



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS — SUPPORT PROP. 11 ON NOVEMBER 4!

Prop. 11 is needed to help break partisan gridlock in Sacramento.

- Partisan gridlock prevents our state lawmakers from effectively addressing our most pressing issues such as the state budget, health care, education, the impending water crisis, and the environment.
- Contributing to this ongoing problem is the fact that legislators are not accountable to voters because they draw their own district lines to ensure their reelection.

Prop. 11 holds politicians accountable.

- Proposition 11 will change the way legislative districts are drawn. Under the current system, legislative races have a 99 percent re-election rate, giving little incentive for lawmakers to be accountable and responsible to voter wishes.
- Proposition 11 creates fairly drawn, competitive legislative districts, forcing legislators to respond to voter concerns or risk losing reelection.
- Proposition 11 ensures that communities of interest—counties, cities, neighborhoods and communities—are not divided simply to guarantee the reelection of incumbent legislators.

Prop. 11 ensures a nonpartisan, open process, with clear criteria.

- Prop. 11 creates a 14-member independent citizens commission to draw legislative districts, under strict, nonpartisan rules.
- Individuals with conflicts of interest are excluded from the commission.
- The commission will consist of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four members not associated with either party.
- Rules for the commission require an open and transparent process.
- Districts formed by the commission must respect city and county boundaries, neighborhoods, and communities, and protect minority representation.

Prop. 11 has broad based and diverse bipartisan support.

In addition to the League of Women Voters of California, Prop. 11 is supported by AARP California, California Common Cause, Governor Schwarzenegger, former State Controller Steve Westly, Governor Gray Davis, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, ACLU of Southern California, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, California Church IMPACT, California Democratic Council, California Chamber of Commerce, local community and business groups, and many more.

Why the League Supports Proposition 11

This proposal meets all the criteria that the League of Women Voters wants to see:

- An independent citizens commission that has members who are qualified and balanced among the major parties, while also providing for others to participate, and representing the diversity of our state's population.
- Clear criteria, in priority order, for establishing districts—not only abiding by the U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act but also recognizing communities of interest and the political boundaries of cities and counties.
- An open and public process—with public hearings, sufficient notice to those who want to participate, committee deliberations in public and all records posted on the Internet. Proposed maps will be available for public review and comment prior to any decision.

Please go to www.YesProp11.org or www.lwvc.org for more information.



Background: What is redistricting?

Every 10 years, after the census, new boundary lines for Congress and California Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts are drawn. Currently, the California state legislature draws those lines. This is a major conflict of interest.

How would Proposition 11, the California Voters FIRST Act, change redistricting?

- **14-person citizens redistricting commission.** Proposition 11 would create a politically balanced commission -- 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 others. Commissioners would be chosen for their impartiality, skills, and to reflect our state's demographic and geographic diversity.
- **Protecting communities, cities, and counties.** Prop. 11 would create a list of prioritized mapping criteria for the commission to follow. This would ensure that our Constitution, federal and state laws are followed. California's communities, cities, and counties must be respected.
- **Open and public process.** The commission would hold hearings to receive public input. Prop. 11 would end the closed-door political deals by legislators to draw districts that protect themselves.

How would the commission be formed?

- **Initial screening.** California registered voters are invited to participate. A panel of state auditors (1D, 1R, 1 other) screens applicants for conflicts of interest and narrows the pool to 60 people (20 Ds, 20 Rs, 20 others) based on their skills, ability to be impartial, and diversity.
- **Elimination of bias.** The four legislative leaders can strike up to 24 people from the pool (8D, 8R, 8 other).
- **Final selection of 14 commissioners** From the remaining pool, 8 commissioners are randomly picked (3 Ds, 3 Rs, 2 others) and 6 commissioners are chosen (2 Ds, 2 Rs, 2 others) by the first 8 commissioners. This ensures an independent, qualified and diverse commission.

What mapping criteria would the commission have to follow?

In ranked order, the criteria are:

- Districts shall comply with the U.S. Constitution, including equal population requirements.
 - Districts shall comply with the Voting Rights Act.
 - Districts shall be geographically contiguous.
 - The geographic integrity of any city, county, or city and county, neighborhood, or community of interest shall be respected. Communities of interest shall not be defined as having a relationship with incumbents, candidates, or parties.
 - To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts shall be compact.
 - To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts shall be nested.
- Incumbent residences may not be considered; districts may not be drawn to favor politicians or parties.*

What is the scope of the citizen's redistricting commission?

- The commission will draw California Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization seats in the next redistricting, 2011, and after each decennial census.
- The state legislature will draw congressional seats, following the same mapping criteria and hearing requirements as the commission.

Please go to www.YesProp11.org or www.lwvc.org for more information and to read the full initiative.