

April 20, 2011

USA one, two, three

Safe seat gerrymandering guarantees us special interest governments that we can no longer afford.

First, maximize competitive $\pm 2\%$ congressional and legislative election districts now!

Second, vote only for voluntary cannot vote for = cannot contribute to candidates.

Third, legislate mandatory 210 eight hour work days in the capitols yearly with houses provided.


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competitive. Only then will our Congress and Legislatures cease being dysfunctional. Perfection is not possible because each state has either more Democrats than Republicans or vice versa and also because there are natural geographic concentrations of one or the other. In those districts keep the majority party to less than 50% whenever possible using the growing decline to state, independents or otherwise registered voters for balance. This will allow for viable fusion challengers to any unsatisfactory incumbents. A very few districts will have more than 50%. There the effort must be made to make the primary elections more competitive.

Phase 1 of the plan is for at least 100,000 voters each in at least a majority of the states to join in class action lawsuits by August 15, 2011. They would charge that they have been partially 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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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

Redistricting

1992

**David Williams
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The state senate reapportionment plan continues the three uncompetitive districts in Alameda and Contra Costa counties in order to make the re-election of career politicians Boatwright, Lockyer and Petris certain again in '92.

This would mean that no East Bay woman and/or citizen of African, Asian, Latin or Native American ancestry and/or moderate or conservative Democrat or Republican would have the opportunity to serve in the state senate from the East Bay counties.

California is falling behind in dealing with education, good new jobs, crime, drugs, health care, traffic, pollution, etc., in part because of the corruption and incompetence in Sacramento,

resulting from gerrymandered, uncompetitive election districts.

Walnut Creek, Danville and Dublin are within 16 miles but separated into three different Senate districts. The same is true of Richmond, Berkeley, and Oakland. Telephone your state senator, assemblyperson, and governor now before it is too late again for ten more years. Let them know what you think about uncompetitive districts and their results.

We debate abortion, but many lives could be saved by comprehensive education, improved adoption laws and more rape and incest prevention and punishment.

California lagged behind other states in fighting the tobacco companies. The tobacco trade is profitable.

California is not winning the war against drugs which kill many people directly and indirectly. The drug trade is profitable.

Gerrymandering weakens our good old American system of checks and balances while it fosters mediocracy and sometimes corruption by our elected officials. "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Some of California's career politicians have eventually self-destructed; Condit, Quackenbush, Coelho, Nolan, Nixon and many others, but that takes too long.

Gerrymandering partially disenfranchises millions of California voters. The winners in most assembly and congressional contests are known before the elections due to the stacked decks that the grotesque, lopsided districts facilitate. No wonder most citizens don't vote.

Term limits haven't improved the productivity, quality and fairness of the elected officials in Sacramento. With no gerrymandering comprehensive campaign reform would come about with the elimination of the counterproductive cash constituencies of the members of the state legislature.

It is an unethical conflict of interest for the California State Legislature to draw the lines on their own election districts. It is now anticipated that a sufficient number of whore Republicans will vote with the Democrat majority to preclude a ballot initiative by the people. The courts may decide the issue. Perhaps gerrymandering is unconstitutional.

The consultants for both political parties should be told to go back to the computers and create the maximum number possible of truly competitive and compact assembly and congressional districts in the state. In the east bay, during the last decade, we had two competitive districts that actually changed hands between the parties and that is needed wherever feasible.

Competitive elections are a mandatory prerequisite for good government. Safe seats for incumbents are definitely not in the best interests of the people of California.

Over the past 15 years, I've worked to help end gerrymandering and to bring about comprehensive campaign reform.

The deliberate creation of competitive legislative and congressional districts could be California's most significant contribution to American civilization since prop 13 and the right hand turn on a red light.