

***EXHIBIT 442 — EXHIBIT 454***

# Exhibit 442

## Anthony “Tony” Fairfax

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### Experience Highlights:

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- Demographic, Geographic & Voter Data Analysis
- Multiple GIS Software/Census Data Skillsets
- Redistricting Plan Development & Analysis
- Gingles I & Racial Gerrymandering Analysis
- Redistricting Expert Reports & Testimony
- Redistricting Presentations & Training
- ESRI ArcGIS Map Applications & Dashboards
- Maptitude for Redistricting Proficiency

### Education:

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Master of Geospatial Information Science and Technology (2016)  
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina

Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (2016)  
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina

Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering (1982)  
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

### Work Experience:

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#### **CensusChannel LLC, Hampton, VA (2009 - Present)**

CEO & Principal Consultant - Providing overall project management and operations as well as primary consulting services for clients. Also responsible for customer acquisition and support. Core tasks include GIS-centered services centering on redistricting support (extensive use and analysis of traditional redistricting principles); demographic/socioeconomic, geographic, and voting data; GIS, Census Data, and Redistricting training; GIS data processing/conversion; expert redistricting plan development, analysis, depositions, testimony, and training. Major clientele and projects include:

- **NAACP, Baltimore, MD (2025 - Present)** - Providing redistricting consulting services centered on analyzing multiple states’ mid-decade congressional redistricting efforts by the major parties.
- **City of Anderson, IN (2024 - 2025)** – Provided advice, consultation, and redistricting plan development services as redistricting consultant to the city. Efforts centered on developing new redistricting plan options for the city. The city ultimately approved the final plan that was developed.
- **Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), Montgomery, AL (2023 - 2024)** - Providing redistricting training for SPLC participants covering a wide range of subjects from basic traditional redistricting criteria to *Gingles 1* preconditions to Maptitude for Redistricting application.
- **Southern Coalition for Social Justice [SCSJ], Durham, NC (2023 - Present)** - Providing expert reports and/or deposition for redistricting court cases in Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas.
- **Davies & Rouco, LLP, Birmingham, AL (2023 – Present)** - Providing expert reports, analysis, illustrative plans, and testimony on Jefferson County commissioner’s redistricting court case.
- **Wisconsin Department of Justice, Madison, WI (2023 – 2024)** – Provided expert report, analysis, and remedial plan for Wisconsin’s State Assembly and Senate District plans.

- **NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), New York, NY (2022 – Present)** – Providing expert reports, analysis, illustrative and remedial plans, depositions, and testimony for two Louisiana congressional redistricting court cases.
- **The ACLU, New York, NY (2022 – Present)** – Providing expert report, analysis, and illustrative plans for state senate redistricting court case in the state of Alabama.
- **Southern Echo, Jackson, MS (2018 - Present)** – Providing ongoing map-related educational and voting-related products pertaining to the state of Mississippi. Previously provided redistricting training sessions to Southern Echo partners throughout the south. Also provided GIS data, maps, and training to Southern Echo, community leaders, stakeholders, and subsequently in the field to groups working in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. Specifically, deliverables include map-centered projects centering on education, GOTV, and redistricting.
- **Town of Cheverly, MD (2022 – 2024)** – Provided advice, consultation, and redistricting plan development services as redistricting consultant to the town. Efforts centered on developing new redistricting plan options for the town.
- **U.S. Department of Justice, Washington DC (2022 – 2023)** – Provided expert report, illustrative plan, deposition, and testimony for Galveston County, TX redistricting court case.
- **City of Baltimore, MD Office of Council President (2022 - 2023)** – Provided advice, consultation, and redistricting plan development services as redistricting consultant to the city's Office of Council President. Efforts center on the alternative development of redistricting plans for the city.
- **Harvard Election Law Clinic (2022 - 2023)** – Provided expert report for Jacksonville, FL, city council and Duval County, FL, school board racial gerrymandering redistricting court case.
- **My Brother's Keeper Alliance, Chicago, IL (2022)** – Provided demographic and socioeconomic analysis of select neighborhood communities.
- **The ACLU, New York, NY (2021 – 2023)** – Provided expert report, analysis, illustrative plans, depositions, and testimony for redistricting court cases in the states of Arkansas and California.
- **The Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, New Orleans, LA (2021 - 2022)** - Provided technical advice and input for building an equitable redistricting process in Louisiana for communities, legislators, and organizations. Providing analysis and plan alternatives for the Louisiana state legislative House and Senate districts where Black voters could elect a candidate of choice.
- **Crescent City Media Group, New Orleans, LA (2021)** – Provided redistricting training to the PreRedistricting Lab. Training centered on various educational presentations and hands-on sessions for community leaders and local/state legislators.
- **Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore LLP, Atlanta, GA (2021)** – Provided statewide redistricting plan development for Georgia congressional districts. Tasks included being part of a three-member map-drawing team that developed the proposed plan for the Georgia House and Senate Democratic caucus.
- **NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), New York, NY (2020 – 2022)** - Provided redistricting development and analysis of various district configurations for city, county, and state-level plans.
- **Crowd Academy [an SCSJ-sponsored effort], Durham, NC (2020 - 2021)** - Provided redistricting training and support. Training centered on presentations on "How the Lines are Drawn," which focuses on pre-plan development and plan development activities of redistricting. The target attendees included individuals in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. The effort also includes providing mentorship to Academy Fellows and Academy Mentors.

- **City of Everett, WA, Everett, WA (2020)** – Provided advice, consultation, and mapping services as Districting Master to the city of Everett, WA’s Districting Commission. Efforts centered on the development of the city’s first districting plan. Also assisted with answering questions at public forums and developed an ArcGIS web map application for public access to all plans.
- **NAACP, Baltimore, MD (2018 - 2022)** – Provided GIS consulting services via the NAACP (as fiscal agent) to the *Racial Equity Anchor Collaborative* (consisting of the Advancement Project, APIA Health Forum, Demos, Faith in Action, NAACP, National Urban League, NCAI, Race Forward, and Unidos U.S.). Efforts include developing the Racial Equity 2020 Census Data Hub. The Data Hub used ESRI’s Hub Cloud platform, which centralized web maps, mapping applications, and dashboards, enabling collaborative partners to locate hard-to-count areas by major race or ethnicity.
- **Campaign Legal Center, Washington, DC (2018 –2021)** – Developed illustrative redistricting plans, associated expert reports, depositions, and testimony in the *Holloway v City of Virginia Beach* court case. The Illustrative plans included two majority Hispanic, Black, and Asian combined districts to provide evidence of the first prong of *Gingles* for the city of Virginia Beach.
- **Southern Coalition for Social Justice [SCSJ], Durham, NC (2015 - 2018)** - Provided several expert reports, depositions, and testimony for multiple redistricting court cases in North Carolina. Testimony, depositions, and reports included numerous plans at the congressional, state Senate, state House, and local jurisdiction levels. Analyses covered specific district characteristics, including population deviation, political subdivision splits, partisan performance, and incumbent effect analysis.
- **The Rehab Crew, Durham, NC (2017)** - Provided geospatial & demographic analysis as well as website development and the creation of a proprietary application for the use of targeting real estate investment properties.
- **Congressman G.K. Butterfield, NC (2016 & 2021)** - Developed several congressional district plan alternatives for the State of North Carolina. Provided analyses on alternative district configurations.
- **Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), Montgomery, AL (2015 - 2016)** - Developed state Senate and House redistricting plans for the state of Alabama in response to the *ADC v Alabama* court case. Also, a series of thematic maps depicting areas added from the previous plan to the enacted plan was provided, showing concentrations of African American voters added to the enacted plan.
- **Net Communications, Tallahassee, FL (2014 - 2015)** - Generated offline mapping and online web services (ArcGIS.com) of the client’s energy company’s resources and organizational assets. Mapping included the energy company’s demographic, socioeconomic, and other resources.
- **National NAACP Office of General Counsel, Baltimore, MD (2012 - 2013)** - Provided project management and developmental support for the creation of a final report for the NAACP National Redistricting Project. Provided planning, organizing, supplemental writing, and interfacing with graphics entity for the complete development of the final report.
- **Congressional Black Caucus Institute (CBC Institute), Washington, DC (2011 - 2012)** - Provided contract duties as the Project Director and Consulting Demographer for the CBC Institute’s Redistricting Project. Provided project management, redistricting plan development, review, analysis, advice, and answers to various questions pertaining to redistricting plans, principles, and processes. The focus included districts where Black voters could elect a candidate of their choice.
- **Mississippi NAACP, Jackson, MS (2011)** - Developed state Senate plans and analyzed enacted plans that the State Court developed.
- **African American Redistricting Collaborative (AARC) of California, Los Angeles, CA (2011)** - Provided demographic and redistricting contracted services. Responsible for developing

congressional, state Senate, and state assembly plans for the collaborative. Special focus was given to the southern Los Angeles area (SOLA) and the Bay Area region. In addition to plan development, several socioeconomic maps were developed to show various communities of interest commonalities.

Also, developed a demographic profile using maps and reports of California's congressional, state Senate, and state Assembly districts for the purpose of preparing for the redistricting plan development process by identifying areas of growth throughout the state. The profiles included data from the American Community Survey (ACS) 2005-2009 and the 2010 Census.

- **The Advancement Project, Washington, DC (2011)** - Provided redistricting plan development services and training. Included was the development of a base map for a new seven (7) district plan in New Orleans that was further developed by community groups in Louisiana. The second effort included training a staff person in the use of Maptitude for Redistricting and in various redistricting scenarios.
- **Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC), Baton Rouge, LA (2011)** - Provided redistricting plan development services. Responsibilities included supporting Caucus members' efforts to develop redistricting plans for the state House, state Senate, and Congress. Developed or analyzed over eighty different redistricting plans. The effort also included testifying before the Louisiana Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.
- **Community Policy Research & Training Institute (One Voice), Jackson, MS (2011)** - Developed the Mississippi State Senate plan, along with appropriate reports and a large-scale map.
- **National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), Washington, DC (2010)** - Provided services as the Project Director for a 2010 census outreach effort. Developed proposal and managed personnel to generate and execute a strategy to utilize Black state Senate and House legislators to place targeted posters in select hard-to-count (HTC) areas throughout the country.
- **Duke University's Center for REGSS & SCSJ, Durham, NC (2010 - 2011)** - Contracted to serve as one of two Project Coordinators to support an expert preparation workshop hosted by Duke University's REGSS and the SCSJ.

Project Coordinator duties included developing, managing, and providing hands-on training for the Political Cartographer's side of a week-long intensive "redistricting expert" preparation workshop. The workshop trained 18 political cartographers from across the country on all aspects of redistricting plan development and the principles underlying it. Also, two hands-on redistricting scenarios were created to train large audiences on the plan development process.

#### **Democracy South, Virginia Beach, VA (2004 - 2008)**

Senior Technical Consultant - Provided technical, GIS mapping, data analysis, and management support for several projects and civic engagement-related efforts. Significant project efforts included:

- Senior Technical Consultant for the National Unregistered Voter Map. Developed a web-based interactive map that allowed visitors to view state/county-level information pertaining to the number of unregistered voters (2009)
- Co-Director of the Hampton Roads Missing Voter Project (a nonpartisan nonprofit voter engagement effort to increase voter participation with a focus on underrepresented population groups). The effort covered the seven major independent cities in Hampton Roads. Responsibilities included co-managing the overall civic engagement effort and were solely responsible for integrating and processing Catalyst voter data into targeting maps and walk lists for all focus areas. Directly Responsible for overseeing the operations in Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth, and Suffolk, Virginia (2008)

- Senior Technical Consultant for Civic Engagement Efforts. Provided telephone technical voter database support to 17 USAction state partners in 2004; and 12 USAction state partners in 2006. Trained client on VBASE voter data software; Performed voter data conversion; and voter targeting assistance.

**Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Redistricting Project, Washington, DC (2001 - 2003)**

Consulting Demographer - Provided services that included the development, review, and analysis of over 75 congressional district plans. Responsible for all setup and configuration of hardware and GIS software, and performed all development and analyses of redistricting plans. Congressional district plans were developed for 22 states. Also, performed as a redistricting expert advisor in a consolidated U.S. District Court Voting Rights case in Alabama.

**National Voter Fund, Washington, DC (2000)**

GIS Consultant (in a consulting partnership of Hagens & Fairfax) - Developed hundreds of precinct targeting maps for a civic engagement effort designed to increase the turnout in the November 2000 election. Efforts included geocoding voter data, integrating census data, and precinct mapping.

**Norfolk State University, Poli. Science & Computer Science Dept., Norfolk, Virginia (1996 - 2001)**

Adjunct Faculty - Provided instruction to students for BASIC Programming, Introduction to Computer Science, and Computer Literacy courses.

**GeoTek. Inc. (formally GIS Associates), Virginia Beach, VA (1992 - 1995)**

Consultant and Co-owner - Provided geodemographic research and analysis; client technical & training support; hardware/software system installation; and redistricting manual/ brochure development. Major clients and tasks included:

- New York City Housing Authority - Redistricting Training
- Maryland State Office of Planning - Redistricting Tech Support
- City of Virginia Beach, VA Planning Dept. - Redistricting Training/Tech Support
- City of Norfolk, VA Registrar - Redistricting Training/Tech Support
- City of Chesapeake, VA Registrar - Precinct Realignment

**Norfolk State University, Political Science Dept., Norfolk, Virginia (1991 - 1999)**

GIS Consultant - Provided a variety of geographic and demographically related tasks. Major Redistricting-related tasks included:

- Installed and operated the LogiSYS ReapS software that was used to perform the bulk of redistricting plans. Performed the intricate ReapS processing of the U.S. Census Bureau Topographically Integrated Geographic Encoded Referencing (TIGER) line files, Public Law 94-171 (PL94-171) demographic data, and the STF socioeconomic data series.
- Developed over 200 redistricting plans, located in over 60 jurisdictions, in the states of Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. Developed plans from city/county to legislative to congressional district.
- Traveled to and trained several university faculty personnel on setting up and utilizing the ReapS redistricting system. Also, trained on redistricting plan development principles.

Major GIS-related tasks included:

- Performed a study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Transportation to analyze the ethnic differences in commuting behavior. This study extensively used the Summary Tape File 3A (STF3A) and the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) to identify, map, and report the frequency and average travel time to and from work for Miami, FL MSA; Kansas City, MO-KS MSA; and Detroit, MI MSA.
- Performed a study funded by the City of Norfolk, VA, and NSU School of Business that determined and analyzed the trade area of a section located in Norfolk, VA. Major duties included geocoding customer addresses, producing address-point maps, and developing demographic reports for the project.
- Performed a study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to revitalize a neighborhood located in Norfolk, VA. The purpose of the GIS component was to first establish a socioeconomic baseline, then track the progress of the revitalized area, as well as select surrounding areas. Geocoded address locations, generated points, and demographic thematic maps, and produced reports of the target areas.
- Provided demographic analysis of proposed newly incorporated areas in Florida for local Florida civic organizations.

**Cooperative Hampton Roads Org. for Minorities in Engineering, Norfolk, VA (1991 - 1992)**

Computer Consultant - Designed and developed a menu-driven student database, used to track hundreds of minority Junior High and High School students who were interested in pursuing science or engineering degrees.

**Norfolk State University, School of Education, Norfolk, VA (1990 - 1991)**

Technical Consultant/Computer Lab Manager- Provided a variety of support, including hardware and software installation, faculty workshops, course instruction, Network Administrator, and technical support.

**Engineering and Economics Research (EER) Systems (1989)**

Technical Consultant - Coordinated and participated in writing, editing, and formatting technical test documents; played a central role in the development of the Acceptance Test Procedures for the initial phase of a multi-million dollar Combat Maneuver Training Complex (CMTC) in Hohenfels, Germany; and was responsible for the final review and editing of all test documentation.

**Executive Training Center (ETC). Newport News, VA (1988 - 1989)**

Vice President & Co-founder - Managed over 11 part-time and full-time employees; assisted in developing and implementing company policies; performed the duties of the Network Administrator for a Novell-based computer training network; and taught several courses by substituting for instructors when necessary.

**Engineering & Economics Research (EER) Systems. Newport News, VA (1986 - 1987)**

Hardware Design Engineer and Electronics Engineer - Provided engineering and select project management support for the development of the following million/multi-million dollar project efforts:

- Baseline Cost Estimate (BCE) to be used in the procurement of the Combat Maneuver Training Complex - Instrumentation System (CMTC-IS)
- Operational and Maintenance (O&M) Support Plan at the National Training Center (NTC)
- Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan for the O&M Support Plan at the NTC; Configuration Management Plan for CMTC

- Requirements Operational Capabilities (ROC) Analysis for an instrumentation System at the U.S. Army Ranger School, Georgia
- ROC Analysis for an Instrumentation System at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas
- Suggested Statement of Work for the Digital Data Entry Device (DDED); and the Concept Formulation Package and Requirements Definition to Support Interface and Integration of Red Flag at the NTC
- Phase II of a multi-million dollar GIS-based concept test demonstration. Performing as Assistant Test Director (ATD) - liaison between the Government Director Army Ranges and Targets (DART) personnel and EER Systems' personnel; and assumed the role of Test Director when required (1987)
- Suggested Statement of Work (SOW) for a \$1 million procurement of Multivehicle Player Units (MVPU) at the NTC. Performed as Project Task Manager for a team of engineers, computer programmers, and technical support personnel in the development of a position location player unit for the Army (1986)

**Teledyne Hastings-Raydist, Hampton, VA (1982 - 1986)**

Hardware Design Engineer - Designed and developed custom flow and vacuum measuring products; Project Manager for the production and completion of a \$.25 million flow measuring system; Electrical Engineer - Chiefly responsible for developing special products for customers.

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**Major Litigation Clients & Testimony Related Efforts:**

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**Southern Coalition for Social Justice [SCSJ], Durham, NC (2023 - Present)**

Provided expert report and illustrative plan for *Berger v. North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP* vote dilution case. Included expert report and deposition. Also provided an expert report and an illustrative plan for *Finn v. Cobb County Board of Elections*, a racial gerrymandering school board redistricting court case in Cobb County, Georgia. Developed supporting maps and population tables reflecting shifts in racial population from the prior plan to the adopted plan.

**Davies & Rouco, LLP, Birmingham, AL (2023 – Present)**

Developed expert report, illustrative plans, and provided deposition and testimony for Jefferson County's *Addoh-Kondi et al v. Jefferson County Commission* racial gerrymander redistricting court case. Developed supporting maps and population tables reflecting shifts in racial population from the prior plan to the adopted plan.

**Wisconsin Department of Justice, Madison, WI (2023 – 2024)** – Provided expert report, analysis, and remedial plan for *Clarke v. Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC)* violation of the Wisconsin Constitution's contiguity requirement redistricting court case. The effort included Wisconsin's State Assembly and Senate District Plans.

**NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), New York, NY (2022 – Present)**

Developed illustrative and remedial plans, expert reports, and provided deposition and testimony for Louisiana's *Ardoin v. Robinson* congressional redistricting vote dilution court case.

**The ACLU, New York, NY (2022 – Present)**

Developed expert report, analysis, and illustrative plans, and provided deposition and testimony for the *Alabama NAACP v. Allen* vote dilution state senate redistricting court case in the state of Alabama.

**Election Law Clinic at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA (2022 - 2023)**

Developed a declaration for the *Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP v. City of Jacksonville* racial gerrymandering redistricting court case. The declaration centered on "Core Retention" analysis tables

presenting the demographic change in population of Duval County, FL, school board districts from the previously approved plan to the recently enacted plan. Also, the same case the prior year involved developing an expert report that contained a series of thematic and demographic maps and table analyses for Jacksonville, FL City Council districts, providing evidence of racial gerrymandering.

**ACLU of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA (2022 – 2023)**

Developed an illustrative redistricting plan and associated expert report for the *Inland Empire United et al v. Riverside County et al* redistricting court case. The Illustrative plan included a second additional majority Latino district as opposed to the county's plan of one.

**U.S. Department of Justice, Washington DC (2022 – 2023)**

Developed an illustrative redistricting plan and associated expert report for the *Petteway et al v Galveston County* redistricting court case. The Illustrative plan included the "Least Change" approach to bring the plan within acceptable deviation. The plan continued to contain a majority Black and Latino district as opposed to the state's plan. The plan, report, and deposition provided evidence of the first prong in *Gingles*.

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ), Durham, NC (2022 – Present).**

Developed an expert report that included opinions on the state's expert report in the *LULAC et al v. Abbott* Texas state legislative redistricting court case. The report responded to any conclusions by the State's expert regarding minority vote dilution, specifically concerning the Fair Maps proposed plans.

**NAACP LDF, New York, New York, NY (2022 - Present)**

Developed an illustrative redistricting plan and associated expert report for the *Robinson v. Ardoin* redistricting court case. The Illustrative plan included a second, majority-Black district, unlike the state's plan. The plan, report, and testimony provided evidence of the first prong of *Gingles*, proving dilution of Black voting strength in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). The effort included plan development, expert report, rebuttal report, and testimony.

**ACLU, New York, New York, NY (2021 – 2024)**

Developed an illustrative redistricting plan and associated expert report for the *Arkansas State Conference NAACP v. Arkansas Board of Apportionment* preliminary injunction case. The Illustrative plan included five additional majority-Black districts, as opposed to the Board of Apportionment plan. The plan, report, and testimony provided evidence of the first prong in *Gingles* in proving dilution of Black voting strength in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). The effort included plan development, expert report, rebuttal report, and testimony.

**Campaign Legal Center, Washington, DC (2018 – 2020)**

Developed multiple illustrative redistricting plans and associated expert reports for *Latasha Holloway v City of Virginia Beach* court case. The Illustrative Plans included two majority Hispanic, Black, and Asian combined (Coalition) districts to provide evidence of the first prong in *Gingles* in the section 2 court case. The effort included an additional rebuttal, supplemental report, deposition, and testimony.

**Virginia NAACP, Richmond, VA (2018)**

Developed a statewide remedial plan for *Bethune-Hill v. Virginia State Bd. of Elections*. The plan corrected 11 unconstitutional, racially gerrymandered state House districts in the Richmond, Peninsula, and Southside Hampton Roads areas.

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ), Durham, NC (2018)**

Developed a demonstrative remedial redistricting plan and associated expert report, as well as provided a deposition for *North Carolina State Conference of NAACP Branches v. Lewis Wake County Superior Court* case. The demonstrative remedial plan corrected the two Wake County, N.C. House Districts declared by a federal court to be racially gerrymandered districts (HD33 & HD38). The expert report not only discussed my results but also offered the Court insight into how a map drawer would reasonably go about fixing

racially gerrymandered districts while still complying with the state constitution's prohibition on mid-decade redistricting.

**Texas NAACP, San Antonio, TX, (2017)**

Provided expert report, deposition, and testimony for the *Perez v. Abbott* US Federal District Court Case. Analyses focused on specific redistricting criteria, including population deviation, compactness, political subdivision splits, and communities of interest for congressional and House plans. Additional analysis was performed on demographic projections for certain congressional and State House districts.

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ), Durham, NC (2015 - 2016)**

Provided expert testimony, deposition, and expert report for the *City of Greensboro v The Guilford County Board of Elections* U.S. District Court Case. Deposition and report included several district plans for the city council of Greensboro, NC, and analyzed specific characteristics, including population deviation, political subdivision splits, partisan performance, and incumbent effect analysis.

Provided expert testimony and report for the *Covington v. North Carolina* federal redistricting court case. The testimony included an analysis from *Dickson v Rucho* (also *NAACP v North Carolina*) of compactness on state legislative House and Senate districts.

Provided expert testimony and report for the *Wright v. North Carolina* federal redistricting court case. The testimony and report included an analysis of population deviation, compactness, partisan impact, and incumbent residences for county commission and school board plans.

**Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), Montgomery, AL (2015 - 2016)**

Developed Senate and House redistricting plans for the state of Alabama for the *ADC v. Alabama* court case. Provided deposition on the creation of the plan. Also, a series of thematic maps was generated, depicting areas added from the previous benchmark plan to the enacted plan and showing concentrations of African American voters added to the enacted plan.

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ), Durham, NC (2014)**

Provided expert testimony, report, and deposition for the federal redistricting court case, *Perez v. Perry* of Texas. The report included an analysis of population extrapolations and projections for several submitted plans for select congressional and House districts.

**North Carolina NAACP, Raleigh, NC (2012)**

Provided expert opinions and analysis in an affidavit for the *NC NAACP v. State of North Carolina* federal redistricting case (later *Dickson v Rucho*). The affidavit included an examination of compactness measurements for the Congressional, State Senate, and State House "Benchmark" plans, several approved plans, and several legislative-submitted plans. The report also contained county splits for the target districts.

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ), Durham, NC (2011)**

Provided expert opinions and analysis in an affidavit for the *Moore v. State of Tennessee* redistricting case. The affidavit included an analysis of county splits comparing State Senate "Benchmark" plans, the approved plan, and several legislative submitted plans.

**Texas NAACP, San Antonio, TX (2011)**

Provided expert report, deposition, and testimony for the federal redistricting court case *Perez v. Perry*. Testimony covered the evaluation of traditional redistricting criteria of the Congressional and House-approved plans compared to several proposed or legislative submitted plans.

**Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, Baton Rouge, LA (2011)**

Provided expert testimony in front of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee. Testimony included the analysis of two redistricting plans comparing ideal population deviation, political subdivision splits (Parishes), and compactness ratios. Also, developed a redistricting plan and testified in front of the House Governmental Affairs Committee in support of a new majority-minority (African American) congressional district in Louisiana.

**Morrison & Foerster LLP, Los Angeles, CA (2004)**

Provided expert report on several state Senate plans for the *Metts v. Murphy* Rhode Island court case. The report contained analyses of communities of interest areas that were not included in the state's enacted plan for the only majority-minority district.

**Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Redistricting Project, Washington, DC (2002)**

Performed as the redistricting mapping expert for Congressman Hilliard in a consolidated U.S. District redistricting court case in Alabama (*Montiel v. Davis* and *Barnett v. Alabama*). Developed the submitted plan and provided advice to legal counsel for the court case.

**Council of Black Elected Democrats (COBED) New York State, New York, NY (2002)**

Performed as one of the redistricting experts (*Allen v Pataki/Rodriguez v Pataki*) by developing several New York State congressional district plans that COBED presented.

**Miami-Dade, Florida (1993)**

Provided expert technical redistricting support as one-half of the Expert Master's Team for the remedial Plan (*Meek v. Metropolitan Dade County*). Developed over 50 commissioner district plans for the county as well as the final adopted Plan for the metro Dade County.

**NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDEF), New York, NY (1993)**

Provided expert technical support for the *Shaw v. Reno* Supreme Court case (via Norfolk State University). Analyzed and compared various compactness ratios for congressional districts throughout the U.S. The results were compared to the 12<sup>th</sup> congressional district of North Carolina. Also, developed several alternative congressional district plans.

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**Major GIS/Demographic/Redistricting Training and Presentations:**

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**Southern Echo (2021)**

Presented multiple training sessions (11 planned) on various aspects of redistricting. Included both presentations and, ultimately, hands-on (Dave's Redistricting)

**Crowd Academy (2020 – 2021)**

Presented multiple Training sessions (>25) that center on "How the lines are Drawn," which focuses on the plan development activities of redistricting.

**Crescent City Media Group (2021)**

Presented ten three-hour-long training sessions on various aspects of redistricting. Included both presentations and hands-on (Maptitude for Redistricting)

**NAACP LDF/MALDEF Expert Convening (2021)**

Provided multiple sessions to potential future experts on expert report development, giving depositions, and providing testimony.

**SIF Voting Rights Convening (2021)**

Presented on a panel, the unique aspects and issues pertaining to the 2020 round of redistricting.

**SIF Voting Rights Convening (2020)**

Presented on a panel where various preparatory aspects and questions that should be addressed prior to the development of plans.

**Delta Days in the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC (2020)**

Provided a panel presentation on suggested efforts in preparation for the next round of redistricting. Plenary presentation to several hundred Delta Sigma Theta (DST) sorority sisters throughout the country.

**William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA (2019)**

Presented a lecture to the GIS and Districting course students, centering on improving as well as potential adverse trade-offs from improvements of the adopted redistricting plan chosen by the special masters of the *Bethune-Hill v. Virginia State Bd. of Elections* redistricting case.

**Southern Echo, Jackson, Mississippi (2019)**

Provided detailed training/presentation (3 hours) on various aspects of redistricting. Topics included: Relevant redistricting court cases, traditional redistricting criteria, and redistricting data.

**William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA (2018)**

Presented a lecture to the GIS and Districting course students, centering on aspects of the *Bethune-Hill v. Virginia State Bd. of Elections* redistricting case. The discussion focused on how to develop a plan to correct the 11 unconstitutional, racially gerrymandered House districts in those states.

**Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Washington, DC (2016)**

Presented at the annual legislative conference in Tunica, MS. Presented the election demographic analysis for the 2016 presidential and Senate elections. The panel also included Congressman Cedrick Richmond (L.A.), Congressman Sanford Bishop (G.A.), and Professor Spencer Overton.

**Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), Chicago, IL (2015)**

Presented at the annual CBTU conference on the election panel that included Congressman Al Green (TX) and Congressman Bobby Rush (I.L.).

**Nobel Women's Initiative, Washington, DC (2015)**

Presented on a panel at the annual conference in San Diego, CA, on the upcoming 2020 census.

**Tennessee NAACP, Nashville, TN (2011)**

Provided redistricting training session on the mapping and demographic aspects of Redistricting.

**Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Washington, DC (2002 - 2012, 2014)**

Presented "The Demographics of Campaigns" twelve times at the institute's annual political campaign "Boot Camp." The presentation covers how to locate and utilize demographic data for political campaigns.

**Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), Washington, DC (2011)**

Presented as one of the panelists at the "Judge A. Leon Higginbotham" Braintrust at the CBC Annual Legislative Conference. The panel was moderated by Congressman Mel Watt.

**The Advancement Project, Washington, DC (2011)**

Trained staff GIS person on Maptitude for Redistricting as well as on redistricting scenarios.

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Baltimore, MD (2011)**

Provided training session on "Redistricting Mapping Overview" at the organization's national redistricting training seminar for state and local chapters.

## **Major GIS/Demographic/Redistricting Training and Presentations (cont.):**

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### **Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Washington, DC (2010)**

Presented at the annual CBC Institute conference in Tunica, MS (The panel included Congressman John Lewis and Congressman Jim Clyburn). Outlined two critical issues that would surface in the 2010 round of redistricting: 1) Prison-based Gerrymander, and 2) The use of Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP).

### **Community Census and Redistricting Institute (CCRI), Durham, NC (2010)**

Developed, managed, and provided hands-on training for the Political Cartographer's side of a week-long intensive "redistricting expert" preparation workshop. The workshop trained 18 political cartographers on all aspects of plan development.

### **North Carolina University's Center for Civil Rights, Chapel Hill, NC (2010)**

Provided a presentation on "Redistricting Laws & GIS" at the *Unfinished Work* conference. The presentation outlined the evolution of major redistricting laws and GIS and their impact on minority representation.

### **NAACP Legal Defense Fund AIRLIE Conference, AIRLIE, VA (2010)**

Provided training using hands-on "paper" redistricting scenarios to voting rights advocates on developing a plan without the use of computers.

### **Young Elected Officials, Los Angeles, CA (2010)**

Provided training using hands-on "paper" redistricting scenarios to young legislators on developing a plan without the use of computers.

### **Young Elected Officials, Alexandria, VA (2010)**

Provided overview training on the significant aspects of redistricting to young legislators.

### **North Carolina University's Center for Civil Rights, Chapel Hill, NC (2006)**

Provided a presentation on "Congressional Elections Won by African Americans Race & Ethnicity District Perspective (1960 - 2004)" at the *Who Draws the Lines? The Consequences of Redistricting Reform for Minority Voters* conference.

### **Howard University - Continuing Education - HBCU GIS Workshop, Washington, DC (2002)**

Provided a presentation on redistricting and the use of Maptitude for Redistricting to faculty members of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

### **Norfolk State University Redistricting Project Training Workshops (1991 - 1998)**

Provided redistricting training to the following:

- Alabama State University, Montgomery, Alabama
- Albany State University, Albany, Georgia
- Florida A & M, Tallahassee, Florida
- National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Atlanta, Georgia Conference
- Norfolk State University, Norfolk, Virginia
- North Carolina A & T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina
- North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina
- Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts

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### Major GIS/Redistricting/Voter Data Software Experience:

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- ArcGIS - GIS Software - Primary GIS Software after 2012 ([ESRI](#))
- ArcGIS Online – Including Story Maps & Web Application Builder ([ArcGIS.com](#))
- GRASS GIS – Open-Source GIS ([OSGeo](#))
- Maptitude for Redistricting - Primary Redistricting software, since 2001 ([Caliper](#))
- ESRI Redistricting Online - Beta Tester ([ESRI](#))
- Public Mapping Project – Initial Advisory Board Member ([an open-source online software](#))
- ReapS Redistricting and Reapportionment System - Redistricting software, 1990s ([LogiSYS](#))
- Voter Activation Network System [NPGVAN](#)
- Voterlistonline.com Aristotle software [Aristotle](#)

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### GIS Skillset/Coding Languages:

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- |                       |                        |              |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| • Geocoding Data      | • Suitability Analysis | • Python     |
| • Linear Referencing  | • Image Classification | • PostgreSQL |
| • Digital Cardinality | • ArcGIS Web Services  |              |
| • Spatial Statistics  | • pdAdmin              |              |

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### ESRI Training Certificates:

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- Learning ArcGIS Desktop (for ArcGIS 10) - 24 hrs. training
- Turning Data into Information Using ArcGIS 10 - 18 hrs. training
- Basics of Raster Data (for ArcGIS 10) - 3 hrs.. training
- Using Raster Data for Site Selection (for ArcGIS 10) - 3 hrs. training
- Working with Geodatabase Domains and Subtypes in ArcGIS - 3 hrs. training
- Network Analysis Using ArcGIS - 3 hrs. training.

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### Publications:

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#### Books

- *An Introduction to the Presidential Trend*, Statistical Press, March 2015
- *The Presidential Trend*, Statistical Press, December 2013
- *A Step-by-Step Guide to Using Census 2000 Data*, MediaChannel LLC, March 2004. Also included was a companion CD-ROM (sold through various Census-related workshops and training sessions and used in a political science course).

#### Manuals

- *A Beginner's Guide to Using Census 2000 Data*, November 2002 (Co-authored- developed for the U.S. Census Bureau's Census Information Centers)

#### Articles

- "Precision Voter Targeting: GIS Maps Out a Strategy," Geo Info Systems, November 1996 (Co-authored one of the first articles published on using modern-day GIS for voter targeting).

# Exhibit 443

# QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDE

PROP  
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AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS IN RESPONSE TO TEXAS' PARTISAN REDISTRICTING. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

SUMMARY

*Put on the Ballot by the Legislature*

Requires temporary use of new congressional district maps through 2030. Directs independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to resume enacting congressional district maps in 2031. Establishes policy supporting nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide. **Fiscal Impact:** One-time costs to counties of up to a few million dollars statewide to update election materials to reflect new congressional district maps.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES

A YES vote on this measure means:  
The state would use new, legislatively drawn congressional district maps starting in 2026. California's new maps would be used until the California Citizens Redistricting Commission draws new maps following the 2030 U.S. Census.

NO

A NO vote on this measure means:  
Current congressional district maps drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) would continue to be used in California until the Commission draws new maps following the 2030 U.S. Census.

ARGUMENTS

PRO

Proposition 50—The Election Rigging Response Act—approves temporary, emergency congressional district maps to counter Donald Trump's scheme to rig next year's congressional election and reaffirms California's commitment to independent, nonpartisan redistricting after the next census. Vote Yes on 50 for democracy in all 50 states. Learn more at [StopElectionRigging.com](https://StopElectionRigging.com).

CON

Prop. 50 was written by politicians, for politicians—dismantling safeguards that keep elections fair, removes requirements to keep local communities together, and eliminates voter protections that ban maps designed to favor political parties. Vote NO to protect fair elections and keep citizens—not politicians—in charge of redistricting.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FOR

Governor Gavin Newsom  
Yes on 50, The Election Rigging Response Act,  
Governor Newsom's Ballot Measure Committee  
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[info@stopelectionrigging.com](mailto:info@stopelectionrigging.com)  
[StopElectionRigging.com](https://StopElectionRigging.com)

AGAINST

No on Prop. 50—Protect Voters First, Sponsored by Hold Politicians Accountable  
2350 Kerner Blvd., Suite 250  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
(916) 446-6572  
[info@votersfirstact.org](mailto:info@votersfirstact.org)  
[VotersFirstAct.org](https://VotersFirstAct.org)

## Election Day Information

Polling locations are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. If you are in line before 8:00 p.m., you can still vote.

## Find Your Polling Place or a Vote Center

Polling places and vote centers are established by county elections officials. Look for your polling place address or vote center locations in the county Voter Information Guide that you receive in the mail a few weeks before Election Day.

You may also visit the Secretary of State's website at [vote.ca.gov](https://vote.ca.gov) or call our toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

A graphic featuring a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. Below the flag, the text "STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font.

Election results for the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election are available after the polls close at 8:00 p.m. on the California Secretary of State's Election Results website at [electionresults.sos.ca.gov](https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov).

Results will begin to be posted at 8:00 p.m. and will be updated throughout Election Night. In the days afterwards, the results will be updated at 5:00 p.m. each day throughout the canvass as counties count the remaining ballots.

The official certified results of the election will be posted by December 12, 2025, at [sos.ca.gov/elections](https://sos.ca.gov/elections).

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EXHIBIT 443.001

# More Days, More Ways to Vote

with the California Voter's Choice Act



## Vote in person up to 10 days prior to Election Day

- Alameda
- Amador
- Butte
- Calaveras
- El Dorado
- Fresno
- Humboldt
- Kings
- Los Angeles
- Madera
- Marin
- Mariposa
- Merced
- Napa
- Nevada
- Orange
- Placer
- Riverside
- Sacramento
- San Benito
- San Diego
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz
- Sonoma
- Stanislaus
- Tuolumne
- Ventura
- Yolo

**In California, every active registered voter will automatically receive a ballot in the mail before every election.** Check your voter registration status to ensure you receive your ballot.

### Use a drop box:

Return your ballot to a secure drop off location in any county **up to 28 days before the election**

### Vote center:

- Vote in person anywhere in the county **up to 10 days before the election**
- Register to vote and vote same day
- Drop off your ballot

### Vote by mail:

Return your ballot by mail **as soon as you receive it**

Visit [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov) or call (800) 345-VOTE (8683) to learn more.



Want to skip the line and vote early?  
Scan the QR Code to learn more!



## Don't Delay, Vote Today!

All California voters will be sent a vote-by-mail ballot with a prepaid postage return envelope for the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election. County elections officials will begin sending vote-by-mail ballots no later than October 6, 2025.

The vote-by-mail ballot voting period begins as soon as ballots are in the mail. Make your voice heard early! Return your vote-by-mail ballot during the voting period of October 6 through the close of polls on November 4.

### Voting by Mail is EASY.

Democracy is counting on you! Follow these five easy steps to exercise your right to vote:

- ☒ **Complete it.**  
Mark your choices on your vote-by-mail ballot.
- ☒ **Seal it.**  
Secure your ballot inside the vote-by-mail ballot return envelope you received from your county elections office.
- ☒ **Sign it.**  
Sign the outside of your vote-by-mail ballot return envelope.  
Make sure your signature matches the one on your CA driver's license/state ID, or the one you provided when registering to vote. Your county elections office will compare them before they count your ballot.
- ☒ **Track it.**  
Sign up at [wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](https://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov) to receive updates on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot by text message (SMS), email, or voice call.
- ☒ **Return it.**  
By drop box—Drop off your completed vote-by-mail ballot at a secure official drop box in your county at any time between October 7 through the close of polls on November 4.  
In person—Drop your completed vote-by-mail ballot off at a secure drop box, polling place, vote center, or county elections office by 8:00 p.m. on November 4. Voting locations will be available in all counties before Election Day. Voting locations offer voter registration, replacement ballots, accessible voting machines, and language assistance.  
By mail—Return your ballot by mail as soon as you receive it. Make sure your vote-by-mail ballot return envelope is postmarked no later than November 4.



All voters can get critical updates on their ballots through California's official "Where's My Ballot?" tracking tool. **Signing up takes less than three minutes!**

#### What you'll be able to track:



You can select to receive notifications on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot by text (SMS), email, or voice call, including alerts if there are any issues with your ballot and instructions for how to correct them to make sure your vote is counted.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to track your ballot every step of the way!

You can also copy this URL into your browser: [wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](https://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov)



PROPOSITION 50 AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS IN RESPONSE TO TEXAS’ PARTISAN REDISTRICTING. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY PREPARED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The text of this measure can be found on page 18 and the Secretary of State’s website at [voterguide.sos.ca.gov](http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov).

- In response to Texas’ mid-decade partisan congressional redistricting, this measure temporarily requires new congressional district maps, as passed by the Legislature in August 2025, to be used in California’s congressional elections through 2030.
- Retains California’s independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and directs the Commission to resume enacting congressional district maps in 2031 after the 2030 census and every ten years thereafter.
- Establishes state policy supporting use of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST’S ESTIMATE OF NET STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL IMPACT:

- One-time costs to counties of up to a few million dollars statewide. County costs would be to update election materials to reflect new congressional district maps.

FINAL VOTES CAST BY THE LEGISLATURE ON ACA 8 (PROPOSITION 50)  
(RESOLUTION CHAPTER 156, STATUTES OF 2025)

Senate:	Ayes 30	Noes 8
Assembly:	Ayes 57	Noes 20

ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

BACKGROUND

U.S. CONGRESS

**U.S. Congress.** The U.S. Congress is the part of the federal government that makes laws. Congress has two parts: the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives (House). Each of the 50 states is represented by 2 senators, with 100 senators in total. The House has 435 members. The number of representatives in the House for each state depends on how many people live in that state. Each member in the House represents an area of the state called a congressional district. California currently has 52 congressional districts. Voters who live in each congressional district elect one member of the House every two years to represent them. The next election for all 435 representatives will be in 2026.

**U.S. Census Counts States’ Populations Every Ten Years.** The number of people living in an area goes up and down over time. Every ten years, the U.S. Census counts the number of people who live in the U.S. The last census was in 2020, and the next census is in 2030. This count is used to determine how many people live in each state and how many

representatives in the House each state gets for the next ten years.

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

**Each State Draws Congressional District Maps Following the U.S. Census.** Every ten years, after the U.S. Census is completed, states draw new congressional district maps to reflect their number of House representatives and where people live. This process is called “redistricting.” Each state decides what process to use to draw its new district maps. When drawing new maps, each state must follow federal laws. For example, each congressional district in the state must represent about the same number of people.

**States Typically Do Not Redistrict Sooner Than Every Ten Years.** States typically only draw congressional district maps every ten years, unless a court orders changes to comply with the law. In August 2025, however, the Texas Legislature passed a bill to adopt new maps for the 2026 elections without a court order. Several other states also are considering changes to their maps before the 2026 elections.

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## ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

CONTINUED

**Congressional Redistricting in California.** State legislatures draw congressional district maps in most states, but some states use commissions to do this job. Before 2010, the California Legislature drew the state's congressional district maps. In 2010, California voters gave this job to an independent commission known as the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission). The Commission includes 14 members: 5 Democratic members, 5 Republican members, and 4 members who are not registered with either of those political parties. When the Commission draws new congressional district maps, it must follow federal and state laws. For example, state law requires, among other things, the Commission to avoid splitting up neighborhoods or local communities of interest to the extent possible. State law also prohibits the Commission from considering political parties, current office holders, or people running for office when it draws the maps.

**Current California Congressional Districts.** The Commission drew the current maps for California's 52 congressional districts. These maps were based on the 2020 U.S. Census and have been used since the 2022 congressional elections.

## PROPOSAL

### CALIFORNIA'S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS

**Use Legislatively Drawn Congressional District Maps Until After the Next Census.** Proposition 50 replaces California's current congressional district maps with new, legislatively drawn maps. (The total number of districts would not change.) Proposition 50's maps must follow federal law, but they are not required to follow the state requirements placed on the Commission. The state would use Proposition 50's maps for congressional elections starting in 2026. The state would use these maps until the Commission draws new district maps, following the 2030 U.S. Census.

### NATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

**Call for Change in Federal Law.** Proposition 50 asks the U.S. Congress to change federal law and propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to

require redistricting be done by "fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide." Proposition 50 expresses voter support for this idea, but does not change federal law or require any particular action of Congress or the California Legislature.

## FISCAL EFFECTS

**Minor One-Time Costs to County and State Elections Officials.** Counties run elections, and the state oversees them. Because most congressional districts in California would change at least some under the new maps, county and state elections officials would need to update election materials. This would result in one-time costs to counties of **up to a few million dollars** statewide and one-time costs to the state of **roughly \$200,000**. The state amount is much less than one-tenth of 1 percent (0.1 percent) of the state's roughly \$220 billion General Fund budget. (The General Fund is the account the state uses to pay for most public services, including education, health care, and prisons.)

## CURRENT AND PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS

This section shows maps of the current and proposed congressional districts (1) statewide, as shown in Figures 1 and 2; (2) in the northern part of the state, as shown in Figures 3 and 4; and (3) in the southern part of the state, as shown in Figures 5 and 6. A description of the census blocks represented by each district in the proposed maps can be found at the following website: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB604](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB604)

Visit [sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-access-resources/measure-contributions/2025-ballot-measure-contribution-totals](https://sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-access-resources/measure-contributions/2025-ballot-measure-contribution-totals) for a list of committees primarily formed to support or oppose this measure.

Visit [fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html](https://fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html) to access the committee's top 10 contributors.

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ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

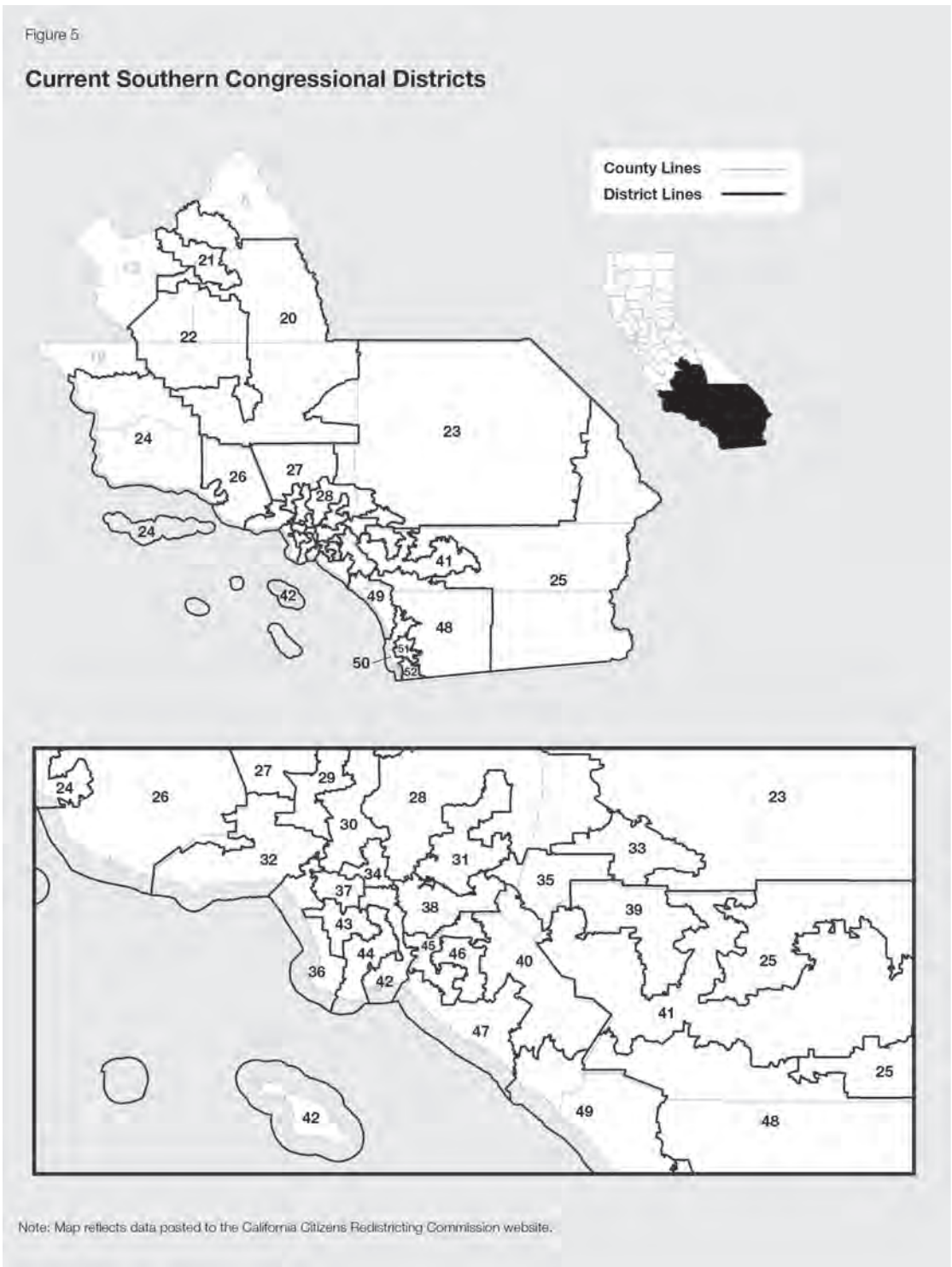
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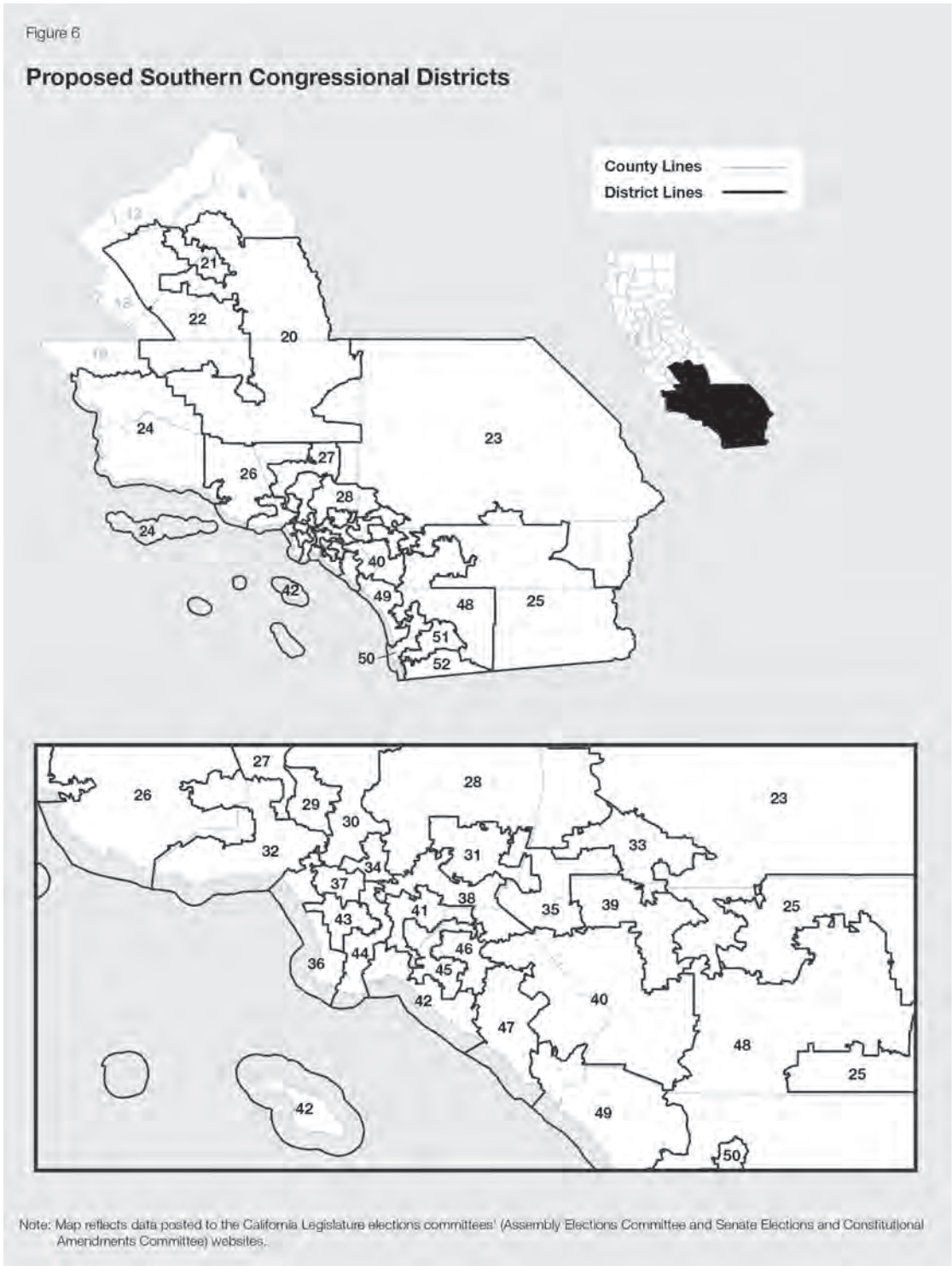
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★ ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 50 ★

**STOP TRUMP FROM RIGGING THE 2026 ELECTION**

Donald Trump and Texas Republicans are making an unprecedented power grab to steal congressional seats and rig the 2026 election before voting even begins.

Other Republican states are following suit. They want to steal enough seats to control Congress even if voters overwhelmingly reject their agenda.

This isn't politics as usual. It's an emergency for our democracy.

