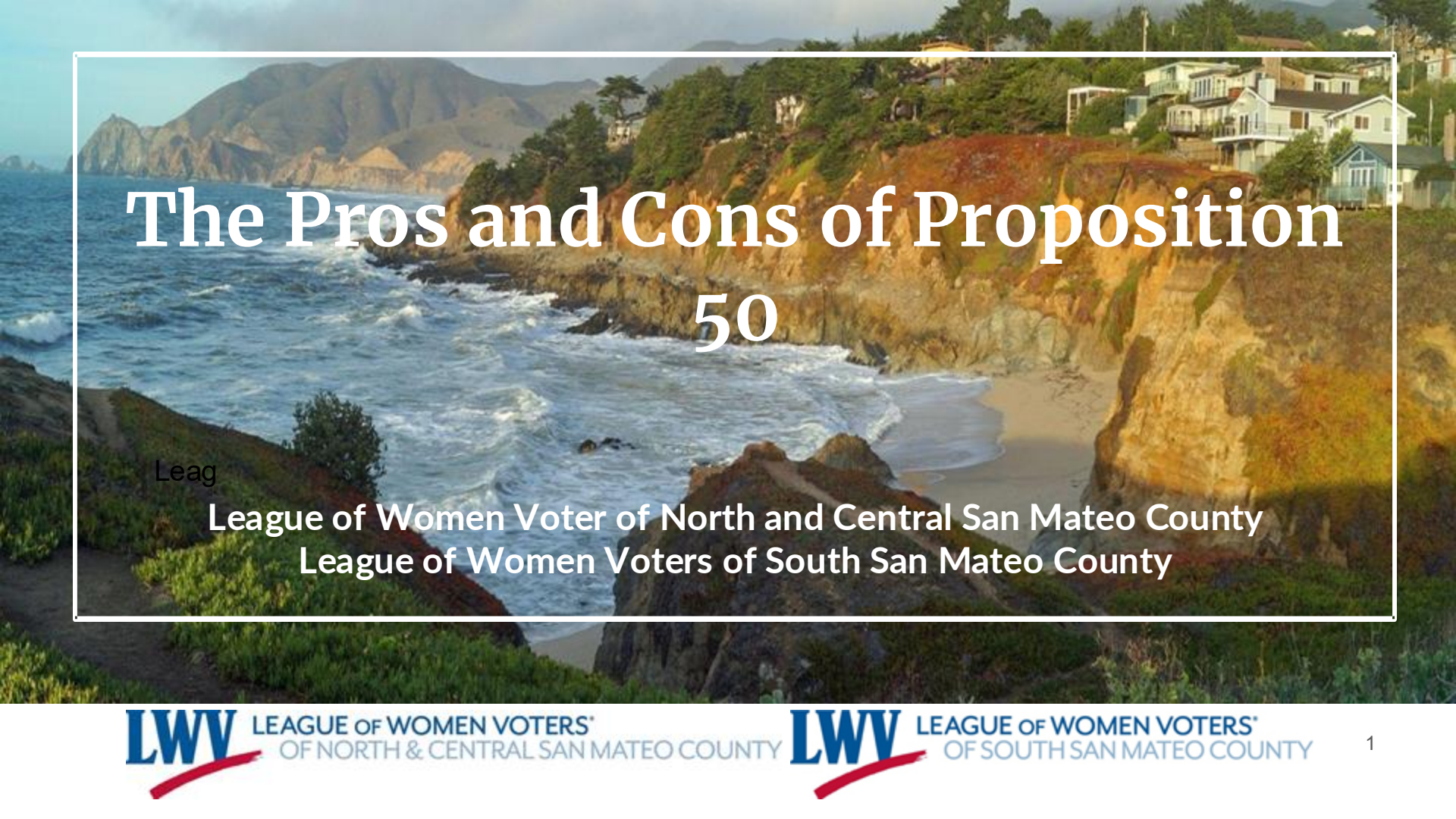




The Pros and Cons of Proposition 50

Leag

League of Women Voter of North and Central San Mateo County
League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County

Special Election November 4, 2025

PROPOSITION 50

Authorizes Temporary Changes to Congressional District Maps in Response to Texas' Partisan Redistricting

Should the state authorize temporary changes to congressional district maps in response to Texas' partisan redistricting?

Who We Are

The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan**, **grassroots** nonprofit dedicated to empowering everyone to participate fully in American democracy.

Nonpartisan

The League is a nonpartisan organization. We do not support or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office.

