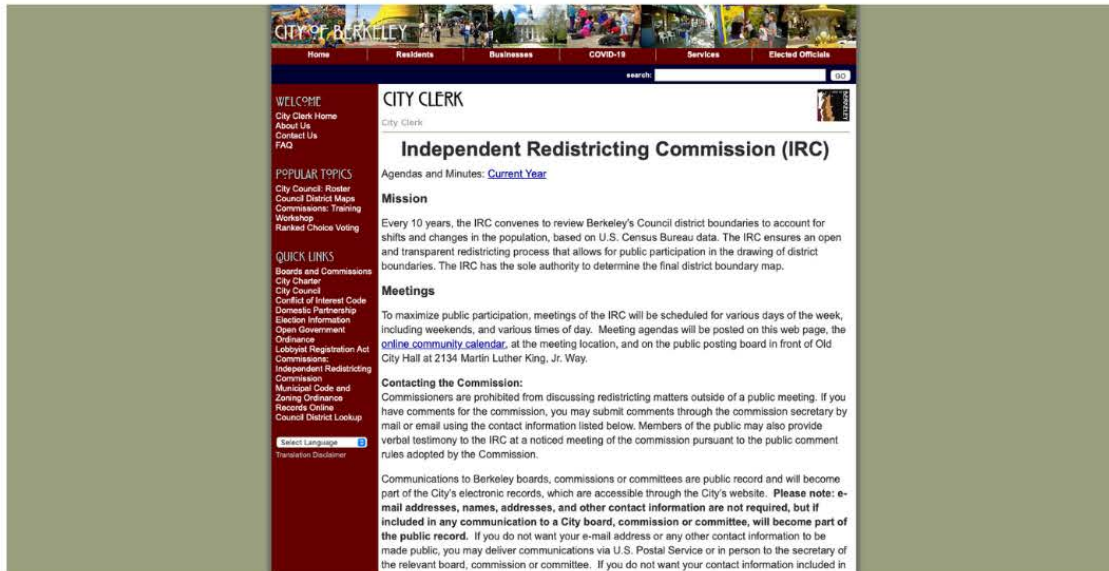
There are three legal processes to establish a local redistricting commission. Your city council or county board of supervisors can pass an ordinance/resolution or it can be established by a local ballot measure.

When establishing your commission via an ordinance, you need to investigate the positions that your elected officials hold regarding redistricting commissions. CA Common Cause recommends reviewing the ordinance generator at www.localredistricting.org/generator. To succeed in passing your ordinance, you will need to lobby council members to gain their support for a redistricting commission; organize local residents; plan testimony at public meetings; create persuasive letters/emails addressed to your local government and public; achieve media coverage; and ensure that residents voices are heard on their preferences for the commission’s considerations and duties.

Promoting/advertising the commission application process

Once the redistricting commission is established the city will announce it on their website and create materials to promote it.

Here is Berkeley's website: <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/redistricting/>



Below is one of the advertisements CA Common Cause created to help promote Roseville's independent redistricting commission:



Organize your community to comment on the need for diverse residents to be selected for the commission

Here is a sample email that CA Common Cause sent out to help promote Berkeley's independent redistricting commission:

Berkeley

Application Deadline: October 9, 2020

Website: <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/redistricting/>

Subject: Shape Berkeley's Future as a Redistricting Commissioner

Friend,

We're writing to share a once-in-a-decade opportunity: Berkeley is seeking residents to serve on its very first independent redistricting commission! Will you serve on the commission or nominate a friend to ensure fair representation in Berkeley?

Berkeley is one of a handful of cities in California where residents, not politicians, will have the power to draw its City Council district boundary lines. The Berkeley Independent Redistricting Commission gives power back to the people and allows for a transparent redistricting process that incorporates public feedback into the district maps. The City Council district maps that are drawn in this process will last for the next decade -- and will determine how well Berkeley's communities are represented in local government.

As a Berkeley resident, YOU can shape the redistricting process by serving as a commissioner. You don't need to be a redistricting expert to apply. We are looking for community members who are impartial, representative of the city's diversity, and committed to creating fair maps for Berkeley's communities. As a commissioner, you hold public hearings to hear public feedback and direct the redistricting process. You will also be provided training and tools to prepare you for the role.

How you can help ensure the Berkeley redistricting process is a success:

1. Submit an application to serve on the Berkeley Independent Redistricting Commission before October 9!
2. Forward this email to 5 friends who you think are fair, reflective of Berkeley's diversity, and committed to fair maps, encouraging them to apply to serve.