**ENSURE FAIR REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS**

We have already seen how Trump has recklessly imposed tariffs and hurt California families, denied disaster assistance to fire victims, and ordered mass arrests without warrants. The 2026 election for Congress represents our only chance to provide an essential check and balance on Trump's dangerous agenda.

If Californians don't act now, Donald Trump will seize total power for two more years. Proposition 50, the Election Rigging Response Act, will put a stop to their anti-democratic scheme. Here's what it does.

- **LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD.** Prop. 50 makes sure the 2026 mid-term elections are conducted on a level playing field without an unfair advantage for Republicans.
- **COMMITTS TO FAIR REDISTRICTING.** Prop. 50 reaffirms California's commitment to independent redistricting and calls for a nationwide commitment to fair and impartial maps.
- **GIVES VOTERS THE POWER.** Prop. 50 puts the power in the hands of the People of California, not backroom politicians, to approve emergency congressional district maps in response to Trump's election rigging scheme.
- **IS FAIR AND PROPORTIONAL.** Prop. 50 provides emergency maps only because Republicans moved forward with their power grab.
- **IS TEMPORARY.** These maps expire in 2030. Prop. 50 preserves California's award-winning redistricting reforms and

reaffirms the California Citizens Redistricting Commission's authority to draw congressional districts after the next census. The stakes couldn't be higher. If Republicans rig the election and steal control of Congress next year, they'll continue to eliminate healthcare for millions of Americans, slash funding for schools, and cut essential services for veterans to pay for tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations.

**PROTECT DEMOCRACY IN ALL 50 STATES**

California has a duty to defend democracy. To do that, we can't unilaterally disarm or fight with both hands tied behind our backs. When Trump tries to rig elections, we must fight back with every tool available.

Prop. 50 draws fair maps that represent California's diverse communities and ensure our voices aren't silenced by partisan gerrymandering in other states.

California leads the nation in protecting voting rights and fair elections. When other states try to silence our voices and rig the system, we must respond decisively.

Join President Barack Obama, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Adam Schiff, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, election experts, independent redistricting commissioners, Planned Parenthood, the NAACP, California veterans, teachers, and nurses.

Vote YES on Prop. 50 to stop Trump's election rigging scheme.

Vote YES for checks and balances.

Vote YES to protect democracy in all 50 states.

**Governor Gavin Newsom**

**U.S. Senator Alex Padilla**

**U.S. Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi**

★ REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 50 ★

**THE WRONG PATH—NO ON PROP. 50**

We know American democracy is on fire, but accelerating gerrymandering only adds fuel! Politicians are seizing this crisis to justify a power grab.

**PROP. 50 DOES NOT DEFEND OUR DEMOCRACY**

Prop. 50 is not a magic pill to cure the nation's ills. It claims to protect democracy, yet diminishes our communities' voices and is ineffective against any overreach of presidential power. Vote NO.

California gerrymandering allowed the Legislature to draw partisan seats without transparency or citizen input, solely to protect incumbents. By 2001, the government was gridlocked, with legislators held hostage to the extremes of their parties. Voters rose up and handed line-drawing over to citizens, resulting in:

- **Competitive Districts:** Previously safe seats now must be earned.
- **Better Representation:** Women in the Legislature doubled, Asian representation tripled, Black representation nearly doubled, and Latino seats grew by 8%.

- **Government for the People:** With more moderate representatives, the Legislature passed bipartisan legislation, working for the interests of all Californians.

**WE THE PEOPLE**

Districts do not belong to either party; they belong to the People. But, party bosses want to call the shots—again. NO to a “pay-to-play” system.

Prop. 50 says this is “temporary,” yet the Legislature will bypass the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission again in 2028, 2030—and perhaps beyond. Don't be fooled.

Legislators drew this map behind closed doors for you to rubber-stamp. It is not your choice.

*Vote NO on partisan gerrymandering. Vote NO on Prop. 50.*

**Cynthia Dai**, Rotating Chair

First Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Jeanne Raya**, Rotating Chair

First Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Jodie Filkins Webber**, Rotating Chair

First Citizens Redistricting Commission

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★ ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 50 ★

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**PROPOSITION 50: A POWER GRAB BY POLITICIANS**

Prop. 50 was written by politicians, for politicians. Prop. 50 dismantles constitutional safeguards that keep election maps fair. It removes requirements to keep cities, counties, and local communities together, and eliminates voter protections that ban maps designed to favor incumbents or political parties—putting politicians back in charge of drawing their own districts, or those of their friends.

A “NO” vote protects fair elections and keeps the people of California—not politicians—in charge of redistricting.

**NO ON PROP. 50: IT REPEALS LANDMARK VOTER-APPROVED ELECTION REFORMS**

For decades, Sacramento politicians drew their own district boundaries behind closed doors with no public oversight—guaranteeing their reelection, denying voters a real choice, and shutting out many women and people of color from elected office.

In 2008, California voters approved historic election reform—creating the independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission. Voters decided district lines should be drawn by a balanced panel of everyday citizens—not by politicians who stood to benefit.

Prop. 50 throws out citizen-drawn congressional maps created through a transparent public process with input from over 35,000 Californians. Instead, politicians secretly drew maps—leaving voters with NO real say.

**NO ON PROP. 50: ANOTHER SCHEME TO PERMANENTLY END INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING**

In 2008 and 2010, the Democratic Party and special interests spent millions of dollars to stop citizen redistricting. Later, the California Republican Party even sued to overturn citizen-drawn maps—and lost. Now, Sacramento politicians are scheming to regain control with Prop. 50.

Make no mistake: Prop. 50 is not temporary. For over half a decade, politicians get to impose their gerrymandered maps. Worse, it sets a dangerous precedent—opening the door for

Sacramento to keep drawing election maps beyond 2031—giving politicians permanent power to shield themselves and their allies from accountability for California’s high cost of living, skyrocketing housing costs, and rising energy bills.

**NO ON PROP. 50: DON’T BE MISLED BY POLITICAL SPIN**

The same politicians who opposed independent redistricting from the start now claim Prop. 50 will “save democracy.” In truth, Prop. 50 weakens fair representation by shutting the public out and bringing gerrymandering back to California.

Prop. 50 is not democratic; it gives voters a take-it-or-leave-it decision on the most partisan maps in California’s history—a product of politicians’ secretive backroom deals with ZERO meaningful public engagement.

Prop. 50 divides communities to benefit politicians, splitting counties 114 times and cities 141 times—far more than the citizen-drawn maps.

*“When politicians gerrymander, they divide our neighborhoods and weaken the voice of communities of color. Whatever happens in Texas, we cannot save democracy by destroying it in California. Vote NO on Prop. 50.”—Reverend Mac Shorty, Civil Rights Leader*

**NO ON PROP. 50: A MASSIVE WASTE OF TAXPAYER MONEY**

The Legislature has called a special election just to pass this politician-protecting constitutional change—costing taxpayers \$200,000,000.

With a massive budget deficit, Sacramento politicians are making painful cuts to health care, housing, education, and public safety. Instead of protecting important programs, they’re spending it on a political power grab.

Vote NO on Prop. 50.

[VotersFIRSTAct.org](http://VotersFIRSTAct.org)

**Roberto Moncada**, Board Member  
United Latinos Action

**Faith Bautista Tamashiro**, President  
National Diversity Coalition

**Taylor Shorty**, Board Member  
Community RePower Movement

★ REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 50 ★

**WARNING: NO ON 50 IS BACKED BY TRUMP EXTREMISTS**

Who’s spending millions against Prop. 50?

An anti-choice mega-millionaire named Charles Munger Jr. who wants to help Donald Trump and Red State Republicans rig the 2026 elections and hand Trump unchecked power for two more years.

Independent redistricting commissioners, election experts, and leading civil rights organizations—from the NAACP to the National Democratic Redistricting Committee—urge you to reject the lies spread by NO on 50’s phony front groups.

**Lie #1: “Prop. 50 repeals landmark voter-approved election reforms.”** This is plainly false. Prop. 50 calls on all states to end partisan gerrymandering and reaffirms the power of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw the lines after the next census.

**Lie #2: “Prop. 50 removes requirements to keep cities, counties, and local communities together.”** Prop. 50 does the opposite, keeping MORE cities and counties combined, and communities together than California’s existing maps.

**Lie #3: “Prop. 50 puts politicians back in charge of drawing their own districts.”** Untrue. Prop. 50 puts power to approve emergency maps in the hands of voters, not politicians.

**Lie #4: “Prop. 50 permanently ends independent redistricting.”** Also untrue. Prop. 50 is a temporary and proportional response to Trump’s election-rigging scheme and expires in 2030.

Californians cannot allow Donald Trump and Texas Republicans to rig the 2026 election and silence our voices.

Vote YES on Prop. 50.

Protect democracy, preserve nonpartisan redistricting and ensure a fair election in all 50 states.

**Sara Sadhwani**, Commissioner  
2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Jodi Hicks**, President  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

**Nikki Davis Milevsky**, President  
Sacramento City Teachers Association

TEXT OF PROPOSED LAW

50

## PROPOSITION 50

This amendment proposed by Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 of the 2025–2026 Regular Session (Resolution Chapter 156, Statutes of 2025) expressly amends the California Constitution by adding a section thereto; therefore, new provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic type* to indicate that they are new.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XXI

First—This measure shall be known, and may be cited, as the “Election Rigging Response Act.”

Second—The people of the State of California find and declare all of the following:

(a) President Donald Trump has called on Republican-led states to undertake an unprecedented mid-decade redistricting of congressional seats to rig the 2026 United States midterm elections before voting begins.

(b) The State of Texas has convened a special session of its Legislature to redraw congressional district maps to unfairly advantage Republicans.

(c) The Legislature of the State of Florida has established a select committee to advance an extraordinary mid-decade redistricting to unfairly advantage Republicans.

(d) Republicans have urged the State of Ohio to conduct its mid-decade redistricting to unfairly produce more Republican seats in Congress.

(e) Republican officials in the States of Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Nebraska, and South Carolina are also considering President Trump’s call for the mid-decade redistricting of congressional seats to unfairly advantage Republicans.

(f) President Trump and Republicans are attempting to gain enough seats through redistricting to rig the outcome of the 2026 United States midterm elections regardless of how the people vote.

(g) President Trump’s election-rigging scheme is an emergency for our democracy.

(h) The 2026 United States midterm elections are voters’ only chance to provide an essential check and balance against President Trump’s dangerous agenda.

(i) California has long stood as a national leader for fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting.

(j) California calls on all other states to commit to fair and impartial drawing of maps.

(k) California has a duty to defend democracy.

(l) The 2026 United States midterm elections for Congress must be conducted on a level playing field without an extreme and unfair advantage for Republicans.

(m) The people of California, not politicians, should have the power to approve temporary congressional district maps in response to President Trump’s election-rigging scheme.

(n) It is the intent of the people that California’s temporary maps be designed to neutralize the partisan gerrymandering being threatened by Republican-led states without eroding fair representation for all communities.

Third—That Section 4 is added to Article XXI thereof, to read:

*SEC. 4. (a) It is the policy of the State of California to support the use of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide. The people of the State of California call on the Congress of the United States to pass federal legislation and propose an amendment of the United States Constitution to require the use of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide.*

*(b) In response to the congressional redistricting in Texas in 2025, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or existing law, the single-member districts for Congress reflected in Assembly Bill 604 of the 2025–26 Regular Session pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 21400) of Division 21 of the Elections Code shall temporarily be used for every congressional election for a term of office commencing on or after the date this subdivision becomes operative and before the certification of new congressional boundary lines drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission pursuant to subdivision (d).*

*(c) (1) The Attorney General has the sole legal standing to defend any action regarding a congressional district map adopted pursuant to subdivision (b).*

*(2) The California Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in all proceedings in which a congressional district map adopted pursuant to subdivision (b) is challenged.*

*(d) The Citizens Redistricting Commission established pursuant to Section 1 shall continue to adjust the boundary lines of the congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts in conformance with the standards and process set forth in Section 2 in 2031, and every 10 years thereafter as provided in Section 1.*

Fourth—The provisions of this measure are severable. If any portion, section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, sentence, phrase, word, or application of this measure is for any reason held to be invalid by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, that decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this measure. The Legislature hereby declares that it would have proposed, and the voters hereby declare that they would have adopted, this measure and every portion, section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, sentence, phrase, word, and application not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of this measure or application of this measure would be subsequently declared invalid.

# Exhibit 444

# Statewide Special Election

**Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

**Don't Delay, Vote Today!**

Early vote-by-mail ballot voting period is  
from October 6 through November 4, 2025.

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
on November 4, 2025, Election Day!



## CALIFORNIA TRUSTED INFO

Every registered voter  
in California will receive  
a vote-by-mail ballot.

Vote-by-mail ballots  
are mailed on or before  
October 6.

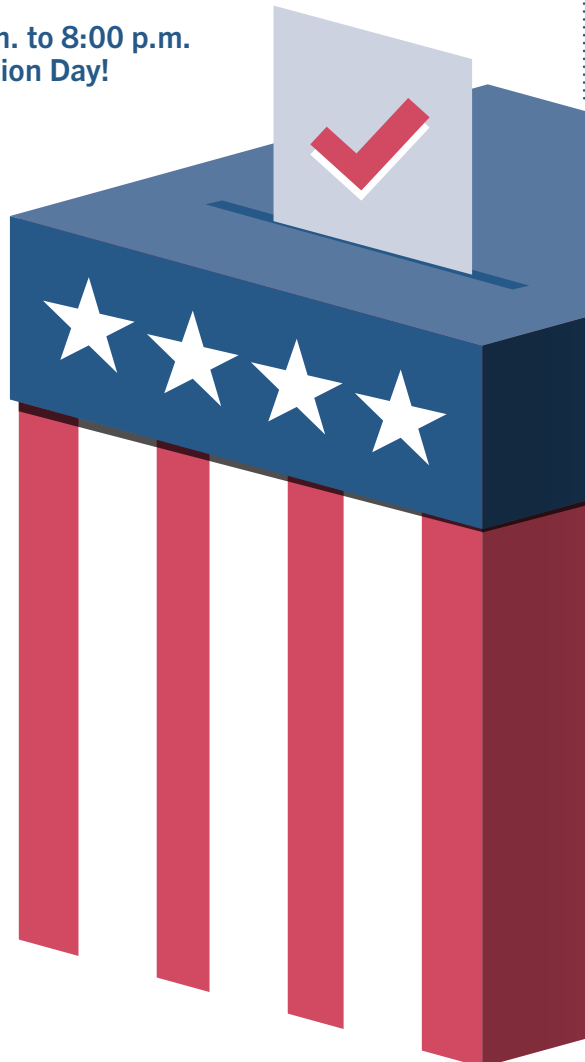
Vote-by-mail ballots  
can be voted and  
returned as soon as  
they are received.

Vote-by-mail drop  
boxes open October 7.

In-person voting  
options will be available  
in all counties.



Mobile-Friendly  
SCAN ME



## Official Voter Information Guide






### Certificate of Correctness

I, Shirley N. Weber, Secretary  
of State of the State of  
California, do hereby certify that  
the information included herein  
will be submitted to the electors  
of the State of California at the  
Statewide Special Election to  
be held throughout the State  
on November 4, 2025, and that  
this guide has been correctly  
prepared in accordance with  
the law. Witness my hand and  
the Great Seal of the State in  
Sacramento, California, this  
17th day of September, 2025.

**Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.**  
Secretary of State

# VOTER BILL OF RIGHTS

## YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

- 1** **The right to vote if you are a registered voter.** You are eligible to vote if you are:
  - a U.S. citizen living in California
  - at least 18 years old
  - registered where you currently live
  - not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony, and
  - not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court
- 2** **The right to vote if you are a registered voter even if your name is not on the list.** You will vote using a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted if elections officials determine that you are eligible to vote.
- 3** **The right to vote if you are still in line when the polls close.**
- 4** **The right to cast a secret ballot** without anyone bothering you or telling you how to vote.
- 5** **The right to get a new ballot if you have made a mistake,** if you have not already cast your ballot. You can:
  - Ask an elections official at a polling place** for a new ballot,
  - Exchange your vote-by-mail ballot** for a new one at an elections office, or at your polling place, or
  - Vote using a provisional ballot.**
- 6** **The right to get help casting your ballot** from anyone you choose, except from your employer or union representative.
- 7** **The right to drop off your completed vote-by-mail ballot at any polling place** in California.
- 8** **The right to get election materials in a language other than English** if enough people in your voting precinct speak that language.
- 9** **The right to ask questions to elections officials about election procedures** and watch the election process. If the person you ask cannot answer your questions, they must send you to the right person for an answer. If you are disruptive, they can stop answering you.
- 10** **The right to report any illegal or fraudulent election activity** to an elections official or the Secretary of State's office.
  -  On the web at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)
  -  By phone at **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)**
  -  By email at [elections@sos.ca.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ca.gov)

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**IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN DENIED ANY OF THESE RIGHTS, CALL THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S  
CONFIDENTIAL TOLL-FREE VOTER HOTLINE AT (800) 345-VOTE (8683).**

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## Top Contributors to State Candidates and Ballot Measures

When a committee (a person or group of people who receive or spend money for the purpose of influencing voters to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures) raises at least \$1 million, it must report its top 10 contributors to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). The committee must update the list when there is any change.

These lists are available on the FPPC website at:  
[fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html](http://fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html)

To research campaign contributions for candidates or ballot measures, visit the Secretary of State's website at [powersearch.sos.ca.gov](http://powersearch.sos.ca.gov).



## Visit the Secretary of State's Website to:

- Research campaign contributions and lobbying activity [cal-access.sos.ca.gov](http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov) OR [powersearch.sos.ca.gov](http://powersearch.sos.ca.gov)
- View this voter guide in other languages [voterguide.sos.ca.gov](http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov)
- Check your registration status and registration information [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)
- Find your polling place or a vote center on Election Day [sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place](http://sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place) OR [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)
- Get vote-by-mail ballot information [sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail](http://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail)
- Read helpful information for first-time voters [sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california](http://sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california)
- Watch live election results after polls close on Election Day [electionresults.sos.ca.gov](http://electionresults.sos.ca.gov)



## Message from the Secretary of State

Dear California Voter,

Your participation in every election is vital to ensuring democracy thrives. As a California voter, you will have an opportunity to vote in the upcoming November 4, 2025, **Statewide Special Election**. This election will ask you to **approve or reject** a ballot proposition.

You have a number of ways to participate as California continues to protect and expand your right to vote. We uphold universal vote-by-mail ballots, multiple in-person voting approaches, same-day voter registration, and provisional voting, all designed to make voting accessible and secure.

This Voter Information Guide is designed to help you make an informed decision on Proposition 50. Inside, you will find key details about when, where, and how to cast your ballot, as well as an impartial summary and analysis of the measure. The guide presents official arguments both in favor of and against Proposition 50, along with rebuttals, so you can consider multiple perspectives before making your choice.

### Your Guide Includes:

- A neutral summary of Proposition 50, with arguments for and against, including contact information for supporters and opponents. (PAGE 5)
- Clear instructions on how to vote—by mail, in person, or via secure drop box. Plus, reminders to sign and seal your ballot. (PAGE 7)
- Information on **Where's My Ballot** alerts at *WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov*.
- Details on extended voting days and vote centers in Voter's Choice Act counties, where you can register and vote on the same day. (PAGE 6)

Participating in elections is vital to having a say in decisions that affect our lives and how our community operates. I encourage you to take the time to learn about the issue and the implications of this election, then make your choice. Voting means your voice will be heard and you have a say in the future.

Thank you for keeping our democracy strong!

# QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDE

PROP  
50

AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS IN RESPONSE TO TEXAS' PARTISAN REDISTRICTING. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

SUMMARY

*Put on the Ballot by the Legislature*

Requires temporary use of new congressional district maps through 2030. Directs independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to resume enacting congressional district maps in 2031. Establishes policy supporting nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide. **Fiscal Impact:** One-time costs to counties of up to a few million dollars statewide to update election materials to reflect new congressional district maps.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES

A YES vote on this measure means:  
The state would use new, legislatively drawn congressional district maps starting in 2026. California's new maps would be used until the California Citizens Redistricting Commission draws new maps following the 2030 U.S. Census.

NO

A NO vote on this measure means:  
Current congressional district maps drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) would continue to be used in California until the Commission draws new maps following the 2030 U.S. Census.

ARGUMENTS

PRO

Proposition 50—The Election Rigging Response Act—approves temporary, emergency congressional district maps to counter Donald Trump's scheme to rig next year's congressional election and reaffirms California's commitment to independent, nonpartisan redistricting after the next census. Vote Yes on 50 for democracy in all 50 states. Learn more at [StopElectionRigging.com](#).

CON

Prop. 50 was written by politicians, for politicians—dismantling safeguards that keep elections fair, removes requirements to keep local communities together, and eliminates voter protections that ban maps designed to favor political parties. Vote NO to protect fair elections and keep citizens—not politicians—in charge of redistricting.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FOR

Governor Gavin Newsom  
Yes on 50, The Election Rigging Response Act,  
Governor Newsom's Ballot Measure Committee  
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[info@stopelectionrigging.com](#)  
[StopElectionRigging.com](#)

AGAINST

No on Prop. 50—Protect Voters First, Sponsored by Hold Politicians Accountable  
2350 Kerner Blvd., Suite 250  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
(916) 446-6572  
[info@votersfirstact.org](#)  
[VotersFirstAct.org](#)

## Election Day Information

Polling locations are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. If you are in line before 8:00 p.m., you can still vote.

## Find Your Polling Place or a Vote Center

Polling places and vote centers are established by county elections officials. Look for your polling place address or vote center locations in the county Voter Information Guide that you receive in the mail a few weeks before Election Day.

You may also visit the Secretary of State's website at [vote.ca.gov](#) or call our toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

A graphic featuring a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. Below the flag, the text "STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font.

Election results for the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election are available after the polls close at 8:00 p.m. on the California Secretary of State's Election Results website at [electionresults.sos.ca.gov](#).

Results will begin to be posted at 8:00 p.m. and will be updated throughout Election Night. In the days afterwards, the results will be updated at 5:00 p.m. each day throughout the canvass as counties count the remaining ballots.

The official certified results of the election will be posted by December 12, 2025, at [sos.ca.gov/elections](#).

Quick-Reference Guide | 5

EXHIBIT 444.005

# More Days, More Ways to Vote

## with the California Voter's Choice Act



### Vote in person up to 10 days prior to Election Day

- Alameda
- Amador
- Butte
- Calaveras
- El Dorado
- Fresno
- Humboldt
- Kings
- Los Angeles
- Madera
- Marin
- Mariposa
- Merced
- Napa
- Nevada
- Orange
- Placer
- Riverside
- Sacramento
- San Benito
- San Diego
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz
- Sonoma
- Stanislaus
- Tuolumne
- Ventura
- Yolo

**In California, every active registered voter will automatically receive a ballot in the mail before every election.** Check your voter registration status to ensure you receive your ballot.

### Use a drop box:

Return your ballot to a secure drop off location in any county **up to 28 days before the election**

### Vote center:

- Vote in person anywhere in the county **up to 10 days before the election**
- Register to vote and vote same day
- Drop off your ballot

### Vote by mail:

Return your ballot by mail **as soon as you receive it**

Visit [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov) or call (800) 345-VOTE (8683) to learn more.



Want to skip the line and vote early?  
Scan the QR Code to learn more!



## Don't Delay, Vote Today!

All California voters will be sent a vote-by-mail ballot with a prepaid postage return envelope for the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election. County elections officials will begin sending vote-by-mail ballots no later than October 6, 2025.

The vote-by-mail ballot voting period begins as soon as ballots are in the mail. Make your voice heard early! Return your vote-by-mail ballot during the voting period of October 6 through the close of polls on November 4.

### Voting by Mail is EASY.

Democracy is counting on you! Follow these five easy steps to exercise your right to vote:

- ☒ **Complete it.**  
Mark your choices on your vote-by-mail ballot.
- ☒ **Seal it.**  
Secure your ballot inside the vote-by-mail ballot return envelope you received from your county elections office.
- ☒ **Sign it.**  
Sign the outside of your vote-by-mail ballot return envelope.  
Make sure your signature matches the one on your CA driver's license/state ID, or the one you provided when registering to vote. Your county elections office will compare them before they count your ballot.
- ☒ **Return it.**  
By drop box—Drop off your completed vote-by-mail ballot at a secure official drop box in your county at any time between October 7 through the close of polls on November 4.  
In person—Drop your completed vote-by-mail ballot off at a secure drop box, polling place, vote center, or county elections office by 8:00 p.m. on November 4. Voting locations will be available in all counties before Election Day. Voting locations offer voter registration, replacement ballots, accessible voting machines, and language assistance.  
By mail—Return your ballot by mail as soon as you receive it. Make sure your vote-by-mail ballot return envelope is postmarked no later than November 4.
- ☒ **Track it.**  
Sign up at [wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](https://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov) to receive updates on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot by text message (SMS), email, or voice call.



All voters can get critical updates on their ballots through California's official "Where's My Ballot?" tracking tool. **Signing up takes less than three minutes!**

#### What you'll be able to track:



You can select to receive notifications on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot by text (SMS), email, or voice call, including alerts if there are any issues with your ballot and instructions for how to correct them to make sure your vote is counted.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to track your ballot every step of the way!

You can also copy this URL into your browser: [wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](https://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov)



PROPOSITION **50** **AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MAPS IN RESPONSE TO TEXAS' PARTISAN REDISTRICTING.  
LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

**OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY**

PREPARED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The text of this measure can be found on page 18 and the Secretary of State's website at [voterguide.sos.ca.gov](https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov).

- In response to Texas' mid-decade partisan congressional redistricting, this measure temporarily requires new congressional district maps, as passed by the Legislature in August 2025, to be used in California's congressional elections through 2030.
- Establishes state policy supporting use of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide.
- Retains California's independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and directs the Commission to resume enacting congressional district maps in 2031 after the 2030 census and every ten years thereafter.

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S ESTIMATE OF NET  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL IMPACT:**

- One-time costs to counties of up to a few million dollars statewide. County costs would be to update election materials to reflect new congressional district maps.

**FINAL VOTES CAST BY THE LEGISLATURE ON ACA 8 (PROPOSITION 50)  
(RESOLUTION CHAPTER 156, STATUTES OF 2025)**

Senate:	Ayes 30	Noes 8
Assembly:	Ayes 57	Noes 20

**ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

**BACKGROUND**

**U.S. CONGRESS**

**U.S. Congress.** The U.S. Congress is the part of the federal government that makes laws. Congress has two parts: the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives (House). Each of the 50 states is represented by 2 senators, with 100 senators in total. The House has 435 members. The number of representatives in the House for each state depends on how many people live in that state. Each member in the House represents an area of the state called a congressional district. California currently has 52 congressional districts. Voters who live in each congressional district elect one member of the House every two years to represent them. The next election for all 435 representatives will be in 2026.

**U.S. Census Counts States' Populations Every Ten Years.** The number of people living in an area goes up and down over time. Every ten years, the U.S. Census counts the number of people who live in the U.S. The last census was in 2020, and the next census is in 2030. This count is used to determine how many people live in each state and how many

representatives in the House each state gets for the next ten years.

**CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**

**Each State Draws Congressional District Maps Following the U.S. Census.** Every ten years, after the U.S. Census is completed, states draw new congressional district maps to reflect their number of House representatives and where people live. This process is called "redistricting." Each state decides what process to use to draw its new district maps. When drawing new maps, each state must follow federal laws. For example, each congressional district in the state must represent about the same number of people.

**States Typically Do Not Redistrict Sooner Than Every Ten Years.** States typically only draw congressional district maps every ten years, unless a court orders changes to comply with the law. In August 2025, however, the Texas Legislature passed a bill to adopt new maps for the 2026 elections without a court order. Several other states also are considering changes to their maps before the 2026 elections.

AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MAPS IN RESPONSE TO TEXAS' PARTISAN REDISTRICTING.  
LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

PROPOSITION

**50****50**

## ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

CONTINUED

**Congressional Redistricting in California.** State legislatures draw congressional district maps in most states, but some states use commissions to do this job. Before 2010, the California Legislature drew the state's congressional district maps. In 2010, California voters gave this job to an independent commission known as the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission). The Commission includes 14 members: 5 Democratic members, 5 Republican members, and 4 members who are not registered with either of those political parties. When the Commission draws new congressional district maps, it must follow federal and state laws. For example, state law requires, among other things, the Commission to avoid splitting up neighborhoods or local communities of interest to the extent possible. State law also prohibits the Commission from considering political parties, current office holders, or people running for office when it draws the maps.

**Current California Congressional Districts.** The Commission drew the current maps for California's 52 congressional districts. These maps were based on the 2020 U.S. Census and have been used since the 2022 congressional elections.

## PROPOSAL

### CALIFORNIA'S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS

**Use Legislatively Drawn Congressional District Maps Until After the Next Census.** Proposition 50 replaces California's current congressional district maps with new, legislatively drawn maps. (The total number of districts would not change.) Proposition 50's maps must follow federal law, but they are not required to follow the state requirements placed on the Commission. The state would use Proposition 50's maps for congressional elections starting in 2026. The state would use these maps until the Commission draws new district maps, following the 2030 U.S. Census.

### NATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

**Call for Change in Federal Law.** Proposition 50 asks the U.S. Congress to change federal law and propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to

require redistricting be done by "fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide." Proposition 50 expresses voter support for this idea, but does not change federal law or require any particular action of Congress or the California Legislature.

## FISCAL EFFECTS

### Minor One-Time Costs to County and State

**Elections Officials.** Counties run elections, and the state oversees them. Because most congressional districts in California would change at least some under the new maps, county and state elections officials would need to update election materials. This would result in one-time costs to counties of **up to a few million dollars** statewide and one-time costs to the state of **roughly \$200,000**. The state amount is much less than one-tenth of 1 percent (0.1 percent) of the state's roughly \$220 billion General Fund budget. (The General Fund is the account the state uses to pay for most public services, including education, health care, and prisons.)

## CURRENT AND PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS

This section shows maps of the current and proposed congressional districts (1) statewide, as shown in Figures 1 and 2; (2) in the northern part of the state, as shown in Figures 3 and 4; and (3) in the southern part of the state, as shown in Figures 5 and 6. A description of the census blocks represented by each district in the proposed maps can be found at the following website: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB604](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB604)

Visit [sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-access-resources/measure-contributions/2025-ballot-measure-contribution-totals](https://sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-access-resources/measure-contributions/2025-ballot-measure-contribution-totals) for a list of committees primarily formed to support or oppose this measure.

Visit [fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html](https://fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html) to access the committee's top 10 contributors.

PROPOSITION  
**50** AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MAPS IN RESPONSE TO TEXAS' PARTISAN REDISTRICTING.  
LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

CONTINUED



AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MAPS IN RESPONSE TO TEXAS' PARTISAN REDISTRICTING.  
LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

PROPOSITION  
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ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

CONTINUED



PROPOSITION  
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ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
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PROPOSITION  
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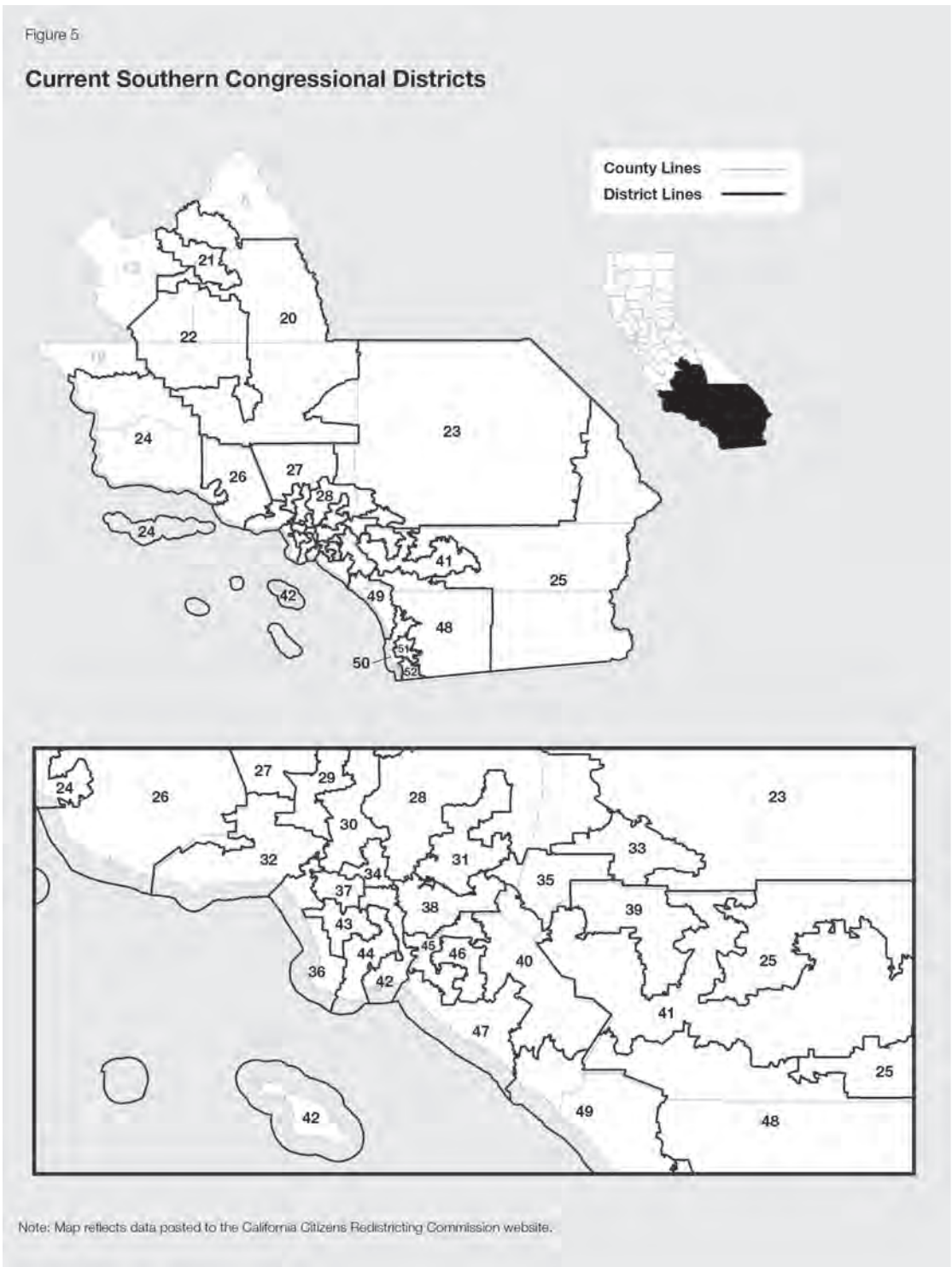
ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYSTCONTINUED



PROPOSITION  
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ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

CONTINUED



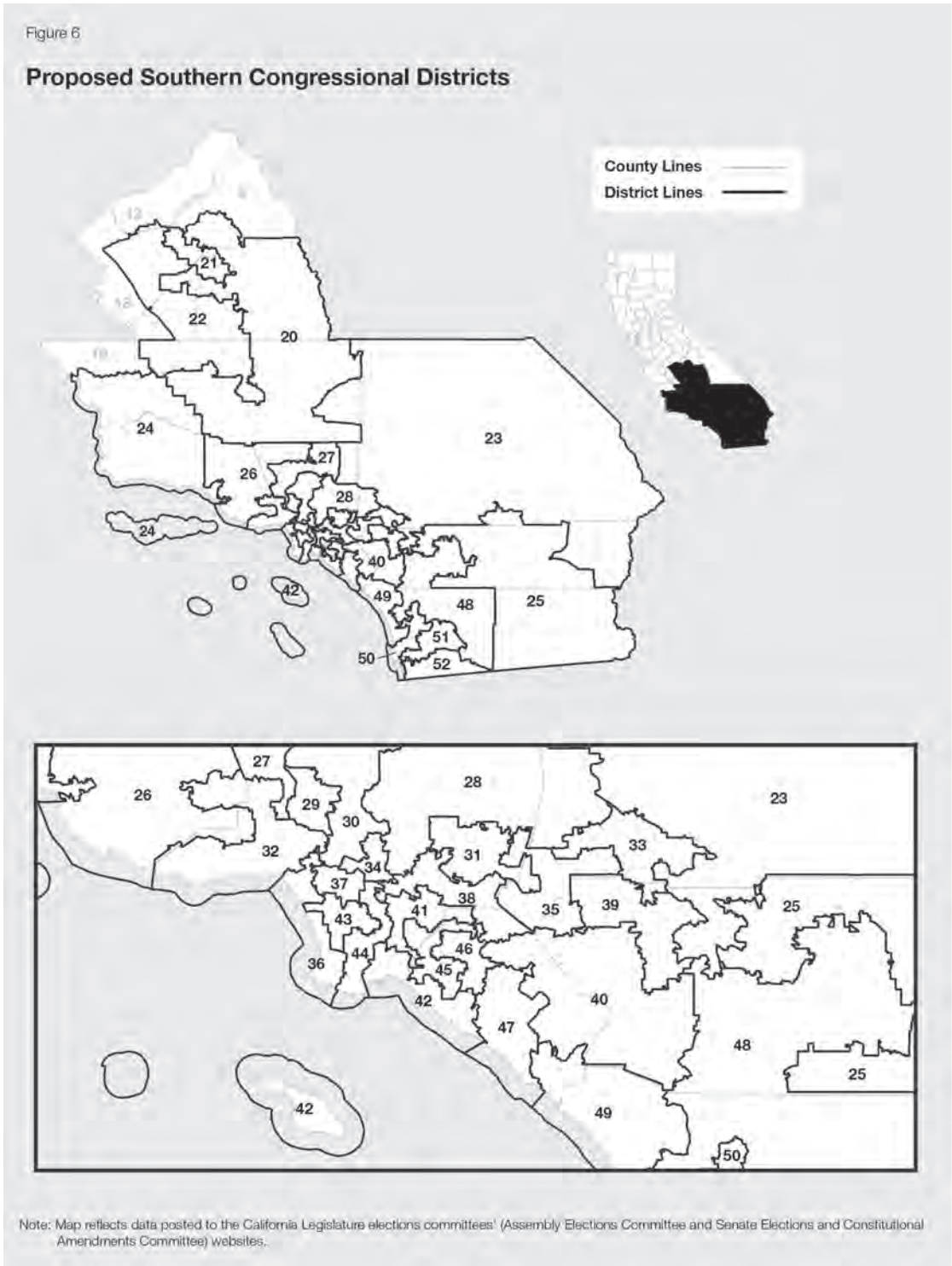
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PROPOSITION  
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ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

CONTINUED



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★ ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 50 ★

**STOP TRUMP FROM RIGGING THE 2026 ELECTION**

Donald Trump and Texas Republicans are making an unprecedented power grab to steal congressional seats and rig the 2026 election before voting even begins.

Other Republican states are following suit. They want to steal enough seats to control Congress even if voters overwhelmingly reject their agenda.

This isn't politics as usual. It's an emergency for our democracy.

**ENSURE FAIR REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS**

We have already seen how Trump has recklessly imposed tariffs and hurt California families, denied disaster assistance to fire victims, and ordered mass arrests without warrants. The 2026 election for Congress represents our only chance to provide an essential check and balance on Trump's dangerous agenda.

If Californians don't act now, Donald Trump will seize total power for two more years. Proposition 50, the Election Rigging Response Act, will put a stop to their anti-democratic scheme. Here's what it does.

- **LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD.** Prop. 50 makes sure the 2026 mid-term elections are conducted on a level playing field without an unfair advantage for Republicans.
- **COMMITTS TO FAIR REDISTRICTING.** Prop. 50 reaffirms California's commitment to independent redistricting and calls for a nationwide commitment to fair and impartial maps.
- **GIVES VOTERS THE POWER.** Prop. 50 puts the power in the hands of the People of California, not backroom politicians, to approve emergency congressional district maps in response to Trump's election rigging scheme.
- **IS FAIR AND PROPORTIONAL.** Prop. 50 provides emergency maps only because Republicans moved forward with their power grab.
- **IS TEMPORARY.** These maps expire in 2030. Prop. 50 preserves California's award-winning redistricting reforms and

reaffirms the California Citizens Redistricting Commission's authority to draw congressional districts after the next census. The stakes couldn't be higher. If Republicans rig the election and steal control of Congress next year, they'll continue to eliminate healthcare for millions of Americans, slash funding for schools, and cut essential services for veterans to pay for tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations.

**PROTECT DEMOCRACY IN ALL 50 STATES**

California has a duty to defend democracy. To do that, we can't unilaterally disarm or fight with both hands tied behind our backs. When Trump tries to rig elections, we must fight back with every tool available.

Prop. 50 draws fair maps that represent California's diverse communities and ensure our voices aren't silenced by partisan gerrymandering in other states.

California leads the nation in protecting voting rights and fair elections. When other states try to silence our voices and rig the system, we must respond decisively.

Join President Barack Obama, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Adam Schiff, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, election experts, independent redistricting commissioners, Planned Parenthood, the NAACP, California veterans, teachers, and nurses.

Vote YES on Prop. 50 to stop Trump's election rigging scheme.

Vote YES for checks and balances.

Vote YES to protect democracy in all 50 states.

**Governor Gavin Newsom**

**U.S. Senator Alex Padilla**

**U.S. Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi**

★ REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 50 ★

**THE WRONG PATH—NO ON PROP. 50**

We know American democracy is on fire, but accelerating gerrymandering only adds fuel! Politicians are seizing this crisis to justify a power grab.

**PROP. 50 DOES NOT DEFEND OUR DEMOCRACY**

Prop. 50 is not a magic pill to cure the nation's ills. It claims to protect democracy, yet diminishes our communities' voices and is ineffective against any overreach of presidential power. Vote NO.

California gerrymandering allowed the Legislature to draw partisan seats without transparency or citizen input, solely to protect incumbents. By 2001, the government was gridlocked, with legislators held hostage to the extremes of their parties. Voters rose up and handed line-drawing over to citizens, resulting in:

- **Competitive Districts:** Previously safe seats now must be earned.
- **Better Representation:** Women in the Legislature doubled, Asian representation tripled, Black representation nearly doubled, and Latino seats grew by 8%.

- **Government for the People:** With more moderate representatives, the Legislature passed bipartisan legislation, working for the interests of all Californians.

**WE THE PEOPLE**

Districts do not belong to either party; they belong to the People. But, party bosses want to call the shots—again. NO to a “pay-to-play” system.

Prop. 50 says this is “temporary,” yet the Legislature will bypass the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission again in 2028, 2030—and perhaps beyond. Don't be fooled.

Legislators drew this map behind closed doors for you to rubber-stamp. It is not your choice.

*Vote NO on partisan gerrymandering. Vote NO on Prop. 50.*

**Cynthia Dai**, Rotating Chair

First Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Jeanne Raya**, Rotating Chair

First Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Jodie Filkins Webber**, Rotating Chair

First Citizens Redistricting Commission

★ ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 50 ★

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**PROPOSITION 50: A POWER GRAB BY POLITICIANS**

Prop. 50 was written by politicians, for politicians. Prop. 50 dismantles constitutional safeguards that keep election maps fair. It removes requirements to keep cities, counties, and local communities together, and eliminates voter protections that ban maps designed to favor incumbents or political parties—putting politicians back in charge of drawing their own districts, or those of their friends.

A “NO” vote protects fair elections and keeps the people of California—not politicians—in charge of redistricting.

**NO ON PROP. 50: IT REPEALS LANDMARK VOTER-APPROVED ELECTION REFORMS**

For decades, Sacramento politicians drew their own district boundaries behind closed doors with no public oversight—guaranteeing their reelection, denying voters a real choice, and shutting out many women and people of color from elected office.

In 2008, California voters approved historic election reform—creating the independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission. Voters decided district lines should be drawn by a balanced panel of everyday citizens—not by politicians who stood to benefit.

Prop. 50 throws out citizen-drawn congressional maps created through a transparent public process with input from over 35,000 Californians. Instead, politicians secretly drew maps—leaving voters with NO real say.

**NO ON PROP. 50: ANOTHER SCHEME TO PERMANENTLY END INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING**

In 2008 and 2010, the Democratic Party and special interests spent millions of dollars to stop citizen redistricting. Later, the California Republican Party even sued to overturn citizen-drawn maps—and lost. Now, Sacramento politicians are scheming to regain control with Prop. 50.

Make no mistake: Prop. 50 is not temporary. For over half a decade, politicians get to impose their gerrymandered maps. Worse, it sets a dangerous precedent—opening the door for

Sacramento to keep drawing election maps beyond 2031—giving politicians permanent power to shield themselves and their allies from accountability for California’s high cost of living, skyrocketing housing costs, and rising energy bills.

**NO ON PROP. 50: DON’T BE MISLED BY POLITICAL SPIN**

The same politicians who opposed independent redistricting from the start now claim Prop. 50 will “save democracy.” In truth, Prop. 50 weakens fair representation by shutting the public out and bringing gerrymandering back to California.

Prop. 50 is not democratic; it gives voters a take-it-or-leave-it decision on the most partisan maps in California’s history—a product of politicians’ secretive backroom deals with ZERO meaningful public engagement.

Prop. 50 divides communities to benefit politicians, splitting counties 114 times and cities 141 times—far more than the citizen-drawn maps.

*“When politicians gerrymander, they divide our neighborhoods and weaken the voice of communities of color. Whatever happens in Texas, we cannot save democracy by destroying it in California. Vote NO on Prop. 50.”—Reverend Mac Shorty, Civil Rights Leader*

**NO ON PROP. 50: A MASSIVE WASTE OF TAXPAYER MONEY**

The Legislature has called a special election just to pass this politician-protecting constitutional change—costing taxpayers \$200,000,000.

With a massive budget deficit, Sacramento politicians are making painful cuts to health care, housing, education, and public safety. Instead of protecting important programs, they’re spending it on a political power grab.

Vote NO on Prop. 50.

[VotersFIRSTAct.org](http://VotersFIRSTAct.org)

**Roberto Moncada**, Board Member  
United Latinos Action

**Faith Bautista Tamashiro**, President  
National Diversity Coalition

**Taylor Shorty**, Board Member  
Community RePower Movement

★ REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 50 ★

**WARNING: NO ON 50 IS BACKED BY TRUMP EXTREMISTS**

Who’s spending millions against Prop. 50?

An anti-choice mega-millionaire named Charles Munger Jr. who wants to help Donald Trump and Red State Republicans rig the 2026 elections and hand Trump unchecked power for two more years.

Independent redistricting commissioners, election experts, and leading civil rights organizations—from the NAACP to the National Democratic Redistricting Committee—urge you to reject the lies spread by NO on 50’s phony front groups.

**Lie #1: “Prop. 50 repeals landmark voter-approved election reforms.”** This is plainly false. Prop. 50 calls on all states to end partisan gerrymandering and reaffirms the power of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw the lines after the next census.

**Lie #2: “Prop. 50 removes requirements to keep cities, counties, and local communities together.”** Prop. 50 does the opposite, keeping MORE cities and counties combined, and communities together than California’s existing maps.

**Lie #3: “Prop. 50 puts politicians back in charge of drawing their own districts.”** Untrue. Prop. 50 puts power to approve emergency maps in the hands of voters, not politicians.

**Lie #4: “Prop. 50 permanently ends independent redistricting.”** Also untrue. Prop. 50 is a temporary and proportional response to Trump’s election-rigging scheme and expires in 2030.

Californians cannot allow Donald Trump and Texas Republicans to rig the 2026 election and silence our voices.

Vote YES on Prop. 50.

Protect democracy, preserve nonpartisan redistricting and ensure a fair election in all 50 states.

**Sara Sadhwani**, Commissioner  
2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Jodi Hicks**, President  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

**Nikki Davis Milevsky**, President  
Sacramento City Teachers Association

TEXT OF PROPOSED LAW

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## PROPOSITION 50

This amendment proposed by Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 of the 2025–2026 Regular Session (Resolution Chapter 156, Statutes of 2025) expressly amends the California Constitution by adding a section thereto; therefore, new provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic type* to indicate that they are new.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XXI

First—This measure shall be known, and may be cited, as the “Election Rigging Response Act.”

Second—The people of the State of California find and declare all of the following:

(a) President Donald Trump has called on Republican-led states to undertake an unprecedented mid-decade redistricting of congressional seats to rig the 2026 United States midterm elections before voting begins.

(b) The State of Texas has convened a special session of its Legislature to redraw congressional district maps to unfairly advantage Republicans.

(c) The Legislature of the State of Florida has established a select committee to advance an extraordinary mid-decade redistricting to unfairly advantage Republicans.

(d) Republicans have urged the State of Ohio to conduct its mid-decade redistricting to unfairly produce more Republican seats in Congress.

(e) Republican officials in the States of Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Nebraska, and South Carolina are also considering President Trump’s call for the mid-decade redistricting of congressional seats to unfairly advantage Republicans.

(f) President Trump and Republicans are attempting to gain enough seats through redistricting to rig the outcome of the 2026 United States midterm elections regardless of how the people vote.

(g) President Trump’s election-rigging scheme is an emergency for our democracy.

(h) The 2026 United States midterm elections are voters’ only chance to provide an essential check and balance against President Trump’s dangerous agenda.

(i) California has long stood as a national leader for fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting.

(j) California calls on all other states to commit to fair and impartial drawing of maps.

(k) California has a duty to defend democracy.

(l) The 2026 United States midterm elections for Congress must be conducted on a level playing field without an extreme and unfair advantage for Republicans.

(m) The people of California, not politicians, should have the power to approve temporary congressional district maps in response to President Trump’s election-rigging scheme.

(n) It is the intent of the people that California’s temporary maps be designed to neutralize the partisan gerrymandering being threatened by Republican-led states without eroding fair representation for all communities.

Third—That Section 4 is added to Article XXI thereof, to read:

*SEC. 4. (a) It is the policy of the State of California to support the use of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide. The people of the State of California call on the Congress of the United States to pass federal legislation and propose an amendment of the United States Constitution to require the use of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide.*

*(b) In response to the congressional redistricting in Texas in 2025, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or existing law, the single-member districts for Congress reflected in Assembly Bill 604 of the 2025–26 Regular Session pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 21400) of Division 21 of the Elections Code shall temporarily be used for every congressional election for a term of office commencing on or after the date this subdivision becomes operative and before the certification of new congressional boundary lines drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission pursuant to subdivision (d).*

*(c) (1) The Attorney General has the sole legal standing to defend any action regarding a congressional district map adopted pursuant to subdivision (b).*

*(2) The California Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in all proceedings in which a congressional district map adopted pursuant to subdivision (b) is challenged.*

*(d) The Citizens Redistricting Commission established pursuant to Section 1 shall continue to adjust the boundary lines of the congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts in conformance with the standards and process set forth in Section 2 in 2031, and every 10 years thereafter as provided in Section 1.*

Fourth—The provisions of this measure are severable. If any portion, section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, sentence, phrase, word, or application of this measure is for any reason held to be invalid by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, that decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this measure. The Legislature hereby declares that it would have proposed, and the voters hereby declare that they would have adopted, this measure and every portion, section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, sentence, phrase, word, and application not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of this measure or application of this measure would be subsequently declared invalid.

## Tips for California's Military and Overseas Voters

Taking part in elections is more convenient than ever for Californians serving in the military or living outside the United States. It begins when you register to vote as a military or overseas voter and receive election materials by mail, fax, or email. Be prepared!

- **Start early.** California's county elections officials must send ballots to military and overseas voters no later than 45 days before Election Day. Fill out a voter registration application early at [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov) to ensure that you receive your voting materials in time and can return your voted ballot by Election Day.
- **Know your options.** When registering to vote as a military or overseas voter, you can choose to have your ballot mailed, faxed, or emailed to you. Additionally, you may visit your county elections official's website for information about how to download your ballot and election materials. You may return your voted ballot to your county elections official by mail or, in certain circumstances, by fax. If you meet the requirements to return your ballot by fax, you must also fax the Oath of Voter form (available from your county elections official) waiving your right to a confidential ballot.

**Alert!** The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) has discontinued their service of faxing military and overseas voters' election materials to county elections officials.

**What this means:** you can no longer send your voted ballot to *fax@fvap.gov*.

If you wish to return your voted ballot by fax, you must send it directly to your county elections official.

- **Stay in touch.** Once you register as a military or overseas voter, you will continue to receive a ballot and election materials from your county elections official before each statewide election. However, you will need to update your voter registration if you change your address, your name, or your political party preference. Visit [sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/military-overseas-voters/](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/military-overseas-voters/) for more election resources designed especially for you.

### Dates to remember:

**October 20, 2025:** Last day for military and overseas voters to register to vote for the Statewide Special Election.

**October 21–November 4, 2025:** Same Day Registration is available. You may “conditionally” register to vote and vote a provisional ballot during this time. Contact your county elections official for more information.

**November 4, 2025:** Election Day. Return your ballot by mail as soon as you receive it. Mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day **and** received by your county elections office no later than November 12, 2025. Faxed ballots must be delivered to your county elections office by close of polls, no later than 8:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Election Day.