Our Mission

Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

Our Vision

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

Our Values

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

What are Pros & Cons?

- Unbiased, non-partisan explanation of a ballot measure to help voters make informed decisions
- Do not advocate for or against the measures — they simply explain:

What the measure would do if passed

What a “Yes” or “No” vote means

Who supports or opposes it and why

Fiscal and practical impacts

What are Congressional Districts??

- Parts of a state where people vote for someone to represent them in the U.S House of Representatives. There are 435 congressional districts in the U.S, and California has 52 of that total.
- A Congressperson represents the people from their district in Washington, D.C. They help develop the federal budget and U.S. policy priorities, and work with other U.S. Representatives to make new laws. Each representative is elected for a two year term.



Who Draws Congressional District Maps in California?

- **Prior to 2008:** Legislators drew lines.
- **2008-Present:** Prop 11 approved; established a non-partisan commission to draw the maps for State Senate, State Assembly, and the Board of Equalization.
- **2010-Present:** Prop 20 approved; transferred authority to draw congressional maps from legislature to independent commission.



The California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC)

- Was established by Article XXI of the California Constitution.
- Is made up of five Republicans, five Democrats, and 4 not affiliated with either of those two parties.
- Requires the district lines be drawn in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules.



<https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>

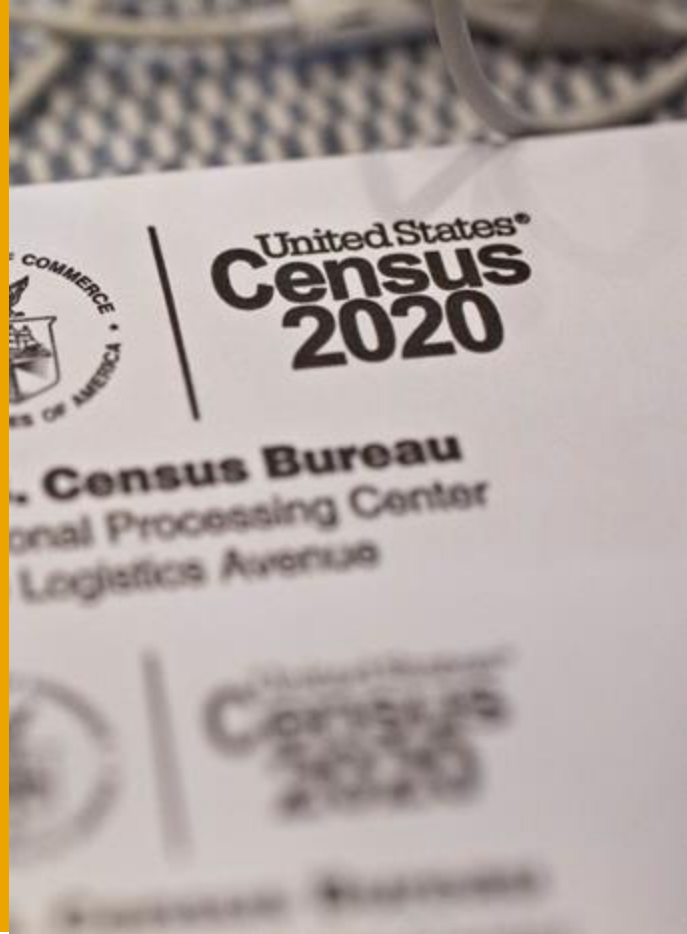


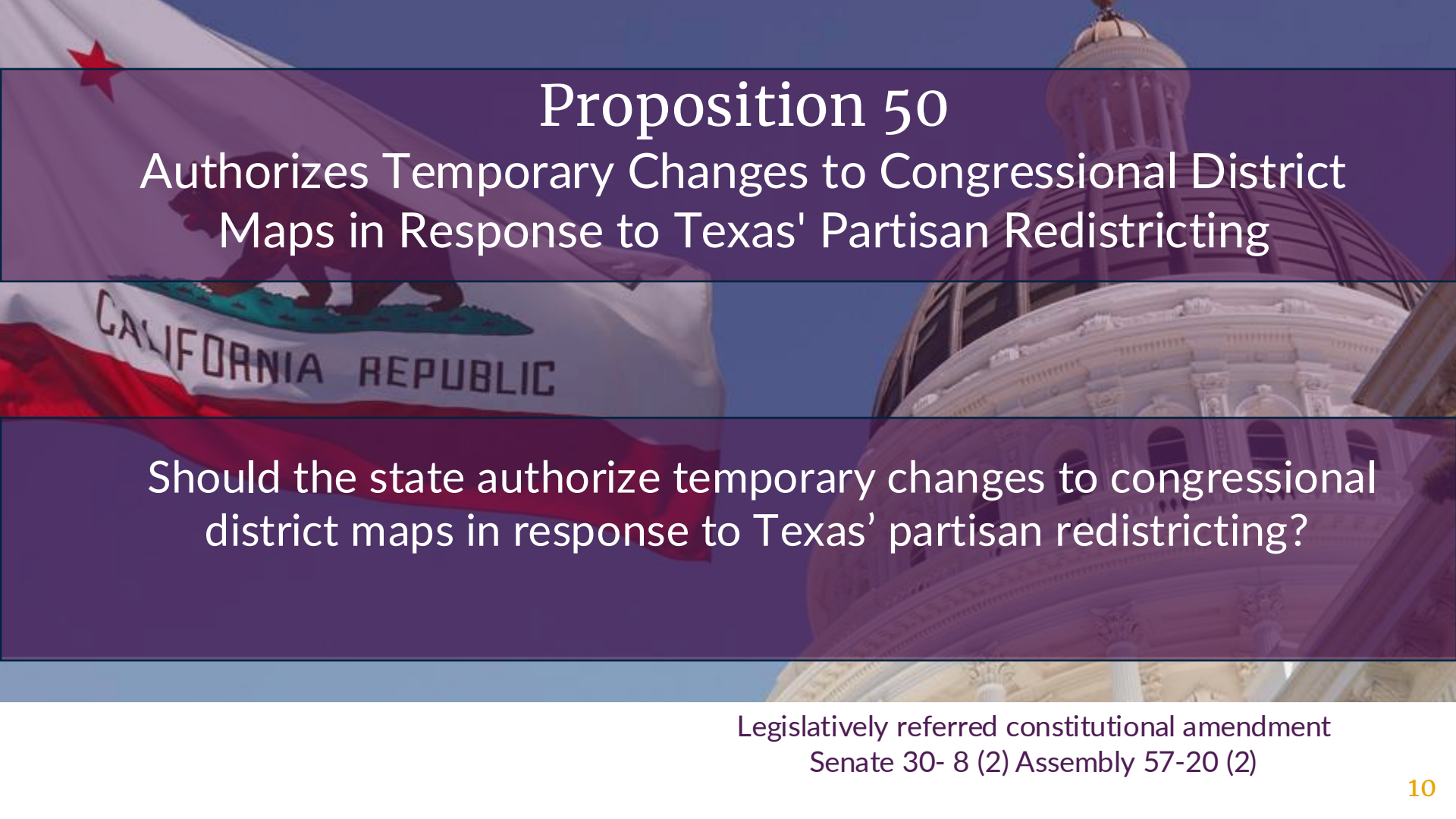
How do other states draw congressional maps?

