

## **Guide To Citizens Redistricting Commission's Statutory Amendment Process**

The 14 member Independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will hold a public input hearing Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the State Capitol in Sacramento, Room 113. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit public comment regarding amendments to California Government Code sections 8251-8253.6 that govern the Commission and the redistricting process. The Constitutional and statutory language can be found on the Commission's website, [www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov).

The Commission hearings will focus on changes to Govt. Code sections 8251-8253.6. Suggested changes to Article 21 of the California Constitution, governing regulations, or to the general operations of the Commission not required by statute can be submitted to the Commission in writing but will not be included in the amendment process contemplated in the spring legislative session. These changes may be addressed at a later date and/or in a different process.

The Commission will take public testimony and consider it equally with suggested changes generated by individual Commissioners or Commission committees. The Commission will take the accumulated list and compare and contrast those suggestions with suggestions from the government entities responsible for significant parts of the redistricting process or the Commission's operation, including the Bureau of State Audits, the Secretary of State, and/or the Department of Finance. In the end, the Commission will exercise its sole authority under Section 8251 (c) and vote, by special majority, on a final set of amendments that will be presented to the legislature and its staff for review, comment and suggested changes. Any subsequent changes to the statutory amendments proposed by the Commission will be subject to a separate and final vote by the Commission, utilizing a special majority vote, before any version of statutory amendments can be made final by a vote of the legislature.

Organized groups will be given a maximum of 20 minutes to give a presentation specific to statutory amendments. The Commission will then reserve a maximum of 10 minutes for questions and responses regarding the proposed amendments. The Commission's chair reserves the right to extend the length of time provided for a presentation or for the questions and responses that may be necessary during this process. The Commission's chair also reserves the right to end any presentation at any time that is not specific to statutory amendments. Groups wishing to present to the Commission should send the name of their organization, names of individuals who will speak and a brief description of their group to [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov) no later than January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Individuals who wish to give testimony to the Commission can obtain a speaker number beginning one hour prior to the start of the input meeting. Speakers will be allotted 5 minutes for this testimony. All individual testimony will follow the group presentations after a 15 minute break.

If speaker demand is too great to accommodate every individual or group that wishes to make a presentation, the Commission's chair may extend the length of time for presentation on the date of the public input meeting or may recommend that additional comments be allowed on another day. Otherwise, any remaining presenters will be encouraged to submit their suggestions on the Commission's website or directly to the Commission's staff. Finally, the Commission encourages the

public to use alternative methods to submit testimony by e-mail at votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov, fax at 916-651-5711 or by mail to the Citizens Redistricting Commission, 901 P Street, Suite 154A, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Government Code Sections to be considered for amendments

§ 8251

(b) (2) Should “compensated day” be redefined?

§ 8252

(a) Should the timeline for the selection of Commissioners be moved earlier so Commission is created sooner? Should the Commission be seated by August 16 in years ending in 0 so that there is a full year before the August 15 deadline in years ending in 1?

(g) Should “pool” in the first sentence be changed to “sub-pool”?

(g) Should the language regarding racial and ethnic diversity be amended?

§ 8252.5

If the timeline in Commissioner selection is changed in 8252, it needs to be changed here as well.

(b) Should the period to fill vacancies be extended after August 15 in years ending in one?

§ 8253

(1) Should the 14 days’ public notice be shortened to ten days for initial Commission infrastructure development meetings prior to the year redistricting commences? Or should it be shortened for meetings relating to commission infrastructure business?

(1) Should “September” be changed to “August” allowing the Commission to hold meetings with three day notice during the time leading up to the adoption of the final maps?

(3) Should there be a definition of “redistricting matters” to distinguish between mapping and operational matters?

(4) Should the Commission chair and vice-chair be seated on a rotating basis?

(5) Should the language stating “The Commission shall apply the conflicts of interest listed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 8252 to the hiring of staff to the extent applicable” be amended to apply to legal counsel, and consultants including VRA counsel and mapping experts? To amend “to the extent applicable”? Should the Bureau of State Audits continue to provide support functions to the Commission (rather than the Secretary of State) until it can hire its own staff?

(7) Should the words “any maps” be amended to specify that this is only applicable to maps approved by Commission vote and ordered released for public review and comment?

(7) Should there be a definition of “outreach”? Should “outreach” include outreach to Commission applicants as well as “outreach” to the public regarding mapping and the use of technology available for the public in mapping? When should this outreach begin?

(7) Should the public comment period for the maps be amended to correspond with public notice periods?

b. Should the language regarding ready access to data and software be amended?

§ 8253.5

Should “personal expenses” be defined to comply with State per-diem rules? Should child care be added as an allowable personal expense?

§ 8253.6

a. Should the \$3,000,000 listed for the Commission’s budget be replaced with the actual 2011 CRC’s incurred cost of the first three year period? Should the figure be further adjusted for process enhancements including enhanced public and community communication, education and outreach and initial litigation expenses?

Should the Commission have delegated authority for procurement and contracting?

## Constitutional Amendments

The Commission’s input hearing will focus on proposals for amendments to the California Government Code sections 8251-8253.6 We encourage the public to submit recommendations for amendments to Article 21 of the California Constitution in writing, to assist the Commission in preparing a record for future action.

### California Constitution Article 21

#### Section 2, C (2)

Should the Commission expand to 15 members adding one additional member making it five Republicans, five Democrats and five not registered with either of those two parties?