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Marybeth Peters

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Form TX
For a Non-dramatic Literary Work
UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT OFFICE

REF TXu 1-334-408

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REGISTRATION

1/5/2007
Month Day Year

STATE CONTINUATION SHEET

1

TITLE OF THIS WORK ▼

"Gerrymandering - The Movie"

PREVIOUS OR ALTERNATIVE TITLES ▼

PUBLICATION AS A CONTRIBUTION If this work was published as a contribution to a periodical, serial, or collection, give information in this part if collective work in which the contribution appeared Title of Collective Work ▼

If published in a periodical or serial give Volume ▼ Number ▼ Issue Date ▼ On Pages ▼

2

NAME OF AUTHOR ▼

a David M Williams

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH

Year Born ▼ Year Died ▼
2/25/36

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 Yes
 No

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YEAR IN WHICH CREATION OF THIS WORK WAS COMPLETED

2006

DATE AND NATION OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS PARTICULAR WORK

Month ► Day ► Year ► Nation

4

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David M Williams

Livermore, California 94550-6149

APPLICATION RECEIVED

JAN 05 2007

ONE DEPOSIT RECEIVED

JAN 05 2007

TWO DEPOSITS RECEIVED

FUNDS RECEIVED

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Page 1 of _____ pages

The possible fixes would be presented including those in the few great states where the office holders no longer choose their voters rather than the voters choosing the office holders. One fix would be to have the redistricting done by large numbers of history and government teachers and professors who have voted in past elections. The redistricting plans would then be subject to voter approval.

Competitive districts should be the sole objective other than equal populations among the districts in a state. It will not work if the various political subdivision boundaries and/or many geographical features are also objectives. The same is true if districts are drawn to favor any one of our many ethnic groups. There are a few natural concentrations of either Republican or Democrat voters, however, the great majority of districts can be made competitive.

The suggested length of the movie is 1 hour and 45 minutes. This would allow for 3 five minute breaks in the 2 hour prime time showings on the different networks (including PBS) on different nights. Most voters work during the day.

Competitive elections are a key to our great American legacy of governmental checks and balances. It's time to clean up our act.

Peace in the world may finally come about when all nations are true representative democracies and we can lead by example.

[REDACTED], Livermore, California 94550-6149
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Copyright Application filed December 27, 2006

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December 27, 2006

"Gerrymandering - The Movie"
by David M. Williams

For the past 20 years I have been an advocate for the reform of the redistricting that takes place after each census. In 1986 I was a general election congressional candidate in the old gerrymandered ninth district of California.

The dictionary defines gerrymandering..."to divide (a territorial unit) into election districts to give one political party an electoral majority in a large number of districts while concentrating the voting strength of the opposition in as few districts as possible". In most states it is committed by the legislature whose members personally benefit from the safe seats which is a conflict of interest.

Gerrymandering is a major root cause for many of the numerous shortcomings of our House of Representatives in Congress and also the same in most of our state legislatures. The rigged elections result in the great majority of American citizens being cheated in various ways including health care, education, taxes, transportation, etc. The lack of moderates and compromise, the favors for large contributors, legislation written by lobbyists, and the short, unproductive congressional and legislative work weeks can all be traced back to the lack of competition or of checks and balances in lopsided, gerrymandered districts.

Unfortunately, reform has not been achieved because the overwhelming majority of the voters are not knowledgeable about gerrymandering and its consequences. There are thousands of reform advocates but millions are needed.

The movie for television would start with a classroom scene where college students are learning about gerrymandering. This would serve to orientate the viewers. That segment would be followed by scenes shot on location in Sacramento, Austin and Washington, D.C. recounting the true history of both the Republicans and Democrats committing gerrymandering.

The true events that have occurred would be dramatized by the actors and actresses playing the citizens, reporters, representatives, legislators and lobbyists. Performers should be eager to participate in a significant film that might win one or more Oscars.

A creative, entertaining and strictly non-partisan script is needed and should be targeted to those adults who vote. The film should have plenty of dry humor and a modest amount of only adult music.

The props would include some of the grotesque district maps and resultant registration and election figures. The specific public service failures of the representatives and legislators from given gerrymandered districts would be portrayed.

OVER...

To support and vote for their challengers while demanding that they turn over the redistricting duty after each census to randomly selected registered voters. Their redistricting plans would then be subject to voter approval. The only two objectives of this effort should be to create districts with equal populations with the greatest possible majority of them in every state being competitive between the two major political parties.

Now is a very good time for you to determine who shares your concern about competitive election districts. Question your Presidential candidate, Governor and federal Senators and support those who do. Contact the newspapers and news magazines that you subscribe to and/or advertise in and patronize those who do. Same for the television and radio stations.

Power corrupts. We, as a nation, need to stand in front of the mirror and objectively see when we need to further clean up our act. For 241 years Americans have improved our governments. Democracy is forever an unfinished work in progress requiring active citizens. There are billions of people in the world who would gladly change places with us.

Campaign finance, productivity, ethics, earmark elimination, etc., etc. reforms will all follow competitive election districts because our great American system of governmental checks and balances works very well when it is not subverted. Our America needs to be stronger and this will help greatly. Speak out...it's your country!

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