- In most states, the legislature has primary control of the redistricting process, both for state legislative and congressional districts.
- Only California, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, New York, and Montana use independent commissions to draw congressional lines.

When are the lines redrawn?

- New maps are redrawn **every 10 years**
 - after the US Census is completed
 - to reflect the state's number of representatives
 - to ensure roughly equivalent population in districts
- The CCRC certified new district maps on December 27th, 2021 (after the 2020 Census).





Proposition 50

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Legislatively referred constitutional amendment
Senate 30- 8 (2) Assembly 57-20 (2)

Why are we having a Special Election?

- In June and July, 2025, President Trump asked Texas state legislators to re-draw their congressional maps to improve Republicans ability to win 5 districts now held by Democrats.
- In August 2025, the Texas Legislature passed a bill to adopt new maps for the 2026 elections.
- In California, a plan to counterbalance that action was initiated by members of the Legislature and Governor Newsom.
- On Aug 18, 2025, new congressional maps were approved by the State Legislature (Assembly Bill 604). But the bill cannot take effect without voter approval of Prop 50 via the special election in November.

What will Prop 50 do?

- Change the California Constitution allowing new maps in AB 604 to take effect and replace maps drawn by the CCRC.
- Require that these maps are used until the CCRC draws new maps, following the 2030 U.S. Census.
- Establish policy that supports the use of fair, nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide.



Prop 50 would also:

Change the percentage of registered Republicans and Democrats in ten districts so that:

- Democrats would have an advantage in five districts currently represented by Republicans
- More Democrats would be pulled into five swing districts currently represented by Democrats.



