

2011

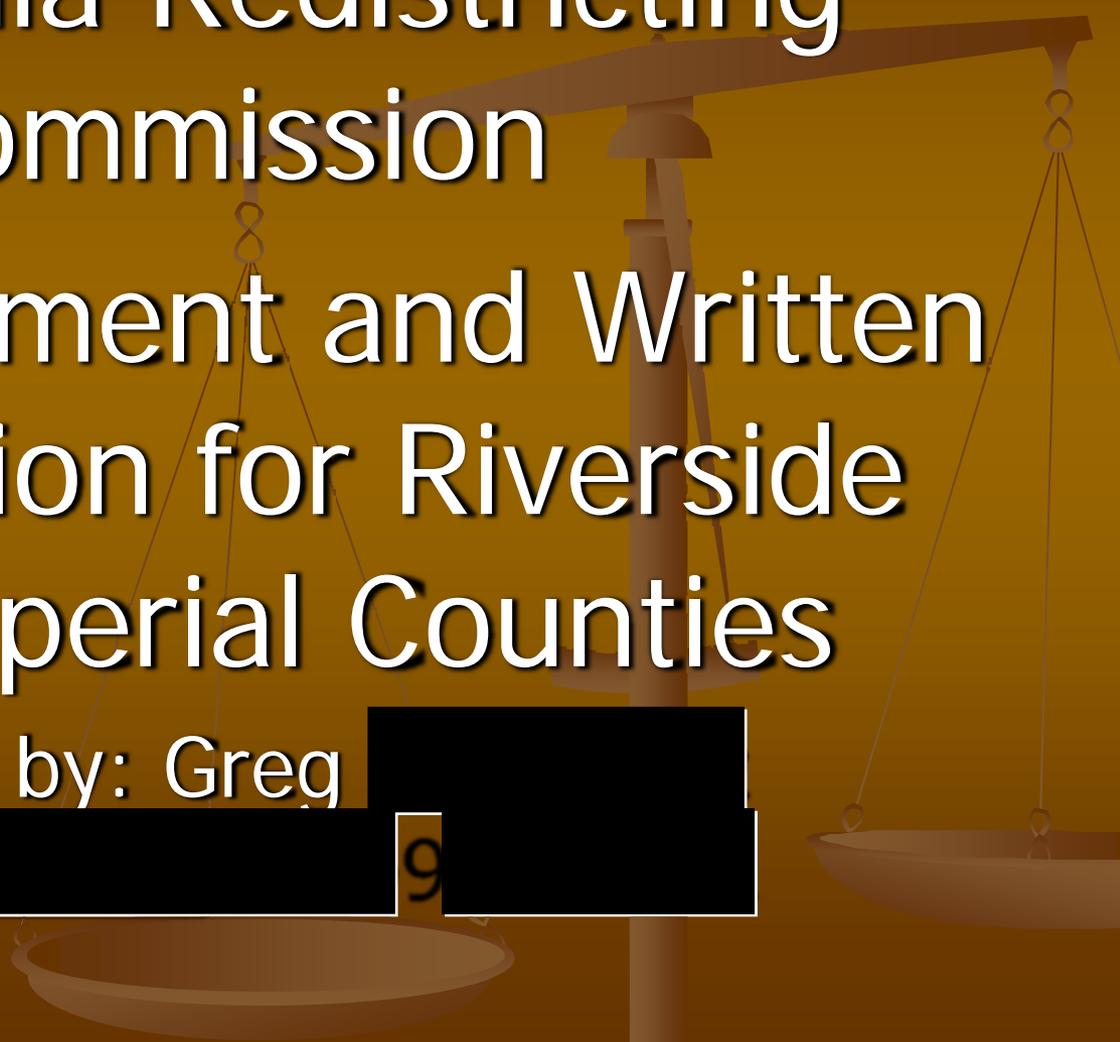
California Redistricting Commission

Public Comment and Written
Submission for Riverside
and Imperial Counties

Submitted by: Greg

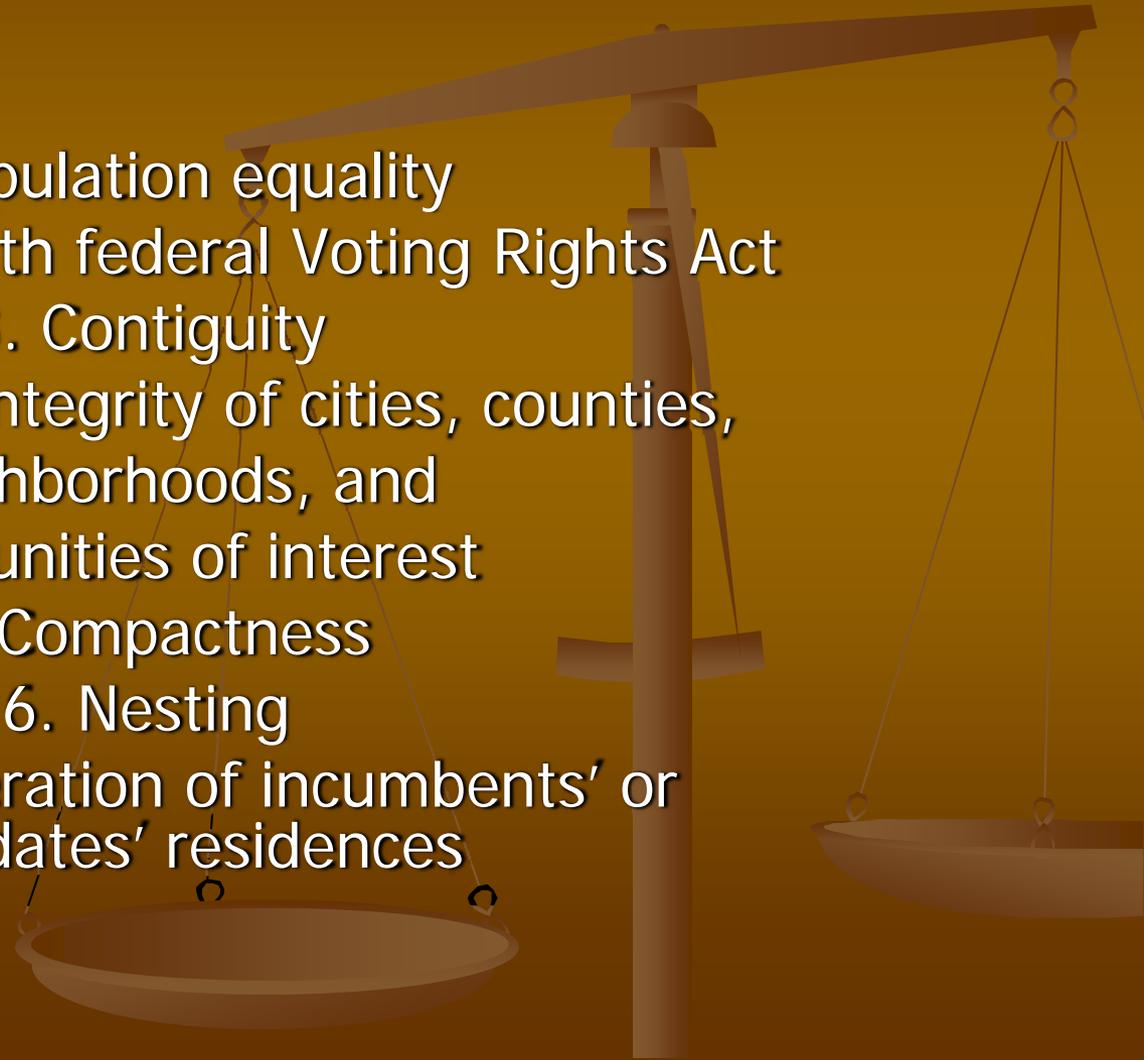
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What is Proposition 11's Redistricting criteria

1. Population equality
2. Compliance with federal Voting Rights Act
3. Contiguity
4. Geographic integrity of cities, counties, neighborhoods, and communities of interest
5. Compactness
6. Nesting
7. No consideration of incumbents' or candidates' residences



