

CA Proposition 50 Legislative Constitutional Amendment

Auths Temp Changes to Congressional District Maps in Response to
Texas' Partisan Redistricting



<https://lao.ca.gov/BallotAnalysis/Proposition?number=50&year=2025>

BACKGROUND, US Congress

- Congress is the part of fed gov that makes laws.
 - US Senate & US House of Representatives. Ea of 50 states is represented by 2 senators (100 in total) . **House has 435 members.** Ea state's representatives **based on state population.** Ea House member is elected in an area of the state called a congressional district.
 - CA currently has 52 congressional districts. Voters in ea district elect one House member every 2 yrs. Next election for all 435 reps will be in 2026.
- US **Census** counts states' populations **every 10 yrs.** Last census 2020 & next 2030. Count **determines** how many people live in ea state & **how many House representatives ea state gets** for the next 10 yrs.

Congressional Redistricting

- **Ea State Draws Congressional District Maps Following the Census.** Every 10 yrs, after census is completed, states draw new maps to reflect their # of House reps & where people live = “redistricting.”
 - **Ea state decides what process** to draw its new district maps.
When drawing new maps, ea must follow federal laws. Example, each district in the state must represent about same # of people.
- **States Typically Do Not Redistrict Sooner Than Every 10 Yrs,** unless a court orders changes to comply with the law. Aug 2025, however, TX Legislature passed bill to adopt new maps for 2026 elections w/o a court order. Several other states also considering map changes before 2026 elections.

Congressional Redistricting in California

- **State legislatures draw** congressional district maps in **most states**, but some states use commissions.
 - Before 2010, CA Legislature drew the maps.
 - 2010, CA voters gave job to an **independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission**. Commission has 14 members: 5 Dems, 5 Reps, & 4 independents.
 - **Commission must follow federal & state laws** to draw maps. Example, **state law** requirement to **avoid splitting up neighborhoods or local communities** of interest to extent possible. State law **prohibits considering political parties, current office holders, or people running for office** when it draws maps.

Current CA Congressional Districts

- Commission drew current maps for CA's 52 districts. Maps based on 2020 Census & used since 2022 congressional elections.
- Because CA voters amended the CA Constitution to form the Redistricting Commission, the CA Legislature cannot suspend it.
- Hence Prop 50. Voters must vote to suspend it, to allow the legislature to draw new maps.

PROPOSAL: CA's Congressional District Maps

- **Use LEGISLATIVELY Drawn Congressional District Maps Until After the Next Census.** Prop 50 replaces CA's current congressional districts w new, legislatively drawn maps. (Total # of districts does not change.)
- Prop 50's maps must follow federal law, but they **will not be required to follow state requirements.** State would use Prop 50's maps for congressional elections starting 2026, until Commission draws new district maps, following 2030 Census.

PROPOSAL: National Congressional Redistricting: Call for Change in Federal Law.

- Prop 50 asks US Congress to change fed law & propose an amend to US Constitution to require redistricting be done by “fair, independent, & nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide.”
- Note: This does not change federal law or require any particular action of Congress or the California Legislature.

FISCAL EFFECTS

- ***Minor One-Time Costs to County & State Elections Officials.***
 - Counties run elections & state oversees them.
 - Because most CA congressional districts would change at least some under the new maps, county & state elections officials would need to update election materials.
 - Would result in **one-time costs to counties of up to a few million dollars** statewide & one-time costs to the state of **roughly \$200,000**.
 - State amount is much less than one-tenth of 1% (0.1%) of the state's roughly \$220 billion General Fund budget.

2024 Congress Election

County Lines

District Lines

Chico



County Lines
District Lines

County Lines

District Lines



2024 Election

Presidents
8 Counties

Party gains

Democratic hold Democratic gain
Republican hold

Democratic

50–60%
60–70%
70–80%
80–90%
90–100%

Republican

50–60%
60–70%
70–80%
80–90%
90–100%

US Congress

52 Congressional Districts

	Dem	Rep
Seats won	43	9
Seat change	+3	-3
Pop vote	9,138,709	5,928,084
Percentage	60.48%	39.23%
Swing	-2.80%	+3.01%

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections_in_California



Proposition 50

PRO

- Emergency response to perceived partisan redistricting efforts in other states, particularly TX. Necessary countermeasure to "protect democracy" & address an "election rigging response" at the Nat'l level. Justifies expedited process of a special election.
- Only temporarily overrides the independent commission with a new legislative map. If passed, independent commission to resume its duties 2031.
- CA Supreme Court over-ruled technical procedure legal changes
- Let the people decide.

CON

- US Congress Dists in CA already gerrymandered to advantage Dems, (Reps 40% of vote but only 17% of seats.)
- Undermines voter-approved independent redistricting commission
- Violates CA constitution
 - Held hearings on bill <30 days after introduction ("Gut and Amend" ACA 8)
 - Changed law requiring 131 days notice for special election on Constitutional Amendment (SB 280)
 - Drew maps w/o authority & mid-decade & w specific intent to benefit **political parties, current office holders, & people running for office.** (AB 604)
- Two wrongs don't make a right