The future of our communities and how well they are represented by the City Council relies on a successful redistricting process. One of the most critical steps is ensuring the Commission has qualified members that are reflective of Berkeley's diversity. With your help, we can ensure that the commission has fair-minded and diverse community members. We hope you consider applying and ask your friends to consider applying as well.

Participating in the Mapping Process

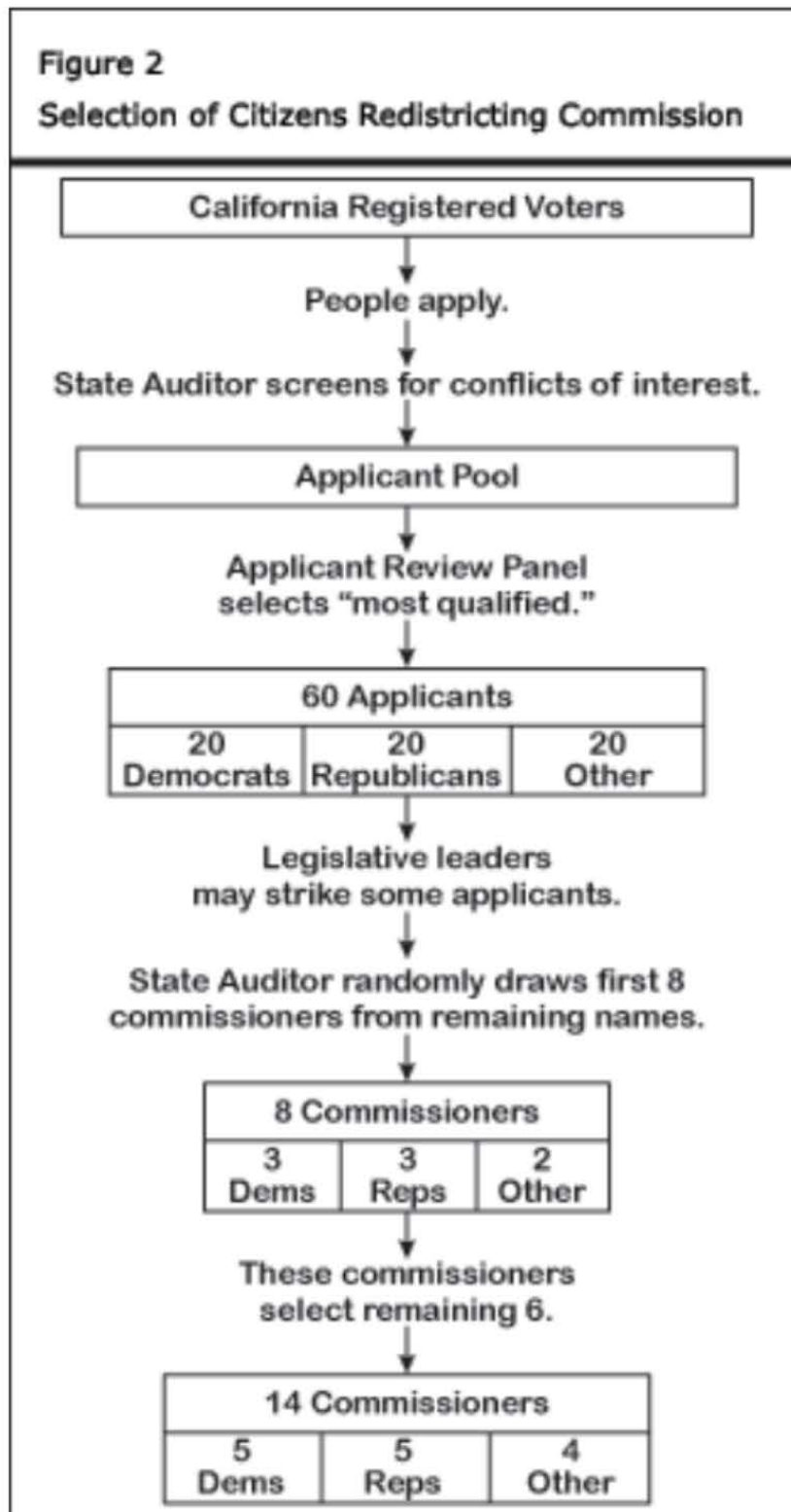
Support the Commission & Community's Redistricting Process

Now that you have established your redistricting commission, the work begins to draw and adopt the maps. The information below will guide this process. Beginning with the application being created, you advertise the application throughout your community, the commissioners get selected, a demographer is chosen, and the community is educated on how to use the demographer's tools. Then, residents testify at community public hearings on district lines to support or oppose both the district map(s) and the adopted map. Finally, the community follows the work of the commission through its term.