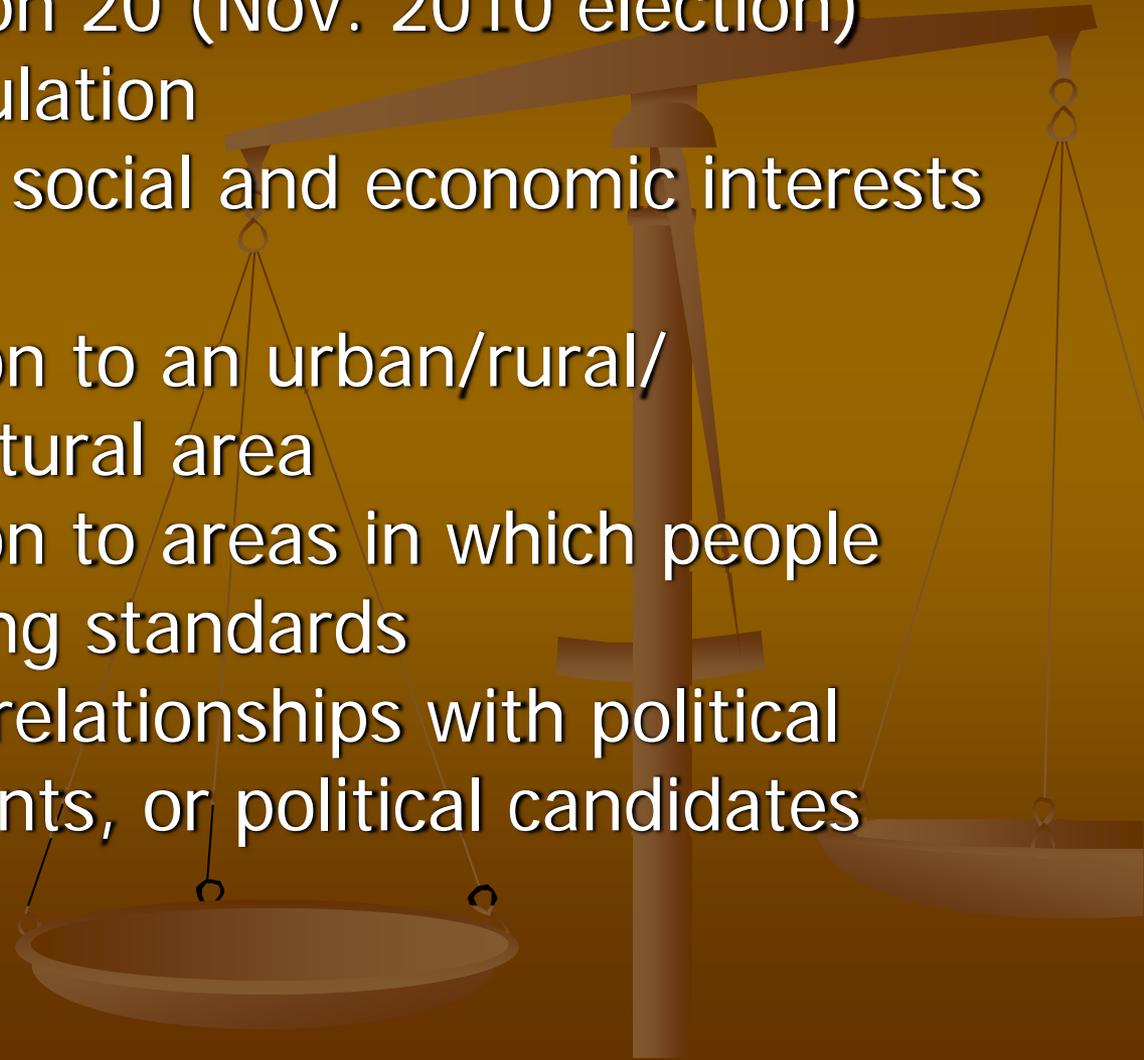
What is a community of interest?