### For more information contact:

California Secretary of State



(800) 345-VOTE (8683)



[sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/military-overseas-voters/](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/military-overseas-voters/)

Federal Voting Assistance Program



(800) 438-VOTE (8683)



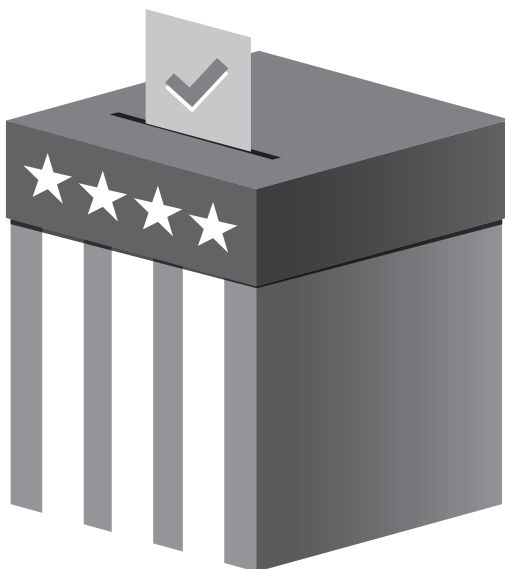
[www.fvap.gov](https://www.fvap.gov)

# WARNING: ELECTIONEERING PROHIBITED!

Violations can lead to fines and/or imprisonment.

## WHERE:

- Within the immediate vicinity of a person in line to cast their ballot or within 100 feet of the entrance of a polling place, curbside voting, or drop box, the following activities are prohibited.



## WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED:

- **DO NOT** ask a person to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure.
- **DO NOT** display a candidate's name, image, or logo.
- **DO NOT** block access to or loiter near any ballot drop boxes.
- **DO NOT** provide any material or audible information for or against any candidate or ballot measure near any polling place, vote center, or ballot drop box.
- **DO NOT** circulate any petitions, including for initiatives, referenda, recalls, or candidate nominations.
- **DO NOT** distribute, display, or wear any clothing (hats, shirts, signs, buttons, stickers) that include a candidate's name, image, logo, and/or support or oppose any candidate or ballot measure.
- **DO NOT** display information or speak to a voter about the voter's eligibility to vote.

The electioneering prohibitions summarized above are set forth in Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Division 18 of the California Elections Code.

# **WARNING: CORRUPTING THE VOTING PROCESS IS PROHIBITED!**

Violations subject to fine and/or imprisonment.

## **WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED:**

- **DO NOT** commit or attempt to commit election fraud.
- **DO NOT** provide any sort of compensation or bribery to, in any fashion or by any means induce or attempt to induce, a person to vote or refrain from voting.
- **DO NOT** illegally vote.
- **DO NOT** attempt to vote or aid another to vote when not entitled to vote.
- **DO NOT** engage in electioneering; photograph or record a voter entering or exiting a polling place; or obstruct ingress, egress, or parking.
- **DO NOT** challenge a person's right to vote or prevent voters from voting; delay the process of voting; or fraudulently advise any person that he or she is not eligible to vote or is not registered to vote.
- **DO NOT** attempt to ascertain how a voter voted their ballot.
- **DO NOT** possess or arrange for someone to possess a firearm in the immediate vicinity of a polling place, with some exceptions.
- **DO NOT** appear or arrange for someone to appear in the uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel in the immediate vicinity of a polling place, with some exceptions.
- **DO NOT** tamper or interfere with any component of a voting system.
- **DO NOT** forge, counterfeit, or tamper with the returns of an election.
- **DO NOT** alter the returns of an election.
- **DO NOT** tamper with, destroy, or alter any polling list, official ballot, or ballot container.
- **DO NOT** display any unofficial ballot collection container that may deceive a voter into believing it is an official collection box.
- **DO NOT** tamper or interfere with copy of the results of votes cast.
- **DO NOT** coerce or deceive a person who cannot read or an elder into voting for or against a candidate or measure contrary to their intent.
- **DO NOT** act as an election officer when you are not one.

EMPLOYERS cannot require or ask their employee to bring their vote-by-mail ballot to work or ask their employee to vote their ballot at work. At the time of payment of salary or wages, employers cannot enclose materials that attempt to influence the political opinions or actions of their employee.

PRECINCT BOARD MEMBERS cannot attempt to determine how a voter voted their ballot or, if that information is discovered, disclose how a voter voted their ballot.

The prohibitions on activity related to corruption of the voting process summarized above are set forth in Chapter 6 of Division 18 of the California Elections Code.

## Look for Trusted Sources of Election Information

The Secretary of State is committed to ensuring elections are free, fair, safe, secure, accurate, and accessible. Misinformation, intentional or otherwise, continues to confuse voters and create distrust in the electoral process. California has one of the most extensive voting system testing and certification programs in the nation.

Our best defense against rumors and misinformation is you! False election information is more common than you think. If a claim seems outrageous or designed to upset you, it may not be true.

The best sources for trusted election information are your local and state elections officials. To find out more about election facts or common rumors being spread, visit [catrustedinformation.sos.ca.gov](https://catrustedinformation.sos.ca.gov).

Report misinformation to [votesure@sos.ca.gov](mailto:votesure@sos.ca.gov).

## California Election Security Safeguards



### Secure Technology

- County voting systems are not connected to the internet
- Strong security techniques are practiced regularly
- Routine threat monitoring and vulnerability scanning in collaboration with our state and federal partners
- Rigorous voting system testing and certification performed by the California Secretary of State
- Only authorized elections staff have access to systems relevant to their role



### Secure Processes

- VoteCal is a centralized statewide voter registration database. VoteCal checks against official records and is regularly updated
- Ballots and election technology must adhere to strict chain-of-custody procedures
- Paper ballots for all registered voters are available
- Post-election audits are performed by elections officials
- Signatures are verified on all vote-by-mail ballot envelopes
- Emergency planning for fire, flood, cyber incidents, and more



### Secure Facilities and People

- Physical access control and security of locations
- Election processes open to observation during specific hours of operation
- Security and accessibility assessments completed for all locations
- Phishing and cybersecurity training provided for all staff
- Ballot drop boxes are secured and monitored



# California Voter ID & Registration Requirements

## ✓ Who Can Register to Vote in California?

To register, you must be:

- A United States citizen and a California resident
- 18 years or older on Election Day (or 16 or 17 years old to pre-register)
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for a felony
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court

## ✓ Do I Need to Show ID to Vote in California?

In most cases, NO. California does not generally require voters to show identification at the polls.

## ✓ When MIGHT You Be Asked for ID?

You may need to show ID only if ALL the following apply:

- You're voting for the first time in a federal election
- You registered by mail or online, AND
- You did not provide your CA ID or SSN when registering

You'll be notified in advance if this applies to you.

**Poll workers may only request an ID if the voter list clearly indicates it's required.**

**For more information, visit [vote.ca.gov](https://vote.ca.gov) or call our Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).**

## ✓ What Forms of ID Are Acceptable (if required)?

You can show a photo or non-photo ID, including:

- California Driver's License or State ID card
- U.S. Passport
- Student or Military ID
- Official mail from a government agency
- Paycheck or government check
- Utility bill or bank statement

For a complete list, see: [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/hava-id-standards](https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/hava-id-standards)

Photo ID is not required, it's just one of many valid options. ID does not need to show your address or be government-issued.

## ✓ Don't Have ID When Voting?

You can still cast a provisional ballot. Your ballot will be counted after elections officials have confirmed you are registered to vote in that county, and you did not already vote in that election.

## ✓ Check Your Voter Status Online

Visit the Secretary of State's My Voter Status page at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov) to check your voter status, find your polling place or a vote center, and much more.

To check your voter status, you will need to enter your first name, last name, date of birth, and your California driver's license or California identification card number, or the last four digits of your social security number.

Visit [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov) for important voter details.

## Voting Rights Restored for Persons with a Prior Felony Conviction

You can register and vote if you are:

- A U.S. citizen and a resident of California
- 18 years old or older on Election Day
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony

If you meet these requirements, you can vote even if you:

- Have a misdemeanor conviction (a misdemeanor will never prevent you from voting)
- Are on parole supervision or probation
- Are on post-release community supervision (PRCS)

For more information, please visit [votingrightsrestored.sos.ca.gov](https://votingrightsrestored.sos.ca.gov).

### Register or re-register to vote today!

If you were registered to vote and convicted of a felony, your previous registration may have been canceled.

Register or re-register to vote today online at [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov). You can also request a paper voter registration card by calling the Secretary of State's Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

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## Democracy Needs You! Serve as a Poll Worker

Help your community members exercise their right to vote by signing up to be a poll worker. As a poll worker, you can make sure voters can easily and safely cast their vote. Gain hands-on experience and take part in the single most important right in our democracy—Voting! Complete your form today at [pollworker.sos.ca.gov](https://pollworker.sos.ca.gov).

For more information about being a poll worker, contact your county elections office or call the California Secretary of State at (800) 345-VOTE (8683), or visit [vote.ca.gov](https://vote.ca.gov).

# New to voting? Get started with 3 easy steps!

## 1. Register!

- Register to vote by **October 20, 2025**. Register online at [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov) or have a voter registration form mailed to you by calling the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683). Voter registration forms are also available at your county elections office, local post office, or library.
- Same Day Voter Registration, known as Conditional Voter Registration in state law, is a safety net for Californians who miss the voter registration deadline of October 20, 2025. Visit [vote.ca.gov](https://vote.ca.gov) or see page 29 of this guide for more information.
- You are eligible to register to vote and vote if you are a United States citizen and a resident of California, 18 years old or older on Election Day, not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony, and not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

## 2. Get informed!

- As a registered voter you will receive two information resources in the mail:
  - This Voter Information Guide, which contains information about the statewide ballot measure, the election process, and how to vote. To receive your guide in a different language, call (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or visit [voterguide.sos.ca.gov](https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov).
  - A county Voter Information Guide, which contains a sample ballot, your polling place or vote center location, and other helpful information.
- State campaign expenditure and contribution information related to candidates or ballot measure committees is available at [sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying](https://sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying).

## 3. Vote!

- You can return your ballot:



**By drop box:** Every active, registered voter in California will be mailed a ballot for the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election. You may personally deliver your ballot to any polling or ballot drop-off location in California by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.



**In person:** Polling locations are established by county elections officials and are open from **7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, 2025**. To find a location to vote early before Election Day, visit [caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov](https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov).

**By mail:** Return your ballot by mail as soon as you receive it. Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day and received no later than November 12, 2025.

**Option for voters with disabilities:** Counties offer an accessible voting option called remote accessible vote-by-mail (RAVBM). RAVBM allows voters with disabilities to receive their ballots at home and mark them independently and privately before sending them back to elections officials.



The California Motor Voter program is making registering to vote at the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) more convenient and secure. All eligible individuals completing driver's license, ID card, or change of address transactions online, by mail, or in person at the DMV will be automatically registered to vote unless they choose to "opt out" of automatic voter registration.

The California Motor Voter program applies to Californians who are 18 years or older and meet all the following criteria:

- A United States citizen.
- A resident of California.
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony.
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

Voter pre-registration is available for those 16 and 17 years of age. Their voter registration will become active automatically when they turn 18.

For more information, visit [motorvoter.sos.ca.gov](https://motorvoter.sos.ca.gov).

To register to vote online, visit [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov).

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## Voter Registration Privacy Information

**Safe at Home Confidential Voter Registration Program:** Certain voters facing life-threatening situations may qualify for confidential voter status if they are active members of the Safe at Home program. This includes victims and survivors of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, human trafficking, child abduction, and elder/dependent adult abuse, as well as public entity employees/contractors in fear for their safety because of their work for a public entity, and reproductive health care providers, employees, volunteers, and patients in fear for their safety because of their affiliation with a reproductive health care facility. For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Safe at Home program toll-free at (877) 322-5227 or visit [sos.ca.gov/safeathome](https://sos.ca.gov/safeathome).

**Voter Information Privacy:** Information on your voter registration affidavit will be used by elections officials to send you official information on the voting process, such as the location of your polling place, and the measures and candidates that will appear on the ballot. Commercial use of voter registration information is prohibited by law and is a misdemeanor. Voter information may be provided to a candidate for office, a ballot measure committee, or other person for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State. Driver's license and social security numbers, or your signature as shown on your voter registration card, cannot be released for these purposes. If you have any questions about the use of voter information or wish to report suspected misuse of such information, please call the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

## Assistance for Voters with Disabilities

California is committed to ensuring every voter is able to cast their ballot privately and independently.

For more detailed information about what assistance your county offers to voters with disabilities, please check out your county Voter Information Guide or contact your county elections official. County contact information is available at [sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices).

## Voting at a Polling Place or Vote Center

If you need help marking your ballot, you may choose up to two people to help you. This person cannot be:

- Your employer or anyone who works for your employer
- Your labor union leader or anyone who works for your labor union

*Curbside voting* allows you to park as close as possible to the voting area. Elections officials will bring you a roster to sign, a ballot, and any other voting materials you may need, whether you are actually at a curb or in a car.

All polling places and vote centers are required to be accessible to voters with disabilities and will have accessible voting machines.

## Voting at Home

Remote accessible vote-by-mail (RAVBM) systems provide an accessible option for voters with disabilities to receive their ballots at home and mark them independently and privately before sending them back to elections officials. Contact your county elections official for more information.

## Audio and Large Print Voter Information Guides

This guide is available in audio and large print versions as well in English, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese at no cost.

To order:



Visit [vote.ca.gov](https://vote.ca.gov)



Call the Secretary of State's toll-free voter hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683)



Download an audio MP3 version at [voterguide.sos.ca.gov/en/audio](https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/en/audio)

# County Elections Offices

**Alameda County**

(800) 834-6454  
[www.acvote.org](http://www.acvote.org)

**Alpine County**

(530) 694-2281  
[www.alpinecountycalifornia.gov/](http://www.alpinecountycalifornia.gov/)

**Amador County**

(209) 223-6465  
[www.amadorgov.org/government/elections](http://www.amadorgov.org/government/elections)

**Butte County**

(530) 552-3400 or (800) 894-7761  
(Within Butte County)  
[www.buttevotes.net](http://www.buttevotes.net)

**Calaveras County**

(209) 754-6376 or (833) 536-8683  
[www.calaverasgov.us/](http://www.calaverasgov.us/)

**Colusa County**

(530) 458-0500 or (877) 458-0501  
[www.countyofcolusa.org/elections](http://www.countyofcolusa.org/elections)

**Contra Costa County**

(925) 335-7800  
[www.contracostavote.gov/elections/](http://www.contracostavote.gov/elections/)

**Del Norte County**

(707) 464-7216  
[www.co.del-norte.ca.us/departments/Elections](http://www.co.del-norte.ca.us/departments/Elections)

**El Dorado County**

(530) 621-7480  
[www.edcgov.us/Government/Elections](http://www.edcgov.us/Government/Elections)

**Fresno County**

(559) 600-8683  
[www.fresnovote.com](http://www.fresnovote.com)

**Glenn County**

(530) 934-6414  
[www.countyofglenn.net/dept/elections](http://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/elections)

**Humboldt County**

(707) 445-7481  
[www.humboldtgov.org/Elections](http://www.humboldtgov.org/Elections)

**Imperial County**

(442) 265-1060  
[www.elections.imperialcounty.org](http://www.elections.imperialcounty.org)

**Inyo County**

(760) 878-0224  
[elections.inyocounty.us/](http://elections.inyocounty.us/)

**Kern County**

(661) 868-3590 or (800) 452-8683  
[www.kernvote.com](http://www.kernvote.com)

**Kings County**

(559) 852-4401 or  
(800) 289-9981 ext. 4401  
[www.votekingscounty.com](http://www.votekingscounty.com)

**Lake County**

(707) 263-2372 or (888) 235-6730  
[www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/818/Registrar-of-Voters](http://www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/818/Registrar-of-Voters)

**Lassen County**

(530) 251-8217  
[www.lassencounty.org/dept/county-clerk-recorder/elections](http://www.lassencounty.org/dept/county-clerk-recorder/elections)

**Los Angeles County**

(800) 815-2666  
[www.lavote.gov/home/voting-elections](http://www.lavote.gov/home/voting-elections)

**Madera County**

(559) 675-7720 or (800) 435-0509  
[www.votemadera.com](http://www.votemadera.com)

**Marin County**

(415) 473-6456  
[www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org)

**Mariposa County**

(209) 966-2007  
[www.mariposacounty.org/87/Elections](http://www.mariposacounty.org/87/Elections)

**Mendocino County**

(707) 234-6819  
[www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections)

**Merced County**

(209) 385-7541 or (800) 561-0619  
[www.mercedelections.org](http://www.mercedelections.org)

**Modoc County**

(530) 233-6200  
[www.co.modoc.ca.us/departments/elections/](http://www.co.modoc.ca.us/departments/elections/)

**Mono County**

(760) 932-5537 or (760) 932-5530  
[monocounty.ca.gov/elections](http://monocounty.ca.gov/elections)

**Monterey County**

(831) 796-1499 or (866) 887-9274  
[www.montereycountyelections.us/](http://www.montereycountyelections.us/)

**Napa County**

(707) 253-4321  
[www.countyofnapa.org/396/elections](http://www.countyofnapa.org/396/elections)

**Nevada County**

(530) 265-1298 or (888) 395-1298  
[www.nevadacountyca.gov/1847/Elections-Voting](http://www.nevadacountyca.gov/1847/Elections-Voting)

**Orange County**

(714) 567-7600 or (888) 628-6837  
[www.ocvote.com](http://www.ocvote.com)

**Placer County**

(530) 886-5650 or (800) 824-8683  
[www.placercountyelections.gov](http://www.placercountyelections.gov)

**Plumas County**

(530) 283-6256 or (844) 676-VOTE  
[www.plumascounty.us/142/Elections-Division-Home](http://www.plumascounty.us/142/Elections-Division-Home)

**Riverside County**

(951) 486-7200  
[www.voteinfo.net](http://www.voteinfo.net)

**Sacramento County**

(916) 875-6451 or (800) 762-8019  
[www.elections.saccounty.gov](http://www.elections.saccounty.gov)

**San Benito County**

(831) 636-4016  
[www.sanbenitocounty-ca-cre.gov/elections](http://www.sanbenitocounty-ca-cre.gov/elections)

**San Bernardino County**

(909) 387-8300  
[www.sbcountyelections.com](http://www.sbcountyelections.com)

**San Diego County**

(858) 565-5800 or (800) 696-0136  
[www.sdvote.com/](http://www.sdvote.com/)

**San Francisco County**

(415) 554-4375  
[sfelections.sfgov.org](http://sfelections.sfgov.org)

**San Joaquin County**

(209) 468-2890 or (209) 468-8683  
[www.sjcrow.org](http://www.sjcrow.org)

**San Luis Obispo County**

(800) 834-4636  
[www.slovote.com](http://www.slovote.com)

**San Mateo County**

(650) 312-5222  
[www.smcacre.org](http://www.smcacre.org)

**Santa Barbara County**

(805) 568-2200 or (800) 722-8683  
[www.sbcvot.com](http://www.sbcvot.com)

**Santa Clara County**

(408) 299-8683 or (866) 430-8683  
[www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org)

**Santa Cruz County**

(831) 454-2060 or (866) 282-5900  
[www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com)

**Shasta County**

(530) 225-5730  
[www.elections.shastacounty.gov](http://www.elections.shastacounty.gov)

**Sierra County**

(530) 289-3295  
[www.sierracounty.ca.gov/214/Elections](http://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/214/Elections)

**Siskiyou County**

(530) 842-8084  
[www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/elections](http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/elections)

**Solano County**

(707) 784-6675 or (888) 933-8683  
[www.solanocounty.com/elections](http://www.solanocounty.com/elections)

**Sonoma County**

(707) 565-6800 or (800) 750-8683  
[vote.sonoma-county.org](http://vote.sonoma-county.org)

**Stanislaus County**

(209) 525-5200 or (833) 772-2260  
[www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com)

**Sutter County**

(530) 822-7122  
[www.suttercounty.org/elections](http://www.suttercounty.org/elections)

**Tehama County**

(530) 527-8190  
[www.co.tehama.ca.us/government/departments/elections/](http://www.co.tehama.ca.us/government/departments/elections/)

**Trinity County**

(530) 623-1220  
[www.trinitycounty.org/214/Elections](http://www.trinitycounty.org/214/Elections)

**Tulare County**

(559) 839-2100  
[tularecoelections.org/elections/](http://tularecoelections.org/elections/)

**Tuolumne County**

(209) 533-5570  
[www.co.tuolumne.ca.us/elections](http://www.co.tuolumne.ca.us/elections)

**Ventura County**

(805) 654-2664  
[www.venturavote.org](http://www.venturavote.org)

**Yolo County**

(530) 666-8133  
[www.yoloelections.org](http://www.yoloelections.org)

**Yuba County**

(530) 749-7855  
[www.yubaelections.org](http://www.yubaelections.org)

## Check Your Voter Status Online



Visit the Secretary of State's My Voter Status page at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov) to check your voter status, find your polling place or a vote center, and much more.

To check your voter status, you will need to enter your first name, last name, date of birth, and your California driver's license or California identification card number, or the last four digits of your social security number.

Visit [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov) for important voter details.

### What if I forgot to register to vote or update my registration?

No problem! If you missed the October 20, 2025, voter registration deadline, California law allows you to register to vote and vote until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day at your county elections office or at any voting location in your county. This process is called Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) and is commonly referred to as Same Day Voter Registration.

## Provisional Voting

### Name not on the voter list at the polling place or the vote center?

You still have the right to vote with a provisional ballot.

### What is a provisional ballot?

A provisional ballot is a regular ballot placed in a special envelope prior to being put in the ballot box. Provisional ballots are ballots cast by voters who believe they are registered to vote even though their names are not on the official voter registration list at the polling place or vote center.

A voter may need to cast a provisional ballot if they want to vote in person at a polling place or vote center but did not receive their vote-by-mail ballot or if they do not have their vote-by-mail ballot with them to surrender prior to voting in person.

### Will my provisional ballot be counted?

Yes, your provisional ballot will be counted after elections officials have confirmed that you are registered to vote in that county, and you did not already vote in that election.

A provisional ballot may be used at any polling place or vote center in the county in which you are registered to vote. Only the election contests you are eligible to vote for will be counted.

### How can you check the status of your provisional ballot?

Anyone who casts a provisional ballot has the right to find out from their county elections official if the ballot was counted and, if not, the reason why it was not counted.



You can check the status of your provisional ballot at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov).

# How to Fix a Missing or Noncomparable Signature on Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot Return Envelope

## ✓ Possible Issues With Vote-by-Mail or Provisional Ballot Return Envelopes

- **Missing Signature:** You forgot to sign your vote-by-mail ballot return envelope.
- **Signature Doesn't Compare:** Your signature doesn't compare with the one on file with the elections official.

## ✓ What Happens Next?

- **Notification:** If there's an issue with your ballot, your county elections office will notify you by mail, phone, email, or from the Secretary of State's *Where's My Ballot?* tool.
- **How to Fix It:** You can access a form on your county elections official's website to provide your signature and confirm that you voted your ballot.
  - Check your mail or email for instructions from your county elections office
  - Fill out the form and follow instructions on how to return the form
  - Your options to return the form may vary by county
  - Failure to follow instructions may result in your ballot not being counted

## ✓ Stay Informed With *Where's My Ballot?*

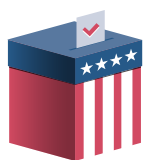
- **Track Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot:** Get automatic updates on your ballot's status by signing up for *Where's My Ballot?*
- Receive notifications via **text, email, or phone** about:
  - When your ballot is mailed
  - When it is received
  - If it has been counted
  - If there are issues that need to be fixed
- **Sign up today at:**  
[wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](https://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov)

## ✓ Important Deadlines for the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election:

- **Mail ballots:** Return your ballot by mail as soon as you receive it. Must be postmarked no later than **November 4, 2025**, and received no later than **November 12, 2025**.
- **Deadline:** The deadline to fix your missing or noncomparable signature is 5:00 p.m. on November 30, 2025, two days prior to the day your county certifies the election.

**For more information, visit [vote.ca.gov](https://vote.ca.gov) or call our Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).**

# DATES TO REMEMBER!



## Don't Delay, Vote Today!

Early vote-by-mail ballot voting period is from October 6 through November 4, 2025.  
Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 4, 2025, Election Day!

### OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- October 6**  
County elections officials will begin mailing vote-by-mail ballots on or before this date.
- October 6–November 4**  
Voting period to return vote-by-mail ballot.
- October 7**  
Vote-by-mail secure drop boxes open.
- October 20**  
Last day to register to vote. Same day voter registration is available at your county elections office or voting location after the voter registration deadline, up to and including Election Day.
- October 25**  
First day vote centers open in Voter's Choice Act counties for early in-person voting.

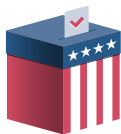
### NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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30						

- Tuesday, November 4, 2025**  
Last day to vote in-person or return a vote-by-mail ballot by 8:00 p.m.  
Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Return your ballot by mail as soon as you receive it. Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked no later than November 4.

California Secretary of State  
Elections Division  
1500 11th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CALIFORNIA  
SECRETARY  
OF STATE



NOVEMBER 4, 2025

# STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**October 6**

County elections officials will begin mailing  
vote-by-mail ballots on or before this date.

**October 6 – November 4**

Voting period to return vote-by-mail ballot.

**October 7**

Vote-by-mail secure drop boxes open.

**October 20**

Last day to register to vote. Same day voter registration is  
available at your county elections office or voting location after  
the voter registration deadline, up to and including Election Day.

**October 25**

First day vote centers open in Voter's Choice Act  
counties for early in-person voting.

**Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

Last day to vote in-person or return a vote-by-mail ballot by  
8:00 p.m. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Return  
your ballot by mail as soon as you receive it. Vote-by-mail  
ballots must be postmarked no later than November 4.

For additional copies of the Voter Information Guide  
in any of the following languages, please call:

**English:** (800) 345-VOTE (8683)

**Español/Spanish:** (800) 232-VOTA (8682)

**中文/Chinese:** (800) 339-2857

**हिन्दी/Hindi:** (888) 345-2692

★ **日本語/Japanese:** (800) 339-2865

**ខ្មែរ/Khmer:** (888) 345-4917

**한국어/Korean:** (866) 575-1558

**Tagalog:** (800) 339-2957

**ภาษาไทย/Thai:** (855) 345-3933

**Việt ngữ/Vietnamese:** (800) 339-8163

**TTY/TDD:** 711



**Are you registered to vote? Check here: [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)**

★ In an effort to reduce election costs, the State Legislature has authorized the State and counties to mail only one guide to each voting household. You may request additional copies by contacting your county elections official or by calling (800) 345-VOTE (8683). ★

# Exhibit 445

Date of Hearing: March 26, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS  
Gail Pellerin, Chair  
AB 604 (Berman) – As Introduced February 13, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Voter registration: residency confirmation.

**SUMMARY:** Repeals an obsolete provision of law related to residency confirmation of registered voters.

**EXISTING STATE LAW:**

- 1) Requires each county elections official to conduct a pre-election residency confirmation of each registered voter, as specified, prior to each primary election. (Elections Code §§2220, 2222, 2223, 2227)
- 2) Provides for the status of a voter's registration to be changed to inactive if change-of-address data received by the county elections official from the United States Postal Service (USPS) or its licensees indicates that the voter has moved and left no forwarding address or has moved out of the state, as specified. Requires the county elections official to send a forwardable address verification mailing to the voter in that case, as specified. (Elections Code §§2221, 2225, 2226)
- 3) Permitted a county elections official, until December 31, 2019, to send an alternate residency confirmation (ARC) postcard to any voter who had not voted in an election within the preceding four years, and who had not updated their residence address, name, or party preference during that time. Permitted a county elections official, until December 31, 2019, to make a voter's registration inactive if the voter failed to respond to an ARC postcard. This provision of law was made inoperative on January 1, 2020, but remains in state law until January 1, 2029, at which point it will be repealed by its own terms. (Elections Code §2224)
- 4) Provides that voters with an inactive voter registration status do not receive vote by mail (VBM) ballots or other election materials that otherwise are sent to registered voters, and are not included in voter registration numbers for the purposes of certain election administration related processes. (Elections Code §§2226, 3000.5)
- 5) Provides that any voter whose registration is inactive, and who offers to vote, who notifies the elections official of a continued residency, or who confirms the voter's registration record on the SOS's website, shall be removed from the inactive list and placed on the active voter list. (Elections Code §2226(c))

**EXISTING FEDERAL LAW:**

- 1) Requires each state, as specified, to do both of the following pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA):
  - a) Provide that the name of a registrant may not be removed from the official list of eligible voters except at the registrant's request, as provided by state law by reason of criminal conviction or mental incapacity, or as provided by specified procedures outlined in the

NVRA.

- b) Conduct a general program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters by reason of death of the registrant, or a change in the residence of the registrant, as specified. (52 U.S. Code §20507)
- 2) Requires all of the following, pursuant to NVRA and the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA):
  - a) That a voter not be removed from the list of eligible voters in elections for federal office on the ground that the registrant has changed residence unless either of the following is true:
    - i) The registrant confirms their change in residence in writing, as specified; or,
    - ii) The registrant has failed to respond to a specified notice and has not voted or appeared to vote in an election between the time that the notice is sent and the date of the second federal general election after the notice is sent.
  - b) That a voting registrar shall correct an official list of eligible voters in elections for federal office in accordance with change of residence information obtained in conformance with the state program or activity to ensure the maintenance of an accurate and current voter registration roll for elections for federal office. (52 U.S. Code §20507)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None. This bill is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose of the Bill:** According to the author:

State and federal law require elections officials to follow specified procedures to confirm the residency of registered voters. These residency confirmation procedures are designed to keep voter registration rolls up-to-date by ensuring that voters' registrations are updated when voters move. If information from a residency confirmation process indicates that a voter has moved and not left a forwarding address, the voter's registration becomes inactive. A voter whose registration is inactive remains eligible to vote, but their registration eventually may be canceled if the voter does not vote or confirm their address with the elections official.

I authored AB 504 in 2019 to, among other changes, allow a voter to confirm their address by logging in to the Secretary of State's "My Voter Status" website, which ensures that the voter's registration remains active, or makes the registration active again if it was inactive. Because some of the changes made by AB 504 necessitated technology upgrades, the bill contained two nearly identical provisions of law, with one taking effect following passage and the second taking effect once the upgrades were completed. I'm authoring AB 604 to clean up the law and prevent any confusion as to which provision of code is in effect.

- 2) **Inactive Voters:** California law provides that a voter's registration may be changed to "inactive" status under specified circumstances. Voters whose registrations are inactive do not receive VBM ballots, but remain eligible to vote. The inactive list is one tool that California uses to protect voters from being disenfranchised inadvertently if elections officials receive inaccurate information about the residence address of a voter.

Under state law, a voter's registration is made inactive when the county elections official receives information from the USPS that indicates that the voter has moved and has not provided a new address, or has moved out of state. Additionally, until recently, a voter's registration could be made inactive even in situations where the elections official had not received information that suggested that a voter has moved. Specifically, until the beginning of 2020, state law allowed (but did not require) elections officials to conduct an ARC process under which voters who had not voted in at least four years were sent a residency confirmation postcard. If the voter failed to return that postcard, state law provided for the voter's registration to be made inactive.

When a county elections official changes a voter's registration status to inactive, state and federal law require the elections official to send a forwardable address verification mailing to the voter at the address at which the voter was registered to vote. If the voter responds to that mailing and confirms that they have not changed their residence, the voter's registration status is changed back to active. Alternately, if the voter responds and indicates that they have changed their residence, the voter's registration is either updated to the voter's new residence address if the new address is in California, or canceled if the new address is outside of California.

If a voter's registration status is changed to inactive and that voter does not respond to the address verification mailing sent by the elections official, then the voter's registration remains inactive. If that voter does not vote, attempt to vote, or otherwise confirm or update their voter registration between the date of that notice and the second federal general election that occurs after the date of the notice, then the voter's registration is canceled.

- 3) **Secretary of State's My Voter Status Website:** HAVA generally requires each state to implement a single, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list that is defined, maintained, and administered at the state level and that contains the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the state. California's federally compliant statewide voter registration database is known as VoteCal.

When California launched VoteCal in September 2016, the SOS also launched a "My Voter Status" portal that allows eligible Californians to register to vote, check their voter registration status, and check the status of their VBM or provisional ballots, among other functions. To access the "My Voter Status" website, a voter must provide their name, driver's license or identification card number, the last four digits of their Social Security number, and their date of birth.

- 4) **Seeing Double and Previous Legislation:** AB 504 (Berman), Chapter 262, Statutes of 2019, was legislation sponsored by the SOS that made various changes to state laws related to the confirmation of voters' residence addresses. Among other changes, AB 504 eliminated the ARC process described above in an effort to bring state law into conformity with a United States Supreme Court ruling from the prior year.

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**AB 604**

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AB 504 additionally provided that if a voter verifies their registration record through the SOS's My Voter Status website, that verification would serve as a confirmation of the voter's residency for the purposes of pre-election residency confirmation processes and voter list maintenance procedures. At the time AB 504 was enacted, however, the VoteCal system did not have the ability to notify the relevant county elections official when a voter confirmed their registration record on the SOS's My Voter Status website. Accordingly, AB 504 enacted two versions of Section 2226 of the Elections Code, which contains rules for voter list maintenance. One version of Section 2226 went into effect on January 1, 2020, and the second version specified that it would go into effect only after the SOS certified that necessary changes were made to VoteCal such that the relevant county elections official would be notified when a voter confirmed their registration record on the SOS's My Voter Status website. According to information from the SOS, those changes were made to VoteCal in 2020. As a result, the first version of Section 2226 of the Elections Code is no longer operative, and the second version of that code section is in effect.

This bill repeals the inoperative version of Section 2226 of the Elections Code.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file.

**Opposition**

None on file.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Ethan Jones / ELECTIONS / (916) 319-2094

# Exhibit 446

## **Redistricting Bill Package (AB 604)**

### **Constitutional Issues**

### **Senate Floor Talking Points (8-21-25)**

Mr. (Madam) President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate:

- I rise with grave concerns.
- AB 604 was drafted without the Constitutional safeguards intended to promote fair and representative district maps.
- This mid-cycle redistricting plan undermines the state's constitution by seeking a voter-approved amendment that would temporarily waive key provisions of the California State Constitution's Article 21, allowing politicians to redraw lines for partisan gain rather than adhering to established democratic principles.
- First, the plan ignores the Constitutional mandate that redistricting occur only "in the year following the year in which the national census is taken under the direction of Congress, **at the beginning of each decade.**"
- By pushing for changes mid-decade – outside the post-census window – this proposal disrupts the every-ten-year rhythm that's designed to ensure districts reflect accurate, updated population data.
- This could open the door to arbitrary manipulations whenever political winds shift.

- Second, it waives the rigorous criteria outlined in the state Constitution that prioritizes geographical and social considerations to promote fairness.
- These include requiring districts to be geographically contiguous (criterion 3), respecting the integrity of cities, counties, neighborhoods, and "communities of interest" by minimizing their division (criterion 4), and ensuring compactness where practicable (criterion 5).
- The Legislature's secretive and rushed map-drawing process discards these standards, potentially fracturing cohesive communities and creating convoluted districts that prioritize electoral outcomes over logical boundaries.
- Finally, the plan flouts the constitution's explicit prohibition against partisan gerrymandering, which states that districts "shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party."
- By suspending the Citizens Redistricting Commission and empowering this Legislature to redraw maps, this legislation invites blatant favoritism, eroding the impartiality voters enshrined in the Constitution to prevent self-serving power grabs.
- For these reasons, I urge your NO vote.

# Exhibit 447

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry) - Redistricting: congressional districts

**Version:** August 18, 2025

**Policy Vote:** E. & C.A. 4 - 1

**Urgency:** Yes

**Mandate:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 20, 2025

**Consultant:** Robert Ingenito

**Bill Summary:** AB 604 would specify the elements that define the congressional districts that would be adopted only if (1) ACA 8 of the 2025–26 Regular Session is approved by the voters and takes effect, and (2) specified constitutional provisions become operable.

**Fiscal Impact:** The Secretary of State (SOS) would incur administrative costs to the extent that specified ambiguities or disputes related to boundary lines occur. Workload to SOS would be driven by (1) the number of such ambiguities/disputes, and (2) their complexity and related resources needed to achieve resolution. Because both of these factors are unknown, the costs to SOS resulting from this bill cannot be determined. (General Fund).

**Background:** As summarized by the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments, the California Constitution requires that in the year following the year in which a national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the start of a decade, the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) shall adjust the lines of congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts, pursuant to specified standards and procedures.

ACA 8 places on the ballot a measure, that if passed by the voters, would amend the Constitution to adopt the maps for congressional districts to be used for every congressional election for a term of office commencing on or after the date ACA 8 takes effect and prior to the operative date of new congressional boundary lines drawn by the CRC following the 2030 national census.

**Proposed Law:** This bill, among other things, would do the following:

- Contain the legal descriptions of California congressional districts that would be adopted only if (1) ACA 8 of the 2025–26 Regular Session is approved by the voters and takes effect, and (2) specified constitutional provisions become operable.
- Specify that in the event this bill does not list, lists more than once, or only partially accounts for a census tract or census block and, as a result, an ambiguity or dispute arises regarding the location of a boundary line, SOS and the elections official of each county shall rely on the detailed maps prepared by the Assembly Elections Committee and the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments.

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**AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry)**

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- Remain in effect until CRC redistricts congressional districts following the 2030 national census.

**Related Legislation:**

- ACA 8 (Rivas and McGuire) would implement new congressional districts described in this bill, to take effect if and when Texas or another state redistricts its congressional seats, as specified. The measure is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- SB 280 (Cervantes and Pellerin) would call a special election for November 4, 2025, require SOS to submit ACA 8 to the voters at that election as Proposition 50, and provide for the conduct of that election. The bill is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- AB 632 (Cedillo, Chapter 348, Statutes of 2001) last adopted legal descriptions of congressional districts via legislative action.

-- END --

# Exhibit 448

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**  
**Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair**  
**2025 - 2026 Regular**

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<b>Bill No:</b>	AB 604	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	8/19/25
<b>Author:</b>	Aguiar-Curry		
<b>Version:</b>	8/18/25		
<b>Urgency:</b>	Yes	<b>Fiscal:</b>	Yes
<b>Consultant:</b>	Carrie Cornwell		

**Subject:** Redistricting: congressional districts

**DIGEST**

This bill contains the legal descriptions of California congressional districts that would be adopted pursuant to ACA 8 (Rivas and McGuire).

**ANALYSIS**

Existing law contained in Article XXI of the California Constitution requires that in the year following the year in which a national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the start of a decade, the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) shall adjust the lines of congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts, pursuant to specified standards and procedures.

ACA 8 places on the ballot a measure, that if passed by the people, would amend the constitution to adopt the maps for congressional districts to be used for every congressional election for a term of office commencing on or after the date ACA 8 takes effect and prior to the operative date of new congressional boundary lines drawn by the CRC following the 2030 national census.

This bill:

- 1) Contains the legal descriptions of California congressional districts that would be adopted pursuant to ACA 8.
- 2) Specifies that in the event this bill does not list, lists more than once, or only partially accounts for a census tract or census block and, as a result, an ambiguity or dispute arises regarding the location of a boundary line, the Secretary of State and the elections official of each county shall rely on the detailed maps posted to the websites of the Legislature's two Elections Committees.
- 3) Remains in effect only until the CRC redistricts congressional districts following the 2030 national census.
- 4) Makes its provisions severable.
- 5) Is an urgency measure.

**AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry)**

**Page 2 of 4**

**COMMENTS**

- 1) Author's Statement. This bill will protect Californians' interests in the national democratic process by presenting the voters with a temporary congressional district map to use if Texas or other states decide to conduct mid-decade, partisan gerrymandering of their congressional district maps.

The temporary congressional district boundaries laid out in this bill follow the principles that California voters value most in establishing legislative districts. The proposed map maintains the geographic integrity of even more cities than the current map adopted by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Importantly, the temporary map in this bill will also ensure that communities of interest remain intact — a key principle of the constitutional amendment establishing the Citizens Redistricting Commission — to exercise their collective voice and vote to elect officials who truly represent them. This bill does all of this without diluting or favoring the voting power of any one voter over another. And, unlike any other congressional maps in use across the country today, the district map in this bill will go directly to California voters for their approval.

This bill not only appropriately responds to the mid-cycle redistricting attempts by President Trump and Republicans in Texas and other states, but also adheres to redistricting principles that Californians hold dear — from protecting the many types of communities of interest in our state, to maintaining the geographic integrity of neighborhoods. The temporary congressional district lines proposed in AB 604 provide an effective response to the partisan gerrymander attempted by Texas and other states without eroding fair representation for all California voters and communities.

- 2) Support and Opposition. Communications of support and opposition received relate to mid-decade redistricting in general, and not to a specific measure within this legislative package. Supporters in general assert that this legislation is a needed response to the actions others states, specifically Texas, are taking at the urging of President Trump. They also point out that this legislation asks the voters of the state to decide on whether to approve new congressional districts, rather than politicians making the decision. Supporters further note that the legislation reaffirms California's support of independent redistricting commissions both here and nationwide.

Opponents' concerns center on the financial burden of the special election, the short timeframe for public comment on this legislative package, and that California's congressional delegation already includes relatively few Republican members. The League of Women Voters of California (LWV) notes that it stands "entirely apart from political parties on mid-cycle redistricting and squarely in the fight against President Trump's authoritarian and dangerous policies that threaten the civil rights and liberties of all Americans." The LWV here and in other states, however, opposes all attempts to gerrymander congressional lines on a partisan basis.

**AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry)**

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**RELATED/PRIOR LEGISLATION**

ACA 8 (Rivas and Cervantes) proposes a constitutional amendment that would, if approved by the voters, implement new congressional districts described in this bill, which would only take effect if and when Texas or another state redistricts its congressional seats, as specified.

SB 280 (Cervantes and Pellerin) calls a special election for November 4, 2025, requires the Secretary of State to submit ACA 8 to the voters at that election as Proposition 50, and provides for the conduct of that election.

AB 632 (Cedillo), Chapter 348, Statutes of 2001, last adopted legal descriptions of congressional districts via legislative action.

**POSITIONS**

Please see comment #2 for more details about support and opposition.

**Support:** AAPI Equity Alliance  
AFSCME California  
Alliance for a Better Community  
Altadena Chamber of Commerce  
Arab Resource & Organizing Center Action  
Asian American Drug Abuse Program  
Battleground California  
CA Church IMPACT  
CAUSE Action Fund  
California Donor Table  
California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO  
California Professional Firefighters  
California Teachers Association  
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative  
Climate Action Campaign  
Democracy Strategy Partners  
Democratic Party of Orange County  
Democratic Party of San Fernando Valley  
Indivisible California: StateStrong (CASS)  
Little Manila Rising  
Los Angeles County Young Democrats  
Outdoor Outreach  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California  
Reproductive Freedom for All California  
San Francisco Democratic Party  
SEIU California  
TruEvolution  
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930  
United Way Santa Cruz County  
The Unity Council  
Voices for Progress  
WDN Action

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**AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry)**

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Women's March Foundation  
Thousands of individuals

**Oppose:** California Business Roundtable  
California Consumer Advocates for Affordability and Safety  
California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
California Manufacturers and Technology Association  
Govern for California  
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Independent Voter Education  
Independent Voter Project  
NFIB  
Protect the Voters FIRST Act  
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce  
The Two Hundred for Homeownership  
United Latinos Action  
Unity Party of California  
Thousands of individuals

-- END --

# Exhibit 449

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**SENATE RULES COMMITTEE**

AB 604

Office of Senate Floor Analyses

(916) 651-1520 Fax: (916) 327-4478

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**THIRD READING**

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Bill No: AB 604

Author: Aguiar-Curry (D) and Gonzalez (D)

Amended: 8/18/25 in Senate

Vote: 27 - Urgency

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ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 3/26/25

AYES: Pellerin, Macedo, Bennett, Berman, Solache, Stefani, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-1, 4/1/25 – See last page for vote.

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 8/19/25

AYES: Cervantes, Allen, Limón, Umberg

NOES: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS: 5-2, 8/20/25

AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

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**SUBJECT:** Redistricting: congressional districts

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill contains the legal descriptions of California congressional districts that would be adopted pursuant to ACA 8 (Rivas and McGuire).

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law contained in Article XXI of the California Constitution requires that in the year following the year in which a national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the start of a decade, the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) shall adjust the lines of congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts, pursuant to specified standards and procedures.

ACA 8 places on the ballot a measure, that if passed by the people, would amend the constitution to adopt the maps for congressional districts to be used for every congressional election for a term of office commencing on or after the date ACA 8 takes effect and prior to the operative date of new congressional boundary lines drawn by the CRC following the 2030 national census.

This bill:

- 1) Contains the legal descriptions of California congressional districts that would be adopted pursuant to ACA 8.
- 2) Specifies that in the event this bill does not list, lists more than once, or only partially accounts for a census tract or census block and, as a result, an ambiguity or dispute arises regarding the location of a boundary line, the Secretary of State and the elections official of each county shall rely on the detailed maps posted to the websites of the Legislature's two Elections Committees.
- 3) Remains in effect only until the CRC redistricts congressional districts following the 2030 national census.
- 4) Makes its provisions severable.
- 5) Is an urgency measure.

### **Comments**

- 1) *Author's Statement.* This bill will protect Californians' interests in the national democratic process by presenting the voters with a temporary congressional district map to use if Texas or other states decide to conduct mid-decade, partisan gerrymandering of their congressional district maps.

The temporary congressional district boundaries laid out in this bill follow the principles that California voters value most in establishing legislative districts. The proposed map maintains the geographic integrity of even more cities than the current map adopted by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Importantly, the temporary map in this bill will also ensure that communities of interest remain intact — a key principle of the constitutional amendment establishing the Citizens Redistricting Commission — to exercise their collective voice and vote to elect officials who truly represent them. This bill does all of this without diluting or favoring the voting power of any one voter over another. And, unlike any other congressional maps in use across the

country today, the district map in this bill will go directly to California voters for their approval.

This bill not only appropriately responds to the mid-cycle redistricting attempts by President Trump and Republicans in Texas and other states, but also adheres to redistricting principles that Californians hold dear — from protecting the many types of communities of interest in our state, to maintaining the geographic integrity of neighborhoods. The temporary congressional district lines proposed in AB 604 provide an effective response to the partisan gerrymander attempted by Texas and other states without eroding fair representation for all California voters and communities.

- 2) *Support and Opposition.* Communications of support and opposition received relate to mid-decade redistricting in general, and not to a specific measure within this legislative package. Supporters in general assert that this legislation is a needed response to the actions others states, specifically Texas, are taking at the urging of President Trump. They also point out that this legislation asks the voters of the state to decide on whether to approve new congressional districts, rather than politicians making the decision. Supporters further note that the legislation reaffirms California’s support of independent redistricting commissions both here and nationwide.

Opponents’ concerns center on the financial burden of the special election, the short timeframe for public comment on this legislative package, and that California’s congressional delegation already includes relatively few Republican members. The League of Women Voters of California (LWV) notes that it stands “entirely apart from political parties on mid-cycle redistricting and squarely in the fight against President Trump’s authoritarian and dangerous policies that threaten the civil rights and liberties of all Americans.” The LWV here and in other states, however, opposes all attempts to gerrymander congressional lines on a partisan basis.

### **Related/Prior Legislation**

ACA 8 (Rivas and Cervantes, 2025) proposes a constitutional amendment that would, if approved by the voters, implement new congressional districts described in this bill, which would only take effect if and when Texas or another state redistricts its congressional seats, as specified.

SB 280 (Cervantes and Pellerin, 2025) calls a special election for November 4, 2025, requires the Secretary of State to submit ACA 8 to the voters at that election as Proposition 50, and provides for the conduct of that election.

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AB 632 (Cedillo, Chapter 348, Statutes of 2001) last adopted legal descriptions of congressional districts via legislative action.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/21/25)

*Please see comment #2 for more details about support and opposition.*

Eleni Kounalakis, California Lieutenant Governor  
Paloma Aguirre, San Diego County Supervisor, District 1  
Terra Lawson-Remer, San Diego County Supervisor, District 3  
AAPI Equity Alliance  
AFSCME California  
Alliance for a Better Community  
Altadena Chamber of Commerce  
Arab Resource & Organizing Center Action  
Asian American Drug Abuse Program  
Battleground California  
Black Women Organizing for Political Action  
Borderlands for Equity  
CA Church IMPACT  
CAUSE Action Fund  
California Donor Table  
California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO  
California Nurses Association  
California Professional Firefighters  
California Teachers Association  
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative  
Child Care Providers United  
Climate Action Campaign  
Compass Family Services  
Democracy Strategy Partners  
Democratic Party of Orange County  
Democratic Party of San Fernando Valley  
El Concilio California  
HB Huddle  
Imperial Valley Equity and Justice  
Indivisible California: StateStrong  
Indivisible El Dorado  
Indivisible Stanislaus

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Inland Empire United  
Little Manila Rising  
Los Angeles County Young Democrats  
Outdoor Outreach  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California  
Reproductive Freedom for All California  
San Francisco Democratic Party  
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans  
SEIU California  
South Asian Network  
Starting Over Strong  
Teamsters California  
TruEvolution  
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930  
United Food and Commercial Workers Western States Council  
United Way Santa Cruz County  
The Unity Council  
Voices for Progress  
WDN Action  
Women's March Foundation  
Thousands of individuals

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/21/25)

*Please see comment #2 for more details about support and opposition.*

Alliance San Diego  
California Business Roundtable  
California Common Cause  
California Consumer Advocates for Affordability and Safety  
California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
California Manufacturers and Technology Association  
CalTax  
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce  
Govern for California  
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Independent Voter Education  
Independent Voter Project  
NFIB  
Protect the Voters FIRST Act  
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce

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The Two Hundred for Homeownership  
United Latinos Action  
Unity Party of California  
Thousands of individuals

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-1, 4/1/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains,  
Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo,  
Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Essayli, Flora, Fong, Gabriel,  
Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney,  
Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee,  
Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan,  
Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste  
Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo,  
Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis,  
Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Bennett, Davies, Wicks

Prepared by: Carrie Cornwell / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106  
8/21/25 9:52:28

\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*

# Exhibit 450

## **Elections and Constitutional Amendments**

**AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry)  
Oppose**

**Vote requirement: 27 (Urgency)**  
Version Date: 08/18/2025

### **Summary**

Replaces for the next 3 elections cycles (2026, 2028, 2030), as long as the voters approve ACA 8, the existing congressional district map established in 2021 by the non-partisan California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) with a highly partisan gerrymandered congressional district map drawn to eliminate 5 Republican congressional seats while making numerous Democrat seats far less competitive (see: <https://selc.senate.ca.gov/proposed-congressional-map>)

*Note: This measure is part of a 3 bill package intended to implement the Governor, Legislative Democrats and Congressional Democrats' unfair, unjustified, unconstitutional, highly-partisan, power grab intended to overturn the will of the people and eliminate up to 5 Republican congressional seats while making several existing Democrat even less competitive.*

*Other bills in the package include: 1) ACA 8 (Rivas and McGuire), which would ask the voters to approve Governor Newsom, Legislative Democrats and Congressional Democrats' plan to set aside the existing congressional district map established in 2021 by the non-partisan California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) in favor of a highly partisan gerrymandered congressional district map drawn to eliminate 5 Republican congressional seats while making numerous Democrat seats far less competitive.; and, 2) SB 280 (Cervantes), which would call the special election for November 4, 2025 and place the ACA 8 as Proposition 50 before the voters while also waiving numerous Election Code requirements relative to elections administrative timelines and partially funding the special election.*

### **Vote History**

**Senate Appropriations Committee: 5-2 (08/20/2025)**

(NO: Dahle, Seyarto)

**Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments: 4-1 (08/19/2025)**

(NO: Choi)

**Senate Appropriations: 5-2 (08/20/2025)**

(NO: Seyarto, Dahle)

### **Support & Opposition Received**

Support: AFSCME California; Battleground California; Borderlands for Equity; California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO; California Nurses Association; California Professional Firefighters; California Teachers Association; El Concilio California; Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition; Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis; Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California; San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chair, Terra Lawson-remer; SEIU California; South Asian Network; Teamsters California; UDW/AFSCME Local 3930; UFCW - Western States Council.

Opposition: Alliance San Diego; California Business Roundtable, CalTax.

### **Fiscal Effect**

#### **VERY MAJOR STATE COSTS**

This bill is one of three bills included in the Governor's and Democrats' gerrymandering redistricting package. Considering all three bills together, the package would result in state costs in the range of \$240 million General Fund or more. Below is the fiscal estimate for each of three bills included in the package.

**AB 604: Requires Use of New Maps.**Unknown, but potentially significant state costs within the Secretary of State for administrative activities. The bill could also result in unknown, but potentially major state reimbursable mandate costs if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill requires a higher level of service from local election officials.

**SB 280: Implements the Special Election.**Appropriates unspecified amounts, to be determined by the Director of Finance (i.e., the Newsom Administration), to the Secretary of State and to the Controller to fund counties for the election costs. If the election follows the typical course, staff estimates the bill would result in very major state costs of more than \$30 million for the Secretary of State to administer the election. Costs for local election officials to administer are likely to reach \$235 million or higher, including staffing, outreach, equipment, vote center management, and ballot costs.

This estimate is based on the costs of the 2021 gubernatorial special election, which cost \$200 million, including \$174 million for county administration and \$26 million for the Secretary of State. Costs for a new special election are likely to be higher due to nearly 16 percent general California inflation since 2021, an increase in postage costs, and an increase in the number of registered voters.

**ACA 8: Amends the State Constitution.**The Secretary of State would incur significant state costs in the range of \$738,000 to \$984,000 General Fund for printing and mailing costs to place the measure on the ballot in a statewide election. The SOS indicates the printing and mailing costs associated with placing a measure on the statewide ballot are approximately \$123,000 per page, depending on the length of the

ballot.