Commissioner Selection Process

Here are the steps that are used by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission:



Demographers & How to Utilize Their Mapping Tools

Demography is the composition of a population. After the decennial census, governments contract political demographers to provide the necessary tools to draw/redraw electoral boundary lines as required by the U.S. Constitution.

Demographers provide online tools to governments and community members so they can create district maps for consideration. Demographers then develop, revise, and supply documentation about the map submissions. The demographers guide governments and their communities through the districting process to the final adoption of their maps.

Here is an example of the demographer's tools from this open-source district builder software: <https://www.districtbuilder.org> (Note: your local government will likely contract with a demography service, rather than use an open-source tool).

The banner features the DistrictBuilder logo at the top left, with 'BLOG' and 'CONTACT' links at the top right. The main text reads: 'TOGETHER We can build a better map. DistrictBuilder puts the power of drawing electoral maps in the hands of the people. Redistricting can be a transparent process that represents communities fairly and prevents gerrymandering.' A background image shows a person's hand holding a pencil over a map. A dark bar at the bottom contains the text: 'DistrictBuilder is a free and open source redistricting tool.'

The software interface shows a 'Virginia map with minimal compacting' with a table of districts and a map. The table has columns for District, Population, Deviation, Size, and Comp. The map shows 11 districts in various colors. A tooltip for 'Background #1607' shows: 'Pop: 100,000', 'Area: 1000 sq mi', 'Pop/Dist: 100', and 'Comp: 100%'. Below the interface are three feature highlights: 'UNCOVER INEQUALITIES', 'BUILD BEAUTIFUL MAPS', and 'ENGAGE YOUR AUDIENCE'. A 'Start now' button is also present.

Districts	Number	Population	Deviation	Size	Comp.
# 0	0	0	-7,882,239		
# 1	1	306,892	-418,764		
# 2	2	35,148	-686,218		48%
# 3	3	6,433	-738,943		32%
# 4	4	100,000	-7,762,943		38%
# 5	5	0	-737,366		
# 6	6	0	-737,366		
# 7	7	0	-737,366		
# 8	8	0	-737,366		
# 9	9	0	-737,366		
# 10	10	0	-737,366		
# 11	11	0	-737,366		

UNCOVER INEQUALITIES
Evaluate population demographics and visualize the effects of gerrymandering.

BUILD BEAUTIFUL MAPS
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Participating in the Districting or Redistricting Process

District lines must be drawn through a fair, transparent, accessible public process run by a commission composed of diverse residents. Here is the list of redistricting requirements that were made into law by California Assembly Bill 849:

AB 849 - Fair Maps Act

Criteria:	Timing:
→ Mandatory, ranked redistricting criteria	→ Standardized deadline based on date of election
→ Prioritizes keeping communities intact	→ Court imposed lines if deadline missed
→ Bans partisan gerrymandering	

Public Engagement & Transparency:

- Minimum 4 public hearings at different times
- Community outreach to diverse communities
- Live-translation available upon request
- Maps published online for 7 days before adoption

To learn more about redistricting legislation visit <https://tinyurl.com/y532s567>



These requirements will apply differently in different cities and counties, and charter cities get to make their own rules in many respects. Confer with city or county staff to get more information, or email redistrictingCA@commoncause.org

Adopting Districts or Redistricted Maps

Organize your community to testify in support of the district maps that best represent all neighborhoods. Contact your local media and make your support or opposition known.

Advocate for Your Community

Community members can attend and participate in redistricting hearings. Here are some ways to prepare:

- Research the timelines, rules, and process type of redistricting that your local government is using. Federal and state redistricting often start before local efforts.
- Find out the hearing schedule and the rules for testifying, such as registering, time limits, and submitting written testimony into the record.
- Be prepared to participate early and often. Being at hearings early in the process will let decision-makers know you are serious.

- Connect with civil rights groups who are drafting maps for your area. Make your concerns known and work with them to keep your community together in their maps.
- Staying engaged will let you respond quickly to proposed ideas and maps. Since this can be a long process, organizing more people to cover the different hearings will spread the workload to more than a small set of people or organizations.
- Monitor the process and give feedback on the maps as to whether they meet your (or your coalition's) goals.

Your Testimony

An important way for your community to have your voices heard during redistricting is by providing testimony about your community. Use the questions below as prompts to prepare your testimony.



