

CREATION OF A STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

COMMON CAUSE NEW MEXICO SUPPORTS HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4, sponsored by Sens. Mark Moores & Daniel Ivey-Soto, and Reps. Carl Trujillo & Sarah Maestas Barnes, which will establish a redistricting commission that will use **a fair, transparent process** to evaluate new census data every 10 years and draw new electoral district boundaries.

Currently, the redistricting process is not transparent, and all too often, there is no public participation. The public's perception of this process is that districts are drawn to serve the political interests of those who draw them, rather than the interests of citizens. Common Cause New Mexico's 2017 poll revealed that:

70 percent of New Mexico voters, across demographic lines, support the creation of an Independent Redistricting Commission.

In 2017, this bill passed two House committees.

When voters feel that their input matters, they participate. But when they sense “incumbent inevitability,” resulting from rigged, non-competitive districts, their participation declines.

This combination of disenfranchisement and low voter participation is toxic to our democracy. It permits big donors and special interests – which more than 64 percent of voters already agree have too much influence – to dominate our government. Lastly, unfair districting has historically had a disproportionately negative impact on minority citizens across the state.

The census begins in 2020, the time to change our redistricting process is now.

Common Cause New Mexico is a nonpartisan grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. It works to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest; promote equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all; and to empower all people to make their voices heard as equals in the political process.

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