Fiscal effects (IF Prop 50 passes):

- One-time costs to counties of up to a few million dollars to update election materials to reflect new congressional district maps.
- One-time costs to the state of \$200K.



Disclaimer About Arguments Pros & Cons

- They come from supporters and opponents, as published in the Official Voter Information Guide.
- We cannot vouch for their accuracy.
- They do not represent our viewpoint.
- They reflect the supporters' and opponents' opinions and may not be based on facts.



Supporters say Prop 50:

- Barack Obama
- Gavin Newsom
- CA Professional Firefighters
- CA Federation of Teachers
- SEIU CA State Council
- Indivisible California
- Planned Parenthood Affiliates of CA
- CA Democratic Party

- Is a temporary emergency plan to stop attempts to unfairly rig the 2026 election.
- Requires voters' approval
- Creates fair maps and protects from partisan gerrymandering.
- Keeps California a leader in fair elections
- Strengthens democracy by making sure Republicans don't have an unfair advantage in Congress



Opponents say Prop 50:

- Charles Munger Jr
- Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Kevin McCarthy
- Carl DeMaio
- CA Business Roundtable
- Congressional Leadership Fund
- Republican Party of CA

- Is a power grab by politicians
- Replaces an open public process
- Hurts fair representation
- Lets politicians control district lines for years and could open the door to permanent control
- Costs taxpayers \$200 million

Funds raised as of September 28, 2025

“Yes” Total – \$121,136,775*

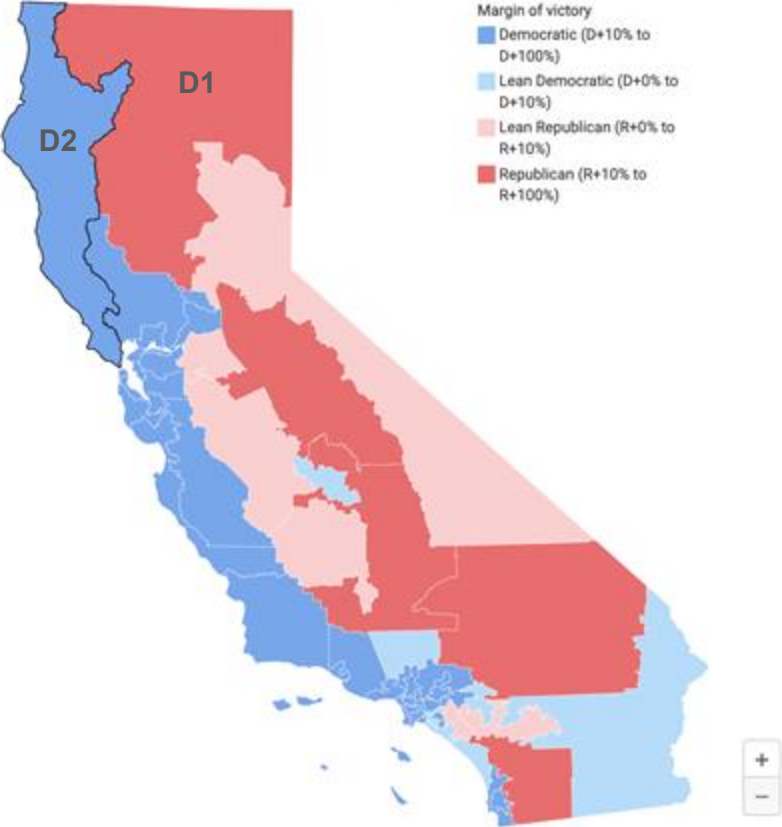
Fund for policy Reform	\$10,000,000
MoveOn.Org PAC	\$6,900,000
CA Teachers PAC	\$3,000,000
CCA Nurses Assoc.	\$2,600,000
Michael Moritz	\$2,500,000

*Largest contributors; many other donors giving smaller amounts.