Defined in Proposition 20 (Nov. 2010 election)

- Contiguous population
- Shares common social and economic interests

Examples:

- interests common to an urban/rural/ industrial/agricultural area
- interests common to areas in which people share similar living standards
- Does not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates



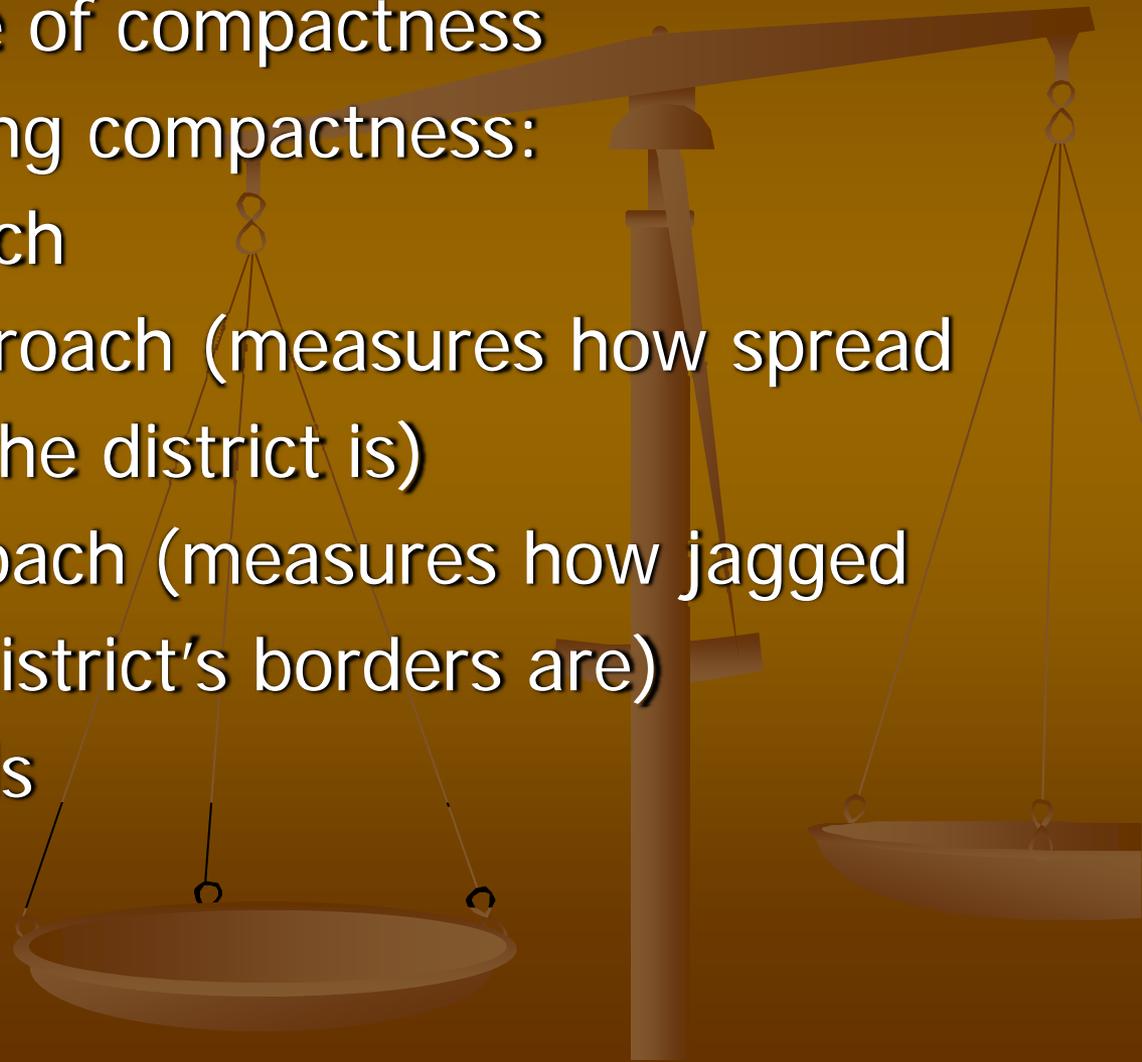
What is compactness?

