

Commissioner Speakers Corps Project

2018 Events Calendar

The challenge is that there are [few events organized for 2018](#) yet. However, we have reached out and received three requests for speakers:

1. **Georgia:** Georgia Common Cause has invited us to participate in a statewide road tour in which we would present what we achieved with our process. They had planned on doing an 11-city tour, half of which is done, but would be willing to repeat part of the tour to utilize our input. The effort in Georgia is just getting underway and target audiences would be activists and the legislature.
2. **Indiana:** Indiana Common Cause has invited us to send commissioners to speak and put on a workshop that would have as its target audiences activists and the legislature. No date has been set but it must occur by March as Indiana has a part-time legislature which adjourns in March.
3. **Michigan:** Voters Not Politicians will shortly be submitting signatures for a referendum to create a commission based on our model. They have a significant plan which is attached as separate document. The proposal meets all the Ash Center guidelines in that it identifies target audiences, provides partners, and identifies methods and channels. It also appears to be cost-effective and has the potential to leverage additional funds. The timing would initially be December and January, but might extend through the year. They appear to have adequate volunteers and organization to pursue this effort.
4. **Pennsylvania:** We have had one inquiry, but no specific events have been proposed. Good bill there with 98 supporters. Fair Districts PA.
5. **Ohio:** Ballot initiative.
6. **Missouri:** Ballot initiative w/state demographer as map drawer?
7. **North Carolina:** ongoing litigation. Strong Republican funder supporter. Democracy NC.
8. **Texas:** ongoing litigation. Legislature doesn't meet until 2019.
9. **Colorado:** version of a commission selected by Legislature. Trying to reform.
10. **Utah:** close to ballot initiative. SLK split into 4 districts.

Fair Votes LA: *Baton Rouge*, January 19, 2018

GA uga law school event: early February

Tufts Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group: University of Texas—*Austin, TX*, February 1-4, 2018

[Unrig the System Summit:](#) *New Orleans, LA*, Feb 2-4, 2018

Brennan Center Partisan Gerrymandering: *NYU*, February (depends on *Gil v. Whitford* decision)

Tufts Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group: University of San Francisco—*San Francisco, CA*, March 15-18, 2018

American Constitution Society: possible redistricting panel, June, 2018

While specific costs cannot be known, we estimate the cost per commissioner per event at \$1500, or between \$3000 and \$4500 depending on whether 2 or 3 commissioners travel to participate.

It does appear that if we are to impact additional states we will need to underwrite administrative costs. This could be done by contracting with Common Cause or other entities. At this time cost estimates are unknown but being pursued with Common Cause.

Proposals from Redistricting Reform Groups

Sara Henderson
Executive Director
Common Cause Georgia
250 Georgia Ave SE
Atlanta, Ga 30312

November 10, 2017

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

Georgia, like many other states, has state and federal leadership that only represent around 20% of our population. Our legislature consistently takes up measures related to social issue-based agendas that are of little or no interest to the overall public. Thanks to decades of partisan and racial gerrymandering, those voices have grown the loudest in our state's Capitol, not because they enjoy the support of most Georgians, but instead due to the unfair and noncompetitive districts across the state.

The citizens of Georgia have awoken to this issue after many years of feeling apathetic about redistricting. In partnership with the ACLU of Ga, Common Cause Georgia has embarked on a statewide redistricting education tour called "The Georgia Gerrymandering Tour: Redistricting in GA 101." By mid-November, we will have spoken to audiences in 13 cities across the state. The tour is focused on education and activism at the local and state levels and CCGA developed an [online toolkit](#) for activists to adapt to their local reform efforts. One of the main requests we make of the attendees of the tour is for them to push resolutions at the local level that call for independent redistricting commissions. To date, we have engaged over 200 people across the state and look forward to continuing our tour through the upcoming legislative session.

In the General Assembly, [we currently have a reform resolution](#), which is a constitutional amendment, that calls for an independent redistricting commission. During our tour stops, we educate people on the commission: its function, makeup, appointment, etc.; however, there remain many questions about the redistricting commission.

As CCGA broadens our statewide reach, we have laid the foundation for serious infrastructure to be built and utilized for issue-based advocacy education. Not only are the tour stops an excellent educational opportunity, but they also present an organizing angle to the work we do. Our networks of super volunteers continues to grow each day and our membership has nearly doubled in the past 12 months.