”No” Total – \$74,125,600

Congressional Leadership Fund	\$41,700,000
Charles Munger Jr.	\$30,095,785

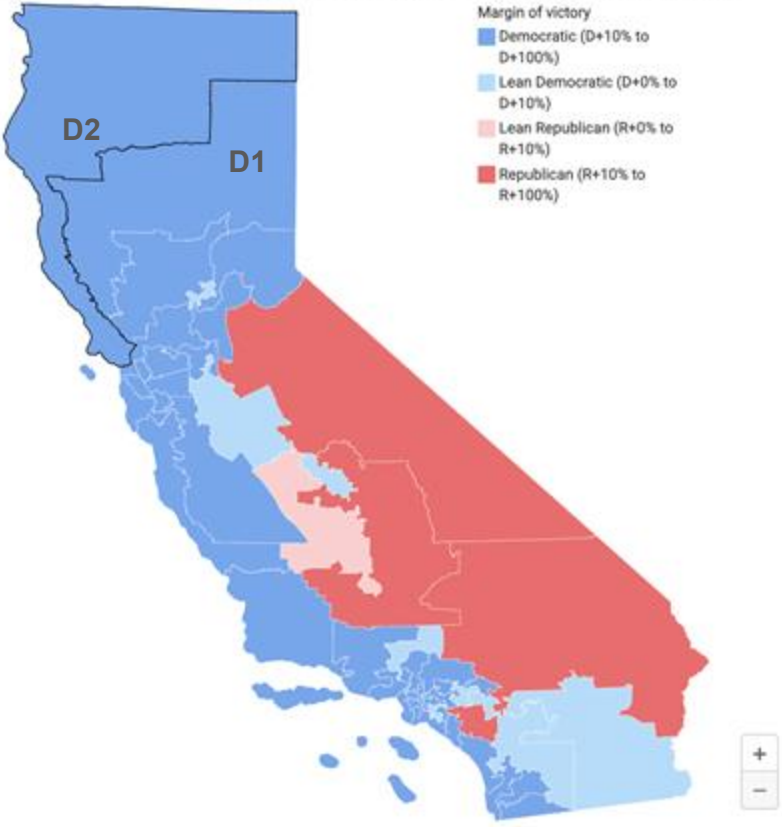
California's 2024 presidential election results by existing congressional districts



Map: Ballotpedia • Source: California Secretary of State

BALLOT PEDIA

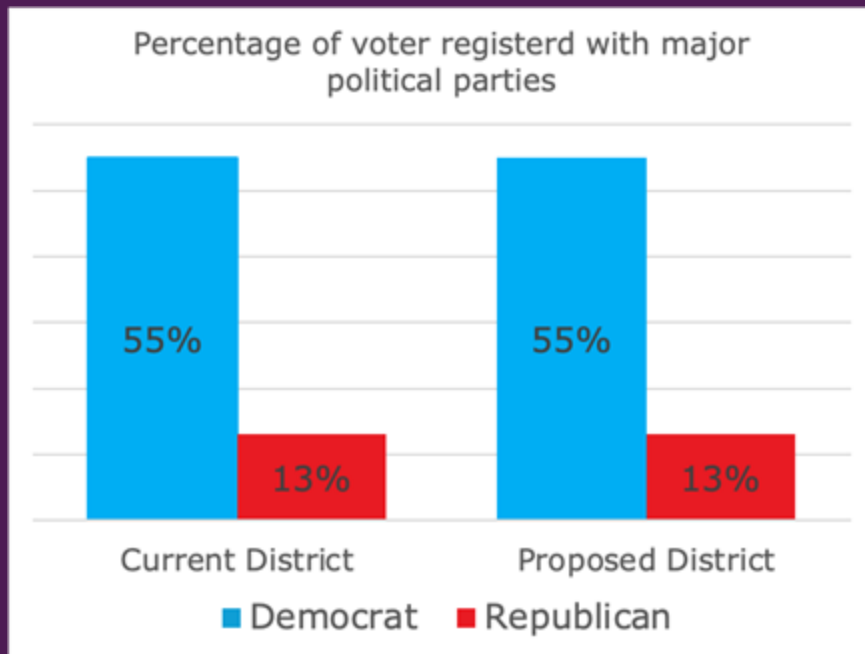
California's 2024 presidential election results by proposed congressional districts



Map: Ballotpedia • Source: California State Assembly, Statewide Database (SWDB), and Madera County

