



## Fact Sheet on Redistricting and the 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission

- California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts every ten years to reflect the new federal census population data.
- Prior to 2008, California legislators drew their own district lines. In November 2008, California voters passed the Voters FIRST Act (Act), authorizing the creation of the Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) to draw new district lines, taking the job out of the hands of the Legislature. In 2010, the Voters FIRST Act for Congress added the responsibility of drawing Congressional districts to the Commission.
- The Act requires the California State Auditor, an independent, non-partisan entity, to manage an application process for selecting the members of the Commission to reflect California's geographic, professional, and social diversity. The Commission is comprised of 14 members: five members who are Democrats, five members who are Republicans, and four members who are from neither of those parties.
- In conformity with strict, non-partisan rules designed to produce districts of relatively equal population and with the goal of providing fair representation for all Californians, the Commission draws the boundaries for the Congressional districts, State Senate districts, State Assembly districts, and State Board of Equalization districts. Once the Commission has approved the final four maps, the maps are certified to the California Secretary of State with a report explaining the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.
- The Commission will hold public meetings and accept public input in a variety of ways to assist it in drawing the new district maps. The public can participate by submitting public comment on our website, at one of our meetings, through the communities of interest mapping tool and by mailing their input.
- The Commission must follow these criteria, in this order, when drawing district maps:
  1. Districts must be of equal population to comply with the US Constitution.
  2. Districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minorities have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
  3. Districts must be drawn contiguously, so that all parts of the district are connected to each other.
  4. Districts must minimize the division of cities, counties, neighborhoods, and communities to the extent possible.
  5. Districts should be geographically compact: such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for a more distant population. This requirement refers to density, not shape. Census blocks cannot be split.
  6. Where practicable each Senate District should be comprised of two complete and adjacent Assembly Districts, and Board of Equalization districts should be comprised of 10 complete and adjacent State Senate Districts.