If presented with the prospect, we would gladly welcome commissioners to visit Georgia to help citizens understand the process using your first-hand perspective. Using our gerrymandering tour model, we can revisit some of our stops around the state. We have had a tremendous outpouring of support from folks across the state and I truly believe your commission's intimate knowledge of the process of independent redistricting commissions would help Georgians to feel more confident in supporting these efforts.

The issue of redistricting reform receives bipartisan support all across Georgia. From transparency to ethics to voting rights, people are beginning to understand how gerrymandering undermines the fabric of democracy. We hope the commission will consider joining us here for a few days to help galvanize support for this critical issue.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if questions arise.

All best,

Sara Henderson

_____From Common Cause Indiana_____

Hello Folks,

Sorry for my slow reply, we have Legislative Organization Day coming up Nov. 21 so things have been hectic planning a big kick-off event for our redistricting efforts on that day.

We would love to have you come to Indiana early in the new year for an event to educate legislators and the public about how the California process works. I just came from a meeting with one of our bill sponsors and he is very interested in how the California Commission is selected. One specific question he had - how long was the application period for the public to apply for a seat on the Commission?

Would it be possible for you to travel to Indiana sometime in January? The legislature will go into session the first week of January - it is a short session this year so they adjourn by mid-March. Would have the most impact early in the session rather than later.

Thanks for your consideration,
Julia Vaughn, Policy Director
Common Cause IN

_____From Nancy Wang, Voters Not Politicians Policy Director (Michigan)_____

Hi Cynthia and Stan,

Here are some ideas for your consideration. Thank you so much!

1. Near term - in the next month or so (at no cost to CA)
 - a. Two 1-hour Q&A sessions via zoom with VNP leadership to educate ourselves
 - b. Have the documentary film crew who's following us (Ark Media) travel to CA to record video interviews of CA commissioners
2. January 2018 (as early as we are able to - if it's before you have HSK funds, we would try to find sponsors who are willing to cover your travel costs)

Overview:

4-day tour of Michigan, OR two 2- or 3-day tours for 2 different teams of commissioners
Really love the idea of mixed panels - R, D, and Independent commissioners sharing their different perspectives

Approximate Cost:

Travel, food and lodging for tour duration (\$2,000 per participating Commissioner)

Impact:

Raise overall profile right before Michigan Board of Elections has to decide whether to certify petition for ballot

Also getting word out to MI judges – this is a bipartisan issue, here are conservative commissioners, right thing to do

Media coverage

(Not necessarily to convince undecided voters at this point)

Events:

a) MSU IPSR

1-hour long event

Press coverage

Big venue

first ½ hour: 2 Michigan legislators walk us through redistricting during last cycle

second 1/2 hour: CA commissioners discuss what happens with independent commission

b) Tour with events across the state - Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing

Press coverage

Audiences of around 1,000 people each

Q&A panels with big co-sponsors like League of Women Voters, NAACP

c) End with exclusive fundraiser featuring dinner and panel discussion with David Daley as moderator

Add other panel members for diversity of voices

If you need any further information, please don't hesitate to let us know.

We are so excited to work with you!

Sincerely,

Nancy

Proposed Criteria for Prioritizing Specific Events

In addition to meeting project selection criteria, we may need to choose between conflicting events or just maximizing limited resources.

- Participation virtually for smaller audiences, or if needed to provide multiple Commissioners
- More states vs. fewer?
- States with an initiative process?
- States with proposed legislation or ballot initiative?
- States with active litigation?
- States where districts do not reflect voter political distribution?

Proposed Criteria for Selecting Commissioners

Should it be a policy that we always try to send 2 or 3 Commissioners, ideally from different parties whenever possible? In addition, we'll need to nominate who should represent the Commission. Here are some proposed criteria:

- **Signs up:** *Committed* availability and interest--tell us why it should be you.
- **Does the homework:** Has received media training, talking points, standard deck; is willing to prepare for specific event in consultation with organizers
- **Best face(s) for the CRC:** recommended by Co-Chairs in consultation with Chair/Vice Chair
 - **History/Connections to locale**--family, school, work/industry, or other connections
 - **Diversity**--gender, race/ethnicity, rural/urban, age, or other as requested by organizers
- **Maximizes participation:** bias to allow more Commissioners to participate during the grant period, assuming other criteria are met