Fiscal Consultant: *Chantele Denny, Kirk Feely*

### **Arguments in Support**

Help Undermine Trump Presidency: The Governor, Legislative Democrats and Congressional Democrats all claim publicly that this package of bills is intended to counter a President Trump led effort to protect the House of Representative Republican Majority in 2026. They claim they are just "fighting fire with fire." However, by "fighting fire with fire" what they are really doing is attempting to improve the chances for Democrats to take the House of Representatives Majority in 2026 from the Republicans. This would enable them to stall President Trump's agenda by paralyzing his administration with investigations and impeachments much like House Democrats did in his first administration. While this may be bad for Californians and the rest of the nation, the Governor, Legislative Democrats and Congressional Democrats hate President Trump and will stop at nothing to "get Trump." ACA 8, if approved by the voters, would be a conduit for this, which for them would be a good thing.

### **Arguments in Opposition**

Disenfranchises Republican Voters with A Hyper-Partisan Gerrymandered Map Intended to Eliminate 5 California Republican Congressional Districts: The Congressional map in AB 604 is an unfair, unjustified, unconstitutional, highly-partisan, power grab intended to overturn the will of the people and eliminate up to 5 Republican congressional seats while making several existing Democrat even less competitive. If ACA 8 is approved by the voters and the map in AB 604 is adopted, congressional districts (CDs) CD 1, (Congressman LaMalfa), CD 3 (Congressman Kiley), CD 22 (Congressman Valadao), CD 41 (Congressman Calvert) and CD 48 (Congressman Issa) will all become Democrat districts. This will potentially drop California's current Republican Congressional Delegation from 9 to 4 out of 52 seats. (see: <https://selc.senate.ca.gov/proposed-congressional-map>)

Democrats could potentially hold 48 of California's 52 congressional seats (92%), but won only 58% of the 2024 presidential vote (Harris 58%, Trump 38%). Further, the most recent statewide voter registration numbers indicate that Republicans represent 25% of the state's total registered voters, but under the Governor's redistricting plan Republicans would only be represented by 7% of the California congressional delegation.

Finally, 15.4% of registered Republican voters in California reside in the five congressional districts targeted for flipping to Democratic control under the proposed maps. These districts have been redrawn to disenfranchise Republican voters by diluting their electoral influence and reducing GOP representation.

Drafted without Constitutional Safeguards Intended to Promote Fair and Representative District Maps: The Democrats' mid-cycle redistricting plan in California undermines the state's constitution by seeking a voter-approved amendment that would temporarily waive key provisions of Article XXI, allowing politicians to redraw lines for partisan gain rather than adhering to established democratic principles.

First, the plan ignores Article XXI, Section 1's mandate that redistricting occur only "in the year following the year in which the national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the beginning of each decade." By pushing for changes mid-decade—outside the post-census window—this proposal disrupts the decennial rhythm designed to ensure districts reflect accurate, updated population data, opening the door to arbitrary manipulations whenever political winds shift.

Second, it waives the rigorous criteria outlined in Article XXI, Section 2(d), which prioritize geographical and social considerations to promote fairness. These include requiring districts to be geographically contiguous (criterion 3), respecting the integrity of cities, counties, neighborhoods, and "communities of interest" by minimizing their division (criterion 4), and ensuring compactness where practicable (criterion 5). The legislature's secretive, rushed map-drawing process discards these standards, potentially fracturing cohesive communities and creating convoluted districts that prioritize electoral outcomes over logical boundaries.

Finally, the plan flouts Article XXI, Section 2(e)'s explicit prohibition against partisan gerrymandering, which states that districts "shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party." By suspending the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and empowering a Democrat-dominated legislature to redraw maps explicitly to counter Republican gains elsewhere, this scheme invites blatant favoritism, eroding the impartiality voters enshrined to prevent self-serving power grabs.

According to Congressman Doug LaMalfa representing the 1st Congressional District, one of the 5 districts gerrymandered under the Democrat redistricting plan, *"If you want to know what's wrong with these maps – just take a look at them. How on earth does Modoc County on the Nevada and Oregon Border have any common interest with Marin County and the Golden Gate Bridge? Voters took this power from Sacramento for just this reason. This is naked politics at its worst. This action by the state will set off a series of retaliation in other states across the country with Florida, Missouri and Indiana looking to push back against California. Mid-Decade redistricting is wrong, no matter where it's being done. Defying the voters voice is wrong. We should be listening to Californians who have said in multiple statewide elections that politicians shouldn't be the ones doing the redistricting. California is already in a huge budget deficit, we don't need to spend another \$235 million or more to learn voters still hate the idea."*

Drafted with Zero Transparency or Public Input: The California Citizens Redistricting Commission's process for establishing the current congressional maps after the 2020

census arguably exemplified transparency and public engagement, standing in stark contrast to the Democrats' secretive, rushed plan for mid-cycle redistricting in 2025.

The independent commission, created by voter-approved Propositions 11 (2008) and 20 (2010), conducted a months-long, open process with extensive public input. It held 196 public meetings, gathered 3,870 verbal comments, and collected 32,410 written submissions from Californians before finalizing the maps in December 2021. This ensured diverse stakeholder voices shaped fair districts, with deliberations publicly accessible and maps iteratively refined based on feedback.

In sharp contrast, Democrats' 2025 plan under Governor Gavin Newsom involves maps drafted behind closed doors by politicians, political consultants, and party insiders, with no initial public involvement or transparency in the drawing phase. Proposed maps were released on August 15, 2025, just days before anticipated legislative votes, providing only about five days for public notice and input on pre-decided districts—with no plans for modifications based on feedback. Democrat Legislators aim to approve these maps quickly, then place a constitutional amendment on a special November 4, 2025, ballot to temporarily suspend the commission and implement the changes for 2026-2030 elections. This "ram-through" process discards the commission's voter-mandated transparency in favor of partisan opacity, undermining public trust and the democratic safeguards Californians established to prevent such power grabs.

### **Other Issues**

Just Few of Many Issues with the Dem Gerrymander: Minutes after the Dem Congressional gerrymander was leaked, Matt Rexroad, a respected redistricting expert, tweeted the following (note the text in parentheses are musings of the consultant who drafted this analysis not Mr. Rexroad): 1) District 1 map included Marin with Modoc. (What do the two populations have in common? It is placing the State of Jefferson with wealthy Bay Area Leftist) It also doesn't touch the northern border of California (This appears to be a violation of Redistricting 101); 2) Newport is divided into two districts with the north part of the city being drawn into a congressional district with Long Beach. (Not a lot in common here); 3) Mission Viejo is divided into 3 separate congressional districts (Severely breaking up a community of interest); and 4) District 3 includes West Sacramento with Roseville (Two cities whose geography and population have little in common). The district also looks like a elephant head (This could show personal animosity and might be a big middle finger to Congressman Kiley and Republicans in general) (see: <https://selc.senate.ca.gov/proposed-congressional-map>).

### **Digest**

Replaces for the next 3 elections cycles (2026, 2028, 2030), as long as the voters approve ACA 8, the existing congressional district map established in 2021 by the non-partisan California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) with a highly partisan

gerrymandered congressional district map drawn to eliminate 5 Republican congressional seats while making numerous Democrat seats far less competitive (see: <https://selc.senate.ca.gov/proposed-congressional-map>).

### **Background**

**Existing law:** California's existing redistricting law, enshrined in Article XXI of the state Constitution, establishes the Citizens Redistricting Commission—a 14-member independent body selected through a rigorous, nonpartisan process—to draw state legislative and congressional districts **every decade** based on census data, **prioritizing equal population, geographic contiguity, and respect for communities of interest while prohibiting partisan favoritism**. Mid-decade changes are generally barred to prevent abuse.

**Proposition 11 (2008):** Authored via voter initiative and backed by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, this measure created the Citizens Redistricting Commission to handle state legislative districts, passing with 50.9% approval to end legislative gerrymandering.

**Proposition 20 (2010):** Also a voter initiative supported by Schwarzenegger and reform groups, it expanded the commission's authority to congressional districts, passing with 61.3% support to further insulate map-drawing from partisan influence.

**2021 Congressional Maps:** The current Congressional Redistricting Maps were established by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission in 2021. Under this map Republicans currently hold 9 of the 52 congressional seats spanning the state from Northern California to Southern California. These district include CDs 1, 3, 5, 20, 22, 23, 40, 41, and 48

### **Related Legislation**

**ACA 8 (Rivas and McGuire)** This Constitutional Amendment would ask the voters to approve Governor Newsom, Legislative Democrats and Congressional Democrats' plan to set aside the existing congressional district map established in 2021 by the non-partisan California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) in favor of a highly partisan gerrymandered congressional district map drawn to eliminate 5 Republican congressional seats while making numerous Democrat seats far less competitive. Currently pending in the Assembly Elections Committee.

**SB 280 (Cervantes and Pellerin)** calls a special election for November 4, 2025, requires the Secretary of State to submit ACA 8 to the voters at that election as Proposition 50, and provides for the conduct of that election. Currently pending in the Assembly Elections Committee.

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Senate Republican Policy Office/*Cory Botts*

# Exhibit 451

10/27/25, 1:18 PM

# Legislative Democrats Announce Plan Empowering Voters to Protect California

Trump and Republicans sparked a national crisis. And California is fighting back.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, August 15, 2025

Nick Miller  
Communications Director  
916-319-2029  
[Nick.Miller@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nick.Miller@asm.ca.gov)

SACRAMENTO - Today, Democrats in the California State Legislature announced new legislation to call a special election in November, empowering voters to protect our state's economy and democracy, and fighting back against reckless attacks by Trump and Republicans.

The legislation includes a state constitutional amendment to set a special election on November 4. It also makes public, for all voters to see and review, new proposed Congressional maps for California.

Voters will have the final say on the maps when they cast their ballots.

The proposed maps are now publicly available on the [Assembly Elections Committee website](#).

Californians also can provide input on the map [via a public portal](#) on the same website, which already has received more than 3,000 public comments since its launch on Wednesday.

## Democrats Empower Voters, Protect People and Communities, Promote Transparency

Republican redistricting efforts in Texas and other states are dividing communities, undermining voter freedom — and their maps are drawn without letting the people decide.

In California, lawmakers in the Assembly and Senate pushed for key provisions in the legislation to ensure fidelity to independent commissions, protections for the Voting Rights Act and preservation of California cities and communities:

- **California will keep the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.** The Legislature's plan makes sure the Commission maintains its full scope of work and authority after the 2030 Census and beyond, redrawing California's Congressional, state legislative and Board of Equalization lines every 10 years.
- **California only acts if Republicans try to rig the vote.** The legislation includes a trigger to ensure that maps will take effect only if other states effectuate partisan gerrymanders. Several Republican-controlled states, most notably Texas, are considering gerrymanders aimed to benefit their party. Unlike California, none are submitting those plans for voter approval.
- **Every state in the country should have independent redistricting.** The bills include provisions to express California's policy to support nonpartisan, independent redistricting nationwide and would call on Congress to initiate a federal constitutional amendment to require nonpartisan, independent redistricting nationwide.
- **Protecting the rights of all voters.** The new map retains the voting rights protections enacted by the independent commission.
- **Keeping cities and communities together.** The proposed Congressional map keeps more cities whole within a single district than the most recent map enacted by the commission.

## What Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas Says

"Trump sparked this national crisis when he called Texas to rig the election. California is fighting back. Democrats are empowering voters to protect working families and our democracy — with the most transparent process in the nation. Voters will see the maps and have the final say. The stakes couldn't be higher, but I'm confident we'll defeat this assault on our democracy and end Trump's attacks on California."

10/27/25, 1:18 PM

“This is about more than drawing lines on a map, it’s about drawing a line in the sand to stop Texas and Trump from rigging the election. This is about protecting the people of the Golden State, our Democracy and making sure voters have a say. Access to health care matters. Reproductive rights and Planned Parenthood matters. Making life more affordable matters. So does keeping tariffs from killing California jobs. These are the stakes, this is what we will be voting on this week in the Legislature, and what the people of California will vote on in November.”

#### Overview of the Legislation

The Legislature will consider three measures in order to call and facilitate the special election:

- A constitutional amendment which authorizes the replacement of the existing Congressional map
- A statute which contains the new proposed Congressional map for voter approval
- A statute to call the special election, appropriate funding for election administration, and make conforming changes to election calendars.

#### How Trump and Republicans Continue to Harm California's Families, Workers and Businesses

- Trump's tariffs are making family essentials and basic household items more expensive.
- Trump's budget slashes billions of dollars in funding for social services, threatening access to health care and food for millions of Californians.
- Trump's immigration raids are damaging California's economy as they terrorize our communities.
- Trump is arbitrarily and capriciously cutting off grant funding for California's research universities, along with K-12 funds, punishing California students and stalling resources for afterschool programs and teacher training.
- Trump and the federal government are playing politics with California's requests for relief following the devastating January fires in Los Angeles.

#### Timeline of Anticipated Legislative Action

**Monday, August 18:** Legislation into print in Assembly and Senate

**Tuesday, August 19:** Assembly and Senate Elections Committees hear legislation

**Wednesday, August 20:** Assembly Appropriations Committees hears legislation

**Thursday, August 21:** Anticipated floor votes in both Assembly and Senate

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# Exhibit 452

# EXHIBIT C



**IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION**

**TAPE TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO RECORDING**

**August 21, 2025**

**CERTIFIED COPY**

Case 2:25-cv-10616-JLS-WLH-KKL Document 42-4 Filed 11/17/25 Page 3 of 274  
Page ID #:1801

<p>TAPE TRANSCRIPTION IN THE MATTER OF: CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION August 21, 2025. Sacramento, California. 10:18 a.m. REPORTED BY: CHARLES GOLDING, Certified Shorthand Reporter</p> <p>-----</p> <p>IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION Tape Transcription of Audio Recording on 08/21/2025</p>	<p><b>CERTIFIED COPY</b></p>
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Page ID #:1802

10:18 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER: The assembly is now in session.

Assembly member Wallace notices the absence of a quorum. Sergeant at arms will prepare the chamber and bring in the absent members. Clerk will call the roll.

CLERK: Addis, Aguiar. Curry. Ahrens. Alanis. Alvarez. Arambula. Aylon. Fadias. Baines. Bauer. Cahan. Bennett. Berman. Berner. Bonta, Brian. Calderon. Coloza, Carillo. Castillo. Chen. Connolly. Davies. Demaio Dixon. El Hawari. Ellis, Flora. Fong. Gabriel. Gallagher. Garcia. Gibson, Jeff. Gonzalez, Mark Gonzalez, Hadwick Haney, Arabidian, Hart. Hoover, Irwin. Jackson, Kara. Krell. Lackey, lee. Lowenthal, Macedo. McKenna, Mersucci. Quinn. Ortega, Pacheco. Pappin. Patel. Patterson. Pellerin, Petri. Norris. Quirk, Silva. Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez. Rogers, Bubio Sanchez, Chiavo Schultz. Sharpe, Collins, Solace Soria, Stephanie Ta Tongipa. Valencia. Wallace. Ward, wicks, Wilson, Zabur. Mr. Speaker, members of quorum is present. Decorum please. Assembly members board, you are recognized members. Democratic caucus of the

1 members lounge right now. Members, we will  
2 caucus for. We will be meeting for 15 minutes.  
3 We'll be. Excuse me. Suspending for 15  
4 minutes on recess. We'll gavel back in 15  
5 minutes.

6 ( Brief recess )

7 MR. SPEAKER: Members, we are back in  
8 session. We ask our guests and visitors in the  
9 rear of the chamber and in the gallery to  
10 please stand for today's prayer. Reverend  
11 Oshta will offer today's prayer. Reverend  
12 Oshta.

13 REVEREND OSHTA: Please join me in a moment of  
14 reflection. We concluded our recent trip to  
15 Japan. In the city of Kyoto, we were able to  
16 visit with a dear teacher and friend who impacted  
17 Bob's life nearly 60 years ago. And being much  
18 younger, maybe 30 for me, we were quietly feeling  
19 our age and how quickly so many decades have  
20 passed. Later that day, Bob and I stepped into a  
21 small shop to escape the heat. We felt ourselves  
22 surrounded by beautiful things from another era.  
23 We chatted with the owner about how much we  
24 enjoyed the traditional music of the Gion Summer  
25 Festival that was concluding. Laughing, he told  
us that hearing that music only reminds him of

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1 the sweltering Kyoto summer heat. Bob then asked  
2 him, how long has his shop been here? It looked  
3 very well established. The owner said, Since  
4 1603. Then, with a smile, he added, But I'm not  
5 422 years old. He shared that he was the 17th  
6 generation of the Nakanishi family to operate  
7 their family business. While talking, he went  
8 online and found where we could order a CD of the  
9 unique Kyoto Summer Festival music that he would  
10 never play. It was a delightful meeting that  
11 gave us a fresh outlook on the passing of time  
12 and also on the responsibilities we have in life.  
13 Like Mr. Nakanishi, who is the 17th generation  
14 caretaker of his family's tradition, we are all  
15 momentary caretakers of a dream that has been  
16 unfolding for 249 years, since 1776. It is the  
17 dream of creating a nation with liberty and  
18 justice for all. A dream that has been a beacon  
19 of hope for oppressed people everywhere. Let us  
20 continue to try our best to keep this dream alive  
21 and the beacon that is America shining bright.  
22 Namo mi daotsu. Let us live with kindness and  
23 gratitude beyond words.

24 MEMBER CHEN: We ask our guests and  
25 visitors to remain standing to join us in the  
flag salute. Assembly member Chen will lead us

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1 in the Pledge of allegiance.

2 MEMBER CHEN: Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

3 Please put your right hand over your heart.

4 Ready? Begin. I pledge allegiance to the flag

5 of the United States of America and to the

6 Republic for which it stands. One nation,

7 under God, indivisible with liberty and justice

8 for all, may be seated. To our guests and

9 visitors. Today, state law prohibits persons

10 in the gallery from interfering with

11 legislative business. Legislative proceedings

12 are disrupting the orderly conduct of official

13 business. Persons disrupting legislative

14 proceedings are subject to removal, arrest or

15 other appropriate legal remedies. Members, I'd

16 further like to. State quorum, please.

17 Further like to state that our House rules

18 require us to follow Mason's Manual Sections

19 120 to 126 as it relates to words and tone we

20 use in debating public policy. On this floor.

21 MASON Section 120 and 121 state in part.

22 Freedom of speech involves obedience to all the

23 rules of debate. The language used by members

24 during debate should be temperate, decorous and

25 respectful. No member may indulge in  
personalities. No member may impugn the

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1 motives of other members or use indecent or  
2 profane language. Members, if you choose to  
3 stray from these rules, I will admonish you.  
4 And if the violation continues, I will mute  
5 your mic and you will forfeit your time. We're  
6 going to be moving on to a vote stage. Point  
7 of order, Mr. DeMaio.

8 MEMBER DEMAIO: Mr. Speaker, in reviewing  
9 the file for today, there are three pieces of  
10 legislation that are on the file that are in  
11 direct violation of the California State  
12 Constitution, rendering it impossible for this  
13 body to take up these items. My point of order  
14 pertains to Senate Bill 280, which violates  
15 Article 21, Section 2 of the Constitution,  
16 which only permits an election on  
17 redistricting, on the ones this matter, on the  
18 ones of every decade. The second bill is ACA  
19 8. The third bill is AB 604. Both of these  
20 bills violate section Article 21, section 2G,  
21 which expressly prohibits the legislature from  
22 taking any action on redistricting as well as  
23 adopting any maps. Finally, a point of order  
24 to Assembly Bill 604, which violates Article  
25 21, Section 2E, which says, quote, districts  
shall not be drawn for purpose of favoring or

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1 discriminating against an incumbent political  
2 candidate or political party. It is my  
3 understanding that both the governor and  
4 members of the legislature have said that they  
5 have partisan goals behind these maps. For all  
6 three of these bills. I ask they be removed  
7 from the file immediately and that this body  
8 cease violating the state constitution.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. DeMaio. It's a  
10 lot of information. If you give me just a  
11 moment, please. Thank you for your patience, Mr.  
12 DeMaio. Your point of order is not well taken,  
13 Mr. DeMaio. It's -- let me explain my ruling  
14 first and then you are more than welcome to  
15 appeal. All the measures that you've raised are  
16 properly before the house pursuant to the  
17 constitution. Do you wish to -- It's been moved  
18 and seconded to appeal the ruling of the chair.  
19 Clerk will open the roll. The chair is asking  
20 you for an I vote to sustain his ruling. Mr.  
21 DeMaio is asking for a no vote. All members vote  
22 who desire to vote. All members vote who desire  
23 to vote. All members vote who desire to vote.  
24 Clerk will close the roll. Tally the votes.  
25 Eyes, 58. Nose, 18. The chair is sustained.  
Assistant majority leader Garcia, you are

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1 recognized.

2 MR. GARCIA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we  
3 move the call, there is no item before, so we  
4 will recognize you once we do that.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Okay. We're going to be  
6 moving to a vote on the consent calendar at the  
7 request of the author. Items 151, SP 482,  
8 Weber Pearson has been removed. Does any  
9 member wish to remove an item from the consent  
10 calendar? Seeing hearing none, the clerk will  
11 read the second day consent calendar. Assembly  
12 Concurrent Resolution 105 by Assembly member  
13 McKenna and others relative to the music  
14 industry in California. Clerk will open the  
15 roll. In the consent calendar, all members  
16 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who  
17 desire to vote. All members vote who desire to  
18 vote system. Majority leader Garcia, you are  
19 recognized. Move the call -- Madam majority  
20 leader, you are recognized.

21 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I request  
22 unanimous consent to suspend Assembly Rule 69B  
23 to adopt late amendments on ACA 8 revis.

24 MR. SPEAKER: We're going to dispense with  
25 one item at a time. I'm going to recognize  
leader Gallagher. Leader Gallagher, Mr.

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1 Speaker, the member moved the call. I don't  
2 believe. There's your point of order, Mr.  
3 Gallagher.

4 MEMBER GALLAGHER: The member moved the  
5 call. I Don't believe anything before us. The  
6 second day consent calendar that you yourself  
7 voted on.

8 MR. SPEAKER: Okay, but what we're going to  
9 move on. I've made the ruling. This point of  
10 order is not well taken.

11 MR. GALLAGHER: Point of parliamentary  
12 inquiry.

13 MR. SPEAKER: State your point, Mr.  
14 Gallagher.

15 MR. GALLAGHER: We voted on the consent  
16 calendar, correct? That's what approves it. So  
17 I'm confused by what is the --

18 MR. SPEAKER: Burke did not close the role.  
19 Mr. Gallagher. Okay, Mr. DeMaio, you are  
20 recognized.

21 MEMBER DEMAIO: I withhold consent from the  
22 motion.

23 MR. SPEAKER: Okay, mis -- Mr. DeMaio has  
24 requested withholding consent on the majority  
25 leader's motion. We will now open the roll. A  
majority leader's motion. All members vote who

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1 desire to vote. Majority leader is asking for a  
2 aye vote. Mr. DeMaio is asking for a no vote.  
3 Motion was seconded by Mr. Garcia. All members  
4 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who  
5 desire to vote. Clerk will close the roll.  
6 Tally the votes. Ayes, 58. No's 19. The motion  
7 carries it. Okay. Pursuant to Assembly Rule 69,  
8 the amendments were approved by the committee  
9 chair and the bill has been amended, is out to  
10 print and back on file. All other amendments on  
11 this item that were pending at the assembly desk  
12 are no longer in order as they are not drafted to  
13 the current version of the measure. Madam  
14 Majority Leader, you are again recognized for  
15 your procedural motions.

16 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you. I  
17 request unanimous consent to suspend the rules to  
18 allow Assembly member Berman to take up ACA 8  
19 Revis as amended without reference to file for  
20 the purposes of adoption.

21 MR. SPEAKER: Has been moved and seconded by  
22 Mr. Garcia. Assembly member Gallagher, you are  
23 recognized.

24 MEMBER GALLAGHER: I will have my own  
25 motion after this motion is dispensed with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gallagher.  
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1 Assemblymember DeMaio, you are recognized.

2 MR. DEMAIO: Withhold consent.

3 MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Consent has been  
4 withheld. We will move to a vote. The clerk  
5 will open the roll. All members vote who desire  
6 to vote. Majority leader is asking for an aye  
7 vote. Mr. DeMaio is asking for a no vote. All  
8 members vote who desire to vote. All members  
9 vote who desire to vote. Clerk will close the  
10 roll. Tally the votes. Ayes, 57, nose 20. The  
11 measure carries.

12 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Gallagher.

13 MR. SPEAKER: Assembly member Gallagher, you  
14 are recognized. Yeah.

15 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Mr. Speaker, being that  
16 this bill was ACA was just amended, I  
17 respectfully request that we re refer ACA 8 and  
18 SB 280 to the Judiciary Committee so we can have  
19 further vetting of these measures.

20 MR. SPEAKER: Just a moment. Okay. Members,  
21 it has been moved and seconded. Moved by  
22 assembly member Gallagher. Seconded by Assembly  
23 member DeMaio. Clerk will open the roll. Mr.  
24 DeMaio is asking for an aye vote. Majority  
25 leader is Asking for a no vote. All members vote  
who desire to vote. All members vote who desire

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1 to vote. Majority leader is asking for a no  
2 vote. Mr. Gallagher is asking for an I vote.  
3 Clerk will close the roll tally. Votes ayes, 19  
4 no's, 58. Motion fails. Mr. Demaio, you are  
5 recognized. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move that  
6 we immediately take up AJR 21. Independent  
7 Redistricting Commission Constitutional amendment  
8 without regard to file. There's been. There's  
9 been a motion to suspend the rules by Mr. DeMaio  
10 to suspend the constitution without reference to  
11 file. Seconded by assembly member Wallace.  
12 Clerk will open the roll. All members vote who  
13 desire to vote. Majority leader is asking for a  
14 no vote. Mr. DeMaio is asking for an I vote.  
15 All members vote who desire to vote. All members  
16 vote who desire to vote. Clerk will close the  
17 roll tally. Votes ayes, 19. Nos. 58. Motion  
18 fails. Assembly member Tungapa, you are  
19 recognized.

20 MEMBER TUNGAPA: Thank you. I move to  
21 suspend the rules to allow ACA 15 to be taken up  
22 without reference to file. Prove you don't have  
23 a vested interest. State your point. State your  
24 point. Assembly member Ransom.

25 MEMBER RANSOM: Point of order. It seems  
that that is out of order. Mr. Speaker, I  
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1 believe earlier when you gave instructions that  
2 our comments are not supposed to be directed at  
3 anyone's intention.

4 MR. SPEAKER: Members, we are not in the  
5 portion of motions and resolutions. It is out of  
6 order overall to be making motions on items that  
7 are not before us. We have made a motion without  
8 reference to file to bring ACA 8 to the floor.  
9 You may make points of order and motions on the  
10 items that are before this body and nothing more.  
11 Assembly member Gallagher, you are recognized.

12 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Again. Point of  
13 parliamentary inquiry. I believe we were in  
14 motions and resolutions. That's why the majority  
15 leader was making motions. And the only place  
16 that you can make motions like the one that was  
17 just passed to bring ACA 8 to the floor is during  
18 motions and resolutions now, albeit you haven't  
19 put it up there on the screen, which is curious  
20 to me, but the only place that we could ever do  
21 these kinds of motions is during motions and  
22 resolutions. So I find it unbelievable that  
23 you're saying we're not in motions and  
24 resolutions right now. Your point of order is  
25 the unbelievability of this. Yes, that's your  
point of order, that we are actually in motions

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1 and resolutions and resolutions. Otherwise.  
2 Just a moment, Mr. Majority Leader could not have  
3 made her motion.

4 MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gallagher, once the  
5 majority leader's motion was voted on and  
6 approved, and that was. Consent was withheld and  
7 we voted on it as a body. We are then in the  
8 portion where we are dealing with ACA 8 and we  
9 must first dispense with ACA 8 before we take up  
10 any other bills before this House. Your point of  
11 order is not well taken. The Clerk will read  
12 Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 by Senate  
13 Rebus and others in accolade to redistricting.  
14 Assembly member Berman, you are recognized.

15 MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I  
16 rise to present ACA 8. On behalf of Speaker  
17 Rivas, Let me be crystal clear. We don't want  
18 this fight and we didn't choose this fight. But  
19 with our democracy on the line, we cannot and  
20 will not run away from this fight. We're here  
21 today because President Trump and Republicans in  
22 Texas and other states are attempting to redraw  
23 Congressional districts mid decade in an effort  
24 to rig the upcoming election. Just last night  
25 the Texas House passed their plan to rig the 2026  
election. Earlier yesterday, Florida Governor

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1 Ron DeSantis demanded that his state is owed an  
2 extra Congressional district right now. And you  
3 know that Trump will do everything he can to  
4 fulfill this outrageous request. Americans and  
5 Californians deserve better. And ACA 8, the  
6 election rigging response act is our response to  
7 these undemocratic and un American power grabs.  
8 ACA 8 allows for the temporary use of voter  
9 approved Congressional district boundaries  
10 contained in AB604. Unlike Texas where  
11 Republican politicians ram through maps after  
12 assigning law enforcement to trail their Democrat  
13 colleagues every movement.

14 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Berman.

15 MEMBER BERMAN: By all means.

16 MR. SPEAKER: Summit member Patterson, stage  
17 point of order.

18 MEMBER PATTERSON: Yes. Hi the -- Thank  
19 you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. State your  
20 point of order, sir. Yes, we have been  
21 admonished for mentioning parties on. Mr.  
22 Patterson, state your point of order. There's no  
23 explanation needed. What is the rule that is  
24 being violated? Your rule that a person speaking  
25 may not mention political parties? I ask that  
the author no longer do that. That is not a rule

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1 of this body. That is a rule of decorum. The  
2 issue with this particular measure is affects  
3 political parties. We're going to allow that  
4 today. What I spoke with earlier was simply that  
5 you should not impugn the motives of your  
6 colleagues. Mr. Berman, you may continue.

7 MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As  
8 I was saying, unlike Texas where Republican  
9 politicians ramp through maps after assigning law  
10 enforcement to trail their Democrat colleagues  
11 every movement, it is California voters who will  
12 have the final say whether or not these new  
13 district boundaries get used. Because here in  
14 California, we respect the will of the voters.  
15 After the 2030 census, ACA 8 returns all  
16 congressional district line drawing powers back  
17 to the Citizens Redistricting Commission. In  
18 addition, ACA 8 calls on Congress to pass  
19 legislation and propose a constitutional  
20 amendment to the US Constitution to require the  
21 use of fair, independent and nonpartisan  
22 redistricting in every state across the country.  
23 Now, here are some of the arguments we'll hear  
24 from our colleagues from across the aisle today.  
25 First, this was decided by voters who were  
eligible to vote in 2010, [www.TrustAgDay.com](http://www.TrustAgDay.com) need to  
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1 revisit it. At least half of the voter  
2 registration file is totally new in 2025. Over  
3 10 million California voters who did not have the  
4 chance to vote on this and have their voices  
5 heard in 2010. Now, you might be wondering, who  
6 does that include? We got a couple of people on  
7 the floor today. My Republican colleagues from  
8 Tulare and Clovis, my Democrat colleagues from  
9 San Jose and la. None of them were old enough to  
10 vote on this in 2010, and I think they should get  
11 the chance to vote on it this year. They will  
12 claim that this costs too much money. First,  
13 there is no cost too high to save our democracy.  
14 Second, the return on investment of this election  
15 is off the charts. Something that would make the  
16 VCs in my district blush. Trump and his cronies  
17 have terrorized our communities. They have  
18 targeted our world class institutions trying to  
19 extract \$1 billion from UCLA alone. They have  
20 decimated local economies. They've even extorted  
21 California grown businesses like Nvidia. And I  
22 have not heard one complaint from any colleague  
23 from across the aisle to these actions that have  
24 cost California billions and billions of dollars.  
25 They'll argue that there's no urgency to act.  
Wake up. The crisis is here and our democracy is

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1 under attack. President Trump is taking advice  
2 on our democracy from Vladimir Putin, someone who  
3 literally kills his political opponents. And  
4 he's not even trying to be quiet about this.  
5 He's bragging about this on national television  
6 as if it's something to be proud of. This is the  
7 same guy who called elections officials in  
8 Georgia and demanded they find him 12,000 votes  
9 so he could win the state and stay in the White  
10 House. This is someone who earnestly talks about  
11 the possibility of serving a third term as  
12 President of the United States and now realizing  
13 that his policies are terribly unpopular and that  
14 voters will have a chance to express their  
15 opposition next year. He's now trying to rig the  
16 election to inoculate himself from the will of  
17 the voters and hold on to power. Now, this  
18 wouldn't be a problem if any Republican elected  
19 officials had a spine like the Georgia elections  
20 officials did in 2020 to say, no, Mr. President,  
21 this is un American, this is undemocratic, this  
22 is wrong. And we will not participate in your  
23 steamrolling of democracy. But that Republican  
24 elected official no longer exists when it comes  
25 between standing up for your constituents, saving  
their health care, saving their food assistance,

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1 saving their fathers or daughters from being  
2 snatched off the streets by masked and  
3 unidentified thugs and flown to torture chambers  
4 in foreign countries, or basking in the orange  
5 glow of Mar A Lago. Republican politicians in  
6 California don't give it a second thought. They  
7 drop to their knees and they do whatever Donald  
8 Trump tells them to. There is currently no check  
9 on Trump in Washington, only sycophants who clap  
10 like seals at the circus. Please, somebody.  
11 Member Gallagher, you were recognized. The  
12 gentleman is, if I can call him a gentleman, is  
13 impugning the character of people on this floor,  
14 which you already admonished him and everyone in  
15 this room not to do. So maybe somebody will  
16 regulate that decorum. Assembly Member  
17 Gallagher, your point is well taken. Members,  
18 please be careful in your speech not to impugn  
19 the motives of other members. Mr. Berman, you  
20 may continue. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, there is  
21 currently no check on Donald Trump in Washington,  
22 D.C. only people who do whatever he demands that  
23 they do. But not here. Not in California.  
24 California is responding to this emergency by  
25 empowering our voters with transparency, with  
respect for our independent Commission, but with  
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1 an unwavering will to act. I respectfully  
2 request your. I vote on ACA 8. Thank you,  
3 Assemblymember Berman. Assemblymember Lackey,  
4 you are recognized.

5 MEMBER LACKEY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I  
6 appreciate the privilege to share with you a very  
7 powerful perspective. What we're spending time  
8 on at this particular moment, to me, is a bit  
9 disappointing. I will tell you that right now,  
10 what this body needs is to build trust with its  
11 constituency. Polls have overwhelmingly  
12 indicated that there's a lack of trust. And what  
13 we're considering on doing is feeding that lack  
14 of trust. You know, I had a very respected  
15 colleague that I spoke with just recently who  
16 told me that this is all political. You can  
17 define it as you wish. But I can tell you, no  
18 matter what your position is on this thing, and  
19 we're going to be talking a lot about it, and  
20 there's going to be a lot of blah, blah, blah.  
21 But I'm telling you, when it comes down to it,  
22 does this enhance trust with our people? We all  
23 admit that gerrymandering is controlled by people  
24 who have something to benefit. That is not what  
25 our people want. That's been very clearly stated  
by their vote. So why, no matter what the

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1 justification is, why would we engage in behavior  
2 that we know is considered unacceptable by those  
3 who elect us? I would Ask for you to please  
4 reflect on that, because it's very meaningful.  
5 And I know that we can be distracted by a lot of  
6 influencers in this institution, a lot of people  
7 that we admire and respect. But when it comes  
8 down to it, it's a mirror that we have to respond  
9 to. Please think about that. Please think about  
10 is what we're doing building trust with our  
11 constituency. I think you know what the answer  
12 to that is. When we engage in supporting  
13 gerrymandering, please resist it. And please  
14 think about what you're doing. Thank you. Thank  
15 you. Assemblymember Lackey. Assemblymember  
16 Wallace, you are recognized.

17 MEMBER WALLACE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
18 Members. I rise today in strong opposition to  
19 ACA 8, not simply because of what it does, but  
20 because of what it represents. ACA 8 represents  
21 a tit for tat strategy. It's a reactive move  
22 that erodes our credibility, not just here at  
23 home, but on the national and international  
24 stage. If we abandon the independent  
25 redistricting process that Californians created,  
we don't just lose a tool, we lose trust. Our  
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1 citizens. Redistricting Commission was born from  
2 voter demand for fairness and transparency.  
3 While drawing our current maps, the commission  
4 held hundreds of public meetings, reviewed tens  
5 of thousands of comments, and drew maps that  
6 reflect people and communities, not politicians  
7 and their preferences. That's not just good  
8 governance. It's a model for the nation. Some  
9 point to Texas as a justification for this  
10 proposal. But California doesn't follow. We  
11 lead. We don't. Mere dysfunction. We set the  
12 standard. Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
13 called gerrymandering the cancer of politics. He  
14 championed the commission because he believed in  
15 a system that puts voters first. That belief  
16 still matters. I urge you. No vote.

17 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you,  
18 Assemblymember. Assemblymember Lowenthal, you're  
19 recognized from the majority Leader's desk.

20 MEMBER LOWENTHAL: Thank you, Madam Speaker.  
21 I love you, dad. I've been deeply torn by the  
22 national redistricting debate that has engulfed  
23 California. Beyond its vastly consequential  
24 political implications, this issue has profoundly  
25 impacted me personally, because indelibly seared  
in my consciousness is the memory of my father

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1 working tirelessly over decades to create the  
2 independent redistricting system about which we  
3 now debate. By way of background, my dad, a  
4 community psychologist, was elected to the  
5 California state assembly in 1998. He ran for  
6 public office with the principal goals of  
7 restoring public trust in political institutions  
8 and ensuring that elected officials listened to  
9 their constituents. To effectuate those ideals,  
10 he believed that the independent redistricting  
11 system was necessary. So in 2002, on this very  
12 floor, he introduced a constitutional amendment,  
13 ACA 19 to create an independent redistricting  
14 commission. But his attempt received no support,  
15 and it died. Undeterred, he reintroduced the  
16 independent redistricting commission concept once  
17 again in the Assembly. But that effort, too  
18 failed. And then, in 2006, as a state senator,  
19 he reintroduced the concept as SCA3, and for the  
20 first time ever, the concept of independent  
21 redistricting passed one of our bicameral bodies.  
22 However, as described by Common Cause quote,  
23 somewhere in the one minute walk from the Senate  
24 clerk's office to the assembly clerk's office,  
25 SCA3 was lost for just long enough to miss key  
deadlines to keep the bill alive. The SCA's  
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1 failure was devastating, but my dad's unwavering  
2 effort paved the way for the electorate to adopt  
3 an independent redistricting commission two years  
4 later. But his work did not end there. Upon  
5 going to Congress in 2012, the first piece of  
6 legislation he introduced was HR 2978, the let  
7 the People Draw the Lines Act. This legislation  
8 would have required that all states establish  
9 independent redistricting commissions.  
10 Tragically, the legislation was met by political  
11 headwinds and died. But despite that, my dad  
12 pressed forward on his quixotic request to  
13 establish reform on a national level because he  
14 knew that a system in which some states had  
15 districts drawn independently and others don't  
16 was fundamentally unfair. Because Congress  
17 refused to hold a vote on his measures, he  
18 commenced advocating for reform in the courts.  
19 In 2015, he led an amicus brief in support of  
20 Arizona's right to form an independent  
21 commission. And then in 2017, he led an amicus  
22 brief in Gill v. Whitford, which he asked the  
23 Supreme Court to declare political gerrymandering  
24 to be unconstitutional, although the Court did  
25 not do so, Justice Kagan, in an opinion by  
Justices Ginsburg, Breyer, and Sotomayor, cited  
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1 my dad's brief writing, the congressional brief  
2 describes a cascade of negative results from  
3 excessive partisan gerrymandering, indifference  
4 to swing voters and their views, extreme  
5 political positioning designated to placate the  
6 party's base and fend off primary challengers,  
7 the devaluing of negotiation and compromise, and  
8 the impossibility of reaching pragmatic,  
9 bipartisan solutions of the nation's problems. I  
10 vigorously agree with the evils of gerrymandering  
11 described in my dad's brief and cited by Justice  
12 Kagan. That notwithstanding, because Texas has  
13 now shamelessly affected the national balance of  
14 power, our nation's democracy is faced with the  
15 exigency of existential dimensions. If  
16 unaddressed Texas actions which occurred without  
17 the vote of its populace will disenfranchise  
18 Californians and we must not allow Californians  
19 voices to be silenced. It is imperative that  
20 Californians have a voice in selecting the  
21 political party that controls Congress in 2026.  
22 The most fundamental concept in our democracy  
23 upon which the collective value system is  
24 predicated, is fairness. Californians vote in  
25 2026. Our votes must be made on a level playing  
field. This constitutional amendment ensures

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1 that we have that balanced field. We must all  
2 continue to press Congress to create a national  
3 system that eliminates unconstrained political  
4 redistricting. But until that occurs, fair  
5 representation for Californians cannot exist  
6 without this measure. So today I proudly join  
7 with my father, the architect of this commission,  
8 in urging its temporary suspension. I  
9 respectfully ask for your I vote on ACA 8.

10 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you,  
11 Assemblymember. Assemblymember Cork Silva, you  
12 are recognized.

13 CORK SILVA: Thank you, Madam speaker and  
14 members. I also stand in support of ACA 8.  
15 Colleagues, we are living through a dramatic and  
16 historic moment, a moment to stand up for a  
17 democracy, one that will shape our future. For  
18 generations across the country, we have witnessed  
19 efforts to manipulate district lines, not to  
20 represent people, but to cling to power, to  
21 silence communities and to steal representation.  
22 We saw this in Georgia, where three congressional  
23 seats were taken midterm through redistricting.  
24 We see it again in Texas, where five seats were  
25 carved out at the request of President Trump,  
all without giving voters a voice. But here in

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1 California, we have chosen a different path. Not  
2 to steal, not to rig, not to silence. We have  
3 chosen to let the people decide, to let them vote  
4 on the California maps. The California  
5 redistricting plan is about fairness. It's about  
6 trust. So when critics cry power grab, let us be  
7 clear. The plan is not a power grab. It is a  
8 power return, returning power back to the  
9 citizens of California. We did not start this  
10 fight. We did not force this issue. It was  
11 forced upon us by a president who has threatened,  
12 cheated, and tried to steal congressional seats  
13 to cling to power. Do not waste your breath  
14 scolding those of us who refused to roll over for  
15 partisan maps that divide our communities. A  
16 bully. And yes, our president acts as one, uses  
17 power to intimidate, to harm, and to cheat. He  
18 has shown a pattern of refusing to accept the  
19 results of free and fair elections in 2020. He  
20 falsely claimed victory. When he does not get  
21 what he wants, he shouts, he insults, and lashes  
22 out like a spoiled child. If you claim to care  
23 about justice and fairness, then answer this.  
24 Where is your outrage when states silence voters  
25 by carving up districts for partisan gain? Where  
is your outrage when working families, seniors,  
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1 veterans, and marginalized communities are pushed  
2 to the sidelines and as they will be with the  
3 President's new executive order just this week to  
4 prohibit mail in ballots. My colleague from San  
5 Diego says actions speak louder than words. On  
6 this point, we agree. California's action is  
7 clear. We are showing the nation how to rise  
8 above partisan bickering and to stand for  
9 democracy. We are showing that the people, not  
10 the politicians, should choose their  
11 representatives. We will not stand idly by as a  
12 bully screams and threatens. We will fight every  
13 step of the way to protect our democracy. Why?  
14 Because this is what our nation was founded on.  
15 History will remember that when democracy was  
16 tested and California chose fairness,  
17 transparency and the people's voice. You can  
18 whine and complain or you can stand with  
19 democracy, but you cannot do both. As President  
20 Lincoln reminded us, elections belong to the  
21 people. It's their decision. As Justice Ruth  
22 Bader Ginsburg said, real change, enduring  
23 change, happens one step at a time. And as Dr.  
24 Martin Luther King Jr. Taught us, the time is  
25 always right to do what is right. Today,  
California is drawing a line in the sand. We are

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1 standing boldly with the people. And today I ask  
2 for your support for ACA 8.

3 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember Cork  
4 Silva. Assemblymember top. You, you are  
5 recognized.

6 MEMBER TOP: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise  
7 in opposition to ACA A. ACA A seek to destroy  
8 democracy and violating California constitution.  
9 I think you all heard about my personal story. I  
10 left the country in 1982 at the age of 19 and I  
11 came here with my family for freedom. And until  
12 today the country that I Left more than 30 years  
13 ago doesn't have any fair election. The country  
14 had been ruled by one party and that party, they  
15 make their own laws and they been violated all  
16 lost over time. And it hooked me and my family  
17 and my community for what happening here in  
18 California. I still remember two and a half  
19 years ago when I took an old office with all of  
20 you, my first office here. We are blessed that  
21 we follow California State constitution. I  
22 understand a lot of you have different opinions  
23 from the current federal administration and other  
24 state. However, what did we have in our office?  
25 We may have different opinions, different ideas,  
but at the end of the day we have one goal, to

1 serve the people in California. California has  
2 been very proud of independent citizen commission  
3 for the last 15 years. And for the last several  
4 days we have built about election and we didn't  
5 have even 30 days for community inputs. That is  
6 outrageous. Unbelievable. A lot of president  
7 and community members in my district, they've  
8 been calling me. They feel they really  
9 frustrated. They didn't know what to do. They  
10 Asked me what is going on here. And you all know  
11 that in my semi district, heavily, heavily  
12 immigrant communities and a lot of us, we came  
13 here for freedom. So we really honor the  
14 fairness because the country that we left has no  
15 fair election whatsoever. So I urge you, I urge  
16 you all to listen to the will of the people that  
17 the people that we've been serving. Why do we  
18 need to follow other state? We elected by the  
19 people who live in California. We are elected by  
20 the people of California. 30 seconds. With that  
21 I ask you to have a no vote on asa.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you assembly member T.  
23 Assembly members Bore, you are recognized.

24 MEMBER BORE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

25 Members, I rise today to express my full throated  
support for ACA 8 members. We must act today

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1 with an unfaltering commitment to our democracy.  
2 Let's be clear. Today we are responding to a  
3 serious emergency for our country. Today's vote  
4 is an act of patriotism. The vote today is about  
5 protecting health care for millions of our  
6 people. It's about making people feel safe  
7 again. All our people feeling safe again instead  
8 of fearing that they'll be snatched off the  
9 street with no warning. It's about protecting  
10 reproductive choice and safeguarding our planet.  
11 And it's about standing up and fighting an  
12 unprecedented and exigent march towards  
13 dictatorship. You know, my dad fought for this  
14 country in the Korean War. He fought and had  
15 rheumatic fever and spent his life with health  
16 care issues because of that and died an early  
17 death. He enlisted in the Air Force because of  
18 his love for our country and his love for our  
19 democracy. He would be turning in his grave and  
20 if he understood what Donald Trump was doing  
21 today. When I look into my kids eyes, and  
22 hopefully my grandkids eyes in the future, I  
23 don't want to regret that we didn't fight hard  
24 enough for them. I want them to know that today  
25 was an important day for our country, an  
important day for our democracy, an important day

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1 for the United States of America that we love so  
2 much. I want them to know that we fought for  
3 them, we fought for their future. We did  
4 everything in our power to assure that they could  
5 live in a democracy in the same way that we have  
6 lived in a democracy for over 250 years, that we  
7 fought for our family, we fought for freedom. We  
8 must give the next generation and the generation  
9 after that the same benefits of our democracy  
10 that we have had. So on behalf of my father, of  
11 my kids, my future grandkids, of all of our kids,  
12 of all of our future grandkids, I respectfully  
13 ask for an I vote on ACA 8. Thank you, assembly  
14 members. Boar leader Gallagher, you are  
15 recognized.

16 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
17 And I want to start by saying I thank your father  
18 for his righteous fight. And they culminated in  
19 the vote of the people that created our  
20 Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.  
21 And it's in that spirit that I really want to  
22 encourage everybody that we should stick with  
23 that. And I want to start by saying what this is  
24 not about. It is not about Texas. And actually,  
25 you all just conceded that by your vote this  
morning when you amended ACA 8 to take out Texas

1 as a condition, and that this bill that you are  
2 voting on right now doesn't have Texas as a  
3 condition and commits California to going back to  
4 gerrymandering. And you should really think  
5 twice before you go ahead and. And do that  
6 today. It's about power. We know that. It's  
7 about power on both sides, rigging congressional  
8 districts to get partisan results. That's what a  
9 gerrymander is. Now, the governor says it's  
10 about fighting with. Fighting fire with fire.  
11 And what I want to submit to you all today is  
12 that fighting fire with fire is the problem.  
13 It's not the solution. President Trump is  
14 fighting fire with fire. He saw how government  
15 was weaponized against him with a Democratic  
16 majority in Washington, D.C. in his first term.  
17 He saw how states like Illinois and  
18 Massachusetts, Hawaii, have severely  
19 gerrymandered their congressional districts in  
20 ways that ensure more Democratic members are  
21 elected. And he seeks to do the same thing in  
22 Texas. He is wrong to do so. Let me repeat  
23 again, he is wrong to do so. Gavin is fighting  
24 fire with fire. So now he's pushing this  
25 redistricting plan, this Gavin Mander, illegally  
against the Constitution, as we pointed out time

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1 and time again in the committee hearing. Well,  
2 the one committee hearing we had on policy  
3 grounds. He's violating the Constitution and the  
4 clear will of the voters who've already spoken  
5 twice. We really don't need to ask him a third  
6 time, guys. Twice they told us they want  
7 independent redistricting, fair representation.  
8 But where does it end? You move forward today  
9 and you have the power to do so. You can do  
10 that, and Gavin can move forward. He's a  
11 governor. He has the power. Greg Abbott has the  
12 power. In Texas. You move forward fighting fire  
13 with fire, what happens? You burn it all down.  
14 And in this case, it affects our most fundamental  
15 American principle, representation. Wasn't that  
16 the battle cry of our founding forebears? No  
17 taxation without representation. But the  
18 people's right to representation is exactly what  
19 will be sacrificed when we continue down this  
20 road. When after you do it Missouri does it or  
21 Indiana does it. Colorado is talking about doing  
22 it. At the end of that, the parties will  
23 determine who represents and the people will be  
24 powerless to elect their own representatives.  
25 And we've already seen evidence of that in how  
some of these districts are proposed to be drawn.

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1 There's really only one way to stop it. Someone  
2 has to refrain from striking back and show a  
3 better way. And with that, I would like  
4 permission to read some very wise words that I  
5 think will be without objection. Without  
6 objection. You have heard it said, an eye for an  
7 eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you,  
8 do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone  
9 slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the  
10 other also. 30 seconds. You have heard that it  
11 was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate  
12 your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies  
13 and pray for those who persecute you, so that you  
14 may be the sons of your Father who is in heaven.  
15 For he makes the sun rise on the evil and the  
16 good, and he sends rain on the just and the  
17 unjust. You, therefore, must be perfect, as your  
18 heavenly Father is perfect. Today I'm submitting  
19 to you, Let us turn the other cheek. Let us show  
20 the better way. What more powerful statement  
21 will we have if Republicans and Democrats  
22 together said, enough is enough? We're not going  
23 to do this. And Texas, you shouldn't do it  
24 either. Thank you, Leader Galvan. One last  
25 point. I'm sorry. Our democracy will persist as  
long as we fight back. And if there is one

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1 weakness that we have right now in our republic  
2 is that legislators are not standing up to  
3 executives of their own party. Thank you, Leader  
4 Gallagher. And that's what we need to do. Thank  
5 you, Leader Gallagher. Assemblymember Carrillo,  
6 you are recognized.

7 MEMBER CARRILLO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and  
8 members. I rise in support of ACA 8. This is a  
9 rough position that our country and our democracy  
10 is in these days. Leaders in D.C. and across  
11 the country have time and time again proven that  
12 they are willing to bend, stretch, and outright  
13 break the law if it means they are gaining more  
14 power. They are unashamedly trying to change the  
15 rules in the middle of the game, undermine our  
16 institutions. And chess flat cheat because they  
17 know that is what it will take for them to have a  
18 chance to win. I urge you to support this  
19 measure to give our constituents and our state a  
20 chance to fight with even odds. If at halftime  
21 one team decides they're going to play the second  
22 half with 15 players instead of 11, we can  
23 disagree and cry foul all we want, but we will  
24 Play the second half by the same old rules. With  
25 11 players, we put our team and the people we're  
playing for at a huge disadvantage. And for

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1 what? Pride? Principle? No members. There is  
2 far too much at stake. They have made that  
3 painfully clear. Obviously, all of us on this  
4 floor would rather not be spending our time on  
5 this issue. There is certainly no shortage of  
6 pressing issues our constituents need us to  
7 address. But the unfortunate reality is that  
8 this president has manufactured this issue. And  
9 I would argue that there is no issue more  
10 pressing than ensuring Californians get the  
11 opportunity to play by the same rules as the rest  
12 of the country, even if we don't like what those  
13 rules are. Members, I urge you. I vote on AC8A.  
14 Thank you. Thank you, Assembly member Carrillo.  
15 Assembly member Mark Gonzalez, you are  
16 recognized.

