

CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Before the 2011 redistricting cycle, the California State Legislature drew those lines. In 2008, voters passed Proposition 11, creating the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw state districts, and 2010 expanded its scope to draw congressional lines.

The Commission is **politically balanced - made up of 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 others.**

Commissioners are selected through a transparent application process where they are assessed on their impartiality, skills, and ability to reflect our State's demographic and geographic diversity.

Districts are drawn based on ranked mapping criteria to ensure that our Constitution, federal and state laws are followed. In 2011, the Commission held over 100 public meetings and hearings to receive public input on their communities and discuss map proposals. Maps are drawn in a public and transparent manner, ending closed-door gerrymandering by legislators to serve themselves.

How is the Citizens Redistricting Commission formed?

- 1. Screen.** California registered voters are invited to participate. The state Auditor screens applicants for conflicts of interest. A three-member auditor panel interviews and narrows the pool to 60 people (20 Ds, 20 Rs, 20 others) based on their skills, ability to be impartial, and diversity.
- 2. Eliminate Bias.** The 4 Legislative Leaders can strike up to 24 people from the pool (8D, 8R, 8 other).
- 3. Select 14 Commissioners.** From the remaining pool, 8 Commissioners are randomly picked (3 Ds, 3 Rs, 2 others) and 6 Commissioners are chosen (2 Ds, 2 Rs, 2 others) by the first 8 Commissioners. This ensures an independent, qualified, and diverse Commission.

What Mapping Criteria does the Commission follow?

In ranked order, the criteria are:

- Districts shall comply with the US Constitution, including equal population requirements.
- Districts shall comply with the Voting Rights Act.
- Districts shall be geographically contiguous.
- The geographic integrity of any city, county, or city and county, neighborhoods, or communities of interest shall be respected. Communities of interest shall not be defined as having a relationship with incumbents, candidates, or parties.
- To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts shall be compact.
- To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts shall be nested.

Districts may not be drawn to favor politicians or parties. Incumbent residences may not be considered.

What were the results of California's 2011 Commission process?

- 30,000 people applied to be a California Citizen Redistricting Commissioner.
- The Commission held over 100 meetings and hearings, with more than 20,000 people providing input.
- The maps created 9 new Voting Rights Act districts at the congressional, state senate and assembly levels. The new maps reduced city splits and were more compact.*
- Races were more competitive than under legislatively-drawn maps, especially for Congress. Across the 173 seats in all three plans (Assembly, Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives), the number of competitive seats nearly doubled, from 16 to 28.*

**See Public Policy Institute of California reports, McGhee et al, 2011-2012.*