



# **The Ins and Outs of Proposition 50**

October 7, 2025

# League of Women Voters Mission

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

## Our History

Founded in 1920 – women's right to vote.  
Non-partisan, political – local, state and national voice.



# How to Evaluate a Ballot Measure

- ✓ What does the measure seek to accomplish?
- ✓ How did it get here - legislature or initiative process?
- ✓ Real sponsors and opponents? Follow the money!
- ✓ How will it be paid for and by whom?
- ✓ Does it create a mandate? With or without funds?

# Use Trusted Sources for Information

- ✓ League of Women Voters of California: [lwvc.org](http://lwvc.org)
- ✓ Secretary of State Official Ballot Materials: [sos.ca.gov/elections](http://sos.ca.gov/elections)
- ✓ Legislative Analysts Office (LAO): [lao.org](http://lao.org)
- ✓ Ballotpedia: [Ballotpedia.org](http://Ballotpedia.org)
- ✓ Cal Matters: [calmatters.org](http://calmatters.org)

# How is CA represented in Congress?

- ✓ Currently, 52 members in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- ✓ Elected for a 2-year term.
- ✓ Represents the people from their district in Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Develop the federal budget and make new federal laws.

# What are Congressional districts?

- ✓ Specific regions in each state where an individual is elected to represent that region in Congress.
- ✓ District lines show the boundaries on a map of each region.
- ✓ The lines are usually redrawn every 10 years after the new census is published.

# What is redistricting and gerrymandering?

- ✓ US Census – every 10 years: counts everyone in the U.S.
- ✓ Redistricting: district lines are re-drawn – same number of people per district
- ✓ Gerrymandering: district lines are drawn to favor one political party over another

# The Way It Is Now

- ✓ 2021: districts drawn by the state's independent Citizens Redistricting Commission until 2031.
- ✓ Commission made up of state voters selected to draw the map boundaries.
- ✓ Commission bound by specific requirements:
  - Cannot favor a candidate or political party.
  - Keep neighborhoods together within a district.



# Why Proposition 50?

- ✓ Summer 2025: Texas Legislature called special session – redraw Congressional districts to eliminate 5 Democratic-held seats.
- ✓ Governor Newsom pledged to offset those losses with 5 gains in California.
- ✓ Citizens Redistricting Commission prohibits direct action by the Governor or state Legislature.
- ✓ Ballot proposition is the only option to change the redistricting process.

# What will Proposition 50 do?

- ✓ Change the California Constitution to replace the 2021 maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission with maps drawn by the California Legislature.
- ✓ New maps used for 2026, 2028, and 2030 Congressional elections.
- ✓ New maps provide 5 more Democratic-party favored districts in California.
- ✓ After 2030 Census, process reverts back, and the Citizens Redistricting Commission would draw the maps.



[bit.ly/Prop50Maps](https://bit.ly/Prop50Maps)



[calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2025/](https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2025/)

# Fiscal Impact

- ✓ Counties: estimated at few million dollars to update election materials.
- ✓ State: approximately \$200,000 (1/10 of 1% - state \$220 billion budget)
  - Does not include the cost of the special election.
  - Special election cost estimate: \$282-\$284 million.

# Official Support and Opposition

	Entity	Major Donors	Total
Supporters	The Election Rigging Response Act, Governor Newsom's Ballot Measure Committee	HMP (PAC) California Teachers Association Issues PAC Newsom for Governor campaign Michael Moritz Reed Hastings California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO SEIU California Individual donors	\$40 million
Opponents	No on Prop 50 – Protect Voters First, sponsored by Hold Politicians Accountable	Charles Thomas Munger, Jr. Smaller individual donors	\$35 million

# What Supporters Say

- ✓ Prop 50 is a short-term, temporary emergency plan needed to stop President Trump's attempt to unfairly rig next year's congressional election.
- ✓ Prop 50 gives voters the ability to approve the district lines in this election.
- ✓ Prop 50 creates fair maps that reflect California's diverse communities and protect our voices from partisan gerrymandering.
- ✓ Prop 50 keeps California a leader in fair elections by preserving its independent redistricting system.
- ✓ Prop 50 strengthens democracy by making sure that Republicans don't have an unfair advantage in Congress.

# What Opponents Say

- ✓ Prop 50 is a power grab by politicians that undoes fair election reforms and returns California to gerrymandered districts that benefit politicians over voters.
- ✓ Prop 50 replaces an open public process with secretive political backroom deals.
- ✓ Prop 50 hurts fair representation by dividing neighborhoods and weakening minority voices in elections.
- ✓ Prop 50 lets politicians control district lines for years and could open the door to permanent, not temporary, control.
- ✓ Prop 50 costs taxpayers \$200 million when the state is cutting funding to important programs because of budget problems.

# LWVC Position

- ✓ LWVC and LWWSC are neutral on Proposition 50.
- ✓ **Empowering voters:** The League believes the focus should be on ensuring voters have the information they need to make an informed decision and participate in the special election. The LWVC Education Fund is working to provide non-partisan, factual information to voters.
- ✓ **Political strategy:** The LWVC stated it would not be drawn into the partisan struggle surrounding the measure.
- ✓ **Consistent messaging:** The decision to remain neutral aligns the state and local leagues with the position of the national organization.





[lwvstanislaus.org](http://lwvstanislaus.org)

Presentation in Spanish  
Easy Voter Guide link  
Meet and Learn luncheon series  
Membership Information