17 MEMBER GONZALEZ: Thank you. Mr. Speaker  
18 and members, I rise today in strong support of  
19 ACA 8, the map that leads to you. Because this  
20 is not just about redistricting. It is about the  
21 survival of our democracy. I was born in  
22 McAllen, Texas, where voter suppression wasn't  
23 theory, it was reality. I saw neighbors turned  
24 away at the polls. I saw families silenced. I  
25 saw entire communities erased from the map. As a  
Latino, I know exactly what it looks like when  
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1 politicians draw racist maps to hold power. When  
2 they decide some voices count and others do not.  
3 That memory never leaves you. And now I see  
4 Trump and his allies running the same playbook  
5 across Texas, across Florida, across this  
6 country. They cannot win on ideas. They cannot  
7 win on compassion. They cannot win on the  
8 merits. So what do they do? They change the  
9 rules. They rig the lines. And as our Texas  
10 Democratic colleagues said yesterday, they shield  
11 their racism with their party line. That is not  
12 patriotism. That is oppression with a ballot in  
13 its hand. This is an emergency. Trump has  
14 already shown us the length he will go. He sent  
15 ICE agents to the schools where our children  
16 learn, the churches we pray, the fields where we  
17 work to intimidate, to divide, and to silence  
18 dissent. He weaponized fear against immigrant  
19 families because he knows cruelty is cheaper than  
20 compassion. He tore families apart not to keep  
21 our country safe, but to score political points.  
22 California protects families. We do not divide  
23 them. And look at health care. Trump's big,  
24 ugly bill ripped \$900 billion out of Medicaid  
25 just to line the pockets of the wealthy few.  
That is not reform. That is robbery. It

1 threatens coverage for 3 million Californians,  
2 puts our seniors at risk, and sends rural  
3 hospitals to to their graves. Seniors, children,  
4 working families left with nothing. That's not  
5 policy. That is punishment. This is life and  
6 death. And yet, while they strip our people of  
7 health care while they weaponize immigration  
8 raids, while they tilt the scales of democracy.  
9 What they fear most is not us. What they fear  
10 most is the people. This is why ACA matters.  
11 This measure does not force maps on anyone. It  
12 gives California a choice. It lets the people  
13 hold the pen and draw their future. So I ask,  
14 why are Republicans so afraid of the people? Why  
15 are they so afraid of democracy itself? Every  
16 state in America should have independent  
17 redistricting. Every voter should have a choice.  
18 But until they do, California cannot and will not  
19 play the by rigged rules. If Texas wants to  
20 carve up districts to keep their wannabe dictator  
21 in power, we will not bow. If Florida wants to  
22 silence voters of color, we will not sit quietly.  
23 Because when democracy is attacked, silence is  
24 surrender. And California has never been and  
25 will never be a state that surrenders.  
California will fight back. Because this is not

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1 just about the maps. This is about dignity.  
2 This is about whether a Latino child in Texas, a  
3 black family in Florida, or an immigrant  
4 community in California has a voice in their own  
5 democracy members. History is watching. Our  
6 communities are watching. And they will remember  
7 not just what we said in this chamber, but  
8 whether we had the courage to act. ACA 8 is that  
9 act. It's not just a bill, it's shield. A  
10 shield against racist maps, a shield against  
11 voter suppression, A shield for democracy itself.  
12 It's not just a policy. It's a promise. A  
13 promise that democracy in California will not be  
14 dictated by the hand of tyranny, but written by  
15 the will of the people. I did not come to this  
16 floor, like many of you, with the polite request.  
17 I came with a call. A call to conscience, a call  
18 to courage and a call to history. Democrats  
19 fight to survive. Republicans fight to dominate.  
20 And when you fight to dominate, you stop at  
21 nothing. You cheat, you rig. You kill democracy  
22 in the process. Because democracy may bend, but  
23 here in California, it will not break. Not on  
24 our watch. Not on this floor, not in this state.  
25 Sisas Pueda, I respectfully ask for your. I  
vote. Thank you, Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez.

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1 Assemblymember Banta, you are recognized.

2 MEMBER BANTA: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and  
3 members, I rise today on behalf of the  
4 Beautiful people of 8018 of Oakland, Alameda  
5 and Emeryville, and as a proud co author of  
6 AC88, which would allow each and every  
7 Californian the opportunity to weigh in on our  
8 very future. The President and the  
9 Congressional majority have been so focused on  
10 implementing the deeply unpopular policies of  
11 Project 2025 that they forgot about the will  
12 and needs of the people that they serve. Since  
13 the policies of the federal administration and  
14 that majority are so incredibly unpopular, they  
15 decided they needed to rewrite the rules to  
16 win. From Texas to Florida to Indiana, this  
17 administration is pressuring governors to  
18 create new red districts to silence Americans  
19 nationwide. ACA 8 is a direct response to the  
20 life threatening policies that Trump and this  
21 majority Congress have taken. And this AC8 is  
22 our opportunity, the people's opportunity to  
23 empower Californians to neutralize that threat.  
24 Californians are witnessing for the firsthand  
25 the very devastating effects of this  
presidency. That's why we must treat this like

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1 the emergency that it is now. Illness and  
2 suffering have no party preference. And the  
3 lives of people in these districts are our  
4 collective responsibility. So I want to remind  
5 you, as chair of the Assembly Health Committee,  
6 what is at stake. Just this week, our  
7 committee has gotten to hear from the public,  
8 from our agencies, from health care facilities  
9 across the state, from our advocates, what HR1  
10 Trump's big ugly bill will have, what kind of  
11 impact that will have, how it will ensure that  
12 \$900 billion in Medicaid funding to pay for tax  
13 breaks for the ultra wealthy. How these tax  
14 cuts will take care of out of reach, take care,  
15 out of reach of many of our seniors, children  
16 and families. How over 3 million Californians  
17 could lose their medical coverage under the new  
18 Republican provisions passed. How over 100  
19 Planned Parenthood clinics across the state may  
20 be forced to close their doors, robbing 22,000  
21 people a month, a month of reproductive care,  
22 STI testing, cancer screenings of women's  
23 health care, and put out of reach for decades,  
24 for the first time, over 1 million Californians  
25 who rely on those services annually. Let's be  
reminded of the fact that our hospitals are

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1 rural hospitals as well. Kern Valley  
2 Healthcare District, Oroville Hospital,  
3 Fairchild Medical center, and the countless  
4 other healthcare facilities that are scraping  
5 by as the Trump cuts away at crucial funding  
6 for them. How this impacts every single one of  
7 our health care systems, decimating our ability  
8 to provide care for millions of Californians.  
9 So when we talk about what is at stake today,  
10 what is at stake is the very lives of our  
11 constituents. We cannot be mistaken about  
12 that. So today we must ensure that every  
13 Californian has the ability to be protected, to  
14 be represented in Congress, and to continue to  
15 stand up against the attacks on our democracy  
16 wherever they may rise. And I just have to say  
17 this as a woman, the never ending executive  
18 orders, the insistence on basically taking us  
19 back to a time when women have no voice, when  
20 our people have not the ability to love who  
21 they want to love and marry who they want to  
22 marry and have that be recognized and be able  
23 to have the care that they need, whether that  
24 be abortion care or basic health care. That is  
25 the world that this majority Congress is trying  
to turn us back to. And I absolutely refuse to

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1 stand here on this green carpet and let  
2 Congress and this Trump administration do that  
3 to us, do that to Californians, do that to this  
4 country. So make no mistake. We are taking  
5 these actions because we are in unprecedented  
6 times.  
7 MR. SPEAKER: 30 seconds.  
8 MEMBER BANTA: Absolutely. And we must  
9 take protective action with that. I  
10 respectfully ask for your. I vote on ACA 8.  
11 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
12 Banta. Assemblymember Di Maio, you are  
13 recognized.  
14 MEMBER DI MAIO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
15 Gavin Newsom's corrupt redistricting scheme is  
16 worse than snake oil. It's arsenic to our  
17 democracy. You stand here, he's out there  
18 pontificating that in order to save democracy, we  
19 must destroy it. In order to empower the people,  
20 we must silence them and strip power from the  
21 Citizens Redistricting Committee. No one is  
22 going to fall for this. The voters want citizens  
23 to draw the lines, not politicians. You sit here  
24 and say, let the voters decide. They have  
25 already decided in 2010 over your objection, over  
the political class's objection. They gathered

1 signatures and they put an initiative on the  
2 ballot that said, enough is enough. No more  
3 gerrymandering. They saw the ill that  
4 gerrymandering represents to our democracy. They  
5 saw the corruption. They saw the lack of  
6 transparency. They saw the bribery, the vote  
7 rigging, politicians carving out communities,  
8 silencing voices. And they said, enough. No  
9 more gerrymandering. In California, our voters  
10 are just. Well, they're more advanced than other  
11 states voters. They got it right a lot earlier.  
12 They gave us a gold standard in the Citizens  
13 Redistricting Commission. And what you're doing  
14 is saying, no, we don't care what they said in  
15 2010. We are not listening to them. What they  
16 voted for, to strip this body of the power that  
17 you are now apparently exercising in violation of  
18 the state constitution. The fact that we're even  
19 talking about redistricting on this floor today  
20 is a violation of the oath to uphold the state  
21 constitution. The fact that we're voting on a  
22 map today purportedly drawn up by the  
23 legislature, it's in violation of Article 21.  
24 You don't possess the authority to do this.

25 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: The voters already  
decided and took you.. [www.trustarray.com](http://www.trustarray.com)  
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1 MR. SPEAKER: Out of the process. But here  
2 we are today. Here we are today violating the  
3 state constitution by even voting on these three  
4 items. You know what we've witnessed in the last  
5 three weeks? This circus is exactly underscoring  
6 the wisdom of the voters in 2010. Let me go  
7 through the differences between what they created  
8 with the independent citizen redistricting  
9 commission and what all of you have shown you're  
10 capable of in the last three weeks. Citizens  
11 draw the map under the citizens redistricting  
12 process. Under this process, politicians are  
13 manipulating the lines under the redistricting  
14 commission that the citizens created. All of  
15 their meetings are open meetings. Under their  
16 rules, the commissioners are barred from having  
17 any conversation ex parte. You lawyers in the  
18 room know what that means. You're not allowed to  
19 take proposals or talk about lines or draw maps.  
20 All the map drawing occurs in real time on  
21 camera, in open session. We know that these maps  
22 were drawn behind closed doors by a bunch of  
23 political consultants and yet none of you are  
24 willing to put your names or reveal the names of  
25 who drew the maps. The citizens commission has  
to do it on a nonpartisan basis. You are openly

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1 admitting you're doing it for partisan advantage.  
2 Citizens on the Assembly Member DeMaio. Assembly  
3 Member DeMaio, you're out of order. Please do  
4 not impugn the motives of members. Thank you.  
5 Citizens on the redistricting commission are  
6 barred for 10 years for seeking from seeking any  
7 election, county, state or federal. We know that  
8 legislators that are involved in this process are  
9 actively preparing campaigns to run for these  
10 districts. The citizens process created  
11 competitive districts where voters voices are  
12 paramount and determine the outcome of the  
13 election. The maps that you're trying to impose  
14 are not competitive. And in fact, you take rural  
15 voters and you shove them in with urban voters to  
16 dilute their voice. How undemocratic. You want  
17 to talk about stripping people of their voice? I  
18 heard my colleague from Los Angeles and many of  
19 you say we're doing this to protect health care.  
20 30 seconds. We're doing this because California  
21 is losing money. I wish you fought harder to  
22 solve the problems of this state. As hard as  
23 you're fighting for some of these congressional  
24 districts for yourself and your colleagues. I  
25 wish you would fight to actually solve real  
problems happening here in California that

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1 actually matters. Look, the voters are  
2 ultimately going to be forced to decide this  
3 again. I think that once they understand what's  
4 going on, they will vote you down. Now, I know  
5 you're trying your hardest with a dishonest  
6 ballot title. Thank you, Assemblymember. To  
7 deprive them of a Fair office. Assemblymember  
8 DeMaio.

9 MEMBER DEMAIO: Thank you, Assemblymember  
10 Summit. Member Schultz, state your point of  
11 order. Yes, I would strongly encourage my  
12 colleague to adhere to the rules of this body. I  
13 have a copy of those rules if you'd like to Read  
14 it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.  
15 Assembly Member Schultz. Point is well taken.  
16 Assembly Member Bryan, you are recognized.

17 MEMBER BRYAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and  
18 colleagues, I rise in strong support of ACA 8.  
19 And like at least 2/3 of you in this room, I read  
20 the constitutional amendment which makes it very  
21 clear that we are not approving any maps in this  
22 body. We are giving the voters the decision.  
23 Something that isn't happening in Texas. And  
24 even doing that was something we had to debate  
25 fiercely. California's responsibility to  
Californians and Californians' responsibility to

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1 this country. We didn't want to be in this  
2 situation. The authoritarian in the White House  
3 put us in this situation when he used House  
4 Republicans in Texas to disenfranchise vulnerable  
5 people. After those maps in Texas are approved.  
6 A Latino voice in Texas is worth one third of the  
7 representation as a white voice. A black voter  
8 in Texas is worth one fifth of the representation  
9 of a white voter in Texas. I didn't say three  
10 fifths. There was no compromise. I said one  
11 fifth. That is the kind of gerrymandering, that  
12 is the kind of theft that they are perpetuating.  
13 And we can't just sit by and let it happen. We  
14 won't just sit by and let it happen. But that  
15 doesn't mean we lose ourselves. That's why when  
16 I was chair of the Elections Committee, I  
17 authored an update to the Fair Maps act that  
18 prevented incumbency from being a consideration  
19 in map drawing. And every single Republican on  
20 this floor voted against it. That's why I  
21 authored legislation calling for independent  
22 redistricting commissions on school boards and  
23 counties and special districts all throughout the  
24 state. And every Republican in this House voted  
25 against it. How convenient to switch your tone  
when you are now on the line. When we are

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1 stepping up and speaking the way Californians  
2 deserve for us to stand up and fight. Because we  
3 are tired of of being the punching bag of this  
4 country. When we freely give. When North  
5 Carolina is on fire, we show up. When a  
6 hurricane hits Florida, we show up. When Texas  
7 is flooding, we show up. We don't wait for  
8 Canada and Mexico to show up first like Texas did  
9 supporting Los Angeles this year, we come  
10 immediately. When we pay \$80 billion more in  
11 federal taxes than we get back, we don't  
12 complain. We know our role is to support others.  
13 And when the biggest disaster to ever hit our  
14 state hits and we ask for a portion of our own  
15 dollars back and you withhold it, we have to  
16 change our tone. We have to step up. Because  
17 your silence is deafening. When they took health  
18 care and food and veterans assistance and they  
19 made it harder for students to go to college and  
20 they put trillions of dollars in national debt.  
21 And you said nothing. That forced us to step  
22 into the void when they held our number one  
23 public university hostage for a billion dollars  
24 of California tax dollars. And you have said  
25 nothing. We had to step into that void. You  
talk about fighting fire with fire and how we

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1 shouldn't do that, while simultaneously a member  
2 of your own caucus just yesterday asked the  
3 Department of Justice and Pam Biondi to  
4 investigate us criminally. I took that  
5 personally that you didn't say anything. We are  
6 not just going to sit by and let our democracy  
7 crumble here in California. We're standing on  
8 business. And I respectfully ask for your I vote  
9 Assemblymember Bryan. Assemblymember Gibson, you  
10 are recognized.

11 MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very much, Mr.  
12 Speaker. That was a mic drop. I wasn't going to  
13 say anything, but two of my colleagues just said  
14 something about being silent that caused me to  
15 reflect on what I said on this floor over the 11  
16 years that I've been on this floor. And let me  
17 just say, and just repeat what I said since I've  
18 been on this green carpet from Dr. Martin Luther  
19 King Jr. Life begins in life. Life begins the  
20 moment you start being silent about the things  
21 that matter. In the end, you will not remember  
22 the words of your enemies, but the silence of  
23 your friends. So being on this floor today, I  
24 cannot sit by and be silent on the things that  
25 matter. This is a defining moment in history in  
California. So I know we referenced our governor  
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1 multiple times on this floor, but I am proud of  
2 Gavin Newsom, who had the courage to stand up and  
3 be bold when a lot of governors refuse to stand  
4 up and be bold to stand up and let California to  
5 stand up and be bold and be courageous in this  
6 moment, saving democracy. Understand this, that  
7 our democracy in the United States is on life  
8 support right now. And it takes courage, courage  
9 to stand up and be counted. We are in a defining  
10 moment in America. And I am so proud to be a  
11 member of the California state legislature right  
12 now that no other state is being. Is standing up  
13 and being counted. When this president, I am  
14 embarrassed. I am embarrassed to even call him  
15 president. Picking on the most vulnerable people  
16 among us, sending in ice ages to snatch our  
17 students wearing masks. That's what happened in  
18 third world countries. How can we not stand up  
19 and do what we're doing? It's about a third  
20 term. Doing something that no other president  
21 dared to do. It's about taking back. It's about  
22 changing the Constitution of the United States of  
23 America and make no mistake about it, they didn't  
24 hide what they were trying to do. Right now,  
25 it's about Project 2025. And it's been said time  
and time again, if California do not do this, we

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1 are just handing over the Constitution of the  
2 United States of America. And it started with  
3 the United States Supreme Court. It is about our  
4 human rights. So to my colleague who's not here,  
5 who talks about the phone calls that he received  
6 and it's about him coming to this country, well,  
7 it's about the little old ladies who fought in  
8 the 60s and the 50s in order to get human rights,  
9 civil rights, women's rights, LGBTQ rights in  
10 this country, who can right now be taken away  
11 from us in this country, in the United States of  
12 America. It's about the next generation that we  
13 may not even have any black people serving in  
14 office to have representation. It's about 10  
15 African American members of Congress that could  
16 be wiped away in Congress if we don't stand up  
17 and be counted. And California stands in the way  
18 of that happening. So we cannot afford not to do  
19 anything. So I'm proud of Speaker Revis standing  
20 up and being counted and being bold and being in  
21 this time, making sure that California is  
22 counted. It's about making sure that, that we  
23 stand in the way of this man and his power. So,  
24 yes, it's about ACA 8. It's about us walking out  
25 of this room today and holding our head up high  
for the next generation. We can

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1 make a difference, and we shall make a  
2 difference, making sure that we save the  
3 democracy for not only for the next generations  
4 who will sit in this seat, stand on this floor,  
5 but it's about our grandchildren and the legacy  
6 that we will leave behind. So I'm asking for the  
7 54 courageous Democrats because we already know  
8 what the other side won't do with a strong I  
9 vote. Thank you, Assemblymember Gibson,  
10 Assemblymember Dixon, you are recognized.

11 MEMBER DIXON: Well, a lot has been said.  
12 It's been a very emotional morning, I think, to  
13 bring the temperature down. I'm struck by what  
14 we're trying to do today with HC8, and I  
15 respectfully am opposed to it. A lot of things I  
16 was going to say have already been said just to  
17 remind everyone, the independent, and thanks to  
18 your father, Mr. Speaker, the best words were  
19 said about the independence of a citizen driven  
20 committee to decide to draw the lines of the  
21 vote. So all this talk today about democracy  
22 does not do honor to Congressman or state Senator  
23 Lowenthal and Congressman Lowenthal, who fought  
24 for the rights of the people to have a voice in  
25 our democracy. What strikes me is in yesterday,  
if I may read a portion of an editorial on the  
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1 Wall Street Journal, Mr. Speaker.

2 MR. SPEAKER: Without objection.

3 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I'm a real  
4 practical, pragmatic person, so I'm seeing where  
5 problems happen and how we can fix problems. So.  
6 So the supermajority in this legislature is  
7 speaking in loud terms, often rude, about  
8 democracy. You have democracy in your hands.  
9 You are in the super majority. It's the minority  
10 that is concerned about democracy and the signs  
11 of a lack of democracy. When commissions are  
12 being ignored, the voters are being ignored, the  
13 people are being ignored, the people who. Who  
14 want their voices heard in an independent way.  
15 Yesterday's Wall Street Journal said, and I  
16 quote, the real House. This is the House of  
17 Representatives, Congress. We were just making  
18 reference to democratic nightmare. This is all  
19 about numbers. Democrats could lose 10 seats in  
20 2030 because voters are fleeing the blue states.  
21 Remind us all, California is a blue state. So  
22 let me give you the numbers. Start with the  
23 numbers. Between 2020 and 2024, California lost  
24 1.4 million people. And where did they go? They  
25 may have gone to Kansas. That is larger than the  
population of Kansas have left California. And

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1 that resulted in 2020 in the loss of four  
2 congressional seats in California. So you're  
3 fighting, the super majority is fighting to  
4 protect seats that you think are going away.  
5 You've already lost them. Why did you already  
6 lose those four seats? And why are you  
7 continuing? Why is the other party continuing?  
8 Why is California losing population? Why is that  
9 affecting California? And the projection is in  
10 2030, California will lose four more seats.

11 MR. SPEAKER: Why?

12 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: And also an  
13 additional fact I did not know. Between 2020 and  
14 2024, California's population under the age of 18  
15 shrank by 523,000 people. We have to ask  
16 ourselves, why are people leaving California?  
17 It's because of laws that have been enacted in  
18 this state in the last 15 years that have driven  
19 out business, that driven out people for reasons  
20 related to education, the quality of education,  
21 quality of safety in our communities. They have  
22 left the state. They're going to other states,  
23 whether it's Texas, whether it's Ohio, whether  
24 it's Florida, whether it's Nevada, they're going  
25 to other states because they do not like the  
policies that are coming out of this state. So

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1 until California and its representatives in this  
2 body begin to realize what is not connecting with  
3 the laws that are being passed and the people,  
4 the voters of California, all this histrionics  
5 today, all this, the sky is falling. Chicken  
6 Little. Democracy is failing.

7 MR. SPEAKER: 30 seconds.

8 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Democracy is Being  
9 saved by people who realize it's not being  
10 represented by, by the super majorities that have  
11 been holding power in this state for the last 10  
12 or 15 years. Look at our policy. But we can  
13 find \$250 million for a special election when  
14 health care, when community safety, Prop 36,  
15 wildfire management wiped off out of the budget.  
16 But \$250 million magically appears to protect  
17 democracy. Democracy starts here. Keep people  
18 in California, keep our businesses in California,  
19 keep our families in California, and you know  
20 what? You'll have more votes probably, and more  
21 congressional representation.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
23 Dixon.

24 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you very  
25 much.

MR. SPEAKER: Assemblymember Jackson, you are  
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1 recognized.

2 MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you very much. Mr.  
3 Speaker. Permission to have a prop. Mr.  
4 Jackson, we are not going to allow props today.  
5 Not a problem. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise  
6 because it's hard to have a thorough discussion  
7 or debate in which today has been a very good  
8 debate. When we talk about the role of  
9 democracy, it simply cannot happen without a real  
10 consideration and a real review of our U.S.  
11 constitution and the Federalist Papers themselves  
12 to understand the real wisdom of our founders and  
13 just how much thought they put into all the  
14 different checks and balances that were necessary  
15 to ensure that this democracy can hold. And one  
16 of those things is found in the Federalist Papers  
17 number 10, where Madison specifically talks about  
18 the roles of the state. And over 200 years ago,  
19 Madison said that there will be a time where a  
20 fractious leader will emerge and that fractious  
21 leader will begin to do things to consolidate  
22 power. There will be a time when the executive  
23 and the legislative and the judiciary fail their  
24 constitutional responsibility to properly provide  
25 a check and balance. So Madison says, therefore  
is now up to the states to provide yet another

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1 stopgap to begin to hold on to slow down this  
2 fractious movement until the next election cycle.  
3 So there is something special that we are doing  
4 today. There is something very constitutional  
5 that we are doing today to ensure that we do our  
6 part of having the most fair election process as  
7 possible given the circumstances of the nation.  
8 And then in the Federalist Papers number 16,  
9 Hamilton says that at the end of the day, when  
10 our three branches of government may fail, even  
11 the actions of states may fail. But Hamilton  
12 says something beautiful. He says when it all  
13 else fails, that the number one protector of our  
14 democracy he calls the natural guardians. And  
15 those natural guardians are the people  
16 themselves. And so an assembly constitutional  
17 amendment says the legislature has a  
18 recommendation for you natural guardians that we  
19 believe is important enough for you to consider.  
20 But at the end of the day, this democracy is not  
21 ours. We are only your representatives. At the  
22 end of the day, the democracy and the  
23 preservation of this democracy lies in your  
24 hands. 30 seconds. Therefore, there's nothing  
25 more democratic, there is nothing more  
constitutional, there is nothing that fulfills

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1 both the letter and the spirit of our democracy  
2 than to allow the people of California to make  
3 the final say. I respectfully asked for an I  
4 vote. Assemblymember Jackson, Assemblymember  
5 Bennett, you are recognized.  
6 MEMBER BENNETT: Thank you very much, Mr.  
7 Speaker. There have been many powerful, logical,  
8 cogent arguments made today. And so I hope my  
9 humble comments can just add a little bit. I  
10 would like to direct my comments to those  
11 democratic advocates in our state who are  
12 questioning whether this is the right move for us  
13 to make, who are wondering whether this political  
14 effort to counter Texas is the appropriate thing.  
15 But I'd like to say to them, let's put this  
16 moment in national perspective, let's put it in  
17 global perspective, let's put it in historical  
18 perspective, and that is that there's always been  
19 a fundamental question, how do you transfer  
20 power? How do governments transfer power? And  
21 it can be done by violent brute force or it can  
22 be done by democratic actions. And our founding  
23 fathers, to their great credit, and I wish there  
24 were mothers there also, right, they sent us down  
25 on a path where we transfer power peacefully by  
following certain democratic rules and norms as

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1 we move on. And following those rules has been  
2 essential for us as we move. But today, in the  
3 world, in this country and in the world, we have  
4 autocrats that are desperately trying to  
5 consolidate their power by weakening democracy,  
6 by changing the rules of the game. And so to my  
7 friends out there that are questioning whether  
8 this is the right move, I want to say autocrats  
9 are counting on you to stand by and say, you  
10 know, I like the old rules. I want to play by  
11 the old rules. I don't like the new rules. And  
12 they're counting on you to do that while they  
13 consolidate power with their new rules. And it's  
14 a false scenario to say that we can defeat that,  
15 that we can win by holding onto the old rules  
16 while somebody consolidates power. A few decades  
17 ago, Russians had a democracy, but Russians lost  
18 that democracy as autocrats and the oligarchs  
19 consolidated power. They only have to get enough  
20 to be at a tipping point. And now, today, and I  
21 want to compliment my colleague across the aisle  
22 who admitted that what Texas is doing is wrong.  
23 I really admire that. But turning the other  
24 cheek is not the way to fight this particular  
25 situation. Russians turn the other cheek and  
they no longer have the ability to fight back.

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1 Today, Texas is changing the rules in a way that  
2 weakens California's ability to have input on who  
3 controls the vast powers of the federal  
4 government. If Californians don't take this  
5 opportunity to block Texas's action, we come one  
6 step closer to losing our ability to block the  
7 autocrats and the oligarchs out there. We come  
8 one step closer to becoming a country dominated  
9 by those oligarchs. One step closer to letting  
10 intimidation, deceit, and false outrage that's  
11 paid for by the oligarchs with media outlets that  
12 put daily false outrage that appeals and confuses  
13 the voters of the United States. And we come one  
14 step closer to that kind of society if we don't  
15 take this very important step to counter this.  
16 Because once you lose, once you cross that  
17 critical threshold, you may never be able to go  
18 back to what we had. So, to my dear friends that  
19 are out there that have contacted me and say, I  
20 don't know, I hope you will remember and keep in  
21 mind the historical moment that this is here  
22 today. 30 seconds. Thank you very much. I'll  
23 cede my 30 seconds and respectfully ask for the.  
24 I vote on AC8. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
25 Bennett. Members, the drilling that you hear is  
not inside your head. It's actually taking place

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1 in the construction. I want to remind all  
2 members that is not picked up on your  
3 microphones. Please continue. Assemblymember El  
4 Hawari, you are recognized.

5 EL HAWARI: Good morning, Mr. Speaker and  
6 members. I rise in support of ACA 8 because the  
7 only reason we're here today is Donald Trump.  
8 And Republicans are terrified of voters. They  
9 know people aren't buying their lies, so they're  
10 trying to rig the rules and cheat the game. At  
11 the same time, Trump has weaponized immigration  
12 to create fear. And what did Republicans in  
13 Washington do? They responded by giving ICE more  
14 money to tear even more families apart. In my  
15 district, that means neighbors who are being  
16 racially profiled, American citizens who are  
17 picked up by federal agents just for the color of  
18 their skin. It means families who are too scared  
19 to leave their homes. Families like my own, my  
20 Guatemalan mother and my Mexican stepfather, both  
21 American citizens who are afraid to leave their  
22 home because this is not about democracy. It's  
23 about intimidation and it's unconstitutional.  
24 And now Trump is repeating some of the ugliest  
25 times in our nation's history. He wants a census  
that excludes undocumented immigrants, the same  
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1 way they tried to ensure that enslaved people  
2 were not fully counted back when they first  
3 created the Constitution. And as if that were  
4 not enough, he's also pushing to cancel mail in  
5 ballots, silencing millions of voters who depend  
6 on their right to vote. To those on the other  
7 side, explain how silencing voters is the same  
8 thing as protecting them. Or is it just about  
9 protecting your power at the federal level? So  
10 when Republicans stand up here talking about  
11 transparency or protecting voters, don't be  
12 fooled. The truth is, the crisis started in a  
13 Republican state, Texas lit a match, and  
14 California is simply leveling the playing field  
15 instead of waiting until Abbott and Trump burn  
16 our own house down. ACA 8 does not give us an  
17 advantage. It gives us fairness. And let's not  
18 forget, this is going to the voters. So if you  
19 are opposing this, you. You are siding with  
20 hypocrisy and voter suppression because you want  
21 to talk about what's unconstitutional. You only  
22 want to talk about what's unconstitutional when  
23 it comes to what you believe is happening in  
24 California. But when it's the United States of  
25 America, you're okay with Trump mandering and  
Trump pandering. I urge all to vote. Thank you.

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1 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember El  
2 Hawari. Assemblymember Gabriel, you are  
3 recognized.  
4 MEMBER GABRIEL: Thank you very much, Mr.  
5 Speaker. Colleagues, I rise today with sadness  
6 and also with conviction. And I think it's  
7 important, as many of our colleagues have said,  
8 that we take a moment and step back and ask  
9 ourselves, how did we arrive at this moment? And  
10 I see it as I often do, through my lens as a  
11 parent, as a father of young kids, and I will  
12 tell you, everyone who has had the blessing of  
13 being a parent understands what is going on here.  
14 Start playing a card game with my five year old.  
15 He feels like it isn't going his way. He feels  
16 like he might lose. And so he starts to change  
17 the rules. And that's what we have, that is  
18 transparently what is happening with this  
19 president. He understands that his policies are  
20 not popular. He understands that people do not  
21 want him to continue to be able to be unchecked  
22 in Washington. And so rather than change his  
23 policies or play by the rules, he's trying to  
24 change the rules. And they are moving forward  
25 and changing the rules in the most undemocratic  
fashion. And that has put those of us in

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1 California in a very difficult position. How do  
2 we respond? What do we do in this moment? And  
3 what we have from our colleagues on the other  
4 side of the aisle is saying, close your eyes. Be  
5 willfully blind. Ignore what is happening in the  
6 rest of the country, as if we in California are  
7 immune to that. Stand down. Do nothing  
8 unilaterally, surrender. But to me, there are  
9 deep moral implications to that unilateral  
10 Surrender. There are real impacts to our people,  
11 to, to our population, to our planet and to our  
12 democracy. And so there are many of us that feel  
13 that California cannot stand idly by in this  
14 moment, will not stand idly by in this moment.  
15 We owe it to our children to stand up and be  
16 counted. And so what do we do when we have these  
17 two arguments, Those who say California should do  
18 nothing, and those who say California should  
19 stand up and fight back. We do what is  
20 fundamentally the most democratic thing that we  
21 can do. We asked the people of the state of  
22 California to weigh in on that. Our colleagues  
23 have sat here and lectured us about what the  
24 people want. They have sat here and told us,  
25 they talked to us repeatedly about democracy.  
Well, good. Let's let democracy decide. The one

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1 argument here to which they cannot rebut and will  
2 never be able to rebut is that the ultimate  
3 decision here rests with the people of the state  
4 of California. Donald Trump will not decide  
5 this. Gavin Newsom will not decide this.  
6 Congress will not decide this. This legislature  
7 will not decide this. The people of the state of  
8 California will get to decide what they want to  
9 do at this pivotal moment in history. And that,  
10 to me, is what makes this the right approach. So  
11 we heard from our colleague from Westminster. He  
12 said, listen to the people. I agree. Let's  
13 listen to the people. Let's let the people vote.  
14 Let's let the people have their moment to make  
15 this decision. They have the wisdom, they have  
16 the judgment. And I am confident that they will  
17 want to stand up and fight back to protect our  
18 democracy. And with that, and in the spirit of  
19 giving our citizens and our voters the  
20 opportunity to make this consequential decision,  
21 respectfully request an I vote on ACA 8. Thank  
22 you, Assemblymember Gabriel, Assemblymember  
23 Salache, you are recognized.

24 MEMBER SALACHE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker,  
25 members and to everyone watching out there,  
Americans, international community. This is not  
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1 a Republican, Democrat or independent issue.  
2 This is an American issue. People have died,  
3 people have suffered to save democracy. I assure  
4 you that if today we took a vote in this same  
5 floor and that board, that we all like to watch  
6 the outcomes of the votes, if we put a vote about  
7 the Independent commission taking their action  
8 every 10 years, it would be a unanimous vote.  
9 Because not only have the Republicans, but  
10 Democrats have acknowledged that, that that's the  
11 way to go. I agree. It's the golden standard  
12 that California has set for the nation. And as  
13 they say, as California goes, so does the nation.  
14 So I couldn't agree with you more that we have to  
15 protect that in California for The sake of not  
16 only Californians, but for America. But, ladies  
17 and gentlemen, and to all our communities, our  
18 LGBT community, our immigrant community, we have  
19 to raise our voices for Californians and for  
20 America today. Now, let's not forget that in  
21 this action, the commission will continue doing  
22 the work so that we don't have to take any more  
23 votes, that they will continue doing the work  
24 after the 2030 process. This is a temporary  
25 approach to react to what's happening with other  
states. And so I agree with the minority leader.

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1 The president is wrong on this one, and Texas is  
2 wrong on this one. I agree with him  
3 wholeheartedly. And that's why I am proud, as I  
4 have had some concerns about this process, that  
5 California will continue to have its independent  
6 commission process. But you see, ladies and  
7 gentlemen, and everyone here today, I was sent to  
8 Sacramento to represent almost 500,000  
9 constituents. I proudly represent a high  
10 immigrant, undocumented community. Con mucho  
11 ruyo y con mucho corazon. I'm here representing  
12 them and being a voice, because just this morning  
13 on Atlantic Boulevard in my city of Linwood, at  
14 the barbershop, there's three ICE agents trying  
15 to force themselves into the barbershop. And  
16 once I'm done, I will happily drop that video for  
17 you to watch. I'll airdrop it so you can all  
18 have it happened this morning in my own  
19 community. The very same people that send me to  
20 represent them, people who look like me, are  
21 being racially profiled and kidnapped on the  
22 streets on the way to work, accessing health care  
23 while taking their kids to school or even going  
24 to church. How disgusting is that? Immigrants  
25 are not the problem. Our diversity makes our  
state and our country strong. California's

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1 immigrant communities are vital part of this  
2 prosperity through all our nation. I will not  
3 sit back and watch ICE kidnap more members of my  
4 community. Our community. I ask all of us that  
5 we temporarily do this for America. People are  
6 watching not only locally, but internationally.  
7 And I bring not only my heart, my voice today to  
8 this Capitol to ensure that the 500,000 people  
9 that I represent in my community of Linwood,  
10 Southgate, Maywood, Huntington Park, Walnut Park,  
11 Lakewood, Bellflower, and Paramount have a voice.  
12 I invite all of you to help protect America.  
13 This is not a Republican, Democrat, or  
14 independent issue. Let's save humanity, let's  
15 save democracy and temporarily respond to this  
16 horrible situation that we're living. And then  
17 California will continue leading the way by  
18 protecting our independent commission and our  
19 independent maps so that all Californians have a  
20 voice. And if some are leaving, we welcome you  
21 back. And those that want to leave other states.  
22 Welcome to California 32nd. We have great  
23 beaches, great parks and of course some of the  
24 best restaurants that our community gets to  
25 offer. Thank you. Let's continue to lead and  
America, we have your back. Gracias. Thank you.  
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1 Assembly member Solace, Assembly member  
2 Patterson, you are recognized. Great.  
3 MEMBER PATTERSON: Thank you. Mr. Speaker,  
4 I'm going to take you up on this unique offer to  
5 talk about political parties. It's not something  
6 I like to do, but some of these comments like  
7 quote unquote dropping to the knees of the  
8 President. What does that mean? I take offense  
9 to that. My grandpa used to say when something  
10 miraculous happened, not bad for swirling gases.  
11 What he was doing was mocking evolution. Piper  
12 wasn't an overly religious man. He loved God and  
13 he loved our nation. Especially as he defended  
14 it in the military for entire career. He was a  
15 man that believed in a higher power. He believed  
16 there were no coincidences these miracles were  
17 divine. Despite thousands and thousands of years  
18 of authoritarian governments, kings, dictators,  
19 it wasn't swirling gases that created our form of  
20 government. And our founders said as much when  
21 they declared us an independent nation. The  
22 Declaration of our Independence proclaims the  
23 people are endowed by their creator and our alien  
24 inalienable rights which are not granted by the  
25 government, they are inherently bestowed upon us.  
I believe as the Founders did in 1776

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1 Providence, meaning that I firmly believe any  
2 internal threats to our democracy, whether from  
3 the national level or right here in the chambers  
4 of the California State assembly, that we will be  
5 okay. The Divine Providence will secure  
6 inalienable rights to self determination. And  
7 despite attempts by this body or attempts by the  
8 Governor, from the moment he went unchallenged by  
9 members on this floor, when he exerted so much  
10 power with no Democratic input. What did you do?  
11 Mention me sitting by idly? You sat idly by.  
12 And he chose to close schools. He closed  
13 businesses. And at least partially responsible  
14 for the pain and suffering you see in our  
15 streets. And we continue to see see to this day.  
16 And guess what? To address my colleague from Los  
17 Angeles about Republicans in this body that sat  
18 idly by. I take great offense to that kind of  
19 stuff. Mr. Speaker, when someone talks about  
20 what Republicans here have and haven't done.  
21 Please. Democrats have been in charge of this  
22 state for my entire natural life. I know as  
23 individual legislators, some of you have tried  
24 but you going to talk about sitting idly by as  
25 they say on X lol. Democrats, maybe not as  
individuals, but as a ruling dictator party of

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1 this state for my entire life are sitting idly by  
2 and have effectively done nothing that has  
3 resulted in a better education for our children  
4 has done nothing to effectively address the  
5 people laying in our street just blocks from this  
6 building. These things have gotten worse,  
7 especially since Democrats have taken full  
8 control of every lever of our government right  
9 here in California. I believe in democracy.  
10 Why? Because it's rooted in our fundamental  
11 inalienable right to be free. And you cannot  
12 take that away. And neither can Gavin Newsom.  
13 What this body is likely to do in a few minutes  
14 highlights the flaws of man. Many of you will  
15 vote not to turn the other cheek. You will vote  
16 under your own admission to fight back, to punch  
17 back, to fight fire with fire. I believe at the  
18 end of the day, despite your best efforts to  
19 participate in attempt to erode democracy, we  
20 will be fine. When history looks back,  
21 California will not succeed in its mutual goal of  
22 joining with entrenched partisan Democrats  
23 throughout our nation to throw out democracy in  
24 its fight for fire with fire. Because it cannot  
25 override the fundamental protections our founding  
documents guarantee us. History will not look

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1 proudly on this moment. It will look highly on  
2 potential changes to any map in this state. It's  
3 going to be frowned upon. And it certainly won't  
4 look highly on the partisan gerrymandered maps  
5 here in California. And. And those are the  
6 words from one of the co authors in committee of  
7 this measure. I don't ever want to be lectured  
8 ever again by Democrat anywhere that their  
9 party's the party of democracy. 30 seconds.  
10 Because what you're doing, even by amending this  
11 proposal this morning without any input, is  
12 showing you are no better. Democracy is flawed.  
13 Mankind is flawed. The measure is flawed and you  
14 know it. How many people in this body testified  
15 by Texas, the public got to know that you struck  
16 out the language this morning. I didn't even  
17 know it till I walked in the building. To even  
18 talk about Texas. No matter what Texas does, if  
19 they do nothing, you are asking the people to  
20 erode their rights. Thank you, Assembly. Me? I  
21 asked for a no vote. Thank you, Assembly Member  
22 Patterson, Assembly Member Schultz, you are  
23 recognized.

24 MEMBER SHULTZ: Thank you very much. Mr.  
25 Speaker. Permission to read that. Objection.  
The people will save their government if the  
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1 government itself will allow them. You know,  
2 I've thought as I've sat here, I want to first of  
3 all mention to my colleague from Lancaster,  
4 sorry, from Palmdale, I appreciated your comments  
5 at the beginning, sir. I didn't raise my mic  
6 right away. I wanted to listen. I wanted to  
7 listen to my colleagues speaking in favor of ACA  
8 8. I wanted to listen to some of you who have  
9 concerns about ACA 8. I also want to thank our  
10 esteemed minority leader. We don't agree on  
11 much, but I appreciate your words today, sir.  
12 The president is wrong. He is wrong to be doing  
13 what he's doing. And your point about two wrongs  
14 not making a right and burning the entire House  
15 down? There's a lot of truth in that statement.  
16 I agree with you, sir. And yet over the last  
17 week, I've struggled with this issue. I have  
18 consulted the Good Book. I've spent time in  
19 thought and prayer at the cathedral. I've been  
20 trying to find the right answer on this issue.  
21 And the remarkable thing is, as I sat here on  
22 this floor listening and really giving thought to  
23 what we're being asked to do, it was this  
24 portrait that hangs above us that really centered  
25 my thoughts. The people will save the  
government. They will save themselves if the

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1 government simply allows them to do so. The  
2 words of probably one of the greatest presidents  
3 we ever had, a portrait that hangs over our  
4 chamber. A man who, with General Order 141, had  
5 to suspend habeas corpus and take unprecedented  
6 action because of the risks that face the  
7 Republic in an unprecedented time. We're  
8 absolutely in unprecedented times. I bring all  
9 this up to say that I'm not here to stand with  
10 righteous indignation. I'm not here to point  
11 fingers at any of you. But what I can say is the  
12 house is burning. Democracy is at risk. What is  
13 happening in Texas, what is happening across the  
14 country, is fundamentally wrong. I don't believe  
15 the answer to how we save democracy can be  
16 decided among the 119 legislators in our state  
17 capitol. I don't believe the governor alone can  
18 make that answer. What I do believe, though, is  
19 we have to give the people the chance to weigh in  
20 on this matter. And that is exactly what aca8  
21 does. I believe that this question should be  
22 returned to the people. And I'll simply close  
23 with one point. Never in the course of history  
24 and in the state of California or in any state,  
25 have the people been directly given an  
opportunity to vote on a map. I believe that is

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1 democracy in its finest hour. Let the people  
2 respond and tell us how we should fight to  
3 continue saving democracy. I will be voting I  
4 and I encourage everyone to vote aye on aca8.  
5 Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Assemblymember Schultz,  
6 Assembly Member Aarons, you are recognized.  
7 MEMBER AARONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
8 Before I give remarks, I just wanted to mention  
9 that I'm a proud co sponsor of ACA 8. So when  
10 the opposition continues their unserious  
11 lawsuits, they know who to direct them towards.  
12 I rise in support of standing up and Defending  
13 the rights of freedoms for all Californians and  
14 Americans. We must take decisive action to stand  
15 up to Donald Trump's unprecedented call for  
16 Republican led states like Texas and Florida to  
17 redraw the Congressional lines and unfairly rig  
18 the 2026 midterm elections for Republican  
19 politicians to benefit. Donald Trump and  
20 Republicans in Congress passed their big ugly  
21 federal budget which is set to obliterate health  
22 care access for millions and already struggling  
23 Californians colleagues, each and every single  
24 one of you in this room, regardless of political  
25 party, have tens of thousands of constituents who  
will lose health care because Donald Trump and

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1 Washington D.C. republicans recently adopted  
2 that budget and Republican Congress members  
3 passed this big ugly federal budget which cuts  
4 hundreds of billions of dollars in funding to  
5 America's health system. Without any alternative  
6 plan to protect health access for anyone, how  
7 will your community's hospitals and health  
8 clinics benefit from the suffering of this  
9 federal budget, the result of massive divestment  
10 of federal dollars in health care? Trump's big  
11 ugly federal budget will indeed result in lives  
12 being lost. Donald Trump and MAGA extremist  
13 Republican politicians will make no plan to  
14 protect health care access for any Californians  
15 or any Americans. MAGA extremist Republicans in  
16 D.C. have decimated our health care in every  
17 corner of the United States for no reason and no  
18 alternative plan just to give tax cuts to their  
19 super wealthy campaign donors and millionaires  
20 like themselves. These Trump cuts will kick poor  
21 people off of their health care but also result  
22 in higher health insurance premium premiums for  
23 all of us because without health insurance we  
24 will have to get, we will have to get care at the  
25 most expensive place and time in whatever  
emergency rooms that are left in our communities.

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1 And now that America now Americans are pissed off  
2 at Republican politicians for obliterating their  
3 access to health care. Trump is leading a  
4 Republican led states like Texas and Florida and  
5 demanding that they exert their state legislative  
6 power to unilaterally redraw their Congressional  
7 districts to make it easier for more Republican  
8 politicians to win Congressional seats. And what  
9 are we to do? We cannot sit by and let Donald  
10 Trump and Republicans rig the next election so  
11 that they cannot be held accountable and have no  
12 chance to be voted out or lose control of  
13 Congress. Heaven forbid they actually are held  
14 accountable by their failed policies in America.  
15 California is honoring our Constitution unlike  
16 Republicans in Texas by defending our liberty and  
17 giving Californians a choice to defend themselves  
18 and against Donald Trump's attacks on our country  
19 and our state. I rise in support and ask all of  
20 my colleagues to join me in fighting back for all  
21 of California regardless of where you represent  
22 and stop the robbing of Californians rights, the  
23 robbing of our liberty and our lives. We must  
24 stop Trump MAGA Republicans steal of our  
25 congressional elections and the desecration of of  
our founding father's dream for a government by

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1 and for the people. I urge all of my colleagues,  
2 all Californians and all Americans to join  
3 California's efforts to defend ourselves against  
4 the rising tide of fascism and authoritarianism  
5 in this country. And I urge your I vote. Thank  
6 you, Assemblymember Ahrens. Assemblymember  
7 Berner, you are recognized.

8 MEMBER BERNER: Thank you. I rise in  
9 support of ACA 8. For this simple, Californians  
10 should be given the right to choose. The right  
11 to choose, to fight partisanship with  
12 partisanship, the right to do something rather  
13 than nothing, and the right to have a voice.  
14 Let's be clear. There's only one reason a  
15 sitting President calls for states to stack  
16 Congress in his favor for five years. When our  
17 grandchildren look back in a few decades, I want  
18 Californians to be able to say that they had a  
19 voice, they did something and they had a choice.  
20 I respectfully urgent I vote on ACA 8.

21 MR. SPEAKER: Assemblymember Berner,  
22 Assemblymember Ransom, you are recognized.

23 MEMBER RANSOM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I  
24 rise today because democracy is on the line.  
25 Freedom is on the line. Liberty and justice is  
on the line. Free and fair elections for all is  
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1 on the line today. I don't know about anyone  
2 else, but I was raised to stand up for people who  
3 could not stand up for themselves. We can't just  
4 be bystanders when bullies come to push us  
5 around, especially when people already don't have  
6 a voice. That's what the people elected us to do  
7 and that's what this is all about. We're not  
8 forcing anything down anyone's throat. We are  
9 giving Californians a choice. Do you want to bow  
10 down or do you want to fight back? ACA 8 gives  
11 the voters, the people that we represent, the  
12 decision making power. To those who suddenly  
13 have so much to say. I have to say that I have  
14 been baffled by the silence that we have heard.  
15 It's been very loud. Where was all of the noise  
16 when the President and Congress slashed federal  
17 funding, cut Medicaid, imposed tariffs that hurt  
18 small businesses? Where was the noise? There's  
19 been complicity as the Constitution has been  
20 undermined as partisan gerrymandering. Maps have  
21 been pushed on the people in Texas, which  
22 ultimately affects the entire United States.  
23 Where was all the noise while America was being  
24 hijacked? Today, with all of the objections and  
25 with all of the noise, I'm clearly concerned that  
it Is our job to stand up and to speak out? We

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1 must ask, can you tell us, please? What I've not  
2 heard is why are we so afraid to give the voters  
3 a choice? What are we so afraid of? And we  
4 should also ask, with all the tears to protect  
5 the president's gerrymandering plan, where were all  
6 the tears for the poor people, the people who  
7 have been silenced? People are suffering and  
8 dying because we need to lead. People are not  
9 leading and that hurts America. So we have a  
10 voice and we have a choice. Do we deny the  
11 citizens a chance to have democracy, freedom,  
12 free and fair elections, and liberty and justice  
13 for all? Like we say when we stand up and we  
14 pledge allegiance to this same flag when we come  
15 into this chamber, this is about citizens that  
16 are being terrorized. When those who are being  
17 bullied need someone to stand up, California is  
18 not going to sit down and be a bystander. If you  
19 want to be taken seriously, you need to be able  
20 to explain to us why you don't want to give this  
21 to the voters. The rules have been changed, and  
22 that means we have to act accordingly. We have a  
23 choice. Do we want to allow the entire nation to  
24 be disenfranchised, or do we ask the citizens of  
25 California to lock arms with us and to march  
forward to save democracy in the world where the

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1 US has now become an authoritarian government and  
2 has adopted the strategies of dictators to rig a  
3 system? I say that it's our duty to give it to  
4 the voters so that we can have a chance to fight  
5 back on behalf of the citizens of the United  
6 States. And I respectfully ask for your. I  
7 vote.

8 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
9 Ransom. Assemblymember Avila Farias, you are  
10 recognized.

11 MEMBER FARIAS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I  
12 rise as a proud co author of ACA 8. For years,  
13 Trump's administration has targeted our state,  
14 holding California wildfire and disaster relief,  
15 hostage taking food out of the family's mouths by  
16 cutting SNAP benefits, terrorizing immigrant  
17 communities with brutal raids and no due process,  
18 and kidnapping our community members, imposing  
19 tariffs that have punished the working families.  
20 And now Trump and his allies, his domestic  
21 terrorists, are trying to dismantle democracy  
22 with California's redistricting proposal. We're  
23 not racing to the bottom. We're drawing the  
24 line. While Republican led states rampartisan  
25 maps in secret, we're doing the opposite. Voters  
made it clear they want Independence  
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1     redistricting, not partisan power grabs. For  
2     those who know me, I have dedicated much of my  
3     public service to protecting the right to vote  
4     and to ensure that historically disadvantaged  
5     communities enjoy a voice at the TABLE Every  
6     state should have an independent redistricting  
7     commission. And guess what? This measure, we  
8     still do. But let's be clear. We're also  
9     defending against the coordinating power grab.  
10    This isn't politics as usual. This is an  
11    emergency. This is an emergency for our state.  
12    This is an emergency for our country. It's an  
13    emergency to protect our democracy. California  
14    will always defend the right to vote. And we  
15    will. And the will of the people. Unlike Texas,  
16    we won't be silenced. That voice. We will send  
17    the issue to the ballot box where it belongs.  
18    California voters will see maps. California  
19    voters will decide. California will not back  
20    down. We will protect our vote, our voice and  
21    our values. Thank you.

22           MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember Avila  
23    Farias. Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez, you  
24    are recognized.

25           MEMBER RODRIQUEZ: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't  
going to talk on this bill today and I'm still  
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1 not. We just needed a little break and Get our  
2 minds on something else.

3 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
4 Rodriguez. Assemblymember Davies, you are  
5 recognized.

6 MEMBER DAVIES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
7 Members, I just have a simple question for you.  
8 In your hearts, do you honestly believe this aca8  
9 is the right thing to do? For a second, let's  
10 ignore the partisan noise. I think we can all  
11 agree gerrymandering anywhere is wrong. It's not  
12 hard or controversial to say that. Imagine what  
13 we could fund with \$235 million.

14 MR. SPEAKER: We could use pardon decorum in  
15 the chamber, please. Let's respect the speaker.

16 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Speaker. We could use this money to help with  
18 the state's insurance crisis or pay raises for  
19 first responders. Members, let me remind you  
20 that our independent redistricting commission  
21 held 196 public meetings, had 3,800 public  
22 comments and received 32,000 written submissions.  
23 Compare that to the process where Californians  
24 had four days to view the public maps and submit  
25 comments through a portal and had one assembly  
hearing to voice their support and opposition.  
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1 That wasn't even put into record. Has anyone in  
2 this chamber ever seen the 16,000 written  
3 comments we have supposedly received on this  
4 issue? Anyone? Need I remind you that voters  
5 approved the commission drawing congressional  
6 districts via Prop 20 with 61% of the votes.  
7 Californians gave our government a mandate that  
8 it should be everyday citizens who will be given  
9 the power to draw fair maps using these six  
10 principles. Population equality, compliance with  
11 Federal Voting Rights act, geography and geodic  
12 geographic integrity and geographic compactness.  
13 And lastly to nest state Senate and Assembly  
14 districts into compact areas. Democrats,  
15 Republicans and Independents came together  
16 believed politicians should not draw their own  
17 maps. On a personal note, let me tell you how  
18 ACA 8 will affect Assembly District 74. This  
19 proposal splits my assembly district into three  
20 congressional districts and divides communities  
21 of interest and goes against the principles of  
22 geographic integrity. That's absurd.  
23 Communities of interest are supposed to remain  
24 together. What does a desert community have in  
25 common with a suburban city? You have chosen to  
stifle the voices of California. You say you

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1 know what is best. Well, I believe that their  
2 voices matter. I hear. Listen. Listen to the  
3 people. Well, that's what I do. I listen to the  
4 people. It's not my agenda, it's their agenda.  
5 Through lcms, I sent out a five question poll.  
6 My district is the most purple and balanced  
7 district in the state. So you should be all  
8 interested in these results. The first question  
9 that was asked stated, currently California has  
10 an independent citizens redistricting commission  
11 that draws election district mats. Do you think  
12 redistricting should be done by an independent  
13 commission? The legislature are unsure. These  
14 answers might surprise you. 65% of Democrats  
15 favored an independent commission, 96% of  
16 Republicans favored an independent commission,  
17 and 92% of independents favored an independent  
18 commission. The second question that was asked  
19 stated, how important is it to that the  
20 redistricting division be made through a process  
21 that is open to the public and allows for  
22 community input? 78% of Democrats said very  
23 important, 97% of Republicans said very  
24 important, and 96% of independents said very  
25 important. At the beginning of this year and  
session, it was very clear what the concerns of

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1 Californians were. 30 seconds they needed from  
2 this legislature. I think everyone agreed the  
3 people know what's right and what's wrong. And  
4 in my district they have responded and told me,  
5 Mr. Speaker, question to.

