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Region #8: San Francisco /
Bay Area Region

September 10, 2010

To Finally Fix Washington and Sacramento

Contra Costa

Only 19% of Americans approve of our Congress according to the Gallup Poll. Only 16% of Californians approve of our Legislature according to the Field Poll. Let us not continue to suffer for another 10 years from both federal and state governments that have too often proven to be incompetent and/or unfair. Hundreds of examples can be given.

Help is on the way! California voters very wisely passed Prop 11 which means that our incumbent legislators will no longer be picking their voters rather than the voters picking their legislators. Passage of Prop 20 in November will extend this key reform to our congressional districts which are now gerrymandered, deliberately noncompetitive, for safe seats for both Democrat and Republican incumbents. 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".

Google in the maps and voter party affiliation numbers of your three election districts and you'll see how grotesque and lopsided they are. Applications from 24,915 eligible Californians were received for our new Citizens Redistricting Commission. Our representative districts are redrawn after the census every 10 years so that they are equal in population. The most important other objective should be to maximize the number of competitive districts in every state. California has a few natural geographic concentrations of Democrat and Republican registered voters and we have more Democrats than Republicans so perfection is impossible, but a massive improvement doable. In a recent election only a single one of California's 173 gerrymandered congressional and legislative districts changed political party. You want to be able to vote out the bums who don't do a good job, so we must first get rid of the deliberately noncompetitive, rigged districts and the resultant scam/mock elections. Gerrymandering contributes to gridlock.

Be sure to vote against any candidate this November who does not pledge by affidavit to support maximizing competitive districts statewide. Actively support their challengers. Already a few other states don't let their self-serving legislators gerrymander their own districts. A few other states only have a single congressional district. Hopefully the Americans in all the remaining states will promptly take action to prevent the rigging of their representative elections for 10 more years. Their resources in addition to the current challengers may include referendum, initiative, recall, reform organizations and class action lawsuits.

Our United States Senate and/or our President and/or the National Governors' Association could call for legislation now to

December 12, 2010

Citizens Redistricting Commission fax 916-327-0019

The slate of the six additional members as determined by the first eight members is satisfactory. Now you all can proceed with the work of creating legislative and congressional districts that are equal in population while maximizing the number of competitive districts statewide and minimizing the number of safe seats for incumbents. The public interest is not well served by big or little kings or queens. Checks and balances are mandatory for good government as the world has learned since 1776.

You will be doing a great service for our nation and state. Congratulations on your patriotism.

David M. Williams
David M. Williams

I was one of the applicants who didn't make the cut and an activist against gerrymandering since 1986.

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To: Commissioners Aguirre, Barabba, Blanco, Dai, DiGiullo, Forbes, Kuo, Malloy, Ontai, Parvenu, Rays, Ward, Webber, and Yao.

Your work in creating mostly competitive districts will greatly improve the quality of our governments. Thank you.

David M. Williams

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3/17/2011

Better Governments

How is the current congressional legislative and redistricting progressing in your state? Gerrymandering aka deliberately noncompetitive election districts may end in California in the coming months.

Americans will continue to suffer the consequences of our too often inadequate federal and state governments for ten more years if we again ignorantly tolerate gerrymandering. Maximizing the number of competitive districts is absolutely mandatory for good government and is the key prerequisite for all meaningful reforms to improve government quality. Rigged elections frequently result in inadequate, inferior, unfair, negligent, broken, wasteful, interfering, stupid etc. governments. The political corruption of gerrymandering hurts our economy.

Congressman Jim Cooper, a Democrat from Tennessee, has indicated that only 91 out of 435 House districts are currently competitive. In 1986 I learned about gerrymandering the hard way as the Republican candidate for Congress in the ninth district. Since then I have been an activist and advocate for reform. I estimate that the number of our competitive districts nationwide can be increased to at least 370 which would make a great difference in Washington. Same for the states.



David M. Williams

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April 11, 2011

NO SAFE SEATS

For the next 4 months only Americans have a unique opportunity to substantially improve their finances over the next 10 years. Safe seats for your congressional representative and state legislators have cost you and your family over \$14,000 since our last redistricting. More if your household income exceeds the average of \$57,000/year; figure 28% of your combined federal and state income and sales taxes.

As required by our Constitution, a census is taken every 10 years and then the 435 House of Representatives' districts are redrawn to be equal in population. The states also redistrict then. Following the 2000 census again both the incumbent Democrat and Republican career politicians had the election district boundaries drawn so that they and their political party cronies were guaranteed easy reelections. In other words, they picked their voters rather than the voters picking them. This is known as gerrymandering aka deliberately uncompetitive election districts. The result was that the overwhelming majority of districts stayed in the control of a single political party for the entire decade. Only 91 out of our current 435 House districts are considered competitive.

The special interest lobbyists then piled huge campaign contributions on the sure winners. Our tax code now exceeds 41,000 pages due to loopholes for the contributors. Please read "You've Been Had" which is available on line and which was published in the January 2008 issue of "The Reader's Digest". The source list for the article includes: OMB Watch, Taxpayers for Common Sense, Citizens Against Government Waste, Cato Institute, Heritage Foundation and the US Government Accountability Office. A total of \$983.5 billion of annual waste is outlined which was then about 1/3 of the federal budget. It's more today plus add to that more of the same waste in your state governments.

Good governments would have prevented the recession. Our national debt has reached a dangerous level and constitutes collective child and grandchild abuse. America was made great by our system of governmental checks and balances between the House and Senate, President, Supreme Court, state Assemblies and Senates, Governors, state Courts and local governments, but most importantly between the voters and all of our elected officials. This is sabotaged by the gerrymandering for safe seats. Gerrymandering is the fundamental root cause of our often inadequate governments and should no longer be tolerated. In 1776 Americans learned not to trust safe seat rulers like King George III. Democracy is forever a work in progress and over the centuries great reforms have emanated from the people. It's time to clean up our act or continue to have screw ups by our too often inadequate and wasteful governments.

Most districts can be drawn so that Democrat and Republican voter registration is within 2%. I estimate over 370 districts in House and the great majority in all of the state legislatures can be made

disenfranchised, discriminated against and otherwise harmed by the undemocratic gerrymandering. Each would donate a minimum of \$20 to cover costs. If phase 1 fails and the majority of states are again gerrymandered for corrupting safe seats, unfortunately the other meaningful reforms will also have to wait another 10 years. Competitive election districts are mandatory for good government.

Phase 2 will be a voluntary reform candidate affidavit similar to the attached preliminary draft. This would be signed by Reform Democrats, Reform Republicans, Reform Independents, and Reform Minor Political Party challenger candidates. Some incumbents in the 2012 elections would convert and execute the affidavit.

In 1986 I learned about gerrymandering and the need for reforms the hard way as the Republican general election candidate in the ninth California congressional district. I served as a reform candidate until 1998 and since then as an activist and advocate. Currently I am a member or supporter of Common Cause, AARP, California Forward, and Mensa. If you have improvements for the plans...great, we agree that something must be done.

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