

Political District Shift Ahead

Redrawing of Boundaries Will Shape Politics for Next Decade

Conducting the 2020 election in the midst of a pandemic provided unique obstacles for state and local election officials that they successfully overcame, leading to record voter turnout in November. Among the challenges local election officials faced were the closure of traditional polling places, which in turn required every voter to receive their ballot by mail. Fortunately, California voters' comfort and familiarity with mail balloting ensured an election without drama and paved the way for the highest voter turnout since 1976 at more than 80%.

At the California Chamber of Commerce, nonelection years generally are spent getting ready for next year's election by engaging in candidate recruitment, background research and preliminary polling. The 2022 election will feature contests to fill the state's constitutional offices, as well as the legislative and congressional seats.

FOCUS ON REDISTRICTING IN 2021

But before we can begin preparing for the next election, we will need to become familiar with the newly drawn political boundaries for Congress, the Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization, and these lines will not be known until the end of 2021.

The job of drawing the district lines falls to the California's Citizens Redistricting Commission, which was created when California voters passed Proposition 11 in 2008. The current districts were drawn by the commissioners in 2011 and now a new group of 14 commission members will draw lines that will stay in effect for the next 10 years. The Commission is made up of five Republicans, five Democrats and four members not affiliated with either major political party.



LIVE STREAMING OF REDISTRICTING COMMISSION HEARINGS

The line drawing is a transparent and public process that invites citizen participation through a series of hearings. In 2011, the Commission conducted more than 75 public hearings in Sacramento and around the state before producing the final maps. With COVID restrictions still in place, this year's meetings, which begin in January, will be conducted remotely and be live streamed at www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov.

The process of drawing district lines at times will be contentious as there are interest groups, political parties and community-based organizations that will advocate to ensure districts are balanced along ethnic, partisan and geographic lines. Among the Commission's greatest challenges will be apportioning the congressional districts as California will likely lose one or maybe two seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. California's loss of seats is attributed to the state's slowing population growth. High-growth states like Texas, Arizona and Idaho are expected to gain seats.

TRACK RECORD

CalChamber will continue to recruit and elect business-friendly candidates to maintain our superb track record of beating job-killing legislative proposals by staying on the task of engaging our political action network. Our focus will remain dedicated to

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT/DEVELOPMENT

finding and electing candidates from both political parties who possess the courage to stand up to the liberal special interests and reject their philosophy of tax, spend and regulate.

If we are successful with our election strategy, then our opportunities will far outdistance our challenges.

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

Although not a political action committee, the Candidate Recruitment and Development Program provides the resources necessary to build a bench of electable, pro-jobs candidates for state legislative and local office. CalChamber partners with our local chamber network, as well as state and local member businesses, to ensure the recruitment efforts are bipartisan and locally driven.

The primary component of this program is to identify potential candidates and put them on the path to elective office. The secondary component is training and developing candidates for their positions. The program has successfully recruited numerous local candidates who have won election to state legislative seats.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PACS)

The CalChamber's Political Action Network includes three political entities:

- **ChamberPAC** is a bipartisan political action committee that makes direct contributions to incumbent office holders and select candidates who promote and vote for an agenda of private sector job creation. Contributions to this committee are limited to \$8,100 per year, per person, organization or political action committee.

- **JobsPAC** is an independent expenditure committee, meaning it speaks directly to voters on behalf of the business community to elect pro-jobs candidates. Co-chaired by CalChamber and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association, JobsPAC may accept contributions in unlimited amounts.

- **CalBusPAC** is a CalChamber committee that is formed to primarily support or oppose ballot measures having an impact on the state's business climate. CalBusPAC may accept contributions in unlimited amounts.

CALCHAMBER POSITION

California's business community is under constant pressure due to the disproportionate influence that special interest and government employee organizations have on the legislative and regulatory process. CalChamber is committed to standing up for and speaking out on behalf of the state's employer community through political action, our advocacy network, and constant and direct contact with elected officials.



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