6 MR. SPEAKER: The author without objection.  
7 Your time is about to elapse.

8 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Yep, just finish up  
9 here. My final question to the author is did you  
10 or do you know anyone that signed an NDA? Thank  
11 you.

12 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, madam. Thank you,  
13 Ms. Davies. Assemblymember Rogers, you are  
14 recognized.

15 MEMBER ROGERS: Thank you so much, Mr.  
16 Speaker. I agree with many of my colleagues. We  
17 know that gerrymandering is bad for  
18 representative democracy. Our system was built  
19 on checks and balances. And unfortunately, right  
20 now we have a TEMU dictator in the White House  
21 and we have a Congress that has completely  
22 abdicated their responsibility to act as that  
23 check on that dictator. And I do not for a  
24 moment want us to leave here with sound bites of  
25 sanctimonious pearl clutching from my colleagues  
about protecting Californians without making sure

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1 we talk about what our legislature has been doing  
2 this year to protect Californians. Not one of my  
3 colleagues across the aisle has condemned the  
4 president for turning our Military against our  
5 own people in LA and in D.C. not one of my  
6 colleagues across the aisle condemned the  
7 President for sending armed thugs to a press  
8 conference that the governor and the legislature  
9 was having last week in an act of intimidation.  
10 Not one of my colleagues across the aisle has  
11 condemned the President for being in the Epstein  
12 files. Not one of my colleagues across the aisle  
13 has condemned the president for withholding funds  
14 for fire victims in California. If we're going  
15 to talk about protecting Californians, we're  
16 going to talk about how this legislature is  
17 protecting Californians. To quote and paraphrase  
18 Ben Franklin, it's a democracy if they choose to  
19 keep it. Every time we go to the ballot box, we  
20 get to choose if we are going to fight for  
21 democracy. And this November, Californians and  
22 Democrat Democrats in California are going to  
23 fight for democracy. Thank you, Assemblymember  
24 Rogers. Assemblymember Fong, you are recognized.

25 MEMBER FONG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I  
rise as a proud co author of ACA 8 and its

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1 importance in defending our democracy. We didn't  
2 ask for this fight and we need to fight back  
3 against President Trump's power grab. This is  
4 more about defending our democracy and making  
5 sure that every voice counts. This is our chance  
6 to stand up and raise our voices to fight for our  
7 democracy. The stakes couldn't be higher. The  
8 President federal administration is denying  
9 wildfire relief, targeting our diverse immigrant  
10 communities, targeting our number one public  
11 university with an extraction request of \$1  
12 billion and pulling millions off of health care.  
13 We will stand up and we will defend the Voting  
14 Rights act and protect our historically  
15 marginalized communities. We must fight fire  
16 with fire and we will let the voters decide.  
17 That is democracy at its best. I strongly urge  
18 an I vote on acai. Thank you. Thank you,  
19 Assemblymember Fong. Members, this is a last  
20 call to raise your microphone if you are going to  
21 be speaking on ACA 8. Last call, please.  
22 Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, you are recognized  
23 colleagues.

24 MEMBER GONZALEZ: Today I rise in complete  
25 and utter disappointment. We're about to  
potentially waste \$230 million to undo something

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1 Californians already decided on in 2010, that an  
2 independent commission, not the governor and not  
3 the legislature, should draw district lines. The  
4 majority of Californians don't want this. Yet  
5 here we are. I'm exhausted that this is what  
6 we're choosing to spend our time on. This body  
7 has all the power to make the lives of  
8 Californians better. And Californians are sick  
9 and tired of watching us come to this floor week  
10 after week with no solutions to the crises that  
11 are faced that we're facing. We as a body are  
12 out of Touch with the issues raging in our state,  
13 from affordability, health care to the housing  
14 crisis to homelessness. As a marine corps  
15 veteran, it sickens me to know that men and women  
16 who I fought alongside are sleeping on the  
17 streets. We can fix that, but we aren't.  
18 Instead, the governor and members of this body  
19 are playing partisan politics. Let me be clear.  
20 Californians in my district tell me every day  
21 they feel forgotten by. By this body.  
22 Forgotten. Let me be clear about that. You see,  
23 in my district, the needs are urgent and real.  
24 Palo Verde Hospital in Blythe is on the brink of  
25 closure. I requested 4 million in emergency  
funding to keep it operating a lifeline that was  
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1 not fulfilled. As a result, the hospital now  
2 faces an uncertain future, and residents of  
3 Blythe could soon be forced to travel over 100  
4 miles just to access emergency care. This is not  
5 just a health care issue. It's a public safety  
6 crisis. In Imperial county, the last sugar beet  
7 plant, Spreckles, has shut down, wiping out over  
8 700 jobs in a county that already suffers a 20%  
9 unemployment rate. And. And yet instead of  
10 focusing on jobs, we're debating on  
11 gerrymandering. At Ironwood State Prison in  
12 Blythe, leadership is doing incredible work  
13 rehabilitating incarcerated people with programs  
14 that gives men something to look forward to.  
15 Imagine what a fraction of this money could do  
16 there. In the mountain communities from  
17 Winchester to Anza, families live with a constant  
18 threat of wildfires. We should be filling  
19 reservoirs and doing real forest management, but  
20 we aren't. I've heard arguments in these halls  
21 that just because Texas is doing it, we should  
22 too. That the White House is holding onto money  
23 that should go to California and democracy is in  
24 flames. Colleagues too. Wrong zone. Make a  
25 right like my colleagues, that if democracy is on  
the line, then California should be strengthening

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1 it, not rigging it for political gain. Hundreds  
2 of millions of dollars could be directed towards  
3 fighting food insecurity, helping organizations  
4 like FIND and the Imperial Valley food banks who  
5 are doing God's work every single day and serving  
6 the most vulnerable in our communities. We  
7 cannot claim to serve the people while  
8 prioritizing the their most basic needs. And I  
9 could go on. Families in Imperial, Riverside and  
10 San Bernardino county can't afford gas,  
11 groceries, childcare. Parents are choosing  
12 between filling their gas tanks or their fridge.  
13 That's the reality my district is living with  
14 every single day. So let me ask why are we  
15 wasting time and money on reckless measures that  
16 that is being pushed down onto Californians from  
17 those at the highest levels of government in our  
18 state? You know, when I was at war. At least I  
19 was able to see the threats coming at me. But  
20 here in Sacramento, I have no idea about the  
21 backroom deals. I still can't get answers as to  
22 who actually drew the lines. I ran for office  
23 because of my son, RJ who has cerebral palsy. He  
24 can't speak for himself. So I ran to be his  
25 voice and the voice for his families. And we  
fought together to take back in-home supportive

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1 services. We work together to do that. We can  
2 do so much more. We can get so much more done.  
3 So, colleagues, I end by saying this. Let's rise  
4 up. Let's work together to fix the problems in  
5 our state, because we can do it. I've seen it  
6 done. So let's make this happen. Thank you,  
7 Assemblymember Gonzalez, Assemblymember Arambula,  
8 you are recognized.

9 MEMBER ARAMBULA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and  
10 members, for the opportunity to present on this  
11 floor. I don't oftentimes speak, but I felt  
12 called today to be able to share some words.  
13 Just yesterday, an icon of this great country  
14 reminded me of our family's roots that began in  
15 Tejas. My my father being born in Brownsville,  
16 Texas, in 1952, during a particularly racist and  
17 xenophobic period in American history, a time  
18 that was known as Operation Wetback, what is  
19 still to this day America's largest mass  
20 deportation event, an event that helped to sweep  
21 up my father, who is an American citizen, and  
22 deported our family to Mexico. That we learned  
23 that there are states that value and give dignity  
24 and respect to all who called that state home and  
25 states that do not. And so we migrated to the  
great state of California, to Delano, where it

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1 was Dolores Huerta who reminded me yesterday that  
2 we were fighting for dignity and respect when it  
3 was UFW. My father, who I spoke about earlier,  
4 also had the honor of serving, serving in this  
5 institution where he had an independent streak.  
6 Now, back in 2008, he was one of those Democrats  
7 who, along with Republicans, voted for the  
8 independent redistricting commission to go before  
9 the people. And so it is with great pride that  
10 many of us have been watching their work and  
11 honored by the service of those who wish to serve  
12 on that commission. And I too was watching each  
13 one of those hearings and impressed with what was  
14 happening in 2020. But I had dinner with my  
15 father this past weekend and I spoke with him  
16 about that vote. And he reminded me that today's  
17 electorate looks different than when he made that  
18 vote nearly two decades ago, that today's  
19 democracy looks different than it was two decades  
20 ago. And that fundamentally representation is  
21 about returning Resources, the taxes that we pay.  
22 And for those of us who come from poor areas, who  
23 represent poor people, we are not getting our  
24 fair share. And the representation that we have  
25 in Congress is not returning resources. That  
big, beautiful bill was bad for our communities.

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1 And despite my ideals of wanting to fight for  
2 independence and redistricting, we must make sure  
3 we're getting our fair share of resources. And  
4 so that means that you have to stand up against  
5 your ideals and stand up for your morals. You  
6 have to stand up for a community who too often  
7 doesn't get represented here in the people's  
8 house. And so I will put my ideals to the side  
9 and instead stand up for our morals. But it  
10 comes with a warning that this institution might  
11 not be able to resist the temptation to come back  
12 here again, and that we have to make sure that we  
13 are fundamentally believing that we can maintain  
14 that independent redistricting commission. So I  
15 will tell you, while I share that fear, what I  
16 put my faith in. I put my faith that there's  
17 someone here in the great state of California who  
18 one day will be walking around being the  
19 President of the United States and the White  
20 House, and that our governor then will be able to  
21 pass federal independent redistricting commission  
22 for all states. And by doing that, we can have a  
23 balanced, level playing field where every single  
24 person counts and we have representation that is  
25 returning resources for our communities. I put  
faith in the people of our state to decide their

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1 future. That while we might not have been a  
2 state when our nation was created, we are the  
3 bearer of its future. It is incumbent on us to  
4 rise up and to defend our democracy. I  
5 respectfully ask for an I vote. Thank you,  
6 Assembly Member Arambula. Assembly Member  
7 Tangipa, you are recognized.

8 MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
9 This measure before us is neither bold nor  
10 principled. It is, in plain terms, a blatant  
11 attack on the most transparent process our state  
12 has ever had for drawing congressional districts.  
13 It undermines what has become the gold standard  
14 for the nation, the Independent Citizens  
15 Redistricting Commission. The commission was  
16 created to restore fairness to ensure  
17 representation in California is not based on  
18 which party controls the government, but on  
19 principles of independence, transparency, and  
20 community. And it worked. Californians can look  
21 at their districts today, and they know that they  
22 were not manipulated for partisan advantage. And  
23 now, in just four days, with two rushed committee  
24 hearings and almost no opportunity for real  
25 public comment, we are on the verge of throwing  
all of that away. Let me remind this body.

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1 During committee hearings, one of our colleagues  
2 brazenly admitted that this entire thing was  
3 about partisan gerrymandering. Admitted partisan  
4 politics. This was a direct response to the  
5 question about protecting voters and underserved  
6 communities. Not a word about fairness, not a  
7 word about transparency. An open admission to  
8 partisan gain. So how can we stand in this  
9 chamber and criticize Texas, Florida or other  
10 states for gerrymandering when we've joined them  
11 in the same practice? How can we demand fairness  
12 in the courts or before Congress when we're  
13 willing to sacrifice it here at home? We have  
14 lost all credibility. Let's not forget this is  
15 not free. We are wasting money and resources on  
16 an election that that is unnecessary and  
17 unwanted. Every dollar spent on this political  
18 stunt is a dollar not spent on addressing the  
19 cost of living crisis or wildfires, not spending  
20 on improving our schools, not spent on keeping  
21 our communities safe, and not spent on expanding  
22 healthcare access. Californians never asked for  
23 this election. What they did ask for was a fully  
24 fund Prop 36, which this legislature failed to  
25 do. What they asked for was for us not to ration  
medi cal because Californians and families are

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1 dying. Dying. We were told at the start of this  
2 session that our priority was addressing cost of  
3 living. Yet I haven't seen any bills rushed  
4 through four days to lower utility rates, to make  
5 housing more affordable, to bring down our food  
6 prices. But when it comes to the bills that  
7 serve political ambition, suddenly four days is  
8 plenty of time. Suddenly co authoring bills  
9 without even reading them is no problem. This  
10 isn't just bad policy. It flies in the face of  
11 established fact. Study after study shows  
12 gerrymandering reduces federal dollars coming to  
13 our communities, depresses voter turnouts,  
14 disenfranchises us and even leads to lower  
15 wages. None of that helps Californians who are  
16 already stretching every single penny thin. None  
17 of it helps to cover rent, grocery gas. None of  
18 that helps the families that are deciding whether  
19 to pay for medicine or if they can afford their  
20 utility rates or if they can make an insurance  
21 payment or if they can afford to even buy a house  
22 for the next generation. None of it. These  
23 facts again highlight my concerns with our  
24 spending problem and leveraging the future. Ten  
25 to \$30 billion structural deficit is what we were  
told with the LAO and the Department of Finance.

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1 That is year over year all the way to 2028. If  
2 we don't stop this reckless spending on measures  
3 like this, we're going to drain what's left of  
4 our rainy day fund and we are going to have to  
5 make significant, significant cuts for  
6 Californians and you are saying for partisan  
7 gain. It is worth it for families that are  
8 dying. To me, the message from the majority  
9 party is clear. Principles and independence only  
10 matter when it's politically convenient. And  
11 Californians can do worse. Better. 30 seconds.  
12 Shameful. The level of Trump derangement  
13 syndrome in this party is debilitating our  
14 ability to govern properly. It is being claimed  
15 that the reason reason for this bill is to combat  
16 authoritarianism. Before redistricting, before  
17 the big beautiful bill, before any cuts were  
18 implemented, it was this legislature that  
19 stripped the minority of the committees because  
20 they spoke out in opposition. It was this  
21 legislature that restricted our time. The real  
22 authoritarian problem is in the mirror. The.  
23 What about him? Thank you, assembly member Tony.  
24 Everywhere else. Thank you, Assemblymember. The  
25 youngest member of this committee, Assemblymember  
Harbidian. You are recognized.

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1 MEMBER HARBIDIAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
2 There's an old adage for lawyers that when the  
3 law is on your side, you pound the law. When the  
4 facts are on your side, you pound the facts.  
5 When neither the facts of the law are on your  
6 side, you pound the table. And I'll tell you, my  
7 friends on the other side of the aisle, we've  
8 been hearing a lot of pounding the table today.  
9 Most of what we heard, including what we just  
10 heard, was completely hyperbolic and devoid of  
11 fact. And with all the bluster, let's be clear  
12 about the admission of partisan gain. There is a  
13 representative that will go down in history in  
14 Texas, one by the name of Representative Todd  
15 Hunter, who admitted that this was nakedly  
16 partisan. What happened in Texas, and I quote,  
17 the underlying goal of what happened in Texas, as  
18 Mr. Hunter said of this plan, is straightforward  
19 to improve Republican political performance.  
20 That is the admission of partisan objectives that  
21 we should be focused on. That is the admission  
22 of gerrymandering. That why we are here today.  
23 And for every friend across the aisle that stood  
24 up today, including my friend from Fresno that  
25 has held up independent commissions for  
redistricting as the model. When my friend from  
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1 Merced introduced AB 1441 for independent  
2 redistricting in her district, every single one  
3 of you voted against it. So save it. This is  
4 about one thing. It's about one man trying to  
5 control California, trying to control our  
6 country. We will not bend, we will not break.  
7 And we will do everything in our power to save  
8 California and save our country. This is one of  
9 the proudest moments of my short term as a  
10 legislator here. It's one of the easiest votes  
11 that I will take and I will be very proud when  
12 the California people who ultimately make this  
13 decision actually help us save our country. I  
14 request AN I vote, Mr. Speaker. Thank you,  
15 Assemblymember Harbidian. Assemblymember Hoover,  
16 you are recognized.

17 MR. HOOVER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I  
18 agree with my colleague from Lynwood that this is  
19 not a fight between Democrats and Republicans.  
20 In fact, redistricting has never been a fight  
21 between political parties. It has always been a  
22 fight between the people and power hungry  
23 politicians and friends. This did not start in  
24 Texas. For over 200 years, politicians have used  
25 gerrymandering to choose their preferred voters,  
protect their own political interests, and avoid  
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1 accountability. And let's be clear, it is wrong  
2 when this is done by either party. In fact, many  
3 of the points raised by my colleagues on this  
4 floor today highlight the harms of partisan  
5 gerrymandering and underscore exactly why  
6 politicians should not be drawing their own maps.  
7 That is why I was proud when California citizens  
8 chose a better path forward. A system where  
9 politicians no longer choose their voters, but  
10 one where the voters get to choose their  
11 politicians. Our Citizens Redistricting  
12 Commission is a model for the nation and a model  
13 that should be adopted nationwide to end all  
14 partisan gerrymandering once and for all.  
15 Despite Governor Newsom's insistence that ACA 8  
16 preserves this model, make no mistake that it  
17 undermines the will of the voters and forever  
18 tarnishes California's legacy as a leader on  
19 independence redistricting. You are all correct  
20 that the voters will get a say once again if this  
21 passes today. And I truly believe that they will  
22 see through this veiled attempt to return power  
23 to the politicians. As of this week, polls  
24 already show that 64% of Californians do not  
25 support the proposal before us today. So I urge  
you to reject this race to the bottom, to stand

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1 on principle and vote no on ACA 8. Thank you,  
2 Assemblymember Hoover. Assemblymember Kalra, you  
3 are recognized.

4 MEMBER KALRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's  
5 really tiresome to hear these sanctimonious cries  
6 from the opposition to this measure. For the  
7 past several weeks and even months, as Trump has  
8 been clamoring for more and more power, talking  
9 about having a third term and then very directly  
10 demanding seats be given to him that he's  
11 entitled to from Texas. We didn't hear our  
12 Republican colleagues say a word about that.  
13 When it's their party in control of Congress,  
14 their party in control of the White House. That  
15 fight was brought to us and we didn't hear  
16 anything about redistricting and, and fairness at  
17 all until today when it's brought to our doorstep  
18 and we have to now stand up to defend our  
19 democracy against a tyrant. And these crocodile  
20 tears about, oh, what about the children, oh,  
21 what about the health care when not any one of  
22 Them spoke about this big ugly bill that was  
23 passed that's going to take over over a trillion  
24 dollars away from Medicaid, millions in snap  
25 giving food to children and seniors. They talk  
about a cost of an election. They never talk

1 about a cost of an election when time and again  
2 they try to recall the governor. We didn't hear  
3 about cost of election then, but we hear about it  
4 now. What is the cost of election? Oh, about  
5 the cost of one. Trump Ballroom. So let's be  
6 real about what we're talking about when we talk  
7 about getting on your knees. You talk about  
8 taking and bending the knee. You're bending the  
9 knee to a tyrant. And we will not have any  
10 kings. We will have no kings in America. Not as  
11 long as California exists. Not as long as we  
12 have the ability to fight back. We will not have  
13 a king. You all are choosing your supreme leader  
14 over your own constituents. You're choosing your  
15 supreme leader, Trump over children that are  
16 going to lose health care and food. You are  
17 making that choice and we're standing up against  
18 it. We're not going to stand up for trillions in  
19 tax cuts for billionaires. We're going to stand  
20 up for democracy. We are going to go down  
21 fighting for our democracy. And we'll let you be  
22 on the wrong side of history, Republicans.

23 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Assemblymember  
24 Kara. Members, this is the second and final  
25 request. Anyone who wishes to speak must raise  
their microphone now. They do not. They will not be

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1 recognized. Speaker Reavis, you are recognized.

2 MEMBER REAVIS: Well, thank you, Mr.

3 Speaker. Protam. Quite the year we have had

4 here. 2025. I'm proud of this chamber. I'm

5 proud of my colleagues for meeting this moment

6 with courage. President Trump wants us to be

7 intimidated. And his playbook is a simple one.

8 Bully, threaten and silence, then rig the rules

9 to hang onto power. And we are here today

10 because California will not be a bystander to

11 that power grab. We are not intimidated and we

12 are acting openly, lawfully, with purpose and

13 resolve to defend our state and to defend our

14 democracy. And look, Donald Trump, he does not

15 believe in democracy. He is terrified of losing

16 and he will do whatever it takes to cling onto

17 power. We saw this on January 6 when he

18 unleashed a violent mob on our nation's capital

19 and he did this to overturn an election. We saw

20 it yesterday in the state of Texas where

21 Republicans advanced a mid decade map designed to

22 flip a up to five congressional seats and lock in

23 a partisan edge in the U.S. house of

24 Representatives at President Trump's order.

25 Again, this is the same dangerous playbook. If

Trump can't win fairly. He'll try to make it  
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1 impossible for Republicans to lose. And why?  
2 Because Donald Trump knows what we know. Voters  
3 are ready to hold him accountable from California  
4 to New York, from north to South. But of course,  
5 President Trump, he doesn't want to be held  
6 accountable for his failures in an election,  
7 especially the next one, and that's why he is  
8 trying to rig it. And of course, our Republican  
9 colleagues in this chamber don't want their party  
10 to be held accountable by voters, and certainly  
11 not in California. Accountable for ripping away  
12 \$1.25 billion billion dollars from our state for  
13 food assistance for hungry kids, hungry children,  
14 our most vulnerable families. Accountable for  
15 the millions of Californians who will lose their  
16 health care coverage because of this president.  
17 Accountable for the cuts to our disaster  
18 preparedness while our communities burn and  
19 flood. Accountable for the communities in our  
20 state torn apart by ICE raids. Neighbors,  
21 friends, the people who put food on our tables,  
22 shoved into unmarked vans by men wearing masks,  
23 taken without warning or due process.  
24 Accountable for tariffs that are driving up our  
25 grocery prices every single, single day.  
Accountable for corruption. That makes Trump, his

1 family and his friends richer while everyone else  
2 struggles to get by in California. In  
3 California, we will do whatever it takes to  
4 ensure that voters, not Donald Trump, will decide  
5 the direction of this country. This is a proud  
6 moment in the history of this Assembly.  
7 Californians, we believe in freedom. We will not  
8 let our political system be hijacked by  
9 authoritarianism. And today, we give every  
10 Californian the power to say no. To say no to  
11 Donald Trump's power grab and yes to. To our  
12 people, to our state and to our democracy. Mr.  
13 Speaker, I proudly ask for an I vote. Thank you,  
14 Mr. Speaker.

15 MR. SPEAKER: All debate having ceased.  
16 State your point, assembly member Gallagher.

17 MR. GALLAGHER: Mr. Speaker, in the past and  
18 actually earlier today, you've said that. State  
19 your point of order. Assemblymember Gallagher,  
20 you have said that votes are to suspend the  
21 Constitution. ACA 8 specifically says,  
22 Notwithstanding provisions of the state  
23 constitution. So when we vote on this, would you  
24 please reference it as a vote to suspend the  
25 Constitution as you have done previously.  
Moment, Mr. Gallagher. [www.trustarray.com](http://www.trustarray.com)  
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1 Assemblymember Gallagher, this is a vote to put  
2 the measure on the ballot for the people of the  
3 California, of the state of California. It is  
4 not a suspension of the Constitution. All debate  
5 having ceased, Clerk will open the roll. All  
6 members vote who desire to vote. All members  
7 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who  
8 desire to vote. Clerk will close the roll.  
9 Tally the votes. Ayes 57. Nose 20. The measure  
10 passes. The measure is adopted. Media  
11 transmittal to the Senate not. Objection.  
12 Members. We actually have a very special guest,  
13 historic Californian is visiting us today and  
14 we're going to take an opportunity to take a  
15 quick break from business on the Daily File and  
16 recognize Assemblymember Wicks for her guest  
17 introduction and Assemblymember Banta for her  
18 guest introduction.

19 MEMBER BANTA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and  
20 colleagues. I rise today to recognize one of the  
21 greatest athletes of all time. In addition to  
22 being an Oakland native, a proud UC Berkeley  
23 alumni. That's right, a business owner, a  
24 philanthropist, an actor, he's also the only man  
25 who has ever single handedly caused an  
earthquake. I am honored to introduce to you Mr.

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1 Marshawn Lynch. He is a true renaissance man.  
2 During his NFL career, Marshawn, nicknamed Beast  
3 Mode, rushed over 10,000 yards, scored 85  
4 touchdowns, earned five Pro bowl selections and  
5 led the Seattle Seahawks to their first Super  
6 bowl victory in 2014. Since retiring, Marshawn  
7 has continued to make a lasting impact off the  
8 field. From co founding the Fam First Family  
9 Foundation, a non profit dedicated to empowering  
10 youth through mentorship, to starring in a number  
11 of movies, Marshawn has dedicated his career to  
12 representing and uplifting his community. He's  
13 also involved in a variety of business ventures  
14 including Beast Mode Apparel, Rob and Ben's  
15 Sports Bar and Restaurant in Emeryville, Beast  
16 Mode and Beast Mode Productions. And of course,  
17 we all know his love of Skittles. Sorry, Mr.  
18 Gabriel. Please join me in giving a nice warm  
19 California welcome to a leader, a legend in  
20 sports, entertainment, business and community,  
21 Marshawn Lynch.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to the California  
23 assembly members. We have a few other welcomes  
24 for Mr. Lynch. Just a moment, just a moment.  
25 Assemblymember Bonta and Assemblymember Tangipa,  
Assemblymember Banta, you are recognized.  
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1 MEMBER BANTA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm  
2 honored on behalf of the beautiful people of  
3 Oakland to welcome to the town our own Marshawn  
4 lynch to the Capitol. Before he was a Super bowl  
5 champion, Marshawn's love for football was born  
6 in Oakland and his talents on the field were  
7 quickly recognized. During his time time at  
8 Oakland Technical High School, Marshawn would go  
9 on to bring his fierce skills to Berkeley, the  
10 Bills, the Seahawks and the Raiders. Off the  
11 field, Marshawn has never failed to show the love  
12 for his hometown of Oakland, particularly as he's  
13 seen working with his family fam First Family  
14 foundation, embodying the true spirit of  
15 California and the soul of the town. As he  
16 constantly outdoes himself. Marshawn has even  
17 made a name for himself on the silver screen in  
18 smash hits like Bottoms, Freaky Tales and I Know  
19 My kids are waiting to see what you'll bring this  
20 next season. With Euphoria, we want to thank and  
21 love on our Marshawn lynch, because right now,  
22 Oakland deserves the defender, the caretaker, the  
23 champion that is embodied in our icon, Mr.  
24 Marshawn Lynch. Thank you for being here.

25 MR. SPEAKER: And finally, Assemblymember  
Tangipa. [www.trustarray.com](http://www.trustarray.com)  
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1 MEMBER TANGIPA: I just wanted to say really  
2 brief. Marshawn lynch and I, we had an amazing  
3 mentor of ours, Coach Jeff Tedford, that taught  
4 principles and values to us. And you as a teddy  
5 bear and me as a teddy dog. We all know that  
6 that man said it. And shout out to kp, my  
7 teammate at Fresno State, thank you. Thank you  
8 for coming and speaking to us and fostering the  
9 next generation. Because most people don't see  
10 that. They don't see what you do to the young  
11 men out there. And you tell them to buy in. And  
12 when you don't have a man in your life, you can  
13 find a leader who will build that foundation for  
14 you. You did that for hundreds of thousands of  
15 young men across the state that believe in you,  
16 that found passion, that drove themselves when  
17 they had nothing and no hope. But one man  
18 believed in us and changed our lives. They did  
19 that. And you are leading that same example.  
20 And I just wanted to say thank you and it's good  
21 to see you. Welcome to the California Assembly.  
22 IT members, we have continued business on the  
23 daily file. We are now moving to the Senate  
24 third reading file, item 145, SB 280, by Senator  
25 Cervantes, presented by Assemblymember Pellerin.  
Members, can I have you take your desk, please?

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1 Members, please take your desks. Take your  
2 conversations off the floor. Leader Gallagher,  
3 you are recognized. Is this on the amendments?  
4 Mr. Speaker, you're recognized, Leader Gallagher.

5 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Thank you. Mr. Speaker,  
6 I do have amendments at the desk on SB 280. This  
7 amendment would require the proposed  
8 congressional maps to be publicly available for  
9 at least 131 days. Mr. Gallagher, I'm going to  
10 ask the clerk to read first, and then. And then  
11 I'll ask you to recognize you once again. A  
12 Clerk will read SB 280. Senate Bill 280, with  
13 amendments by Assembly Member Gallagher. Set  
14 two. Assemblymember Gallagher, you are  
15 recognized.

16 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Yes. Thank you again,  
17 Mr. Speaker, this amendment would require that  
18 the proposed congressional maps to be publicly  
19 available for at least 131 days before the voters  
20 make the decision on ACA 8. This is about  
21 putting people over politics. Rushing through  
22 maps without scrutiny is unacceptable. By  
23 requiring the maps to be publicly available well  
24 in advance and in compliance with the  
25 constitutional deadline of 131 days. We protect  
the integrity of our democracy and give

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1 citizens ample time to review and challenge any  
2 unfair boundaries. We can't ignore the stark  
3 contrast. The commission's independent public  
4 driven approach has delivered fair  
5 representation. But this legislative push  
6 sparked by other politics threatens to drag  
7 California into redistricting wars that  
8 prioritize party power over people. The  
9 Independent citizens redistrict Commission held  
10 over 100, actually over 200 meetings and welcomed  
11 extensive input from voters on the communities  
12 and needs ensuring a thorough and transparent  
13 process. These amendments to SB280 are essential  
14 to ensure that there is enough input and review  
15 time for voters to understand what they are  
16 voting on. This is a very complex matter. These  
17 are very intricate maps that cover the entire  
18 state and people need to know what communities  
19 have been split, what communities have, what  
20 counties have been split out, what their  
21 representation will actually look like. So  
22 giving California that time that they deserved,  
23 much like they had during the commission's  
24 exhaustive process, helps ensure that we have  
25 fundamental fair review before those are voted  
on. And I respectfully ask for your vote on

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1 this reasonable amendment. Thank you.  
2 Assemblymember Gallagher. Majority Leader.  
3 Madam Majority Leader, you're recognized.  
4 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I move delay the  
5 amendments on the table.  
6 MR. SPEAKER: Seconded by Assemblymember  
7 Garcia. This motion is not debatable. It takes  
8 a majority of those present and voting members.  
9 This is a procedural vote. Clerk will open the  
10 roll. All members vote who desire to vote.  
11 Majority leaders asking for an I vote. Leader  
12 Gallagher is asking for a no vote. All members  
13 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who  
14 desire to vote. The clerk will close the roll.  
15 Tally the votes. Ayes 48, nos. 19. The  
16 amendments are laid on the table. Assemblymember  
17 Demaio, you are recognized.  
18 MEMBER DEMAIO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I  
19 rise in strong opposition to SB 280 and have an  
20 amendment at the desk. Assemblymember Demaio  
21 will. We still need to open on the measure first  
22 and then you will be recognized for the amendment  
23 at the author. There's an amendment at the desk.  
24 Mr. Demaio, you're out of order. Mr. Demaio, you  
25 may approach the desk and speak with the chief  
clerk. Your amendments are not here at the desk.

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1 Assembly member Pellerin. Okay, we have. We  
2 have sets of amendments here. Assemblymember  
3 Castillo, we have your set of amendments. Would  
4 you like to speak on your amendments?  
5 Assemblymember Castillo, you are recognized to  
6 speak on your amendments. Clerk will read the  
7 amendments.

8 CLERK: Senate Bill 280 with amendments by  
9 Assembly Member Castillo. Set one. Assembly  
10 Member Castillo, you are recognized.

11 MEMBER CASTILLO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
12 Members, I am presenting these Amendments today  
13 because California voters created the Citizens  
14 Redistricting Commission for one clear purpose.  
15 To take the power of drawing district lines away  
16 from politicians and return it to the people.  
17 Yet Governor Newsom and Democrat politicians are  
18 seeking to redraw our maps without transparency  
19 and public input. What we see before us today is  
20 exactly the kind of gerrymandering Californians  
21 thought they ended when they approved the  
22 Citizens Redistricting Commission in the first  
23 place. These amendments to SB280 make sure the  
24 commission remains truly independent. By making  
25 it a misdemeanor for elected officials to  
communicate with commissioners about district

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1 lines, we close the door to backroom deals and  
2 unethical political pressure. If redistricting  
3 is to happen, it should happen on the merits of  
4 the needs of the people, not because powerful  
5 politicians whispered in the ear of the  
6 commission. This is simply about trust. The  
7 public deserves to know what the maps they live  
8 under are drawn fairly, not manipulated for  
9 partisan advantage. We stand here as elected  
10 representatives of California, not Texas. We  
11 were sent here to protect the will of the  
12 California voters. This has nothing to do with  
13 Texas. I respectfully ask for your support on  
14 these amendments to protect the will of  
15 California voters. Thank you for your attention  
16 to this matter.

17 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Assemblymember  
18 Castillo. Madam Majority Leader, you are  
19 recognized. I moved.

20 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Lay the amendments  
21 on the table.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Seconded by Assemblymember  
23 Garcia. Members, this motion is not debatable.  
24 It takes a majority of those present voting.  
25 This is a procedural vote. Clerk will open the  
roll. All members vote who desire to vote. The

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1 Majority Leader is asking for an aye vote.  
2 Assemblymember Castillo is asking for a no vote.  
3 All members vote who desire to vote. All members  
4 vote who desire to vote. Clerk will close the  
5 roll. Tally the votes. Ayes, 55. Noes, 19.  
6 The amendments are laid on the table.  
7 Assemblymember Gallagher Set 3. You are  
8 recognized for your amendment, sir. The clerk  
9 will read. Excuse me. Clerk will read. Senate  
10 Bill 280 with amendments by Assembly Member  
11 Gallagher. Set three. Assembly Member  
12 Gallagher, you are recognized.  
13 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
14 So this is the amendment that I was. I was  
15 speaking to earlier that was taken out. So right  
16 now, ACA8 does not have a trigger provision. If  
17 Texas were to move forward with redistricting,  
18 that this would only go into effect if that  
19 happens. I am proposing this amendment to SB280  
20 to make that the case. And truly, if the debate  
21 that we just heard is true, that we have to do  
22 this because of what Texas is doing. And by the  
23 way, one House has passed the redistricting  
24 measure. Another House still has to pass it.  
25 The Governor would Still have to sign it in  
Texas. Put the condition in the bill. If it's  
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1 truly about Texas and you're countering what  
2 Texas is doing, then there should be a condition  
3 on this ACA and this measure going forward. If  
4 you truly believe that, then you should support  
5 this amendment. And that's again another simple,  
6 reasonable amendment I'm proposing to this  
7 legislation. I hope that this body will support  
8 it and put your money where your mouth is. Thank  
9 you. Assembly member Gallagher. Madam Majority  
10 Leader, you are recognized.

11 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I move delay the  
12 amendments on the table.

13 MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion by the  
14 Majority leader. Seconded by Assemblymember  
15 Garcia. Members, this is a procedural vote. It  
16 is not debatable. Takes majority of those  
17 present voting. Clerk will open the roll. All  
18 members vote who desire to vote. The majority  
19 Majority leader is asking for an aye vote. Mr.  
20 Gallagher is asking for a no vote. All members  
21 vote who desire to vote. All members vote who  
22 desire to vote. The clerk will close the roll.  
23 Tally the votes. Ayes. 55, nos. 19. The  
24 amendments are laid on the table. Clerk will  
25 read set four of the amendments. Senate Bill 280  
with amendments by Assemblymember Yang. Set

1 four summary. Member Tangipa, you are  
2 recognized.

3 MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you. This amendment  
4 is simple. And if you voted for aca8 and the  
5 maps it created or sorry and you're about to vote  
6 on this, you shouldn't be allowed to immediately  
7 run for those districts. You shouldn't have a  
8 vested interest in approving the measure. And if  
9 you truly believe that SB280 was about fairness,  
10 then you should have no problem stepping back and  
11 giving up the chance from benefiting from it.  
12 This amendment closes that loophole. It makes  
13 sure the legislature legislators can't change the  
14 rules one day and cash in on them the next.  
15 Public service should come first before self  
16 interest, period. I ask that you support these  
17 amendments and you prove that you don't have a  
18 vested interest. Thank you.

19 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you,  
20 Assemblymember Tangipa. Madam Majority Leader,  
21 you are recognized.

22 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I move to lay the  
23 amendments on the table.

24 MR. SPEAKER: Majority leader has moved to  
25 lay the amendments on the table. Seconded by  
assembly member Garcia. [www.trustarray.com](http://www.trustarray.com) is a  
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1 procedural vote. Takes 40 majority of those  
2 present in voting. Clerk will open the roll.  
3 All members vote who desire to vote. Majority  
4 leaders asking for an I vote. Mr. Mr. Tangipa is  
5 asking for a no vote. All members vote who  
6 desire to vote. All members vote who desire to  
7 vote. Clerk will close the roll. Tally the  
8 votes. Ayes 53, nos. 19. The amendments are  
9 laid on the table. Now onto the bill in Chief.  
10 The Clerk will read Senate Bill 280 by Senator  
11 Cervantes and others inaccurating to election and  
12 making it appropriation, therefore declaring the  
13 urgency thereof to take effect immediately.  
14 Assemblymember Pillorin, you are recognized.

15 MEMBER PILLORIN: Thank you. Good  
16 afternoon, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise to  
17 present SB 280, a bill that is jointly authored  
18 by Senator Cervantes and myself. This bill calls  
19 for a statewide special election on November 4th  
20 of 2025. This special election gives California  
21 voters the opportunity to vote on a Congress  
22 constitutional amendment. Let me repeat that.  
23 California voters, not elected officials, will  
24 make the final decision. ACA 8 as was presented  
25 by my colleague from Menlo park, will allow for a  
one time temporary mid decade redistricting of

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1 our state's Congressional districts. Not because  
2 we want to, but because we want to allow voters  
3 to to decide if they want to fight against the  
4 horrific Trump policies that are harming their  
5 families, businesses, communities and  
6 institutions. SB 280 also makes the necessary  
7 statutory changes to allow for the election to be  
8 held on time and to allow elections officials to  
9 conduct a fair and transparent, secure and  
10 accessible election. As a former county  
11 elections official, I can attest that the county  
12 elections officials I know are the most  
13 professional, well trained, dedicated group of  
14 public servants I have ever met. They have  
15 proven time and again that they can deliver  
16 elections with accuracy, integrity and  
17 dedication. From presidential contests held  
18 during a pandemic to recalls held during  
19 wildfires, they have risen to every challenge. A  
20 special election in November will demand  
21 extraordinary effort and resources. But I have  
22 full confidence that with the proper state  
23 support and under the leadership of our Secretary  
24 of State and her team, they will once again  
25 ensure that every voter has access, every ballot  
is secure and every voice is heard. SB 280 also

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1 includes language to ensure that counties are  
2 made whole for the cost of conducting this  
3 special election. This provision was especially  
4 important for me and I know that it's important  
5 for counties of all sizes to quickly touch on the  
6 issue of costs. I know there's been concern from  
7 some the of of my colleagues that having this  
8 special election is not the best use of state  
9 dollars. Whatever it costs to conduct this  
10 special election pales in comparison to the  
11 massive economic harm by Trump on our state.  
12 We've heard many people speak of it today. His  
13 tariffs have fueled higher prices. Families are  
14 paying more at the grocery store. And yet he's  
15 slashing billions of dollars from families food  
16 assistance, leaving 735,000 Californians at risk  
17 of losing calfresh. He's cutting nearly a  
18 trillion from Medicaid to pay for tax breaks.  
19 For billionaires putting Medi cal coverage for 3  
20 million Californians on the line. And he's  
21 holding back nearly a billion dollars for our K  
22 through 12 schools. Trump's mass arrests,  
23 detentions, and deportations will cost the state  
24 billions of dollars and eliminate \$23 billion in  
25 tax revenues. Trump's policies slash science and  
climate funding, strip women's and LGBTQ rights,

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1 cut support for veterans, seniors, and people  
2 with disabilities, and target our communities of  
3 color, undermining health, dignity, and  
4 opportunity for the most vulnerable. The list  
5 goes on. Trump's policies don't just hurt our  
6 economy. They hurt our families, our schools,  
7 our health, and our future. That is the  
8 democracy we are fighting for. It's the people.  
9 A government of, for, and by the people. The  
10 cost of this election is pennies compared to the  
11 price Californians are already paying for Trump's  
12 failed policies. But ultimately, California  
13 doesn't have to spend a single dime on this  
14 special election. Our state's Republican  
15 representatives in Congress can march over to the  
16 White House right now, pick up the phone,  
17 organize themselves, and tell the president to  
18 stop what is happening in Texas right now. Now,  
19 his grab for five seats that he thinks he is  
20 entitled to. And they better act fast, because  
21 we know that map has been passed by the House and  
22 it's going to the Senate today. As long as this  
23 president thinks he's entitled to more Republican  
24 seats in Congress, regardless of how the people  
25 vote, and as long as Republican officials  
nationally are unwilling to stand up and to fight

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1 for it and to preserve our democracy, then  
2 California must give voters this opportunity to  
3 decide whether to fight back against these  
4 authoritarian tactics by approving the use of  
5 these temporary congressional district maps. I  
6 respectfully ask for your. I vote on SB280.  
7 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assembly Member  
8 Pellerin. Assembly Member Demaio, you are  
9 recognized.  
10 MEMBER DEMAIO: Mr. Speaker, permission to  
11 use a prop. We are not allowing props today, Mr.  
12 Demaio. Then why have you become props to  
13 Governor Gavin Newsom's presidential campaign?  
14 That is what SB 280 is. An unnecessary special  
15 election at a cost of a quarter billion dollars.  
16 Why? Because his campaign for president has been  
17 going down in flames and he needs something to  
18 prop up his chances. Make no mistake about it,  
19 this is a political stunt. An unnecessary,  
20 costly special election because Gavin Newsom  
21 needs chum in the water for political attention.  
22 You know it and I know it. And you're allowing  
23 state taxpayer money to be used for it. My  
24 friends across the aisle say that this is no more  
25 than a special election, like the recall was in  
2021. But let me tell you why there's a big

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1 difference. The recall in 2021 was a citizen's  
2 right. You may disagree with it. I know you all  
3 likely voted against it. But it is a right of  
4 the citizens to collect signatures and place  
5 items on the ballot and trigger a special  
6 election. If you felt that this was necessary to  
7 overturn the 2010 citizens initiative, that took  
8 the power out of your hands to manipulate lines  
9 and that's what you're doing here. That's what  
10 ACA8 does. Takes the power away from the  
11 citizens commission and gives it right back to  
12 the politicians so they can do what they've done  
13 for the last 72 hours. Go behind closed doors  
14 and manipulate maps and draw lines and fashion  
15 congressional districts for themselves or their  
16 friends in the future. If you wanted to do all  
17 that, then you should have done a citizens  
18 initiative campaign. You should have collected  
19 your signatures like the recall backers did. But  
20 you didn't. Because you have no problem spending  
21 precious scarce state tax dollars in the middle  
22 of a budget crisis. You say that we have to  
23 defend dollars for California, but you have  
24 wantonly wasted money. For example, giving free  
25 health care to illegal immigrants at the cost of  
\$10 billion and counting. \$250 million applied

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1 to our state budget may not make up for your  
2 multi billion dollar deficit, but it's a start.  
3 You know what \$250 million would do? It would  
4 fully fund Prop 36 so that we could give power to  
5 and tools to the prosecutors and the law  
6 enforcement agencies to arrest and punish  
7 criminals. Voters voted for Prop 36, but you  
8 refused to fund it from the party that says let  
9 the voters decide and let's do what the voters  
10 want. Baloney. You do what you want. Might  
11 makes right. And that's exactly what you've done  
12 for the last 72 hours by trampling over  
13 constitutional provisions and violating House  
14 rules. And you talk about a fair election.  
15 SB280 shortens the timeline necessary for an  
16 election. But because you have an urgency clause  
17 there might makes right. You change election law  
18 and now you're going to slap a misleading ballot  
19 title on. You can't even win based on the truth.  
20 You say you trust the voters, but you don't trust  
21 them enough to tell them the truth. Because your  
22 ballot measure title. Because we've seen it.  
23 We've seen your polling that the DCCC or someone  
24 paid for. Retains the Independent Citizens  
25 Redistricting Commission. Are you proud of  
yourselves? Retains the Independent Citizens

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1 Redistricting Commission. You are eviscerating  
2 that commission. You are nullifying that  
3 commission. You are suspending the voice of the  
4 citizens. And what they decided to grab the  
5 power back for yourself. And don't for a moment  
6 call it temporary. You know darn well that this  
7 is permanent. You will never give the power back  
8 to the people once you seize it back from them.  
9 30 seconds. And finally you say that you're  
10 going to respect the vote of the people. Did you  
11 do that with Prop 36 by fully funding it? No.  
12 Did you respect the vote of the people who put  
13 Article 21 in our state constitution and said you  
14 shouldn't have the ability to draw maps? You are  
15 drawing a map in violation of the state  
16 constitution. You don't care about what the  
17 voters said. You're disregarding it from 2010.  
18 Oh, but they'll retroactively approve our  
19 decision here, will they? Give them an honest  
20 ballot title. You'll see what these voters.

21 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. DeMaio. Thank  
22 you, Mr. DeMaio. Mr. DeMaio. That was pretty  
23 funny. I was so tempted to recognize birthdays,  
24 but I refrained. Assemblymember Gallagher, you  
25 are recognized.

MEMBER GALLAGHER: [www.trustarray.com](http://www.trustarray.com)  
844-817-1080 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1 I rise in opposition. You know the scripture  
2 that I quoted earlier about turning the other  
3 cheek, It. It is a hard word. It's a hard word  
4 for me because all this week, all I've wanted to  
5 do is fight back. And when you see something you  
6 think is wrong, that's your immediate gut  
7 reaction. But that scripture is for me, and it's  
8 for everyone in this room. And it may be hard,  
9 it may go against the grain, but it is  
10 nonetheless true. And I think what is also true  
11 is that we have to stop saying that our democracy  
12 is in peril. And let me talk about that a little  
13 bit more. I've been hearing that since I was in  
14 college. I remember when George W. Bush won the  
15 election, and that was all you would hear. Oh,  
16 my God, our democracy is over. He's a warmonger.  
17 All these outlandish statements that we make  
18 about our opponents, right? To gin up the base,  
19 to make. To further polarization. It really  
20 started even back then on my side, when Obama got  
21 elected, oh, my God, our democracy is over. You  
22 know, he's a communist plant. He's probably  
23 going to bring about communism, right? To gin up  
24 the base, right? And then, of course, when Trump  
25 got elected, oh, our democracy is over. And yet  
we had an election, right? And Joe Biden was

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1 elected president. Imagine that. Our democracy  
2 wasn't over, right? And of course, on our side,  
3 a lot of people upset as well. We didn't like  
4 what Joe Biden was doing. I didn't like his  
5 policies. I Did not like his executive orders  
6 that I thought were an overreach of executive  
7 power. I certainly called them out. But our  
8 democracy was not over, no, not by a long shot.  
9 We didn't stop meeting in these halls as the  
10 representatives of the people. We didn't stop  
11 doing those things. People still voted,  
12 elections still happened. And Donald Trump was  
13 re elected president in the last cycle. I know  
14 that that bothers you. I know you don't like it,  
15 but he was duly elected. And our democracy is no  
16 more in peril than it was back when George W.  
17 Bush or when Barack Obama was elected or when Joe  
18 Biden was elected. So stop saying that because  
19 it contributes to the problem, ginning everybody  
20 up further polarization, more vortex of  
21 polarization that we can't get out of. That's  
22 the problem. We have a responsibility right here  
23 in this building to pass just laws. And now we  
24 have a bill before us. It is not just to suspend  
25 election laws, to suspend the time that people  
have to review constitutional amendments, to

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1 shorten the time for when you're supposed to have  
2 elections, shorten the time when people have the  
3 ability to review and, and that give public  
4 input, to move through these bills in three days  
5 when you're supposed to have at least 30 days in  
6 print before you even hear them. And you know  
7 it. It's not just. So don't pretend that it is.  
8 And here's another truth. All the flowery  
9 language, all the defending democracy, standing  
10 up, fighting for your democracy, all of that is  
11 all subterfuge for this one principle. Because  
12 this is exactly what you were saying, that in  
13 order to save democracy, we must dismantle it, we  
14 must undermine it. In order to preserve  
15 representation, you must temporarily suspend it.  
16 That principle has never been true and has always  
17 led to despotism and authoritarianism. But  
18 you're following along, marching along right to  
19 it, giving away power that belongs to the people,  
20 subverting the Constitution, and then saying  
21 you're doing it under the auspices of democracy.  
22 30 seconds. You know, I had no problem saying  
23 that. I think my president is wrong. I agree  
24 with a lot of his agenda, but I think he is wrong  
25 on this point. What I don't hear over there on  
this other side is that our governor is wrong and

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1 you were silent. Don't talk to me about  
2 executive overreach when he didn't even let us go  
3 worship in our churches. And you said nothing.  
4 When he shut down businesses, many of them Latino  
5 owned immigrant businesses, you said nothing.

6 Thank you, Assembly member Gallagher --

7 MEMBER GALLAGHER: -- So stand up for  
8 executive overreach when it really Matters.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, assembly member  
10 Gallagher, state your point. Assembly member.  
11 Assembly Member Schultz, state your point of  
12 order.

13 MEMBER SHULTZ: Yep. All right. Thank you,  
14 Mr. Speaker. Just want to encourage everyone to  
15 follow the rules and not impugn the integrity of  
16 any member of the body. I'm pretty sure I can  
17 borrow another handbook here by my seatmate.

18 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Schultz. Thank  
19 you, Mr. Schultz. Your point of order is well  
20 taken. Members, I will remind you what I read  
21 earlier, based in section 120 and 121. Freedom  
22 of speech involves obedience to all the rules of  
23 debate. The language used by members during  
24 debate should be temperate, decorous and  
25 respectful. Assembly member Tangipa -- You are  
recognized.

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1 MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I  
2 really like to do data, facts and dates, so let's  
3 have some. Seven months ago, there was a  
4 different president in the White House. Let's be  
5 clear. The challenges Californians faced are the  
6 same ones they are now. But then, back then,  
7 seven months ago, the average cost of a home in  
8 the state, in this state was 825,000. One in  
9 every five Californian right now can't afford  
10 their utility bills. Recent college graduates  
11 were drowning in student loan debt, and small  
12 businesses were shuddering at an alarming rate.  
13 The fact of the matter is this. The common  
14 denominator in all of this isn't who sits in the  
15 White House. It's the priorities.

16 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Assemblymember  
17 Tangipa. Just a moment, somebody. Member  
18 Harbidian, state your point of order.

19 MEMBER HARBIDIAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
20 Would ask the speakers to actually speak to the  
21 bill in front of us and --

22 MR. SPEAKER: -- Thank you, Assemblymember  
23 HarBidian. Your point is well taken. Member  
24 Tangiba, please speak to the merits of this bill.