1. Introduce yourself, your organization, and/or coalition:

- Describe yourself and the organizations you are working with.
- What are your goals?
 - Ex. Keeping your community together in one district, uniting your communities, or recommending a larger map with coalition partners.

2. Include data from reliable sources such as the US Census Bureau to describe your community more completely.

- What is the average level of education or graduation rates? What is the average income level?
- What kind of housing is common? Do people rent or own their homes?
- Are neighbors mostly immigrants? Is there a common language?
- What are the different ancestries, races, and ethnicities of the neighborhood? (Race and ethnicity may be one factor, but it cannot be the predominant reason that a community is unique and needs to be kept united during redistricting.)

3. Describe how your community is different or alike from the communities around you. Highlight community issues and history using personal stories.

- Has your community come together to advocate for important services?
- Have you worked for more recognition or support of your community?
- What harms have been caused because your voice has been ignored? What are the barriers to solving these issues?
- Use data on income, housing, etc. to compare your neighborhood to ones nearby.

4. Close your testimony:

- Thank the members of the redistricting commission
- Provide them with written testimony and exhibits.
- Restate your goals, acknowledge your community members and partners in attendance.

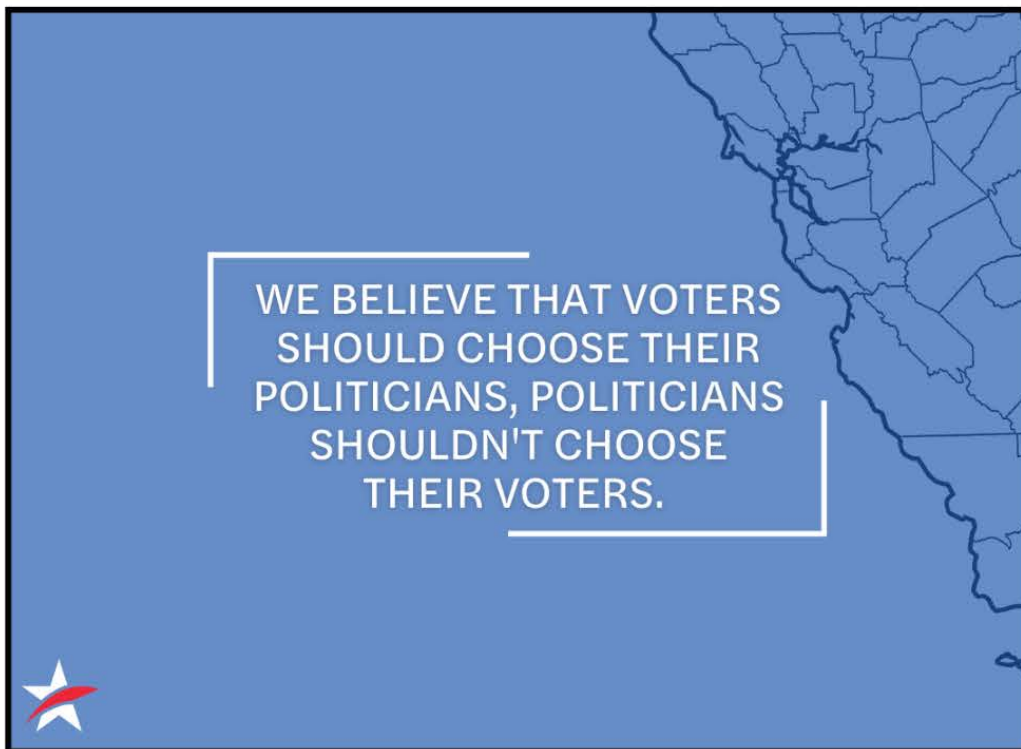
Following the Commission's Work Throughout Its Term

Follow the work of the commission and respond to their actions with support or criticism as appropriate.

Honoring the Work That Established Your Redistricting Commission!

Always remember to thank the residents, city officials, and the commissioners who worked to achieve a redistricting commission. Send thank you letters, host a party to celebrate this momentous achievement, and give out community civic service awards.

We need to reward public servants who protect and promote the best practices in our democracy. Thank you for your interest in districting and redistricting. We invite you to contact us (redistrictingCA@commoncause.org) if you have any questions. Fundamentally, we believe that voters should choose their politicians, politicians shouldn't choose their voters.



Redistricting: Key Terms

Census

- The counting and survey of every person in a population. In the U.S., a census is taken every ten years. The census is required by the Constitution for reapportionment and is used in the redistricting process.

Census Bureau

- The federal government agency that administers the census.

Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

- Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) is the total population age 18 and over and a citizen. (Related to VAP)

Coalition District

- A district where the combined racial minorities make up a majority of the population and where the voters from these different racial groups vote together to elect the minority-preferred candidate. Coalition districts are not legally required by the Voting Rights Act. (Also called Minority Coalition District)

Community of Interest

- A neighborhood, community, or group of people who have common policy concerns and would benefit from being maintained in a single district.

Compactness

- Compactness refers to the shape of the district. It describes boundaries that are drawn closely and neatly packed together unless there are good reasons such as VRA compliance or following oddly shaped boundaries, like city boundaries or rivers.

Contiguity

- A characteristic describing a boundary's single and uninterrupted shape (i.e. all areas in the district are physically connected to each other).

Cracking

- A splitting of a racial minority community into two or more districts so that the minority community is not a significant portion of any district. For example, cracking occurs when a minority population is big enough that it can make up 50% of one district but, instead, is divided into two or more districts so that the minority community makes up a small percentage in each district.

Crossover or Opportunity District

- A district where some majority voters “cross over” to vote with racial minorities to elect the minority-preferred candidate. Crossover or opportunity districts are not legally required by the Voting Rights Act.

Deviation and Deviation Range

- A district’s Deviation is the difference of a district’s population from the Ideal Population. The redistricting plan’s Deviation Range is the plan’s largest deviation to the plan’s smallest deviation.

Ideal Population

- The total population goal for districts in a redistricting plan. It is computed by taking the total population of the jurisdiction and dividing it by the total number of districts in the redistricting plan.

Incumbency (Criteria)

- Making sure the current elected official’s house remains in a district.

Influence District

- A district where a racial or ethnic minority group does not make up a majority of voters but does have enough members of the minority group to influence substantially an election or the decisions of an elected representative.

Gerrymandering

- Drawing of district lines to give one group an unfair advantage over another group. Gerrymandering is not the same as redistricting, but gerrymandering can occur during redistricting. Drawing majority-minority districts to comply with the Voting Rights Act is not gerrymandering.

GIS (Geographic Information System)

- Computer software used to create redistricting maps.

Majority-Minority District

- A district where one racial minority equals 50% or more of the citizen voting-age population. In combination with a few other factors, a majority-minority district may be required by the VRA. ([See Rules of Redistricting: The Voting Rights Act](#))

Minority vote dilution

- Drawing districts which result in minority voters having less of a chance of electing their candidate(s) of choice. This is often done by “[packing](#)” or “[cracking](#).”

Nesting

- A redistricting rule where each upper house (such as the state senate) district is made up of two lower house districts (such as the state assembly).

One Person, One Vote

- The Equal Population rule. A phrase that describes the constitutional requirement that each district be substantially equal in total population. Typically, this means that every district in a redistricting plan should contain the same number of people, regardless of age or citizenship.

Packing

- An overconcentration of a minority population into a suboptimal number of districts. For example, packing occurs when a minority population makes up 90% of the district instead of two districts where the minority population makes up 50% of each district.

Reapportionment

- The redistribution of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives based on changes in a state’s population. This occurs so that a state’s representation in Congress is proportional to its population. Reapportionment is not redistricting, although some states use the terms interchangeably.

Redistricting

- The process used by governments to redraw political district boundaries and applies to all levels of government where district elections are held. Maps are redrawn every ten years after the Census to create districts with substantially equal populations to, at minimum, account for population shifts. There are many types of Redistricting Processes (see Strategies for Different Redistricting Processes)

Unity Map

- A proposed map drawn by a coalition of multiple community groups that demonstrates their multiple communities of interest can be simultaneously respected.

Voting Age Population (VAP)

- The total population ages 18 and over. (Related to CVAP)

Voting Rights Act (VRA)

- The federal legislation passed in 1965 to ensure state and local governments do not pass laws or policies that deny American citizens the equal right to vote based on race. Section 2 of the VRA protects voters from discrimination based on race, color, or membership in a language minority group in all election procedures.

Resources

[Toolkit on Redistricting in CA at Local Level](#)

[Info about all Commissions in Cali](#)

[Image for Our Work to Establish Fair Redistricting](#)

[Image for Representative Democracy](#)

[Image for Why Districting and Redistricting Matter to You](#)

[Image for Our Constitution Requires a Census](#)

[Image for Practices: Introduction](#)

[Image for Why Districting and Redistricting Matter to You](#)

[CA Congressional Districts](#)

[CA Counties Map](#)

[Quote about the Census \(Article 1 Sec. 2\)](#)

[Image of CRC selection for prop 11](#)