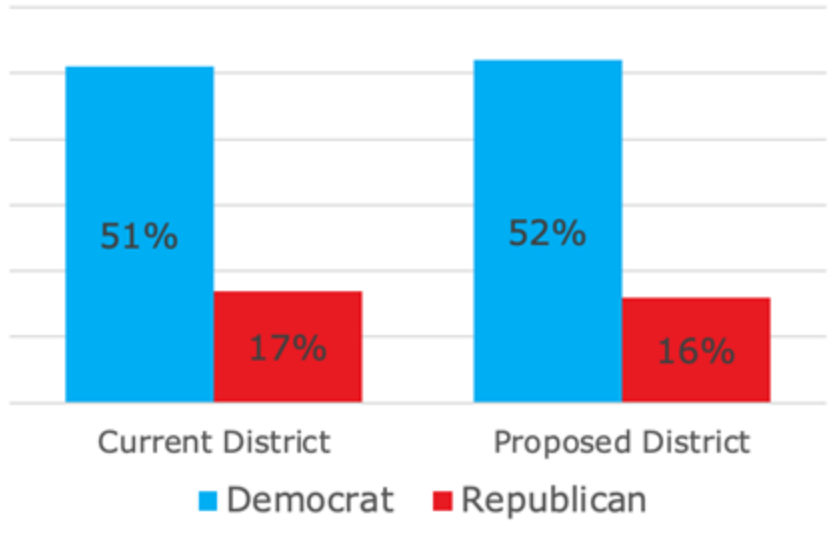
BALLOT PEDIA

15th – Rep Kevin Mullin (D)



16th – Sam Liccardo (D)

Percentage of voter registered with major political parties



What does your vote mean?

A **YES** vote on Prop. 50 means:

The state would use new, legislatively drawn congressional district maps starting in 2026. California's new maps would be used until the California Citizens Redistricting Commission draws new maps following the 2030 U.S. Census.

A **NO** vote on this measure means:

Current congressional district maps drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) would continue to be used in California until the Commission draws new maps following the 2030 U.S. Census.

Important Dates

November 4, 2025 Special Election

October 6, 2025: Ballots mailed to all registered voters and Early Voting sites open

October 7, 2025: Ballot drop-off locations open

October 20, 2025: Voter Registration deadline (for non-provisional ballot). After this, until election day, people can register, but they will receive a provisional ballot.

October 25, 2025: Vote centers open for early in-person voting

November 4, 2025: Election Day. All votes must be cast, or a mailed ballot must be postmarked by this date.

Useful Resources



Vote411.org



**REGISTER
TO VOTE**



smcvote.org



california.ballottrax.net

Thank You!

These organizations helped promote this presentation

- ACLU - San Mateo County Chapter
- Belle Haven Empowered
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, SF Peninsula Chapter
- Thrive Alliance

The recording of this webinar and the presentation slides will be available on our websites soon.



I BELIEVE WOMEN ARE
A STRONG POLITICAL
FORCE, AND THE
LEAGUE HAS BEEN
SUPPORTING THAT FOR
OVER 100 YEARS.

OUR MISSION

Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.

JOIN US



LWVSSMC.ORG



LWVNCSMC.ORG



Q&A

- What is Gerrymandering?
- Are other states also redistricting?
- Can't we just stop all this mid-decade gerrymandering madness?
- Does the League have a position on Prop. 50?

What is Gerrymandering?

Gerrymandering is the political manipulation of electoral district boundaries to advantage a party, group, or socioeconomic class within the constituency.



Gerrymandering
Explained
*The Brennan Center for
Justice*

Are other states also redistricting?

Efforts to redraw U.S. House districts for partisan advantage are spreading to more states ahead of next year's elections:

- The trend began in Texas, where the Republican-led Legislature passed a plan backed by Trump.
- California Democrats responded with their own map to help their party, though it still requires voter approval.
- Republican Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe signed a revised congressional map into law.

- Missouri plan seeks to help Republicans win one more seat
- Indiana governor says redistricting session is probable
- Kansas Republicans working out details on redistricting
- Utah is taking public comment on proposed new districts
- Ohio must redraw its maps before the 2026 midterms
- Louisiana Republicans looking at times for a special session
- Maryland Democrats are proposing new districts
- Florida's governor pledges support for redistricting
- New York Democrats propose changes to state law
- Illinois' governor says it's possible to redraw the state's congressional districts to create more seats favoring Democrats

Can't we just stop all this mid-decade gerrymandering madness?

Preventing states from redrawing lines mid-decade would require Congress to pass legislation to that effect. Several bills have been introduced in that past:

- The Freedom to Vote Act of 2023 along with the companion bill John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (Brennan Center for Justice).
- Currently, the Fair Representation Act (H.R.4632) was reintroduced and would create multi-member districts, ranked choice voting and new requirements for congressional redistricting (FairVote).

However, until there is bipartisan support and a supermajority in the Senate able to break a filibuster, we won't see any solutions coming out of the legislature.

Does the League have a position on Prop. 50?

On August 27, 2025, the League of Women Voters of California issued the following statement:

The League of Women Voters of California will not take a position on Proposition 50.

Go to <https://lwvc.org/prop50/> to read the full statement.