25 MEMBER TANGIBA: And we are here today  
debating a bill that does nothing to address

1 housing affordability, utility rates, education,  
2 or small business survival. Instead, we're  
3 debating a bill that writes blank checks for an  
4 election that solves nothing that was never asked  
5 for by anybody. The Legislative Analysis Office  
6 and the Department of Finance, two offices that  
7 rarely agree on much, are in lockstep on one  
8 thing. Our state faces a structural deficit  
9 between 10 billion and 30 billion. Until 2028,  
10 we don't even know the final cost of this  
11 election. The analysis says it'll likely run in  
12 the hundreds of millions of dollars when. At a  
13 time when we're already in the red. And that's  
14 even before we even factor in the additional  
15 blank checks that are written by the Attorney  
16 General for an inevitable litigation that will  
17 truly, truly follow colleagues. This bill and  
18 the manner in which it is being forced through  
19 the legislature is the exact opposite of fiscal  
20 responsibility. Again, as a business owner and a  
21 realtor, it usually takes around 21 days to  
22 perform due diligence. When spending \$500,000 on  
23 a home. I can't even get 21 minutes in a  
24 committee to perform due diligence and we're  
25 debating on spending over \$200 million. That's  
just financial insanity. This is a bill that

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1 would spend millions of dollars and affect 40  
2 million Californians. Writing Blake checks  
3 without due diligence is grossly negligent.  
4 Californians deserve more than two hearings,  
5 limited comments and no answers. Rather than  
6 wasting hundreds of millions of dollars on a  
7 special election that nobody asked for, we have  
8 an opportunity to reevaluate our priorities. The  
9 money could be used to address very real and  
10 critical issues. Madera County, a rural county.  
11 The hospital is struggling to remain open in that  
12 exact county. You cannot have a baby in it. And  
13 I represent them along with others colleagues.  
14 Let's be honest. This bill is not about solving  
15 California's real problems. It's about political  
16 gamesmanship at the expense of 40 million people  
17 who are already stretched to their limits. Every  
18 dollar we throw at a vanity project is a dollar  
19 we steal from families who cannot afford  
20 groceries, from the six to eight hospitals on the  
21 verge of closing its doors from student to buried  
22 in debt and small businesses just trying to  
23 survive. If we pass this bill, we're not just  
24 writing blank checks. We're writing off the very  
25 people we elected to serve. Californians deserve  
leadership, not recklessness. They deserve  
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1 solutions, not distractions. They deserve a  
2 legislature that treats their hard earned tax  
3 dollars the same as they treat their own. I will  
4 not stand by and rubber stamp financial insanity.  
5 I urge you to join me in rejecting this wasteful,  
6 shortsighted and hypocritical bill. When asked  
7 multiple times, how much does it cost? Can we.  
8 Can we allocate money? I was attacked over and  
9 over and over again. And if we want to use  
10 hypocrisy as an argument, then let's look at it.  
11 Let's look at the independent redistricting.  
12 Let's look at all this. Let's bring up 1441 when  
13 it was. If you even read the bill, if you even  
14 read that partisan gerrymandering bill, you would  
15 realize that it's based off of the registration  
16 in that county, gets the majority. And it also  
17 has written in that bill that the minority party  
18 doesn't even have to agree with it. That is  
19 structurally different than the independent  
20 redistricting Commission we have here, and it is  
21 a blatant lie. And you are trying to gaslight  
22 people that we are hypocritical. Let me do you  
23 one better, because I look at this so much.  
24 There's another bill that was AB 2030 in 2022  
25 that created the exact same thing that was a  
partisan Citizens Redistricting Commission. I

1 ask that you look at a nonpartisan, independent  
2 one and you protect the sanctity of it. And you  
3 also prioritize a Californian's wallets because  
4 they can't afford the BS. I urge a no thank you,  
5 Assemblymember Tangipa. Assemblymember McKinner,  
6 you are recognized. Yes.

7 MEMBER MCKINNER: Mr. Chair and members, I  
8 urge an eye on SB 280 as we look at how much it's  
9 going to cost to. To hold this election. My  
10 colleague quoted \$200 million. Where I can find  
11 that \$200 million? Donald Trump. He's froze  
12 nearly \$1 billion in education funds meant for  
13 California schools. This money supports after  
14 school programs, teachers training and English  
15 learning programs that tens of thousands of  
16 California kids rely on. He's stripping these  
17 funds, punishing our most vulnerable. Look,  
18 Donald Trump is not just playing politics. He's  
19 deliberately punishing California's families,  
20 students and workers by withholding billions of  
21 dollars we've already earned. We can, we cannot  
22 allow one man's vendetta to rob our state of his  
23 future. He's also holding research in higher  
24 education funds. Trump has pulled \$584 million  
25 in federal research grants from UCLA alone,  
threatening groundbreaking cancer research.

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1 MR. SPEAKER: He's pulling money.  
2 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: He's holding money.  
3 I haven't heard anyone stand up and.  
4 MR. SPEAKER: Say why he is pulling money  
5 from.  
6 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Our state on this  
7 vendetta. And so I think that we can find the  
8 money to save democracy. And with that, I ask  
9 for an I vote.  
10 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
11 McKinner. Assemblymember Davies, you are  
12 recognized.  
13 MEMBER DAVIES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
14 Yes. There were five questions to my poll, so I  
15 thought I'd finish them up again. Listen to the  
16 people, because what I'm hearing is there's no  
17 limit to the cost for this election. So we had a  
18 question. If the state were to hold a special  
19 election to change the redistricting process, it  
20 could cost taxpayers more than \$200 million.  
21 Knowing this, would you support or oppose holding  
22 a special election on this issue? Democrats  
23 supported it by 64%, Republicans opposed it by  
24 90%. And once again, independents opposed it by  
25 69%. Also, some people say giving redistricting  
power back to politicians could lead to

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1 gerrymandering. Districts drawn to favor  
2 incumbents or one party. Others say politicians  
3 are accountable to voters and should have this  
4 responsibility. Which view comes closest to  
5 yours and your concerns? 56% of Democrats said  
6 they had concerns. Republicans, 98% said they  
7 had concerns with politicians making the maps.  
8 And 90% of independents had strong concerns about  
9 putting it in the hands of politicians. So once  
10 again, it's not my voice, it's the people's  
11 voice, and they deserve to be heard. I recommend  
12 an opposition to SB 280. Thank you.

13 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Assemblymember  
14 Davies. Assemblymember Berman, you are  
15 recognized.

16 MEMBER BERMAN: Mr. Speaker, is there a  
17 doctor in the House? Are you asking the chair,  
18 Mr. Berman? Yeah, I'm asking the speaker if we  
19 have. I am severely worried. Some colleagues  
20 from across the aisle are suffering from severe  
21 Gavin Derangement Syndrome, and I'm worried about  
22 their health. But I'll tell you, I'm so tired.  
23 I'm so tired of hearing the faux outrage and the  
24 lecturing and the hypocrisy from colleagues who  
25 are silent or worse yet, support efforts to rip  
food assistance away from hundreds of thousands

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1 of Californians who supported efforts to rip  
2 health care away from millions of Californians,  
3 especially in their districts. I'm so tired of  
4 Republicans. Excuse me, colleagues from across  
5 the aisle who complain about the cost of  
6 democracy, but who are silent when the President  
7 of the United States. The duly elected President  
8 of the United States. Never a debate on that for  
9 me. No, stop the steal over here. Wants to  
10 extort California institutions for billions of  
11 dollars. But now, now when we're trying to  
12 defend democracy, it's too high of a cost to  
13 bear. Eight and a half years in, and the faux  
14 outrage has gotten a little nauseating. I  
15 encourage my colleagues to vote Aye on SB 280.  
16 Thank you, Assemblymember Berman. Assemblymember  
17 Hadwick, you are recognized.

18 MEMBER HADWICK: Mr. Speaker, I rise today  
19 in strong opposition. Arise today for rural  
20 California, for the communities that have once  
21 been get once again been forgotten and sidelined  
22 by a process that should have been transparent,  
23 but instead was conducted in secret behind closed  
24 doors. I've stood side by side by colleagues on  
25 both sides of the aisle to fight for federal  
funding. I truly try to make decisions for  
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1 people, for the people that live in my very  
2 unique district. I went to D.C. to speak again  
3 to both sides of the aisle for funding for secure  
4 rural schools, for Head Start, for tribes. So I  
5 was not silent then, and I can't be silent now.  
6 These redistricting efforts divide my district  
7 into pieces, splitting apart communities that  
8 share history, geography, and real human  
9 connection. How Does Modoc county belong in a  
10 district with Marin and the Golden Gate Bridge?  
11 These counties are 400 miles apart and separated  
12 by two mountain ranges. The priorities of  
13 Alturas and Sausalito could not be more  
14 different. My rural county that borders Oregon  
15 and Nevada, with eight residents now will have  
16 the same representative as our governor in Marin  
17 County. Modoc county, one of the poorest and  
18 most remote in the state, grouped with Marin  
19 county, one of the wealthiest and urban. That is  
20 not a community of interest. That is political  
21 Frankenstein. The people, not the politicians,  
22 should choose their representatives. My district  
23 hates government. I grew up in the original  
24 state of Jefferson. They don't trust our state.  
25 This plan is a violation of what little public  
trust we have left with Californians. It's

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1 expensive, it's rushed, and it's done without the  
2 consent of the very people that we claim to be  
3 protecting. And if it can happen here, it can  
4 happen anywhere. And I don't agree that it  
5 should happen anywhere. The games, the revenge,  
6 the hate, the politician answers to very simple  
7 questions. The actions taken by this body this  
8 week. This is why people, people don't trust us.  
9 We've heard a lot of quotes from Martin Luther  
10 King Jr. Today, and one of my favorites that  
11 he's also most probably his most famous quote  
12 that I try to live by every day is, darkness  
13 cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do  
14 that. And hate cannot drive out hate. Only love  
15 can do that. My district has two congressmen  
16 that are bold, relentless fighters who stand tall  
17 for rural California. They don't back down from  
18 a fight, whether it's defending our water, our  
19 farms, our natural resources, disaster relief, or  
20 simply our way of life. Now they are being  
21 targeted with this new map designed to silence  
22 our voice. Again, strip what little power these  
23 rural communities have, and we cannot afford to  
24 lose them. We need leaders who know us, who  
25 stand with us and fight like hell for us. They  
are loved in my district because they understand

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1 my very unique district. You cannot serve  
2 communities that you do not understand, and you  
3 cannot fairly represent people whose voices you  
4 deliberately silence. My district is arguably  
5 the most conservative in the state, and I truly  
6 hate the party lines, the divide. I represent  
7 everyone that lives in my district, no matter  
8 what party, and I try to take that into  
9 consideration in my work because that is good  
10 governance. The party divide in these new maps  
11 are not my only concern. My concern is that my  
12 district is diced into pieces, creating an urban  
13 versus rural divide that already happens every  
14 day in this building. This is not good  
15 governance. This is about control. And it's  
16 rural Californians who will pay the price? This  
17 isn't just bad policy. It's bad faith. And  
18 Californians, my constituents, deserve better  
19 than to be used as pawns in a political game that  
20 we weren't even invited to play in. I believe  
21 the voters will see through this in November, and  
22 the results will be that we all lose. The only  
23 thing that we're going to have is more  
24 Californians that think that their government is  
25 once again trying to trick them, once again  
wasting money on political messaging and once  
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1 again letting them down. The people, not the  
2 politicians, should choose the representatives.  
3 And at the end of the day, Californians deserve  
4 better than this.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
6 Hadwick. Assemblymember Sanchez, you are  
7 recognized.

8 MEMBER SANCHEZ: Colleagues as we listen to  
9 the debates today on the floor. Do you  
10 understand now why people feel the system is  
11 rigged against them? These discussions are not  
12 just about maps. They are about our values.  
13 It's about whether this legislature is listening  
14 to the people of California or only to itself.  
15 On April 23, 2025, Speaker Robert Rivas said  
16 something that hit home for so many of us.  
17 California's cost of living is the single biggest  
18 threat to our future. Middle class families  
19 earning 125,000 a year are struggling to afford  
20 rent, child care, groceries. And that is not  
21 sustainable. He was right. I see it in my  
22 community every single day. Heck, I've lived it.  
23 Families working two to three jobs, parents  
24 leaving the house before the sun comes up and  
25 coming home late at night still wondering if  
they're able to make enough for rent to keep the

1 lights on or to put food on the table. And yet  
2 here we are asking for \$250 million from those  
3 same families and spending it on redistricting,  
4 on carving up maps to protect politicians. Let's  
5 be real. This \$250 million is not going to put a  
6 bag of groceries on the table. And it doesn't  
7 help a mom pay for childcare. It doesn't keep a  
8 roof over a family's head. What it does do is  
9 make life harder for the very people who are  
10 already struggling the most. That money could be  
11 used to keep teachers in classrooms, to reduce  
12 childcare wait lists that working parents have  
13 been stuck on for years, to fund wildfire  
14 prevention or to expand mental health services  
15 that our communities so desperate desperately  
16 need. Instead, Sacramento wants to waste it on  
17 politics. And that's the problem. Too often,  
18 this building puts the needs of politicians  
19 before the needs of the people. And that's why  
20 so many Californians, especially in working class  
21 communities and in Latino communities like mine,  
22 feel forgotten. We came here to Serve the  
23 people, to serve our brothers, to serve our  
24 sisters in our neighborhoods, not to serve  
25 ourselves. And the people are telling us loud  
and clear they cannot afford more broken

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1 promises. So I urge you, stand with our  
2 California families. Stand with the workers who  
3 are breaking their backs to give their children  
4 and their kids a better Future. Reject this \$250  
5 million power grab. Reject rigging the system  
6 against the people. Protect families, not  
7 politicians. I urge a no on SB 280.

8 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
9 Sanchez. Assemblymember Stephanie, you are  
10 recognized.

11 MEMBER STEPHANIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
12 I rise after a contentious week being in  
13 elections committee on Tuesday. And one of the  
14 things I said in that committee was just stating  
15 the obvious. They feel one way about what is  
16 happening in Texas or what has happened in Texas,  
17 and we feel another. And I'm desperately trying  
18 to understand the other side. And it came to me  
19 that this is really just about power. They are  
20 okay with his power. We are not. What is  
21 happening in Texas may be happening in Ohio,  
22 Missouri, Florida and others doesn't scare the  
23 other side. You might say gerrymandering is  
24 wrong, but it doesn't scare you. It scares us.  
25 Scares me a lot. You are okay with his  
leadership. We are not. You are okay with his

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1 insane all caps tweets that embarrass this  
2 country? I am not. You are okay with the  
3 rolling out of the red carpet for a murderous  
4 dictator on American soil? I am not. There are  
5 so many things about his power that scare me, and  
6 his attempts to increase it scare me even more.  
7 And that is why I am fine with what we Democrats  
8 are doing here today in California. Because as a  
9 member from Palmdale said earlier in another  
10 debate, gerrymandering is wrong when it's  
11 benefiting people. When you're doing it to  
12 wrongly benefit certain people, you shouldn't do  
13 it. And Texas is all too willing to redraw the  
14 lines without voter input to benefit Trump, whose  
15 power scares the hell out of me. They are not  
16 just enabling Trump, they are handing in the  
17 keys, the maps and the Sharpie. We're eight  
18 months in, eight months in. No disaster relief  
19 while California's homes literally burn. Cuts to  
20 Medicaid. I hear a lot about health care cuts to  
21 Medicaid that hurt the poorest of California's  
22 kids, seniors, people with disabilities, putting  
23 them at great risk. Public schools defunded,  
24 cruel, pointless immigration raids that just  
25 scare and really bother anyone if you have any  
empathy at all. Tariffs that tank small

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1 businesses that we all care about raise prices  
2 for working people, and that includes food  
3 prices. Courts stacked with extremists These are  
4 your stupid prizes, the stupid prizes that I  
5 talked about the other day in committee. And  
6 it's going to get worse and you're going to get  
7 more. And it's not going to be on us because we  
8 are doing everything we can in California to stop  
9 it. We're not doing this to the people. We're  
10 doing this with the people. And we are asking  
11 the people on November 4th to validate our fear  
12 of Donald Trump's power. Thank you.

13 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
14 Stephanie. Assembly Member Patterson, you are  
15 recognized.

16 MEMBER PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
17 You know, I was fortunate enough, I'm very  
18 fortunate enough to be able to go home every day  
19 and see my family, kiss my babies good night,  
20 drop them off at school. Despite my colleague to  
21 my left, I'm always miss pre session at the  
22 caucus because dropping my kids off at school  
23 every single day. You know, I come into this  
24 building and I think about the things that we've  
25 worked on together. Social media, harms of our  
children, over processed foods that are causing

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1 detrimental impacts on our children. And all of  
2 us, colon cancer screenings that might not be  
3 required pretty soon together, hopefully we can  
4 get that done and through the finish line if it's  
5 not vetoed again this year. But these are things  
6 we've worked on together and many, many other  
7 things. And I just wonder if there's a little  
8 bit of amnesia about 90% of the work that we do  
9 together, Republicans and Democrats. Some of the  
10 things just to address the points that have been  
11 made on this floor is that Republicans joined  
12 together with you to pass resolutions about cuts  
13 occurring on the federal level. Does anybody  
14 remember that? We supported many of those  
15 resolutions, but yet we're being accused of not  
16 standing up to the man or bending at the knees,  
17 whatever that means. We joined with you on  
18 issues like that. Republicans authored a  
19 resolution today saying that we need independent  
20 redistricting everywhere, and the Democrats voted  
21 no. The Republican leader of our caucus, one of  
22 the most conservative individuals that I'm proud  
23 to serve with, actually said it was wrong for  
24 Republicans in the president to pressure  
25 redistricting in other states. He actually said  
that. And it's like the very next speech from a

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1 colleague on the other side of the aisle. I hear  
2 about how Republicans don't stand up to the  
3 president. All governments, including the  
4 federal government, no matter who's in charge,  
5 can have problems. But before we left for  
6 recess, Governor Newsom was talking his initial  
7 statement on this, he didn't even want to put  
8 this on the ballot. That was his initial  
9 statement, that he would just tell you to do this  
10 well, guess what? Somebody told him that it's  
11 actually got to go to the people. But I remember  
12 my prediction that day, actually on my favorite  
13 social media platform, was make no mistake about  
14 it, if Governor Newsom asks the majority party  
15 Democrats to pass this out of the building, they  
16 will pass it. And here we are doing exactly as I  
17 predicted. I didn't need a crystal ball. When  
18 he wanted to undermine Proposition 36, did  
19 anybody speak up and say, hey, you know what?  
20 That's a bad idea. Very few of you maybe behind  
21 closed doors, but who doesn't have the courage to  
22 speak up when Governor Newsom says crazy things  
23 like that, undermining Prop 36. Again, I don't  
24 want to be lectured on us not standing up. Who  
25 stood up there? By the way, most of my  
colleagues in this chamber oppose Proposition 36,

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1 and it passed in every single district. 30  
2 seconds. Ask yourself, have you even voted  
3 against a member of your party's bill? Some of  
4 you may have, some of you may have, but you know  
5 what happens? You, you kill it behind closed  
6 doors because you, you don't have the courage to  
7 even do a no vote. By the way, I have voted  
8 against bad Republican bills. But please do me a  
9 favor. Don't lecture us on who has the courage  
10 to stand up, because I've never seen you say one  
11 bad word on public record about the governor.  
12 With that, I ask for a no vote. Thank you,  
13 Assemblymember Patterson, Assemblymember Lackey,  
14 you are recognized for the first time.

15 MEMBER LACKEY: I will tell you that I'm not  
16 proud of the way we spent our time this morning.  
17 We've spent this whole, this whole floor  
18 experience talking about circumstances that  
19 aren't really in our purview. We think that  
20 we're proxy Congress people today, and I think  
21 that's misplaced. I think we have some very  
22 severe problems here in the state of California,  
23 and we haven't spent one minute talking about  
24 them. In California. We all admit it's not  
25 broken here. We have an independent redistrict  
commission that we're proud of the process, but  
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1 we're going to get rid of it temporarily because  
2 we don't like what another state is doing. Is  
3 that really where we should be spending our time?  
4 I don't think so. I think it's sad that we've  
5 let the circumstances nationwide distract us from  
6 our real responsibility, and that is to the state  
7 of California residents. We have very severe  
8 affordability problems. We have insurance  
9 problems. We have all these crisis circumstances  
10 we didn't spend one minute on today. We need to  
11 be better than that. Everybody. And I'm not  
12 here to insult anyone either. I think that's  
13 shameful. I think it's shameful when we point at  
14 other people, we make them feel small, or at  
15 least try to make them feel small. Shame on all  
16 of you for doing that. I don't care if it's our  
17 people or your side or our side. Why are we  
18 doing that? The people expect better from all of  
19 us. And I don't normally like to raise my voice,  
20 but I'm telling you, everybody, we are better  
21 than this. I am proud to belong to this group of  
22 people, even though people that think like me are  
23 in small number. I'm proud of the fact that we  
24 care. But I think we can also be distracted.  
25 And that's what's happened this morning. And I'm  
sorry about that. And I had to express my

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1 regrets along that line. I hope we can be better  
2 from here on out. Quit insulting people that  
3 disagree with you. Make your point and make it  
4 effective. Thank you. Thank you, Assemblymember  
5 Lackey, seeing and hearing no further debate.  
6 Excuse me. Assemblymember Schultz, you're  
7 recognized.

8 MEMBER SCHULTZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
9 Speaker. I just wanted to actually thank my  
10 colleague from Palmdale for his remarks. I think  
11 that decorum is important in this. In this  
12 debate today. In response to my colleague from  
13 Rockland, I would simply say I have voted no on a  
14 colleague's bill. I have disagreed with the  
15 governor, and many of you have exploited the.  
16 That, to be very blunt, in the past, the point  
17 I'm bringing up is this. We have to find a way  
18 to disagree without being disagreeable. We're  
19 not going to see eye to eye on this issue. I'm  
20 not going to stand here and challenge or question  
21 any of your integrity or your motivations. I  
22 think that we have to find a way to move forward  
23 on the issue. ACAA has passed out of this  
24 chamber. I believe it will pass out of the  
25 Senate, and it will be signed by our governor.  
SB280 is a companion piece of legislation that

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1 will ensure that every Californian's voice can be  
2 heard. It is essential that we pass it. I'll be  
3 voting aye, and I humbly ask all my colleagues to  
4 vote. I thank you to the authors.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
6 Schultz, seeing and hearing no further debate.  
7 Assemblymember Pellerin, would you like to close?

8 MEMBER PELLERIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and  
9 members, thank you for the robust debate on this  
10 floor today. When I woke up this morning, I knew  
11 this was going to be a tough, difficult day. And  
12 in looking for inspiration, I came across this  
13 wooden pen I had in my closet that's a memorial  
14 from the Holocaust that simply says never again.  
15 And I thought about the people in Germany in  
16 1930, in those 53 days that the authoritarian  
17 dictator in their country changed the course of  
18 history forever, that resulted in millions of  
19 deaths of innocent Jewish lives. We are now at  
20 the 212th day of this administration and we have  
21 been fighting, fighting every single day for the  
22 things we care about here in the state of  
23 California. We've been passing laws, we've been  
24 passing resolutions, and we've been making our  
25 voice heard for the people of the state of  
California. And at the end of this day, this is

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1 about those people, those people we represent  
2 that live in our communities, those hard working  
3 families, those moms struggling to find  
4 affordable daycare. It's for our seniors, our  
5 veterans, our persons with disabilities, our  
6 immigrant families who are out there making sure  
7 we have food on our table, who serve in our  
8 hospitality industries, who provide those vital  
9 health care services to our loved ones. These  
10 people who were heralded as heroes during the  
11 pandemic are now being taken away from their  
12 families, ripped away and put in detention  
13 centers and treated like criminals without due  
14 process. This is about the people. This is  
15 about our democracy. And we can't just fight  
16 what is happening right now with thoughts and  
17 prayers and values and principles. We must fight  
18 this urgent fight. And I'm sorry we don't have  
19 more time. I wish we had more time. But time is  
20 up. Texas has taken its action and California  
21 will stand up for the people of California. And  
22 we will this election on November 4, 2025. And I  
23 am telling every eligible registered voter in  
24 this state to make sure that you get that ballot  
25 and you vote your ballot and you make sure your  
voice is heard. With that, I ask for your I

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1 vote.

2 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
3 Pelleran. I'll debate. Having ceased, the clerk  
4 will open the roll. All members vote who desire  
5 to vote. Members, this measure requires 54  
6 votes. All members vote who desire to vote. All  
7 members vote who desire to vote. Kirk will close  
8 the roll and tally the votes. Eyes 57 nos 20 on  
9 the urgency. Ayes 57, nose 20 on the measure.  
10 The measure passes without objection. Immediate  
11 transmittal to the senate. Assistant Majority  
12 Leader Garcia, you are recognized for your  
13 procedural motions. Thank you Mr. Speaker.  
14 AB604 has been received from the Senate. I  
15 request unanimous consent to suspend Assembly  
16 Rule 63 to allow assembly member Aguiar Curry to  
17 take up the bill today without reference to file  
18 for the purpose purpose of concurrence and senate  
19 amendments. Thank you assembly member Garcia.  
20 Assembly Member Flora, you are recognized.

21 MEMBER FLORA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. With  
22 hold consent and ask for a roll call vote. Okay.  
23 The motion has been made by Assemblymember  
24 Garcia. It is seconded by Assemblymember Ortega.  
25 This motion is not debatable. It requires 40  
votes. Clerk will open the roll. All members

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1 vote who desire to vote System. Majority Leader  
2 Garcia is asking for an aye vote. Mr. Flora is  
3 asking for a no vote. All members vote who  
4 desire to vote. Clerk will close the roll and  
5 tally the votes. Ayes 54 noes 18 rules are  
6 suspended without reference to file AB 604 by  
7 Majority Leader Aguiaracuri for concurrence and  
8 senate amendments. The Clerk will read Assembly  
9 Bill 604 by Assemblymember Agriacuri and  
10 accolades for redistricting declaring the urgency  
11 thereof to take effect immediately. Madam  
12 Majority Leader, you are recognized.

13 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you Mr.  
14 Speaker and members, let's not dance around the  
15 issue here. If California Democrats had our way,  
16 the midterms would continue under the maps drawn  
17 by our independent Citizens Redistricting  
18 Commission. But that's not the moment we're in.  
19 We weren't planning on redistricting again until  
20 after the 2030 census. But once Republicans in  
21 other states started stacking the deck with mid  
22 decade maps designed to rig the 2026 election, we  
23 had no choice but to act. We didn't start this  
24 fight. We've said that numerous times. And  
25 we're not going to roll over. We have to meet  
the moment. AB 604 lays out our new

1 congressional districts, but only if voters  
2 approve AC8. This temporary map will only take  
3 effect if the voters approve it, and only because  
4 Republicans force partisan maps on voters in  
5 other states. Unlike Texas, which is imposing  
6 its maps on voters or asking voters for their  
7 approval, there's nothing more Democratic than  
8 that. The legislator's map represents the work  
9 of the independent Redistricting Commission. By  
10 keeping 76.7% of Californians in their same  
11 congressional district, the legislator's map  
12 respects California constitutional requirements  
13 to maintain communities of interest. The  
14 legislative map respects redistricting guidelines  
15 by reuniting 26 cities, reducing the breakup of  
16 local jurisdictions based upon the Citizens  
17 Redistricting Commission's work, hearings and  
18 public input. More districts are more compact  
19 and most importantly, the people, not  
20 politicians, decide. So to my Republican  
21 colleagues, if you want to stop this, the answer  
22 isn't in this chamber. It's with your colleagues  
23 in Texas and with the President. Tell them to  
24 stop trying to rig the elections. Tell them to  
25 support a truly fair system where every state  
uses an independent redistricting commission

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1 colleagues, until that happens, California cannot  
2 sit around and do nothing. So what happens next  
3 year is up to the president, to the national  
4 Republicans, and with this proposal, to the  
5 California voters. Thank you.

6 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam majority  
7 leader. Assemblymember DeMaio, you are  
8 recognized. And now we get to the map. The map  
9 that's the murder weapon, killing democracy in  
10 our state. Excuse me, Mr. DeMaio. Excuse me,  
11 Mr. Demaio. Assemblymember Harbidian, state your  
12 point of order.

13 MEMBER HARBIDIAN: The speaker is using  
14 maps, Mr. Speaker. Against the rules. Thank  
15 you, Mayo. Please refrain from using props. We  
16 get to the map, the murder weapon of democracy in  
17 California, the murder weapon that will end  
18 competitive elections, fair districts, exactly  
19 what voters sought to prevent in 2010 when they  
20 took the power away from you. And what did you  
21 do over the last several weeks? You proved them  
22 right, that you cannot be trusted to safeguard  
23 our democracy, to give us a voice. Because if we  
24 adopt this map, we are silencing millions of  
25 voters. And you seem to be comfortable with that  
because the ends justify the means? You've  
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1 already laid out your ends. You don't like  
2 Donald Trump. We got the message. You don't  
3 like Donald Trump. That's what elections are  
4 for. Fair elections. You get to state your  
5 point of view. The American people get to hear.  
6 They get to decide. And they decided what you  
7 could do is get back to work for Californians.  
8 But you've spent the last eight months fighting  
9 the guy in the White House rather than doing the  
10 job for the constituents here in California. And  
11 now you're going to continue to not do your job  
12 and instead call an unnecessary special election  
13 to try to cram these maps through. So it leads  
14 the question. And there are two reasons why I'm  
15 asking this question. But it's a simple  
16 question. Who drew the maps? This is a question  
17 that you've refused to answer. The reason why we  
18 ask who drew the maps is, number one, we need to  
19 know whose interest was behind these maps.  
20 Perhaps a sitting state legislator that wants to  
21 create their own congressional district, or  
22 perhaps a special interest that wants to dilute  
23 the voices of certain constituencies. We deserve  
24 to know who drew the maps to know what was their  
25 interest. But secondly, I want to know who drew  
the maps because I want to know who hold

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1 accountable. In the absence of that, there is  
2 the citizens initiative that was filed earlier  
3 this week, the poison pill to hold politicians  
4 accountable for trying to subvert the will of the  
5 voters, to overturn the Citizens Redistricting  
6 Commission. That initiative would bar anyone who  
7 voted for the map or voted for the ACA. Today  
8 from seeking election for 10 years.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. DeMaio. Mr.  
10 Schultz, please state your point of order

11 MR. SHULTZ: Thank you. Mr. Speaker would  
12 ask the speaker at the time to direct his  
13 comments to the bill and not anything external to  
14 our process today. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
15 Schultz, your point is well taken. Mr. DeMaio,  
16 please state of the merits of the the  
17 legislation.

18 MEMBER DEMAIO: Well, I'm trying to get the  
19 who because in the absence of knowing who, to  
20 hold accountable for this gerrymandered map, we  
21 must hold everyone involved in the. Call it a  
22 conspiracy, a collusion, whatever you want to  
23 call it, the effort to subvert democracy. This  
24 map is partisan. You admit it's partisan. You  
25 want to seize congressional districts for your  
party. This map is self-serving. A number of  
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1 legislators allegedly are going to get  
2 congressional districts drawn for themselves.  
3 This map silences the voices of communities,  
4 cities and counties by splitting them up. And I  
5 have a colleague from San Bernardino who likes to  
6 always tell us how he fights for the tribes. But  
7 do you know that this map splits tribal  
8 reservations? Did you know that? I don't think  
9 you know that. You haven't even been bothered to  
10 look at the map. Most of you. Agua Caliente is  
11 split. Santa Rosa tribe split. Rincon split,  
12 split. San Pasqual tribe, split. Mesa Grande  
13 split. Sequan tribe split. La Posta tribe  
14 split. Campo tribe split. Morongo tribe split.  
15 Round Valley tribe split. Did you bother to  
16 consult the Native American governments with  
17 sovereignty? No. I checked with several of  
18 their representatives. Not a single call. But  
19 you split those tribal governments, scattering  
20 them across different congressional districts.  
21 So much for minority rights. So much for the  
22 voice of the people. 30 seconds. We want to  
23 know who drew the maps. But in the absence of  
24 that, I will tell every single Californian in the  
25 next seven weeks as we educate them as to what  
really this initiative does. You want to hold

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1 people accountable, hold the majority party  
2 accountable for everyone who voted for this, who  
3 wasted our money. And by the way, Mr. Newsom,  
4 when your campaign for president ends, kindly  
5 transfer your campaign treasury over to the state  
6 of California. Thank you, Assemblymember Demaio.  
7 Thank you. Thank you, Assemblymember DeMaio.  
8 Assemblymember Tangipa, you are recognized.  
9 MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So this  
10 is how liberty dies. With thunderous applause.  
11 That's what we've seen. That's the actions we've  
12 had today. I grew up always in a toxic  
13 relationship, in an abusive relationship. You  
14 could see it from 100 miles away. When you hide  
15 behind platitudes and. And percentages. When  
16 we're saying that 76% of this map remains the  
17 same. That means 24%, but in raw numbers, that  
18 means 10 million Californians. 24% of this map  
19 is only a huge majority of this state.  
20 Republicans only represent 18%. So that means  
21 100% of the Republican representative  
22 representation in this state has changed. We can  
23 see it. We see the toxic relationship, the  
24 gaslighting coming out of this legislative body  
25 and we're losing transparency that was built  
under the Citizens Redistricting Commission on  
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1 how maps are allocated. People loved. People  
2 may not have always loved every outcome, but they  
3 knew the process was open and they knew who was  
4 responsible. But with the maps before us today,  
5 we can't say the same thing. In fact, we can't  
6 answer the most basic question. Who drew the  
7 maps? Who decided which cities should be kept  
8 whole and which should be divided? Who made the  
9 judgment call about where communities of interest  
10 begin and end? I asked nine different questions  
11 and got nine different answers. Was it the  
12 Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee as  
13 reported by the media? Was it Paul Mitchell and  
14 special interests as stated in a podcast? Was it  
15 Democrat leadership as stated by my colleagues on  
16 the election committee? Or is it the assembly  
17 and Senate Elections Committee as written in the  
18 bill? You couldn't even say that. And it's in  
19 the legislation that somehow it was prepared by  
20 me on the Elections committee. Couldn't even get  
21 that part right. The lack of authorship and the  
22 lack of transparency should trouble every  
23 Californian, regardless of your political  
24 ideologies. Normally, when the commission does  
25 its work, there are dozens, dozens of political  
hearings. There are transcripts. There are

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1 recorded votes. There are explanations of  
2 criteria, details about competing priorities.  
3 Here there is nothing. These maps simply  
4 appeared handed to us in 11th, in the 11th hour,  
5 even as we. As if we're supposed to take them on  
6 faith. But democracy doesn't run on faith. It  
7 runs on accountability. If we cannot point to  
8 the people who drew the lines, how can the voters  
9 have confidence in them? And let us look at  
10 these maps. Let's look at what these maps do.  
11 In city after city, neighborhoods are carved up.  
12 Communities are fought for decades to have their  
13 voices heard, split all into pieces. And let me  
14 ask this plainly. How does it benefit a city to  
15 be broken into small fragments across multiple  
16 congressional districts? Does Fresno gain  
17 strength by being cut into four different seats?  
18 Or does it simply dilute the voices of its  
19 residents? We are told that these maps protect  
20 Californians against gerrymandering in other  
21 states. You removed that language this morning  
22 and didn't even tell anybody. But secrecy is in  
23 its own form of gerrymandering. When lines are  
24 drawn behind closed, closed doors, without  
25 explanation, without participation, and without  
accountability. We invite the very abuse our  
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1 commission, the gold standard was set out to  
2 prevent. So I ask this again. Who drew the  
3 maps? Why won't anybody say it? If this is  
4 truly about fairness, why not allow the Citizens  
5 Redistricting Commission, which voters created  
6 precisely for this person, to do its job? Job?  
7 Why, Rush? Why the secrecy? At the end of the  
8 day, Californians deserve to know who is drawing  
9 the lines that will shape their communities for  
10 the next decade. They deserve to see the process  
11 that the process and trust that is fair.  
12 Anything less undermines the very foundation of a  
13 representative government. Our votes created the  
14 Citizens Redistricting Commission because they  
15 wanted fair maps, not political maps. They  
16 wanted a property process that belongs to them.  
17 Not politicians, not insiders, and certainly not  
18 partisan, anonymous map makers working in the  
19 shadows. California should remain a model for  
20 democracy, not a cautionary tale.

21 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: 30 seconds.

22 MR. SPEAKER: If we accept maps with no known  
23 authors and no known accountability, it doesn't  
24 matter how many times you say the word  
25 transparency, there is none. The saying goes, as  
California goes, so goes the nation. But passing

1 this bill, it will now be, as Texas goes, so goes  
2 California. And for those reasons, I  
3 respectfully ask you to lead this nation by  
4 example and vote no on these maps, because you  
5 don't even know who did them.

6 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Assemblymember  
7 Macedo, you're recognized.

8 MEMBER MACEDO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm  
9 not sure how many of you watched the elections  
10 committee this week, so I want to walk you  
11 through a few very key things that happened.  
12 First, there was an attorney there to be a  
13 technical witness. I asked him, who are you here  
14 on behalf of? He informed me that was protected  
15 by attorney client privilege. I asked him, who  
16 is paying you to be here? Once again, he  
17 wouldn't answer that question. So then I asked,  
18 are you being paid to be here? Once again, he  
19 didn't answer that question. So then, as my  
20 colleagues have stated, I asked the most  
21 fundamental and simplest of questions. Who drew  
22 the maps? So let me share the answers. I was  
23 shared with. First, it was Assembly. Here we  
24 are. Put your hands in the air if you drew the  
25 maps. Didn't see one go in the air. So then I  
was told it was the legislature. Once again,  
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1 here we are. I'm part of the legislature. I  
2 didn't draw these maps. So then I was mocked for  
3 not being a part of leadership. That leadership  
4 and the leadership team drew these maps. The  
5 leadership team's here. Anybody want to own up  
6 to it? Our majority leader admitted she did not  
7 directly draw these maps, and she is Leadership.  
8 Is this the type of transparency you're promising  
9 voters that? I was mocked for asking that  
10 question. You're not mocking me. You're mocking  
11 voters by not answering that question. These  
12 maps, in the language it says the Assembly  
13 Elections Committee wrote it. That is seven  
14 people. Seven. Me and my colleague can say we  
15 did not participate in the drawing of these maps.  
16 So I am asking that this is factually incorrect  
17 in the bill and I am asking the author to remove  
18 the words the Assembly Elections Committee and  
19 include the Democrat colleagues on that committee  
20 that are willing to put their names on paper that  
21 they drew these maps because I will not be  
22 included in the debauchery that has happened with  
23 the drawing of these maps. Are you requesting to  
24 ask a question of the author? I'm requesting  
25 that the author takes the amendment that we  
remove the Assembly Elections Committee language

1 because I do not want. I am one of seven people.  
2 That is a small group of people that you have  
3 lumped me in with when I didn't even know my  
4 member. Portal did not even say that I had an  
5 Elections committee hearing until 20, less than  
6 24 hours before the hearing. Concurrences cannot  
7 be amended. Then I am asking a question of the  
8 author. I will address without objection. I  
9 will address this in my clothes. Thank you.  
10 This is not transparency, and you know it's not.  
11 You can stand here and admonish us all day long,  
12 but this is fundamental to your entire lecture  
13 today, that this is the most transparent process.  
14 The chair of this committee didn't even know that  
15 the maps had been amended. And you want to say  
16 that the Elections Committee drafted these maps.  
17 This is wrong, this is deceit, and I will make  
18 sure the voters know that. Assemblymember Flora,  
19 you're recognized.

20 MEMBER FLORA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.  
21 Colleagues, there's been a lot said today and  
22 I'll keep my remarks very short. There's a lot  
23 of emotions today on both sides. Clearly there's  
24 a lot of emotions with the federal government on  
25 how people feel about that. Not a single one of  
us have said, what Texas is doing is good, what

1 California is about to do is good. But it's  
2 because of emotions. And because of that  
3 emotion, we have policy. If you do policy that  
4 is emotional, it usually turns out bad. And one  
5 way or the other. So I rise on behalf of a  
6 community 33 miles south of here, community of  
7 just under 69,000 people called Lodi. Lodi is  
8 split into three congressional districts almost  
9 in the center of town. A community that is by  
10 and large family have been there for generations.  
11 A farming community. We have now split that.  
12 Parents voting differently than their kids, than  
13 their grandparents, colleagues. When we do  
14 things that are emotional, we get bad policy.  
15 When we talk about keeping communities together.  
16 Splitting a community of 68,000 people is simply  
17 wrong. And my heart truly goes out to Lodi and I  
18 know there's other examples that have been  
19 stated, but this needs to be fixed. It truly,  
20 truly does. We need to take the emotion out of  
21 policy so we can create good policy and we move  
22 forward. Thank you. I respectfully asked for a  
23 no vote. Assemblymember Flora, Assemblymember  
24 Patterson, you are recognized.

25 MEMBER PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
I appreciate the opportunity. Today, these maps.  
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1 I'm going to answer a question for one of my  
2 colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The  
3 worst kept secret in Sacramento history. There  
4 aren't very many secrets in this place. This is  
5 definitely not one. I was looking at an exchange  
6 between two members of our press corps where one  
7 member kept asking elected officials, because,  
8 you know, maybe elected officials answer these  
9 questions like who drew these maps? And you  
10 know, that question was kind of asked a lot  
11 because, you know, it's an important question.  
12 And another member of the press corps said, oh,  
13 come on, everybody knows who drew the maps.  
14 Actually, they were just on a podcast saying they  
15 drew the maps. So the worst kept secret in  
16 America is that Democratic consultant Paul  
17 Mitchell drew these maps and told you all to  
18 adopt it. And so there's no secret. We all knew  
19 that. We all knew that. But I think what's,  
20 what's. What's interesting is that there.  
21 What's even not a secret is that one of the  
22 presenters of the bill said something and, and I  
23 want to ask the author, and I'll put down my mic.  
24 One of the co presenters had mentioned in  
25 committee said specifically these are partisan,  
gerrymandered maps. That is what was said in  
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1 committee by our co presenter. And I would just  
2 like to know if that's your feeling as well with  
3 that. Also, I respectfully asked for a no vote.  
4 Thank you, Assemblymember Patterson.

5 Assemblymember Gallagher, you are recognized.

6 MEMBER GALLAGHER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
7 Speaker. And first of all, I just want to say I  
8 do write all of my own speech speeches. You  
9 know, I don't need the governor's press office to  
10 write my speeches like the speaker does. And  
11 just a moment, Mr. Gallagher. Assemblymember  
12 Berman, you're recognized.

13 MEMBER BERMAN: I want to ask in his own  
14 words, definitely not the gentleman. Not the  
15 gentleman. The person from Nicholas. Not to  
16 insult people on the floor and to keep his  
17 comments to the bill that we're debating. Thank  
18 you, assembly member Berman, your point is well  
19 taken, Leader Gallagher. Please do not impugn.  
20 Please be respectful, be decorous, follow the  
21 rules of debate as always.

22 MEMBER GALLAGHER: I only speak the truth,  
23 and I can do no other, Mr. Speaker. And you  
24 know, and apparently the majority leader's speech  
25 was written yesterday because she read those  
remarks. You are out of order, Mr. Gallagher.

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1 This is the last warning. If you don't abide by  
2 the rules of this House, we will move on. In her  
3 remarks, she says that this is only if Texas  
4 moves forward. And we all know from the  
5 amendment this morning that Texas is not a  
6 condition of moving forward with this partisan  
7 gerrymander. But let's just talk actually about  
8 you guys saying fighting fire with fire, like  
9 what is actually happening, because right now,  
10 actually, Texas and California are very similar.  
11 The minority party in both states gets about 40%  
12 of the vote. Democrats get about 40% in Texas.  
13 Here in California, we get around 40% here on  
14 statewide votes. But right now, Texas  
15 congressional delegation is made up of 30%  
16 Democrats. You know how much it is here in  
17 California? 17%. So already disparity. And  
18 even if Texas does move forward, they would be.  
19 If they're successful in getting five seats in  
20 Texas, they'd actually still be better than us in  
21 representation because 18% of the delegation  
22 would be Democrats. And meanwhile, here at 17.  
23 And what you guys are doing with these maps is  
24 taking us down to 7%. That's fair. That's  
25 representation. That's fire with fire. Seems  
like a sledgehammer. And more importantly, it's

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1 not about party. It's about taking away people's  
2 rights of representation. Places. Places that  
3 have meaning, that have values, that have certain  
4 views on. They share industries. And you can't  
5 sit here and tell me that a map for all of us to  
6 see from MODOC to Marin county is fair  
7 representation, that that meets the  
8 constitutional principles of compactness that are  
9 in our Article 21 of the Constitution. This  
10 specifically says districts shall not be drawn to  
11 encourage geographic. That they shall be drawn  
12 to encourage geographical compactness such that  
13 nearby areas of population are not bypassed for  
14 more distant population. And that's exactly what  
15 that map does, and you know it. And the majority  
16 leader knows this because we both represent  
17 districts, and I think we do it pretty well. We  
18 stand up for our people. We fight for the things  
19 that are in their interests. We represent them  
20 well. And in Congress, I have A representative  
21 Doug LaMalfa, who does that. And you have one  
22 Mr. Mike Thompson, who does the same thing. And  
23 those congressmen actually work together on a lot  
24 of issues on water issues and that bipartisan  
25 Fashion actually is very helpful when  
administrations change. But what this is going

1 to do is blow that all up and create a one party  
2 system. And here's the other thing. Who gets to  
3 decide who gets represented? Not the people, the  
4 parties and the party insiders and the people who  
5 have the favored inside track. And I'm only  
6 saying what's been reported is that one of the  
7 most powerful politicians in this legislature,  
8 the pro tem, is reported to have been involved in  
9 drawing a district that favors him that he plans  
10 to run in. I don't know if that's a fact, but it  
11 has been reported. 30 seconds. And I think  
12 that's a big problem, that the people don't  
13 longer get to choose who the representative is,  
14 but the party insiders do. And that is the real  
15 issue here. And guys, I'm just going to end on  
16 this because it is important you don't stand up  
17 to this governor. You never have. And he is  
18 doing wrong things and he is pushing you and he  
19 insults you all the time and says he jams you.  
20 And this is what he's got to do and he's going to  
21 push it through. And for all this talk, man,  
22 that I've heard on this floor today, I just don't  
23 understand it.

24 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
25 Gallagher, while you always bow and go to the  
beck. Thank you, Assemblymember Gallagher.  
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1 Thank you, Assemblymember Gallagher.

2 Assemblymember Ellis, you are recognized. I'd  
3 like to know who drew the maps.

4 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I do too.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, assembly member  
6 Ellis, Assemblymember Davies, you are recognized.

7 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: On behalf of  
8 500,000 Californians, I'd like to know who do the  
9 maps.

10 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
11 Davies. Assemblymember Dixon.

12 MEMBER DIXON: I too, on behalf of Assembly  
13 District 72, 500,000 Californians who drew the  
14 maps.

15 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assemblymember  
16 Dixon. Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez, you are  
17 recognized.

18 MEMBER GONZALEZ: Let's be clear, members.  
19 I write my own talking points, so let's start  
20 with that. And let's also be clear that the maps  
21 didn't just come out of thin air. They were  
22 drawn through California's process with experts  
23 and community input years ago. Don't act brand  
24 new. What frustrates me is that people keep  
25 obsessing over who held the pen instead of why  
these maps even matter in the first place. This

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1 isn't a Scooby Doo mystery. There's no mask to  
2 rip off, no hidden villain. The process was  
3 open, transparent and accountable from day one.  
4 And let's be honest, the hypocrisy is glaring.  
5 Reporters aren't grilling Republicans in Texas  
6 about who's drawing their maps, even though those  
7 maps are blatant gerrymandering designed to  
8 silence voters and lock in power. I don't hear  
9 anybody on the right side saying that because  
10 they know that they're wrong. But here in  
11 California, we followed the rules and did it  
12 right. Suddenly, it's treated like a scandal.  
13 Meanwhile, Republicans in Texas, Florida and  
14 across the country are actively rigging districts  
15 to silent voters and protect Donald Trump, your  
16 hero. California is not going to sit back and  
17 let them cheat their way into power. These maps  
18 are about protecting our democracy and making  
19 sure every community here has a fair voice,  
20 period. Thank you, Assembly member Gonzalez.  
21 Summit member Gallagher, state your point of  
22 order.

23 MEMBER GONZALEZ: My point of order this,  
24 Mr. Speaker, is there's been a lot of things that  
25 misstate the facts in the record through our  
committee process and, and what we know today on  
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1 the floor, one is that the election. Excuse me,  
2 Mr. Gallagher. What is the rule that has been  
3 violated? State your point of order. Misstates  
4 the testimony and the record. Your point is not  
5 well taken. Okay. Appeal. Assembly member.  
6 Assembly member Ramos, you are recognized.  
7 MEMBER RAMOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And  
8 I'm sitting here and hearing the different  
9 debates going on from colleagues from both sides  
10 of the aisle. But I have to raise my mic and be  
11 able to talk about when a colleague from the  
12 other side is talking about history, talking  
13 about California's first people and drawing them  
14 into this conversation. Where was that voice?  
15 Where was that voice when this state was taken  
16 from them? Where was that voice when their  
17 representation isn't there? Where was that voice  
18 when they were being murdered in the state of  
19 California? And now you want to bring them into  
20 this debate because it benefits you. These are  
21 things that we have to come together and look at.  
22 But when you start to exploit the history in the  
23 state of California and. And for your own gain  
24 is the same tactics that were used when this land  
25 was stolen and murdered people of our culture to  
get it. I would rather you stand up for all of

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1 those things, all those bad things, than to bring  
2 them in to justify your seeing what's going on  
3 here. You should not, and you should be ashamed  
4 of yourself to bring in the history. Because we  
5 all know in these chambers the atrocity, the  
6 genocide, the bloods that shed and the bones that  
7 are still in the archives of many institutions in  
8 this state who still call our remains of our  
9 ancestors trophies in their backyard. It's time  
10 that we come together. And if you want to bring  
11 things forward for your own gain, this body will  
12 not stand for it. It's time that we stand for  
13 the voices of all California Indian people and  
14 stand up when they are brought into these debates  
15 for your own gain. That's the same tactic that  
16 was used in colonization and. Mr. Speaker, I  
17 called the member out. I called the member out  
18 for using our people for self gain. That's what  
19 brought down the state of California. That's  
20 what the history is, what we're still fighting  
21 for in the state of California. And when he  
22 brings up lines in land that has been drawn.  
23 Drawn on stolen land. Come on. He should be  
24 reprimanded for even bringing those things  
25 forward to this floor. It's time that we stand  
in one unified voice. And when we talk about  
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1 debate, let's have it. But if you want to go  
2 back into history and. And start to look at what  
3 has happened and somehow smirk and smile about  
4 the murders that took place against our people,  
5 this body will not stand for it. Yes. Thank  
6 you. Assemblymember Ramos. Assemblymember  
7 DeMaio, you are recognized.

8 MEMBER DEMAIO: Mr. Speaker, I believe the  
9 member from San Bernardino would like to change  
10 his vote on ACA 8. Mr. DeMaio, your point is not  
11 well taken. Assembly Member Macedo, you are  
12 recognized.

13 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Mr. Speaker, I have  
14 a point of parliamentary inquiry.

15 MR. SPEAKER: State your point.

16 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I would like to ask  
17 if it would be possible to submit a letter to the  
18 Journal based on my colleague's testimony that we  
19 are willing to say who drew the maps. That it is  
20 not the Assembly Elections Committee. That based  
21 on his testimony.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Assembly member  
23 Macedo, you're asking whether or not it is  
24 appropriate.

25 MEMBER MACEDO: I am asking.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me. You're asking. Let  
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1 me finish. Whether or not you can submit a  
2 letter to the Journal. Why you're submitting a  
3 letter to the Journal is irrelevant to your  
4 inquiry. Is that your question?

5 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Yes, sir.

6 MR. SPEAKER: Just a moment, Ms. Macedo. So,  
7 Ms. Macedo, to answer your question, it is  
8 appropriate if you have a letter. Where is that  
9 letter?

10 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I was unaware that  
11 the testimony would be given on the 4th.

12 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me. Please answer the  
13 question. Where is your letter?

14 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I cannot prepare  
15 for something if I'm not.

16 MR. SPEAKER: The answer to your inquiry is  
17 if you had a letter, we would be able to vote  
18 whether or not that letter could be accepted.

19 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Then I asked a  
20 motion for recess to draft my letter and then we  
21 can come back and vote.

22 MR. SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded  
23 that we recessed. Just a moment, please. It's  
24 been moved and seconded that we recess  
25 temporarily. Takes a majority of those present  
and voting. Clerk will [www.trustarray.com](http://www.trustarray.com) Clerk  
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1 will open the roll motion by Macedo. We'll wait  
2 till the roll is open. All those vote who desire  
3 to vote. Ms. Macedo is asking for an I vote.  
4 Majority Leader is asking for a no vote. All  
5 those vote who desire to vote. All those vote  
6 who desire to vote. Clerk will close the roll.  
7 Tally the votes. Ayes 19, nos. 52. The motion  
8 fails. State your point of order, Mr. Gallagher.  
9 MR. GALLAGHER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Let me  
10 try to address this issue. State your point of  
11 order, Mr. Gallagher. The point of order is that  
12 the bill says that the Elections Committee drew  
13 the maps. And that is factually incorrect based  
14 on the test. Okay, Your point is not well taken.  
15 Members, let's take a step back for a moment.  
16 Let me give you a quick lesson on what a point of  
17 order is. When you raise your microphone for a  
18 point of order, you need to state the rule that's  
19 being violated. And we're speaking of the House  
20 rules. That is the point of order that you need  
21 to make. Mr. Gallagher, I'm going to recognize  
22 you again. The point of order is it factually  
23 misstates the testimony in the record, in the  
24 legislative record. Thank you, Mr. Gallagher.  
25 That is not a violation of the House rules. Your  
point is not well taken. We will continue

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1 proceeding on debate on this measure, seeing and  
2 hearing no further debate. Assemblymember  
3 Gallagher, you have already spoken on the point  
4 of order. Mr. Gallagher, you are out of order.  
5 Seeing and hearing no further debate. Madam  
6 Majority Leader, do you wish to close?

7 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you  
8 colleagues for this debate. And I want to thank  
9 you to my colleague, Senator Gonzalez, for  
10 partnership in this important issue. Let me  
11 answer some of the questions that were raised  
12 here today and over this week. The map in AB604  
13 was drawn in partnership with a group that  
14 includes legislative leadership and a team of its  
15 members, Members of Congress, leading independent  
16 redistricting experts and groups that have worked  
17 on more than 100 city and county non partisan  
18 independent redistricting efforts and legal  
19 counsel to review and assure we meet all the  
20 requirements of our state and the federal laws  
21 and constitutions. We use the work of the  
22 Independent Commission and their many hours of  
23 hearings and public testimony. Our maps keeps  
24 more cities whole. 60 compared to 57 in the  
25 Commission's map. We respected constitutional  
guidelines, including communities of interest and

1 seeking more compact and contiguous districts.  
2 In fact, under this map, 76.7 of Californians  
3 stay in the same district drawn by the  
4 Commission. The Commission maps were public for  
5 14 days and approved by 14 commissioners. These  
6 maps will be public for 74 or 5 days. I got to  
7 remember that and tens of millions of California  
8 voters.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Madam Majority Leader, just a  
10 moment, please. Assembly member Tangipa you are  
11 recognized for your point of order.

