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PRESS RELEASE

2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission Marks International Day of Democracy

SACRAMENTO, CA — On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, September 15, and acknowledging this year's theme "Empowering the Next Generation", the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) takes the opportunity to encourage young Californians to play an active role in their communities, to learn about the redistricting process, including through the curriculum materials developed during the 2020 redistricting cycle, and, when they are eligible, to consider applying to serve on a future Citizens Redistricting Commission.

"Young people bring a fresh and vibrant perspective to enhancing our democratic processes. Engaging with the Redistricting process, even between the formal map drawing phases, is a great way to get involved in making positive change for communities at scale." (Commissioner I. Ahmad)

Every 10 years, after the federal government publishes updated census information, California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts so that the state's population is evenly allocated among the new districts.

California's 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission was created via citizen initiative in 2008 with a mandate to draw new districts for State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization; a mandate to draw new districts for California's seats in the U.S. House of Representatives was added via another citizen initiative in 2010.

The state's first citizen redistricting commissioners served 2010-2020 and concluded their term in July 2020 when the first eight members of the 2020 Commission were selected via random draw; those first eight then selected the remaining six commissioners to ensure that the full Commission broadly reflected the diversity of the state.

For more information about the Commission, please visit www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov.

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