# CA Proposition 50 Legislative Constitutional Amendment

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



### **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**

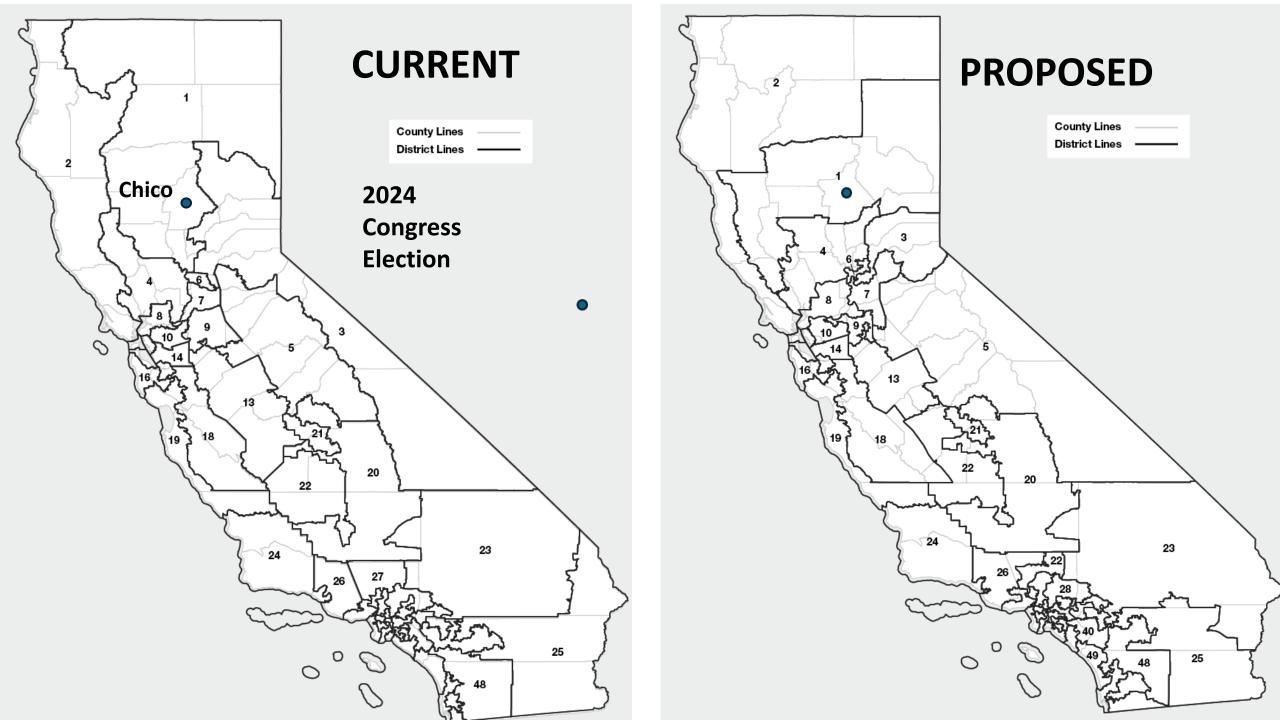
- Use LEGISLATIVELY Drawn Congressional District Maps Until After the Next Census. Prop 50 replaces CA's current congressional districts w new, legislatively drawn maps. (Total # of districts does not change.)
- Prop 50's maps must follow federal law, but they will not be required to follow state requirements. 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.

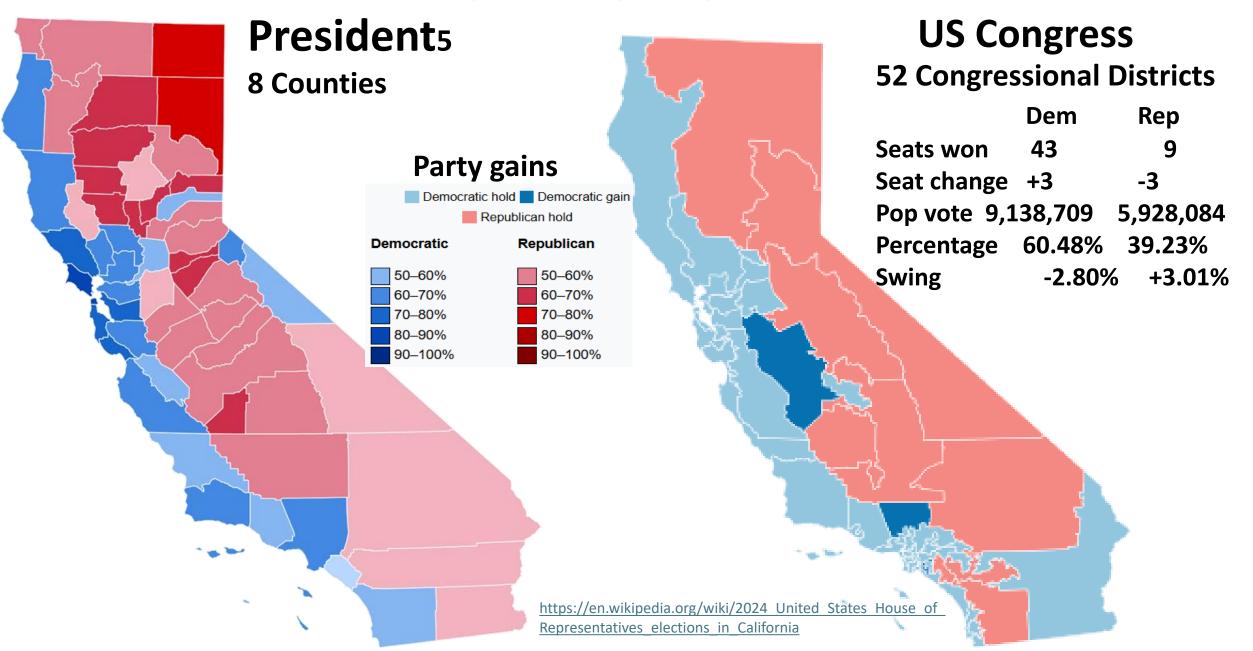
- Prop 50 asks US Congress to change fed law & propose an amend to US Constitution to require redistricting be done by "fair, independent, & nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide."
- Note: This does not change federal law or require any particular action of Congress or the California Legislature.

### 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 Election





### **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