



September 7, 2023

Subject: Support for AB 764 and AB1248

Dear Senator Laird:

The League of Women Voters of California is co-sponsoring AB 764 and AB 1248 because we know that every Californian's voice should be heard when determining our communities' futures. How districts are drawn has the power to determine, for the next decade, whether communities and neighborhoods' shared interests will be fairly represented at varying levels of government

AB 764 would strengthen the FAIR MAPS Act (FMA), which prohibits partisan gerrymandering in cities and counties and sets standardized redistricting criteria to ensure neighborhoods and diverse communities are kept intact. Specifically, AB 764 would:

- Prohibit incumbency protection in the redistricting process.
- Increase transparency and public engagement.
- Expand provisions of the FMA to include educational and special districts.

AB 1248 would require that the state's larger cities, counties, and educational districts establish independent redistricting commissions (IRCs). Voters and communities should choose their elected representatives, rather than elected officials choosing their voters. IRCs are one tool to ensure that the redistricting process respects and fairly represents communities, neighborhoods, and shared interests.

We urge you to support these bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Gawain, President
League of Women Voters of Monterey County