No uniform measure of compactness

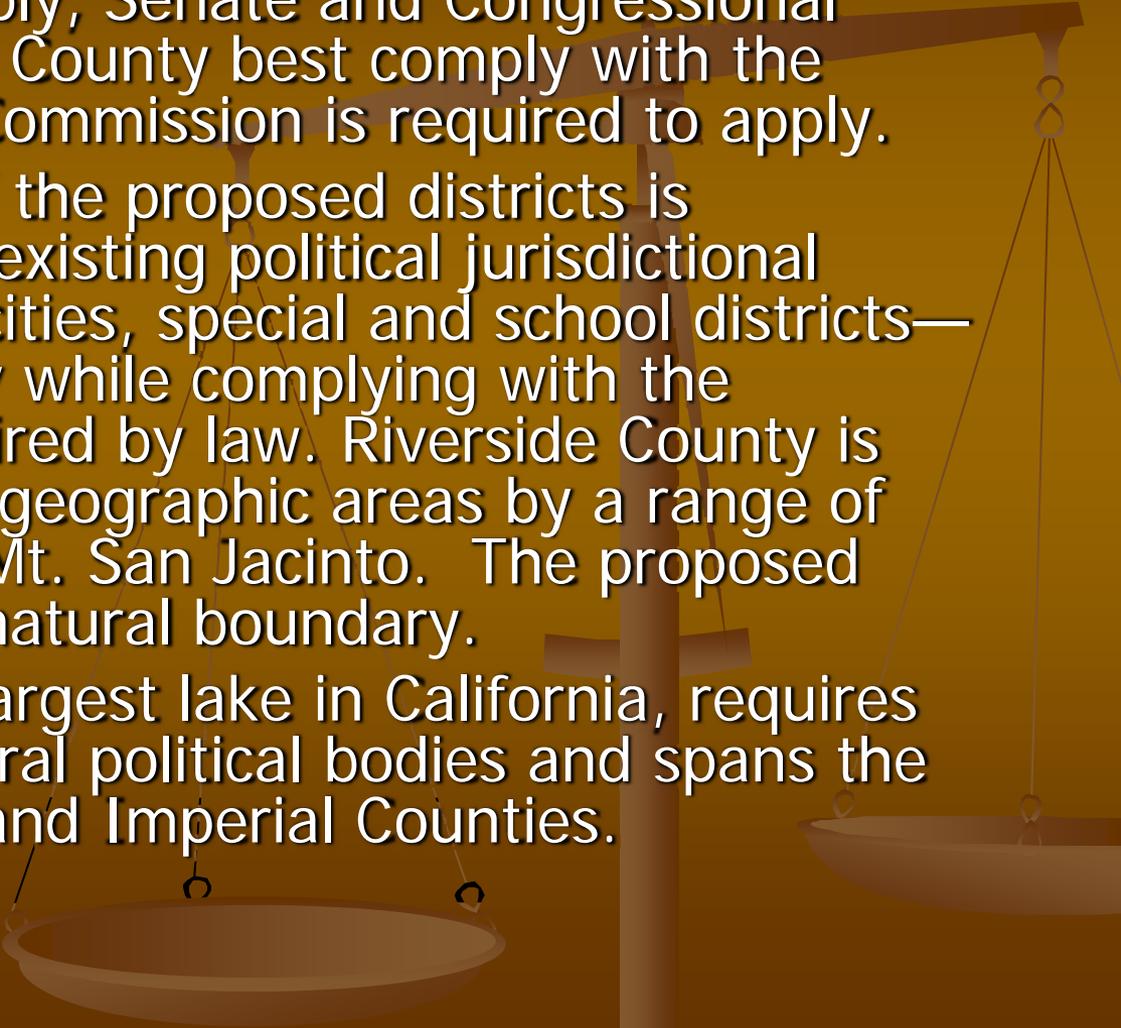
Methods of measuring compactness:

- Eyeball approach
- Dispersion approach (measures how spread out or packed the district is)
- Perimeter approach (measures how jagged or smooth the district's borders are)

