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September 4, 2001

Redistricting in California in 2001  
by David Williams

Californians can forget about good government for the next 10 years if the proposed gerrymandered assembly and congressional districts are enacted. !!!

Gerrymandering is defined in Webster's Dictionary as "1: 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. 2: to divide (an area) into political units to give special advantages to one group."

Compared to the national average, Californians pay heavier state taxes yet the K-12 schools for our children and grandchildren are below average. Our schools used to be above average.

California's roads are now below average, but once they were the best. Public transport is limited where once it was more extensive. Due to a stupid lack of long term planning in Sacramento, millions of Californians now waste 2, 3 and 4 hours a day expensively commuting to work in polluting automobiles.

Both the Republican and Democrat politicians of California are responsible for our very costly energy shortages. California became the laughing stock among the state governments. Bipartisan gerrymandered districts create mediocre career politicians who screw up badly at the public's expense. Our water supply may be next.

What the government does or doesn't do and how well it does it has a great impact on the lives of Californians. Over the next decade hundreds of thousands of Californians will die prematurely due to the inferior government created by gerrymandering. Please give consideration to the following. Keep in mind that California is by far the richest state in the union. About one out of nine Americans is a Californian. If it were a nation, California would have the sixth largest economy in the world.

People die before their time in many ways. If the California's Legislature's research, laws and oversight on occupational safety were improved, fewer Californians would die on the job and fewer would be injured. A full time pro-active legislature that is not beholden to special interests would do more to help curtail drunken driving, speeding, and to greatly improve driver education and retesting.

Why doesn't California have a patients bill of rights? People die when denied treatment by their HMOs. Other states have already enacted patients bill of right legislation. Why is our state lagging behind on improved health education and extending medical insurance and prescription coverage?

[REDACTED]  
Livermore, California 94550-6149  
June 11, 2003

Dear Editor:

The recall election of Governor Davis by itself will not bring about good government.

After the 2000 census California's 173 state assembly, state senate and congressional districts were severely gerrymandered. The 2002 election results proved that the winning parties in 169 districts are already known for the 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010 elections.

Our great American system of checks and balances has been partially nullified due to the collusion of the incumbent Democrats and Republicans. It is a conflict of interest to let the politicians create safe seats for themselves.

The incumbents are responsible for California's inferior K-12 education, inferior transportation including roads and the massive deficit. Mock elections never result in good government. We need to get to the root causes of our problems.

The secondary objective of redistricting should be to create the maximum number of competitive districts in the state. A commission of old and wise retired judges could oversee the process. Our democracy has been improved over the past 227 years and there probably always will be room for further advances. The legislature could also be recalled.

Sincerely,

David M. Williams

tel. [REDACTED]

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Dictionary definition of gerrymandering

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