

January 7, 2008

### The Most Beneficial Reform

The lives of you and your family will be better when the gerrymandering of our federal and state election districts is abolished. Pages 86 to 95 in the January 2008 issue of the "Reader's Digest" outline how our federal government alone wastes \$983.5 billion (nearly \$1 trillion) of our money every year. There is also massive waste of our money by our state and local governments which is very bad because there are always more tasks than money. But it's worse...read on.

Our United States of America is the richest nation in the history of the world, but curiously we trail behind many other nations (often badly) in the health, education, safety and security of our citizens along with our nation's inferior infrastructure, energy independence and balance of trade. This is not due to the cost of the current war as this miserable record continued throughout the decades between the Vietnam and Afghanistan-Iraq wars.

Our federal and state governments are not working properly and the many familiar promises of the presidential candidates will not change that fact. We're not electing a supreme ruler or king or queen. Our absurdly part-time Congress and Legislatures make the laws and control the money.

Fair competitive elections must be restored. The dictionary defines gerrymandering as "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". From state to state and from time to time both the Republican and Democrat Legislators are guilty as sin. Sometimes they act in collusion to rig all the elections for a whole decade. Hardly any districts move from electing Republican to Democrat representatives/legislators or vice versa after the gerrymandering. Competitive elections are an absolutely mandatory prerequisite for good (fair and cost-effective) governments.

The corruption of safe seats for the incumbents has resulted in governments that serve the increasingly rich special interest contributors first and foremost, often to the exclusion of you and your family. No wonder that their public approval poll numbers are in the gutter. Read the great article referenced above which is titled "You've Been Had!" Contact both your local registrar of voters and your local newspapers, TV and radio stations to learn the lopsided voter registration breakdowns for your uncompetitive election districts.

Appealing to the culprits is futile. The fixes are to recall all of the guilty state legislators who have personally profited (a conflict of interest) from the gerrymandered districts they finagled. They have betrayed your trust. Also, to vote against all such incumbents and their safe seat career incumbent allies in the Congress.

## Rigged Election

David Williams  
Livermore

On November 3 there will be another rigged congressional election due to gerrymandering here in the East Bay. The winner is already known as it was in 86 when I was the sacrificial lamb candidate.

For many decades the root cause of both of our inadequate federal and state governments is gerrymandering, aka deliberately noncompetitive election districts. The resultant safe seats facilitate grossly neglected responsibilities and large contributor favoritism via loopholes, subsidies, earmarks, etc. From state to state and from time to time both the Republican and Democrat incumbents are guilty as sin. Sometimes they act together in collusion.

Meanwhile we, the American people, suffer from an avoidable recession and our often comparatively inferior education, health and infrastructure in spite of paying much more.

California voters wisely passed Prop. 11, the Voters' First Act, which means that our state legislators will no longer be picking their voters. The federal Constitution mandates a census every 10 years which allows for the districts to be redrawn to reflect population shifts so that each representative has the same number of constituents.

The census is a very shovel ready stimulus project. Much greater numbers of the unemployed can be put to work right now to accelerate the census. Importantly, this will allow for fair, competitive and truly democratic elections starting in 2010 rather than 2012.

Unfortunately, Prop 11 does not cover California's congressional districts due to the opposition of Speaker Nancy Pelosi who commands large amounts of special interest campaign money. Power should not be more important than good government.

Soon it will be Halloween. Pelosi should put on her pointy hat, then hop on her broom and fly one way to Iran where the elections are also rigged.

10/14/09

**MAILBOX**

end gerrymandering. Our Supreme Court might decide that gerrymandering is unconstitutional.

Mandatory debates for every primary and general election televised at public expense in prime time will greatly help to clean up the campaigns of their reliance on corrupting special interest money. Many hundreds of examples can be given. As a result, you, your children and grandchildren will pay more taxes. Also, please think about the protection of cannot vote for = cannot contribute to as well as none of the above on every ballot.

It takes time to do a good job and very often we taxpayers are not getting our money's worth. All of our elected officials and other government employees should be required to perform an 1880 hour real work year excluding all campaigning with stiff penalties for not doing so. Three days a week or less in our capitols is grossly insufficient. Most taxpayers who are fortunate enough to have a job in this avoidable recession do so or exceed 1880, many greatly.

Our great American democracy is forever a work in progress. We have come a long way since 1776, but we still need to clean up our act further in our ongoing search for good government. In two years the evil of gerrymandering will have been committed for 200 years exceeding the 137 years that women were denied their right to vote.

I learned about gerrymandering the hard way as a congressional candidate in the 1986 general election. Since then I've served as an activist and advocate for reform. Three years ago I authored a copyrighted article (1/5/07) "Gerrymandering - the Movie". Be sure to vote.

  
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David M. Williams  
[REDACTED]

Livermore, California 94550-6149

[REDACTED]



Mr. David M. Williams  
[REDACTED]

Livermore, CA 94550

Dear Mr. Williams,

2009

Thank you for your letter of February 23, in which you cited special interest funding of election campaigns and uncompetitive congressional districts as the leading systemic flaws in our government.

Common Cause has been supporting public financing of election campaigns for some time as an antidote to the problem posed by the prominence of special interest groups in influencing congressional outcomes. In fact, in the very near term, a bill (Fair Elections Now Bill) establishing that will be submitted by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) and by Congressman Larsen (D) and Jones (R), both of North Carolina. Common Cause has been a part of this process.

The lack of competitive congressional districts, especially in the primaries, contributes to more extremes of the political spectrum being elected at the expense of those in the center. Lower voter turnout, which is usually dominated by such extremes, further contributes to this situation. Therefore, Common Cause has been advocating for a system of fairer congressional districts and larger voter turnouts.

Accountability in government, also advocated by Common Cause, would also help the system to work better and enhance the public interest.

Once again, thank you for your thoughtful letter.

Sincerely,

  
Eric Williams  
Executive Assistant to the President

Region ~~8~~ 8: San Francisco /  
Bay Area Region  
Concord

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MAY 23 2011

Per \_\_\_\_\_

May 22, 2011

To the Commission on Redistricting

Fax Memo: 916-651-5711

My name is Matt Heavey I testified (#20) at Saturday's hearing in Oakland.

To reiterate, anybody who has to wear a jacket during the summer months should not lead the "Diablo Valley" (Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga, Walnut Creek, Clayton, San Ramon)—The hills that separate Contra Costa from Alameda County (Caldecott Tunnel) also separate the large political differences of the two areas which must be respected.

I call(ed) it the "Diablo Valley" because I graduated from "Mount Diablo Unified School District", and got an AA from "Diablo Valley (Jr) College". It is distinct and different from the "Tri Valley" (Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin). I believe San Ramon is part of the "Diablo Valley" and that Dublin is part of the Tri Valley (my parents lived in San Ramon for eight years and Dublin for five years, my father has mentioned the differences of San Ramon and Dublin and I believe much of the testimony you receive will also mirror our request to put San Ramon with the Diablo Valley and Dublin with the Tri Valley).

As I lived in most of the towns listed above Lafayette, Walnut Creek and San Ramon and (Concord) for ten years each I have a unique understanding of each of the areas and can attest to their commonality.

Concord in my opinion should be split between Walnut Creek and Martinez. The dividing line should be the Monument Corridor as I lived close to that area and have seen the subtle yet distinct differences of the two areas. In short—the south side of Concord is an extension of Walnut Creek and the north side of Concord is similar in nature and demographics to Martinez.

Please contact me for comment or clarification.  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Matt Heavey

[Redacted]