Many other methods



Redistricting Overview for Riverside and Imperial Counties

- The proposed Assembly, Senate and Congressional Districts for Riverside County best comply with the criteria the Citizens' Commission is required to apply.
 - **Geography:** Each of the proposed districts is contiguous, respects existing political jurisdictional borders of counties, cities, special and school districts—maximizing continuity while complying with the population sizes required by law. Riverside County is split into two distinct geographic areas by a range of mountains including Mt. San Jacinto. The proposed districts respect this natural boundary.
 - The Salton Sea, the largest lake in California, requires management by several political bodies and spans the borders of Riverside and Imperial Counties.
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DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Demographics:** The proposed districts CD 45, ADs 65, 80 and SD 40 maximize minority community political influence by compacting communities of interest. The racial make-up of the Coachella Valley is 48.7% Hispanic, 44.9% White, 2.4% Black, 2.3% Asian and 1.7% other. Additionally, the Riverside County communities east and south of the urban areas of Riverside and Moreno Valley share many common characteristics with each other and Imperial County. They are suburban and rural (no city is larger than 80,000) with economies grounded in tourism and agriculture. In addition to large Hispanic communities, they are the home of many retirees.

Demographics: (Cont'd)

- Proposed Districts CD 44, ADs 64, 66 and SD 37 also share common characteristics of urbanization, proximity to the urban centers in Los Angeles and Orange counties with which they are economically connected and they are separated from the south and eastern portions of Riverside County by a natural mountain boundary. The cities are larger, urban centers or suburbs of larger urban centers to the west of the county. The racial make-up of the Western region is very similar with a larger black and Asian population and the Hispanic population being the same percentage point, but more densely centered in Riverside and Moreno Valley.

Economic Integration:

- The mountain boundary of Riverside County also separates the economic interactions of the two sections. Communities in the west (the proposed 64th and 66th ADs, 37th SD and 44th CD) interact with each other and are connected by the I-15 and SR 215 as north-south transportation corridors and the I-10 and SR 60 as east-west corridors. Rail transportation to Los Angeles and Orange Counties link this portion of the county to those urban centers where many residents of the western portion of Riverside County are employed, shop and recreate.

Economic Integration:(Cont'd)

- There are manufacturing jobs, light industry, health care and higher education (University of California and private colleges, Riverside Community College) jobs in this section of Riverside county. Residents shop and enjoy entertainment within the cities of Western Riverside County. This integration is recognized by the boundaries of the Council of Governments, Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), required by State and Federal law to be the multi-jurisdictional agency for transportation, housing and other forms of regional planning.

Economic Integration: (Cont'd)

- That portion of the County east and south of the mountains (proposed ADs 65 and 80, SD 40 and CD 45) contains significant agricultural businesses and land uses. In addition to agriculture, the economies in these communities rely on tourism, retirement centers, health care and entertainment—particularly special events and festivals. Residents utilize retail and entertainment venues within this area. Federal and State transportation, housing and regional planning is undertaken by CVAG (Coachella Valley Association of Governments) and many local governments have a history of working together on public issues such as homelessness and pollution control. The two counties are tied together by Highway 86, also known as the NAFTA highway which links I-10 to the Mexican border. There is no meaningful passenger rail service in this region.

Shared Issues:

- Issues of concern in Riverside and Imperial Counties are also best addressed by the proposed districts. Eastern Riverside County and Imperial County have been partners in the same Assembly and Senate Districts for the past 20 years. In addition to the challenges presented by the Salton Sea, the area is a desert ecological system sharing other environmental concerns. Priorities and usages of Colorado River water, irrigation and transportation tie the region together and cross county lines. Both eastern Riverside and Imperial Counties share persistent high unemployment rates, lack of sufficient health care and public transportation in rural areas and the goal of developing diverse job opportunities for residents and are affected by proximity to the Mexican Border.

Shared Issues:

- Western Riverside County (proposed 64th and 66th ADs, 37th SD and 44th CD) has experienced extraordinary growth, one of the highest housing foreclosure rates in the country and environmental problems created by industry and urbanization. Traffic congestion concerns impacted by Los Angeles and Orange County affect only this region of the County.
- In summary, the proposed Assembly Districts 64, 65, 66 and 80 as well as Senate Districts 37 and 40 and Congressional Districts 44 and 45 fully comply with the legal requirements and mandated criteria to be utilized by the Citizens' Commission in the objective to fairly and effectively redistrict the State of California. These districts contain the appropriate population of residents, maximize communities of interest, respect natural and political boundaries and recognize shared public policy challenges. We respectfully request full consideration of these proposed districts for the 2012 through 2020 elections.