12 MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, and a point of  
13 clarification. The comments. Sir, you are  
14 recognized for your point of order. The comments  
15 that were made are not in the legislation and  
16 those comments should be included in the  
17 legislation if that's what's being done. That is  
18 not a point of order. If you're saying that her  
19 speech is not just germane to the bill, your  
20 point is not well taken. Anything further, Mr.  
21 Tangipa? A point of clarification. Thank you,  
22 Mr. Tangipa. We're going to continue. Madam  
23 Majority Leader, you may continue.

24 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: This is the most  
25 transparent than any other process in the  
country. In an ideal world, in an ideal world,  
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1 we not need to go through this process. We  
2 respect the work of the Independent Redistricting  
3 Commission. In fact, the only challenges to the  
4 work of the Independent Redistricting Commission  
5 map came from the Republican challenges in 2011.  
6 Those challenges did not give voters a chance to  
7 decide. And yes, the cost is worth it. We are  
8 fighting to ensure Californians have at least a  
9 fair chance in next year's election. And the  
10 stakes are high. Maybe that's why the  
11 Republicans in this country are so afraid to let  
12 the voters have a say. Maybe it's because they  
13 know why this president and Washington  
14 Republicans are trying to rig the 2026 elections.  
15 They can't run on their record. A record that in  
16 seven short months have been devastating to  
17 working Californians and Americans across the  
18 country while benefiting only the wealthy. A  
19 record that includes cutting fresh food from  
20 family farmers that feeds our school children,  
21 closing rural hospitals and clinics, cutting  
22 health care for 3.5 million California seniors  
23 and the most in need, separating immigrant  
24 families who work in and contribute to our  
25 communities. Families guilty of nothing. Not  
nothing, but they just want to seek a better

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1 life. And turning the clock back 50 years on  
2 women's reproductive rights. If you want to stop  
3 this.

4 MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Madam Majority  
5 Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Pardon me.

7 MR. SPEAKER: Assemblymember Macedo, you are  
8 recognized for your point of order.

9 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I have my letter  
10 prepared and would like to submit it to the  
11 record. Based on the testimony on the floor  
12 today.

13 MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.  
14 Point of point is not well taken. Excuse me,  
15 we're not in motions and resolutions. Your point  
16 is not well taken.

17 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: You asked me for my  
18 letter.

19 MR. SPEAKER: Members, we're in the last  
20 minute debate. We do not use parliamentary  
21 procedure as a mechanism to debate bills. Not a  
22 majority leader may continue.

23 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: If you want this to  
24 stop, the easiest way to do this would be to use  
25 all this passion demanding this president to stop  
trying to rig next year's Elections. Help your

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1 DC colleagues pass Democratic and Republican  
2 bills to prevent mid decade gerrymandering and  
3 have an independent redistricting process in  
4 every single state. Until you succeed, we will  
5 continue to fight for the interests of  
6 Californians. Colleagues, I am very proud to ask  
7 you for your I vote today for AB604.

8 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you madam Majority  
9 Leader. All debate having ceased, the Clerk will  
10 open the roll. All members vote. You desire to  
11 vote? All members vote who desire to vote.  
12 Members, this measure requires 54 votes. All  
13 members vote who desire to vote. Clerk will  
14 close the roll. Tally the votes. Ayes 54 knows  
15 20 on the urgency eyes 54 knows 20 on the  
16 measure. Senate amendments are concurred in  
17 without objection. Immediate transmittal to the  
18 governor. Members, we now must continue with  
19 business on the daily file reading of the  
20 previous day's journal. Assembly Assembly  
21 Chamber Sacramento Thursday, July 17, 2025 the  
22 assembly met at 9am The Honorable Josh Lowenthal,  
23 Speaker Protein Leader Agar Curry moves and Mr.  
24 Flora seconds that the reading of the previous  
25 day's journal be dispensed with presentations and  
petitions. There are none. Introduction and

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1 reference of bills will be deferred. Reports of  
2 committees will be deemed read and amendments  
3 deemed adopted. Messages from the Governor?  
4 There are none. Messages from the Senate? There  
5 are none. Moving on to motions and resolutions.  
6 The absences for the day for bereavement.  
7 Assembly member Addis moving. Moving back to  
8 procedural motions. Madam Majority Leader,  
9 you're recognized for your procedural motions.

10 MEMBER ADDIS: I request unanimous consent  
11 to suspend Assembly Rule 45.5 to allow assembly  
12 members Alanis, Sharp, Collins and Wicks to speak  
13 on adjournment and memory today.

14 MR. SPEAKER: That Objection. Such shall be  
15 the order.

16 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I request unanimous  
17 consent to Suspend Assembly Rule 118A to allow  
18 assembly members Alanis, Quercilvo and Wicks to  
19 have guests in the rear of the chamber today.

20 MR. SPEAKER: Non. Objection. Such shall be  
21 the order.

22 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: I request unanimous  
23 consent to rescind the action whereby on July  
24 7th, 17th, 2025 SB 255 sierto was read a third  
25 time, passed and sent to the Senate. Please  
order this bill back to the third reading file.

1 MR. SPEAKER: Objection. Such shall be the  
2 order. Members, I'm rescinding the action by  
3 which I referred AB786 Salache to the banking and  
4 Finance Committee pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2.  
5 Madam Majority Leader, I request unanimous  
6 consent.

7 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: To return AB 786  
8 Salache to the Senate for further action.

9 MR. SPEAKER: Not Objection. Such shall be  
10 the order. Mr. Alanis, we're going to be getting  
11 to you in just a moment. Please Members, the  
12 quorum call is in place. We have more business  
13 on the daily file. Please take your desk.  
14 Moving to business on the daily file. Second  
15 reading. The clerk will read Senate Bills 21,  
16 3403-743894-46440, 4474-804895-04506, 5075-  
17 446096-17626, 6716-867317-64792, 847, 854, 857,  
18 859, 30, 40, 62, 68, 81, 97, 233, 262, 283, 3043-  
19 583623-95415, 4534-564664-70486, 4935-125135-  
20 43547, 5486-256306-70697, 777, 805, 825, 841.  
21 Senate Bill 98 with amendments, 627 with  
22 amendments and Senate Bill 400 with amendments.  
23 Okay. All bills will be deemed read and all  
24 amendments will be deemed adopted as the items on  
25 concurrence. Excuse me, Madam Majority Leader,  
you are recognized. Yes. [www.trustarray.com](http://www.trustarray.com)  
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1 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: At the request of  
2 the author, please move file item 30, SB 97  
3 Grayson to the inactive file.  
4 MR. SPEAKER: Clerk will note. Now we're  
5 going to the items on concurrence. We're going  
6 to pass and retain on all items. Getting to the  
7 assembly third reading. Going to pass and retain  
8 on all items. Senate third reading. File item  
9 77, 145. We're going to pass and retain on all  
10 items other than file item 145, which has been  
11 dispensed with Members. We are now lifting the  
12 call on the consent calendar. Clerk will post on  
13 the consent calendar all those vote who desire to  
14 vote. All members vote who desire to vote. All  
15 members vote who desire to vote. Clerk will  
16 close the roll. Tally the votes. I77, no. 0.  
17 Consent calendar is adopted. Clerk will read the  
18 remaining items on consent. House Resolution 49,  
19 I77, no. 0, Senate Bill 621, I77, no. 0 Senate  
20 Bill 440, I77, no. 0 senate bill 392, I77, no.  
21 0 SENATE BILL 510, I77, no Senate Bill 598, I77,  
22 no. 0 CONATE BILL 856, I77, no. 0 SECATE BILL  
23 733, I77, no. 0 SUREATE BILL 858, I77, no. 0  
24 SERATE Concurrent Resolution 97, I77, no. 0 AND  
25 SENATE Concurrent Resolution 99, I77, no. 0  
Members, we're moving on to adjournment's memory.

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1 The quorum call remains in place. Please give  
2 our respectful attention to those who were  
3 granted prior permission to speak on their  
4 adjournment. In memory. Please take all  
5 conversation off the floor. Please take all  
6 conversations off the floor. Assembly member  
7 Alanis, you are recognized for your adjournment  
8 and memory.

9 MEMBER ALANIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And  
10 first off, I just want to apologize to the family  
11 for having us take so long to have you guys  
12 recognized. So thank you for your patience.  
13 Colleagues, it's with a heavy heart that I ask  
14 that we adjourn in memory for Avery Roxanne  
15 Mellerek Avery will be remembered as a  
16 compassionate young woman who brought light into  
17 any room she walked into. Avery was taken from  
18 this world too soon following a car accident on  
19 June 21st of this year, Avery was pursuing her  
20 love for cinematic film arts at the California  
21 State University Northridge and spent her summer  
22 breaks giving back to the Modesto community at  
23 Camp Taylor. In my district, she gave back. As  
24 a camp counselor, Avery was focused on improving  
25 the lives of children with heart conditions.  
Camp Taylor is only one of eight medically

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1 supervised camps focused on serving children with  
2 heart disease. After graduation, Avery hoped to  
3 combine her love for film and her passion for the  
4 children at Camp Taylor by making documentaries  
5 about the stories of children born with heart  
6 conditions. Avery's cheerful personality will  
7 continue to shine through memories with her  
8 competitive cheer team, serving as a role model  
9 to young children and energetically cheering on  
10 the Sacramento Kings. Avery chose to be an organ  
11 donor, a decision that shaped by personal  
12 experiences with her brother Ethan and her best  
13 friend Anneliese, both who have received heart  
14 transplants. Through her final act of  
15 generosity, Avery continues to touch lives and  
16 saved others. Today, we are joined by Avery's  
17 beloved family here in the back of the room,  
18 including her mother, Sierra, her older brother  
19 Ethan, her stepfather Jason, her aunts Joanna and  
20 Vanessa, and her Camp Taylor friends and family,  
21 who are also up in the gallery. I want to extend  
22 my condolences to Avery's family, her friends,  
23 and the Camp Taylor community. Thank you for  
24 allowing me to honor Avery's life here on the  
25 assembly floor, and I ask that we adjourn in  
memory of Avery. Thank you.

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1 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assembly member  
2 Alanis. Members, let us observe a moment of  
3 silence to honor the life of Avery. Roxanne  
4 Millerick just a moment, Ms. Wicks.  
5 Assemblymember Wicks, you are recognized for your  
6 adjournment and memory.

7 MAJORITY LEADER GARCIA: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Speaker and members, I rise to adjourn in the  
9 memory of Zona Roberts, an unwavering champion of  
10 the of disability rights and a trailblazer of the  
11 independent living movement. Zona was born in  
12 Portland in 1920 and grew up between Oregon and  
13 California. She met her husband, Verne Roberts  
14 through a mutual friend in high school, and they  
15 had four sons together. Zona's eldest son, Ed  
16 Roberts, contracted polio in 1953 when he was  
17 only 14 years old. Ed spent 18 months in the  
18 hospital, and when he was finally able to come  
19 home, he did so as a quadriplegic. This spurred  
20 Zona's transformation into a tireless advocate  
21 for for inclusion and accessibility. Battling  
22 educational, medical, and societal bureaucracies  
23 and prejudice. She was steadfast in her fight  
24 for Ed to have the rights and opportunities that  
25 he deserved, starting with his right to go to  
school. She worked alongside Ed to establish

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1 support for individuals with disabilities, both  
2 at the University of California and in the  
3 broader East Bay community. At the age of 44,  
4 Zona enrolled at UC Berkeley, where she received  
5 her bachelor's degree and her teaching  
6 credential. During that time, her Berkeley home,  
7 known as the Greenhouse, became a gathering place  
8 not just for disabled students, but also for  
9 teachers, doctors, riders and visitors studying  
10 the growing community of disability activists.  
11 Through those gatherings, she created one of the  
12 earliest models of independent living. Zona  
13 passed away on January 10th at the age of 104.  
14 She was preceded by her beloved sons, Ed, Ron,  
15 and Randy. She is survived by her son Mark, her  
16 grandchildren and great grandchildren. She also  
17 leaves behind an endless number of friends who  
18 will miss her dearly. We can all learn from  
19 Zona's unwavering belief in human dignity and the  
20 tenacity with which she advocated not only for  
21 her son, but for every disabled person to realize  
22 their potential. Zona's contributions will  
23 continue to resonate in the fight for equity and  
24 dignity for every individual. Her legacy will  
25 live on in communities and across this nation.  
Zona's son Mark, and many of her friends and

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1 family are with us here today in the gallery to  
2 celebrate her amazing and purposeful life. I  
3 respectfully ask that the assembly join me in  
4 adjourning in her memory today.

5 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Assembly member  
6 Wicks. Members, let us observe a moment of  
7 silence to honor the life of this historic  
8 Californian, Zona Roberts. Assembly member  
9 Sharpe Collins, you are recognized for your  
10 adjournment in memory.

11 MEMBER SHARPE COLLINS: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Speaker. Today I rise to remember a man whose  
13 name became synonymous with leadership,  
14 dedication, and service to the city of La Mesa,  
15 located in San Diego, the Honorable Arthur Art  
16 Madrid. Art's story is one of perseverance,  
17 service, and deep commitment to community. Born  
18 in New Mexico in 1934, Art came to La Mesa as a  
19 teenager, quickly developing the strong sense of  
20 civic pride that would define his life's work.  
21 He served his country in the United States Marine  
22 Corps and later worked for Pacific Belle, a man  
23 who knew both the discipline of service and the  
24 value of hard work. Art's political journey  
25 began with his work for the then San Diego mayor,  
Pete Wilson. But it was in La Mesa that his

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1 public service truly flourished. Elected to city  
2 council in 1981 and then as mayor in 1990, Art  
3 would lead the city for 24 years, a remarkable  
4 run marked by his vision, tenacity, and results.  
5 He never shied away from bold action, even when  
6 it brought national headlines, as in 1994, when  
7 he took on a controversial stand against  
8 prostitution within our community. His  
9 leadership was recognized far and wide. The  
10 American Society of Public Administrators named  
11 him San Diego County's outstanding elected  
12 official, and the San Diego Magazine listed him  
13 Amongst the top 50 people to watch as they knew  
14 about his millennial approach beyond our city  
15 limits, Art shaped regional and statewide policy  
16 as chair of the San Diego association of  
17 Governments, president of the San Diego Division  
18 of the League of California Cities, and President  
19 of the California Council of Governments. He  
20 believed deeply in collaboration and that cities  
21 and communities were stronger when they worked  
22 together. His courage as a public servant was  
23 matched only by his resilience and as a person.  
24 For all of his public accomplishments, Art's  
25 greatest devotion was to his family. He and his  
beloved wife, Sally, shared decades together,

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1 raising four children. Life dealt them  
2 heartbreaking losses with the passing of their  
3 son to cancer and later Sally's own passing in  
4 2003. Yet even in grief, Art continued to serve,  
5 guided by a belief in giving back to the  
6 community that he truly loved. Art Madrid passed  
7 away peacefully at his La mesa home on June 6,  
8 2025, at the age of 90. And I can tell you, all  
9 the way up until that time, he was still  
10 advocating and fighting for his community.  
11 Today, we remember not only a mayor, but a  
12 neighbor, a veteran, a husband, a father, and a  
13 friend. His life reminds us that true public  
14 service is not measured just in years served or  
15 titles held, but in the lasting differences made  
16 in people's lives. So we honor his memory by  
17 continuing the work that he has so passionately  
18 believed in and building a community that is  
19 safe, strong and united. So, although today I am  
20 standing here saying goodbye, just know that we  
21 will also say thank you. And I'll continue to  
22 say thank you to Art for everything that he has  
23 done. So thank you, Mayor Madrid, for your  
24 leadership, your courage, and your heart. And  
25 your city will never, ever forget you. Thank  
you.

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1 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Dr. Sharp Collins.  
2 Members, please bring the names to the desk to be  
3 printed in the Journal. All requests to adjourn  
4 in memory will be deemed read and printed in the  
5 Journal. Moving on to announcements session  
6 schedules as follows. Friday, August 22nd.  
7 There's no floor session, no check in session.  
8 Monday, August 25th floor session at 1pm seeing  
9 and hearing no further business, I'm ready to  
10 entertain a motion to adjourn. Madam Majority  
11 leader moves and Mr. Patterson seconds that this  
12 House stands adjourned till Monday, August 25th,  
13 at 1pm Quorum calls lifted and we are adjourned.  
14 ( Off the record 6:30 p.m. )

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO )

I hereby certify that the foregoing  
transcript was reported as stated in the caption, and  
the questions and answers thereto were reduced to  
typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing  
pages represent a true, complete, and correct  
transcript of the evidence given upon said deposition,  
and I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel  
to the parties in the case; am not in the employ of  
counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in a way  
interested in the result of said case.

This the 30th day of October 2025.



Charles Golding, CVR

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IN RE CA ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION				on 08/21/2025	
Tape Transcription of Audio Recording					
		20,21,22,23, 24,25	165:4 12	1603 4:4	1961 196:2
\$			12		
\$1	17:19 90:11	1	123:22	17	1962
	137:12		12,000	173:22	29:10
			18:8	187:21	1960
\$1.25	107:12	42:24	120	17%	196:2
		1.4	5:19,21	173:17	1964
\$10	128:25	55:24	132:21	177%	196:6
		10	121	4:16	1968
\$200	134:25	17:3 47:6	5:21 132:21	17th	29:5
	137:10,11	53:14 55:19	125,000	4:5,13	19th
	138:20	57:11 58:17	144:19	188:24	198:8,13
		68:8 134:9		18	
\$23	123:24	161:8	126	7:25 56:14	2
		163:18	5:19	157:5	6:15
\$230	90:25	10,000	131	193:17	2
		110:3	113:9,19,25		
\$235	85:13	100	14	18%	2/3
		42:18 92:3	164:5	163:20	48:19
\$250	57:13,16	114:10	193:17	173:21	20
	128:25	163:14	141	10:6 12:3,17	11:10 86:6
	127:3 145:2, 5 146:4	163:17	76:4	23:13 29:10	109:9 156:8,
		100%	1441	115:15	9 168:5
\$30	99:25	163:21	102:1	118:5	137:15
		104	136:12	119:23	20%
\$500,000	134:22	194:13	145	121:8 182:7	92:8
		105	112:24	1920	200
\$584	137:24	8:12	190:9,10	193:12	58:18
		10th	15	1930	102:24
\$80	50:10	194:13	3:2,3,4	154:16	114:10
		11	12:21 30:3	1934	2002
\$900	38:24 42:12	36:22,25	36:22 56:18	195:18	23:11
		51:15	57:12	1952	2003
		118A	151	94:16	197:4
		188:17	8:7	1953	2006
		19	16	193:16	23:18
		76:16	69:8	196	2008
0			16,000	85:21	96:6
190:16,19,	11th		86:2		

<b>2010</b>	157:22	<b>25th</b>	<b>30</b>	
16:25 17:5,	185:14	198:8,12	3:18 29:12	<b>4</b>
10 44:25			30:5,20	<b>4</b>
45:15 46:6	<b>2028</b>	<b>26</b>	35:10 44:7	91:25
91:1 126:7	100:1 134:9	158:15	47:20 53:25	155:22
128:17	<b>2030</b>	<b>262</b>	57:7 59:24	
159:19	16:15 55:20	189:18	62:22,23	<b>40</b>
<b>2011</b>	56:10 68:24	<b>280</b>	74:9 88:1	121:1 135:1,
185:5	136:24	6:14 11:18	100:11	16 156:25
<b>2012</b>	157:20	112:24	128:9 131:5,	189:18
24:5	<b>21</b>	113:6,12	22 134:9	<b>40%</b>
<b>2014</b>	6:15,20,25	115:19	151:1	173:11,12,
110:6	12:6 45:23	116:8	162:22	13
<b>2015</b>	128:13	118:10	166:21	<b>400</b>
24:19	134:21,23	119:25	175:11	141:11
<b>2017</b>	174:9	121:10,17	189:18	189:22
24:21	189:15	122:6,25	190:2	
<b>2020</b>	<b>212th</b>	125:14	<b>30%</b>	<b>422</b>
18:20 27:19	154:20	137:8	173:15	4:5
55:23 56:1,	<b>21st</b>	139:12	<b>3043-</b>	<b>43547</b>
13 95:14	191:19	140:15	189:18	189:20
<b>2021</b>	<b>22,000</b>	146:7	<b>32,000</b>	<b>44</b>
126:1	42:20	<b>283</b>	85:22	194:3
<b>2022</b>	<b>22nd</b>	189:18	<b>32nd</b>	<b>440</b>
136:24	198:6	<b>2978</b>	70:22	190:20
<b>2024</b>	<b>23</b>	24:6	<b>33</b>	<b>446096-</b>
55:23 56:14	144:15	<b>2E</b>	170:6	<b>17626</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>233</b>	6:25	<b>3403-743894-</b>	189:17
17:2 41:11	189:18	<b>2G</b>	<b>46440</b>	<b>4474-804895-</b>
52:25 106:4	<b>24</b>	6:20	189:16	<b>04506</b>
121:20	169:6 196:3	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>	189:16
144:15	<b>24%</b>	<b>3</b>	57:14 98:24	<b>45.5</b>
155:22	163:17,18	39:1 42:16	127:4,7	188:11
187:21	<b>249</b>	118:7	128:11	<b>4534-564664-</b>
188:24	4:16	123:19	150:18,23,	<b>70486</b>
197:8	<b>250</b>	<b>3,800</b>	25	189:19
<b>2026</b>	32:6	85:21	<b>392</b>	<b>48</b>
14:25 25:21,	<b>255</b>	<b>3.5</b>	190:20	115:15
25 77:18	188:24	185:22		<b>482</b>
				8:7

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<b>49</b>	189:20	<b>63</b>	123:16	75:8,9 77:9
190:18	<b>55</b>	156:16	<b>74</b>	80:9,20
<b>4935-125135-</b>	118:5	<b>64%</b>	86:18 184:6	81:10 83:12
189:19	119:23	103:24	<b>76%</b>	86:18 89:25
<b>4th</b>	<b>56%</b>	138:23	163:16	90:21
121:19	139:5	<b>65%</b>	<b>76.7</b>	103:15
148:11	<b>57</b>	87:14	184:2	104:1
181:11	11:10 109:9	<b>6716-867317-</b>	<b>76.7%</b>	108:21
	156:8,9	<b>64792</b>	158:10	113:20
<b>5</b>	183:24	189:17	<b>77</b>	121:24
<b>5</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>68</b>	190:9	180:10
184:6	7:25 10:6	189:18	<b>77.2</b>	<b>8018</b>
<b>50</b>	12:4,17	<b>68,000</b>	189:4	41:4
186:1	<b>583623-</b>	170:16	<b>777</b>	<b>805</b>
196:13	<b>95415</b>	<b>69</b>	189:20	189:20
<b>500,000</b>	189:19	10:7	<b>78%</b>	<b>81</b>
69:8 70:8	<b>598</b>	<b>69%</b>	87:22	189:18
176:8,13	190:21	138:25	<b>786</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>5075-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>69,000</b>	189:7	189:20
189:16	<b>6</b>	170:7	<b>7th</b>	<b>825,000</b>
<b>50s</b>	106:17	<b>69B</b>	188:24	133:8
53:8	197:7	8:22	<b>8</b>	<b>841</b>
<b>510</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>8</b>	189:20
190:21	3:17 183:24	198:14	<b>8</b>	<b>847</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>7</b>	6:19 8:23	189:17
182:7	6:19,24	<b>7%</b>	10:18 11:17	<b>85</b>
<b>523,000</b>	157:6,9,25	173:24	13:8,17	110:3
56:15	<b>60s</b>	<b>700</b>	14:8,9,12,16	<b>854</b>
<b>53</b>	53:8	92:8	15:5,8	189:17
121:8	<b>61%</b>	<b>72</b>	16:15,18	<b>856</b>
154:16	86:6	126:13	20:2 21:19,	190:22
<b>54</b>	<b>62</b>	127:12	20 26:9,14	<b>857</b>
54:7 156:5	189:18	176:13	29:2 30:25	189:17
157:5	<b>621</b>	<b>733</b>	32:13,25	<b>858</b>
187:12,14,	190:19	190:23	36:8 37:19	190:23
15	<b>627</b>	<b>735,000</b>	40:8 41:19	<b>859</b>
<b>5486-256306-</b>	189:21		44:10 48:18	189:18
<b>70697</b>			53:24 63:6	
			64:16 67:21	

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	<b>AB786</b>	<b>AC88</b>	<b>acai</b>	<b>accuracy</b>
<b>9</b>	189:3	41:6	90:18	122:16
<b>90</b>	<b>abandon</b>	<b>AC8A</b>	<b>accept</b>	<b>accused</b>
197:8	21:24	37:13	27:18	149:15
<b>90%</b>	<b>Abbott</b>	<b>ACA</b>	166:22	<b>acknowledge</b>
138:24	34:11 64:15	6:18 8:23	<b>accepted</b>	<b>d</b>
139:8 149:8	<b>abdicated</b>	10:18 11:16,	181:18	68:10
<b>92%</b>	88:22	17 12:21	<b>access</b>	<b>act</b>
87:17	<b>abide</b>	13:8,17	77:22 78:6,	15:6 17:25
<b>96%</b>	173:1	14:8,9,16	14 79:3 92:4	20:1 24:7
87:15,24	<b>ability</b>	15:5,8	98:22	30:25 31:4
<b>97</b>	43:7,13,20	16:15,18	122:25	40:8,9 49:17
189:18	61:25 62:2,6	20:2 21:19,	<b>accessibility</b>	82:22 86:11
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# Exhibit 453

# EXHIBIT D

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 19, 2025

TRANSCRIBED BY: MARY ANN SCANLAN, CSR



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Case 2:25-cv-10616-JLS-WLH-KKL Document 42-5 Filed 11/17/25 Page 3 of 336  
Page ID #:2075

CHAIR PELLERIN: Good morning. I'd like  
to call the August 19th, 2025 hearing of the  
Assembly Election Committee to order.

Before we proceed, let's call the roll  
and establish the quorum. Madam Secretary.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

CHAIR PELLERIN: Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin here.  
Macedo?

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo here.

<sup>2</sup>  
Bennett?

<sup>3</sup>  
Berman?

<sup>4</sup>  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Here.

<sup>5</sup>  
COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman here.

<sup>6</sup>  
Solache:

<sup>7</sup>  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Present.

<sup>8</sup>  
COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache here.

<sup>9</sup>  
Stefani?

<sup>10</sup>  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Here.

<sup>11</sup>  
COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani here.

<sup>12</sup>  
Tadgipia?

<sup>13</sup>  
CHAIR PELLERIN: He was here.

<sup>14</sup>  
We have a quorum. Wonderful.

<sup>15</sup>  
I'd like to welcome -- oh, there's

1

2

3 Tangipa.

4 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, motion  
5 to adjourn.

6 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Second that.

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm asking for the  
8 same amount of time to prepare for this that my  
9 Democrat colleagues did.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Just give me one second  
11 here, please.

12 The motion to adjourn is not debatable  
13 and it will take a majority of those present in  
14 voting.

15 Madam Secretary, please call the roll.

16 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

18 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.  
19 Macedo?

20 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.

22 Bennett?

23 Berman?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.

25 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.

Solache?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.

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SCANLAN  
STONE

1

2

3 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.

4 Stefani?

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.

6 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.

7 Tangipa?

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: The motion fails.

11 Now let me begin. I'd like to welcome  
12 everyone who is here in the hearing room today  
13 and who's watching the hearing online.

14 For the purpose of this hearing, we are  
15 accepting witness testimony in person and we are  
16 also accepting written testimony through the  
17 Legislature's position letter portal, or through  
18 the Committee's redistricting public comment  
19 portal.

20 Both of these portals can be accessed  
21 through the Committee's website at  
22 aelc.assembly.ca.gov.

23 Today's hearing is going to be a little  
24 different than the typical Assembly Elections  
25 Committee bill hearing, so I want to set the  
stage for what to expect.

The Committee is hearing two measures

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3 today, ACA 8 related to congressional  
4 redistricting, and SB 280 related to election  
5 administration and funding.

6 As with a normal bill hearing, those  
7 items will be up for a vote in Committee today.

8 In addition to voting on those two bills,  
9 the Committee will also be holding an  
10 informational hearing on the subject matter of  
11 AB 604 related to proposed congressional  
12 districts.

13 I expect that the Committee will begin by  
14 discussing and voting on ACA 8.

15 After the Committee has dispensed with  
16 ACA 8, in order to make the best use of the time  
17 of the Committee and of the members of the public  
18 who are here in the hearing room, or who are  
19 watching this hearing online, the order in which  
20 the Committee hears the other two bills may  
21 depend on the availability of the bill authors to  
22 come present in the Committee.

23 If the Committee hears AB 604 before  
24 SB 280, for procedural reasons, the Committee  
25 will be recessing the bill hearing and proceeding  
to the informational hearing on AB 604. The  
Committee would then reconvene the bill hearing

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3 after completing the informational hearing on  
4 AB 604. If that occurs, I will make an  
5 appropriate announcement at that time.

6 When we hear the bills on the agenda,  
7 including the informational hearing on AB 604, we  
8 will hear from a maximum of two primary witnesses  
9 in support and two primary witnesses in  
10 opposition of the bill, with a limit of three  
11 minutes per witness. As a reminder, primary  
12 witnesses in support are those designated by the  
13 author.

14 To provide additional opportunity for  
15 public input, we will allow other witnesses to  
16 speak for no more than 30 seconds. In order to  
17 present as many people as possible to testify, I  
18 will enforce that time limit strictly.

19 My 27 years as Santa Cruz County's chief  
20 elections official is what I carry into these  
21 conversations about mid-decade redistricting.  
22 And let me be clear, what we are building in  
23 California is the most transparent process in the  
24 nation.

25 For example, we've launched a public  
redistricting comment portal right on the  
Committee's website so voters can speak directly

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3 to this process. Since Wednesday it's received  
4 more than 16,000 submissions.

5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair --

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: We aren't asking  
7 Californians to --

8 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- I have a motion  
9 based on that information.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'd ask that the  
11 Vice Chair wouldn't interrupt the Chair while  
12 she's speaking.

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It's relevant to what  
14 she's saying.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It would be nice  
16 if the Vice Chair would let the Chair finish her  
17 comments before interrupting (inaudible).

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: May I finish my  
19 comments?

20 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Will I be able to  
21 make my motion?

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes. May I finish --

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Thank you.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- my comments? Thank  
25 you.

We aren't asking Californians to  
rubberstamp maps drawn behind closed doors.

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3 We're putting the maps front and center and  
4 giving voters the final say.

5 This is not about cherry-picking when we  
6 follow our independent redistricting process. As  
7 a former elections official, I would never stand  
8 for that. It would go counter to my core values  
9 and my life's work.

10 This is about defending democracy itself,  
11 making sure that checks and balances our kids  
12 learn in government class are alive and well  
13 after the 2026 elections.

14 Let's be honest, Donald Trump lit this  
15 fire when he pressured Texas to change the rules  
16 mid game. California is answering that attack.  
17 Not by breaking democracy, but by protecting it.  
18 The bills we are hearing today only take effect  
19 if another state rigs the elections maps.

20 California believes in independent  
21 redistricting. We want every state to adopt it.  
22 And our independent redistricting commission  
23 retains its authority to draw a line -- to draw  
24 the map in 2020 and beyond.

25 I understand this is a fast process, but  
we are focusing on transparency and ensuring  
voters have the final say on whether to enact

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3 temporary adjustments to our congressional  
4 districts.

5 Our democracy is under attack and we  
6 simply do not have the ability to delay actions  
7 so our county elections officials can administer  
8 a secure, transparent, accurate and accessible  
9 election.

10 Because at the end of the day, this isn't  
11 about partisanship. It's about principle. It's  
12 about trust. And it's about making sure every  
13 voter knows their voice still matters in America.

14 We will seek to protect the rights of all  
15 who participate in this legislative process so  
16 that we can have effective deliberation and  
17 decisions on critical issues facing California.

18 In order to facilitate the Committee's  
19 business and public participation in today's  
20 hearing, we will not permit conduct that  
21 disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the  
22 orderly conduct of legislative proceedings.  
23 Violations of these rules may subject you to  
24 removal or other enforcement action.

25 So before we move on to the agenda, I  
have an additional announcement to make. I have  
a letter from Speaker Rivas requesting that

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3 Assembly Member Berman be permitted to present  
4 ACA 8 on his behalf.

5 So with those announcements out of the  
6 way, we will now move on to the Committee's  
7 agenda.

8 And Madam Vice Chair, you had a comment.

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yes. I am  
10 motioning -- as you said, 16,000 comments were  
11 submitted. I have not seen those comments. I'm  
12 not sure if other members of the Committee have  
13 seen those comments. But those would be  
14 pertinent to the discussion that's here today.

15 So I either motion that those comments be  
16 read into the record for all of us to hear, or  
17 that we recess until a time that we can review  
18 those comments.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Second.

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: So the comments are a  
21 part of the bill file, and I did not hear a  
22 motion. Are you making a motion?

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm motioning to read  
24 those comments into the record here today.

25 Okay, we'll take up that motion. It will  
be a majority of those present in voting.

Madam Secretary, please call the roll.

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COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

4

CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

5

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.

6

Macedo?

7

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.

8

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.

9

Bennett?

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: No.

11

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, no.

12

Berman?

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.

14

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.

15

Solache?

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.

17

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.

18

Stefani?

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.

20

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.

21

Tangipa?

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.

23

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: Motion fails.

25

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Then I make another

motion to recess until every Member of this

Committee has time to review all 16,000 public

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3 comments.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Second.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We have a motion

6 to recess until they could read the comments.

7 Madam Secretary, please call the roll.

8 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

10 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.

11 Macedo?

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.

14 Bennett?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: No.

16 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, no.

17 Berman?

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.

19 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.

20 Solache?

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.

22 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.

23 Stefani?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.

25 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.

Tangipa?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.

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3 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: Motion --

5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Sounds transparent to  
6 me.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Motion fails two to  
8 five.

9 We're now going to get on to our hearing.  
10 And let's bring Assembly Member Berman up to the  
11 presentation table to present ACA 8.

12 You may begin when you're ready.

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, I have a  
14 point of parliamentary inquiry.

15 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: God help us.  
16 God help us.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: One minute, please.

18 You may proceed.

19 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: In the letter  
20 Mr. Rivas wrote, did he give a reason why he  
21 would not be joining us today to present his ACA?

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: It's the regular  
23 business of the Committee to allow Members to ask  
24 another Member to present their bill.

So we will begin with Assembly Member  
Berman presenting ACA 8. You may begin.

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3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you, Madam  
4 Chair and colleagues. Good morning.

5 I'm pleased to present ACA 8 on behalf of  
6 Speaker Rivas, Pro Tem McGuire, and dozens of  
7 co-authors both here in the Assembly and in the  
8 Senate. But make no mistake, I'm not happy to be  
9 here.

10 One of the reasons was alluded to, which  
11 I'm a new dad. My baby boy turned one month old  
12 today, and I'd rather be hanging out with him and  
13 his mom.

14 But ACA 8 and its companion bills are the  
15 culmination of a fight that we don't want, and  
16 it's a fight that we didn't choose. But with our  
17 democracy on the line, we cannot run away from  
18 this fight.

19 ACA 8 is before you today because  
20 President Trump and Republicans in Texas and  
21 other states across the country are attempting to  
22 redraw congressional districts mid decade in an  
23 effort to rig the upcoming election.

24 Americans and Californians deserve  
better. And ACA 8, is our response to this  
undemocratic and un-American power grab.

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3 Known as the Election Rigging Response  
4 Act, ACA 8 would allow for the temporary use of  
5 voter approved, voter approved congressional  
6 district boundaries contained in AB 604. First  
7 and foremost, California voters will have the  
8 final say on whether or not these new district  
9 boundaries get used or not.

10 Should ACA 8 and its companion bills  
11 pass, voters will have their say in a special  
12 election on November 4th, 2025. Because here in  
13 California, unlike in Texas and other Republican-  
14 led states, we respect the will of the voters.

15 Second, these maps would be used through  
16 the 2030 congressional term if and only if Texas  
17 or another state enacts a partisan gerrymander of  
18 its own congressional districts before the 2030  
19 census.

20 This trigger provision is carefully  
21 crafted to ensure that a mid-decade redistricting  
22 required by federal court order does not result  
23 in California changing the maps. It is about the  
24 partisan gerrymandering that President Trump has  
25 demanded of his party.

After the 2030 census, ACA 8 returns all  
congressional district line-drawing powers back

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3 to the Citizen Redistricting Commission. It is  
4 important to note that nothing in this bill  
5 package impacts the role of the Citizens  
6 Redistricting Commission in drawing the Assembly,  
7 the Senate or the Board of Equalization  
8 boundaries.

9 Third, ACA 8 calls on Congress to pass  
10 legislation and propose a constitutional  
11 amendment to the US Constitution to require the  
12 use of fair, independent and nonpartisan  
13 redistricting nationwide. I call this the put up  
14 or shut up clause.

15 I don't want to hear from you if you  
16 support political gerrymandering in Republican  
17 states but not Democrat states and vice versa.  
18 We believe in nonpartisan redistricting for  
19 California and for every state in the country.

20 The bottom line is that ACA 8 sends a  
21 strong message to other states that they cannot  
22 play by different rules when it comes to  
23 redistricting, and it upholds California's values  
24 by neutralizing partisan gerrymandering by other  
states, all while giving California voters the  
final say on the matter.

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3 This situation is an emergency and  
4 California is responding by empowering our voters  
5 with transparency, with respect for our  
6 independent Commission, but with a will to act.

7 I respectfully request an aye vote on  
8 ACA 8.

9 And I'm joined today by Annie Chou with  
10 the California Teachers Association, and Danny  
11 Curtin with the California State Council of  
12 Carpenters.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: You each have three  
14 minutes. Thank you.

15 MR. CURTIN: Okay. Danny Curtin with the  
16 Carpenters, as you heard.

17 I'm going to sort of read a letter into  
18 the record, so that's one out of 16,000.

19 It is with great reluctance but firm  
20 resolve that I'm testifying on behalf of the  
21 California Conference of Carpenters to strongly  
22 urge your support for ACA 8.

23 The extraordinary measure of redrawing  
24 our congressional district maps in mid decade  
25 rather than the historically established national  
norm of realignment following the census at the  
end of the decade, a constitutionally required

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3 census to count every person living in the  
4 country for the purposes of democratic political  
5 representation, part of the great democratic  
6 experiment that is the United States, and quite  
7 revolutionary at the time, I might add.

8           Unfortunately, these are not normal times  
9 and this isn't politics as usual. Not only has  
10 the Trump Administration denied disaster  
11 assistance to victims of California's devastating  
12 forest fires, it is also seriously damaging our  
13 California economy with targeted arrests of law-  
14 abiding workers without warrants, which I'm sure  
15 many of you are aware of.

16           The Trump administration is now  
17 unilaterally withdrawing from legally binding  
18 union collective bargaining agreements with  
19 federal workforce unions. The President has made  
20 it clear that this is just the beginning.

21           Whatever your opinion of the Carpenters  
22 Union, you all know we are willing to work across  
23 the aisle to find solutions. We supported and  
24 still support the bipartisan reform work of  
25 Governor Schwarzenegger's administration and this  
Legislature on redistricting to establish  
California Citizen Redistricting Commission. We

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3 believe every state should require the use of  
4 fair, nonpartisan redistricting commissions. I'm  
5 going to get that before I'm done. But they  
6 don't.

7           Using that loophole, the Trump  
8 administration is now blatantly attempting to  
9 selectively change election rules in the middle  
10 of the game. Everybody knows why, to ensure  
11 unquestioned congressional support for his  
12 unilateral political agenda.

13           For that reason and that reason alone, we  
14 urge you to enact a one-time redistricting for  
15 congressional districts only to give California  
16 voters the ability to have their voice heard loud  
17 and clear on the national level.

18           We also support the return to  
19 redistricting by Commission following the census.

20           I have a couple of other items. I don't  
21 know how much more time I have, but let me just  
22 start with one thing.

23           CHAIR PELLERIN: Forty-five seconds.

24           MR. CURTIN: When a press conference by  
25 the Governor and the political leaders to discuss  
this topic is greeted by a mass gang of Rambo  
wannabes in full combat gear with automatic

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3 weapons just to intimidate, you know something's  
4 wrong. And I mean all of you know something's  
5 wrong, whatever reasons.

6 When the Speaker of the House condemns  
7 California for going to a vote of the people to  
8 address this blatant power grab, but ignores  
9 Texas for redistricting without a vote of the  
10 people, the hypocrisy is overwhelming. You know  
11 something is wrong here, all of you.

12 I heard on the radio this morning,  
13 President Trump told Sean Hannity that Vladimir  
14 Putin said, quote, your election was rigged  
15 because you have mail-in voting, quote.

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: If you could wrap up,  
17 please.

18 MR. CURTIN: Putin got 88 percent of the  
19 vote. His other buddy, Jim Kung, whatever his  
20 name, forget that, you know something's wrong  
21 here when you take advice from Putin on voting.

22 Thank you very much. Please support this  
23 measure. And I know it's difficult for some of  
24 you, but it needs to be done. Thank you.

25 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. We'll move  
on to the next witness in support. You have  
three minutes.

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3 MS. CHOU: Good morning, Madam Chair and  
4 Members. I'm Annie Chou with the California  
5 Teachers Association, representing 310,000 public  
6 school educators here to speak in support of  
7 ACA 8.

8 The Trump Administration is waging a war  
9 on every public institution we hold dear. In a  
10 few short months that he's been in office, he has  
11 worked to freeze funds for critical education  
12 programs, including after-school teacher training  
13 and migrant education program.

14 He's cut healthcare for millions of our  
15 students and their families, attempted to  
16 dismantle the Department of Education, and passed  
17 a new voucher program designed to destroy public  
18 education entirely.

19 There's also been unprecedented attacks  
20 to our immigrant communities and our LGBTQIA+  
21 students and families.

22 The Trump administration's removal of  
23 schools as safe zones from ICE has unleashed a  
level of trauma and fear that no one should ever  
endure, let alone our children.

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3 Just this month, a 15-year-old in  
4 Los Angeles was detained by federal agents right  
5 outside her high school.

6 Our students deserve better. They  
7 deserve to feel safe and supported at school.  
8 They deserve every tool they're afforded to  
9 ensure that they are set up for success in life.

10 A majority of Americans are not with him  
11 on these vicious attacks. So what does Trump do  
12 Rig the next election and steal our right for  
13 fair representation. He wants his Republican  
14 allies to redistrict in states where they hold  
15 power so that he can stack the deck to continue  
16 to harm our students.

17 As my Secretary-Treasurer Erica Jones  
18 said, I taught my kindergarteners to be kind and  
19 help each other, not to cheat and be a bully.  
20 Five-year-olds get it. Why doesn't he?

21 My members and our colleagues at NEA  
22 spent months reaching out to our Republican  
23 representatives in California. Several refused  
24 to even meet with local teachers in their  
district and in their Capitol offices. Some lied  
directly to our faces and promised they wouldn't

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3 vote for these draconian cuts for our schools and  
4 our healthcare.

5 When the lawmakers went back to D.C.,  
6 they proved that they'd rather take orders from  
7 Trump, even if it was at the expense of students  
8 and teachers in California.

9 We must fight back. CTA supports the  
10 great work that the Redistricting Commission -- I  
11 caught yours, Danny -- did in 2021, but there  
12 must be some type of check and balance against  
13 these federal attacks.

14 We're living in the most unprecedented of  
15 times. This requires us to meet the moment to  
16 protect our communities.

17 CT stands in full support of bringing the  
18 Brown initiative outlined in ACA 8. We're ready  
19 to do whatever it takes to stop the power grab  
20 and fight back against any and all attacks  
21 against our democracy, our students and public  
22 education. And California has a duty to stand up  
23 and take action.

24 ACA 8 simply empowers California voters  
25 to support a temporary change in our  
congressional districts until the next  
redistricting cycle to ensure that our students

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3 and families are protected. And for those  
4 reasons, CTA urges your aye vote. And I'm also  
5 adding support for the California Federation of  
6 Teachers.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

8 We'll now move on to additional  
9 witnesses. They come up to the mic.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, I  
11 make a motion to amend.

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Second.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: Amend what?

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Amend ACA. And  
15 I would like that the sergeants pass these  
16 amendments out, so that way everybody could read  
17 them.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: Give me one second,  
19 please.

20 Are the amendments in Leg Council form?

21 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Yes. Got them  
22 right here.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

24 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Staff to reanalyze  
25 the bill, constitutional amendment or resolution.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Just give me a second so  
we can answer your question here.

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3 So these are not author's amendments, so  
4 the rule you cited is not relevant.

5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It says a Member.  
6 Does not say the author.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: But they are not  
8 author's amendments.

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Once again, it's --  
10 (Pause on the record.)

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: The Committee rules are  
12 clear that this is related to author's amendments  
13 only. These are not being offered by the author  
14 of the ACA.

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: This is not clear.

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: The author is Rivas and  
17 McGuire.

18 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: In section two it  
19 says that we authored this, actually prepared  
20 this ACA.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: We prepared  
22 this ACA.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Give me one  
24 moment to thoroughly answer your question.

25 (Pause on the record.)

CHAIR PELLERIN: My ruling is the  
amendments are not in order.

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3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: There is a motion on  
4 the table.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: And your motion is not  
6 in order as well.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, I  
8 ask to read the amendments into the Journal.

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Second.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: I reject that. No.

11 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: On what grounds,  
12 Madam Chair?

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: My decision.

14 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So there's  
15 transparency and bipartisanship --

16 (Pause on the record.)

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes, Assembly Member  
18 Solache.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I would like  
20 to move the bill for approval. Move it in.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion to  
22 approve the bill.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam, the  
24 motion to read into the Journal takes precedence.

CHAIR PELLERIN: One second, please.

(Pause on the record.)

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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'd like to recognize  
4 Assembly Member Stefani.

5 Okay. There's a motion and a second to  
6 amend ACA 8.

7 I'd like to recognize Assembly Member  
8 Stefani.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I move to lay  
10 the amendments on the table.

11 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So you're not going  
12 to allow us to debate or present these amendments  
13 for anybody to read? They're just going to vote  
14 on them, correct?

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: We are going to -- the  
16 motion is to lay the Amendments on the table.

17 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So none of my  
18 colleagues are going to read this before they  
19 vote on it, correct? I just want to clarify.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: (Inaudible) as  
21 it is, so I'm good.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, we  
23 just --

24 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: We could make them  
better.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA:  
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3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- we just  
4 heard --

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I don't think  
6 they will.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: We just  
8 heard --

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You haven't seen  
10 them.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- both  
12 testimony --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I don't need  
14 to.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- from the  
16 author and --

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: We haven't even heard  
18 all the testimony, so --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But we did --

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- let's try to get  
21 through this hearing on the bill, all right?

22 Let's try to hear the bill --

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But we've made  
24 this statement here.

25 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- in its current form.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: We might be able to  
add (inaudible) --

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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion to lay  
4 the amendments on the table.

5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- more that gives a  
6 heads up about this.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Madam Secretary, please  
8 call the roll.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But, Madam  
10 Chair, we made the statement that we're making  
11 this very transparent. This is very clear.

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion to lay  
13 the amendments on the table.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I'm just --  
15 I would like --

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to proceed  
17 with that motion.

18 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Wait a second. The  
19 whole thing is that this is about transparency  
20 and that you want fairness in this.

21 We got the language at eight o'clock.  
22 All we're asking is for our input to be taken.  
23 You didn't talk to me as your Vice Chair about  
24 this, so here's our opportunity, Madam Chair.  
25 All we're asking for is participation in this.

And Mr. Tangipa came prepared. The rules  
state this. And I would be happy to bring the

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3 Chief Clerk in to review this. I don't know why  
4 you're shutting this down.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And Madam  
6 Chair, I would have presented this to you  
7 sometime sooner at any other time. I had no  
8 time. We didn't receive this. And yet, there  
9 are authors on this before I even got to see  
10 this. I didn't get this till last night because  
11 we were not informed.

12 So my question is, since everybody's  
13 prepared, since you're so fine with the ACA, is  
14 how much time did they get to prepare before I  
15 did? Why am I not deserved that same for the  
16 500,000 representatives that I get to represent  
17 in my district? Why am I not granted that same  
18 right to defend them?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I believe we  
20 have a law in California that Members get 72  
21 hours before final vote on any legislation to  
22 review the legislation and the language of the  
23 legislation before they vote.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But  
25 Mr. Berman --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- on that  
language --

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3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- did you  
4 have --

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- as the  
6 final --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- did you have  
8 this --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- as the final  
10 version.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How early --

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I saw this  
13 language yesterday.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How -- okay.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I saw this  
16 language yesterday.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: You saw this  
18 language --

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: It was in print  
20 yesterday morning, correct.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It was in  
22 print.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And that's when  
24 I -- and that's when I saw it.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It was in print.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And it was --

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3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- but when was it  
4 seen?

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It was in print  
6 and --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I saw it  
8 yesterday.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- you are a  
10 co-author on it immediately?

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So you had seen  
13 that even before it was printed, you were already  
14 a co-author?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah. I  
16 absolutely support the concept. I had faith in  
17 the authors to get -- to draft the right  
18 language. They did. And I support it.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But I did not  
20 have that same --

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: For the concept, but  
22 you didn't even read the language.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I did not have  
24 that same ability.

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: You weren't  
aware of the concept? You weren't aware of the  
news that we were planning on doing that?

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3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No, that's not  
4 what I'm saying. Mr. Berman, what I'm saying --

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me. We have --  
6 we have the Chief Clerk here, Sue Parker.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I am simply  
8 just asking for the same amount of time, so that  
9 way I can go into this just as much as everybody  
10 else.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I saw the  
12 language --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And that there  
14 are amendments.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- when it went  
16 into print yesterday morning.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I  
18 understand that. And I have a different opinion  
19 on that.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And that's okay  
22 because I'm granted that.

23 (Speaking over each other - unintelligible.)

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. All right.

25 Excuse me. We're going to -- hey. Hey.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I'm asking for  
it.

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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to stop this  
4 right now, this back and forth. Okay? We have  
5 to have some civility in here.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, ma'am.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have our Chief Clerk,  
8 Sue Parker. If you could please come on up for a  
9 consult, please.

10 (Pause on the record.)

11 All right. We're going to take a  
12 temporary recess. We'll be back in 10 minutes.  
13 Thanks.

14 (Recess.)

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: All right. We're going  
16 to bring the Committee back.

17 Thank you for giving us the time to  
18 figure this out. In the spirit of transparency,  
19 we're going to go ahead and allow those  
20 amendments to be presented and we're going to  
21 give you three minutes to do so. Thank you so  
22 much.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you,  
24 Madam Chair. That's all I'm asking for is a fair  
and equal opportunity to talk for my  
representatives, so I appreciate that.

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3 And really, as the presenter of the bill  
4 had stated, that he was assigned as a co-author  
5 and there were multiple members on this  
6 Committee --

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Oh, I'm sorry. One  
8 second.

9 Could we distribute the amendments?

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Sorry.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: And we'll stop the clock  
14 and start it again.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And the  
16 sergeants.

17 So as was stated, and not only that, we  
18 see that there are multiple co-authors on this  
19 bill that I hope don't have the same regards as  
20 the presenter of this stated, that they were a  
21 co-author before they even saw this bill.

22 I believe that these amendments actually  
23 help make sure that we are protecting the  
24 democracy, and which was stated earlier today,  
25 that we're making sure that this is as  
transparent. And if you're actually fighting for  
the people of California, that you buy into this.

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3           So there would be no reason for them to  
4 deny this amendment unless they have a vested  
5 interest in the maps that are being presented  
6 before us and the changes in these congressional  
7 districts.

8           So simply to read the amendment is: A  
9 member of the Legislature who voted in favor of  
10 Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 of the  
11 2025-2026 Regular Session shall not be a  
12 candidate for congressional office in any  
13 congressional district adopted pursuant to  
14 Section 4.

15           All in an essence of, if everybody here  
16 is saying that they are doing this to protect  
17 democracy, to do it, to make sure that they don't  
18 have a vested interest.

19           And especially when we have seen reports  
20 reported by KCRA that stated that the pro temp  
21 asked for a specific district to be drawn so he  
22 could be included in that. That the DCCC wrote  
23 these maps. And it shows that there is so much  
24 political gains and political partisanship that  
has been played, that has been lied to the  
California people.

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3           You now have the ability to prove that  
4 you are in this for those same right reasons that  
5 the presenter actually asked us to do. You have  
6 the ability right now to say that you're doing  
7 this for those specific reasons.

8           So when you cast your vote on these  
9 amendments, you will declare to the California  
10 people that you do believe in democracy. That  
11 every statement and the amount of placating that  
12 we heard earlier today, that your words are true.

13           And this gives you the chance to tell the  
14 truth, to tell the California people that you  
15 have no vested interest in this. That you  
16 believe in everything that was stated. That the  
17 author and the presenters and all of the other  
18 co-authors on this say that, I'm not running for  
19 this congressional seat because of my personal  
20 gain. I'm doing this, these districts, because  
21 it's what you believe in. So you have the chance  
22 to do so. Every single person who's a co-author  
23 on this who didn't read the bill.

24           Okay. If you didn't read the bill, then  
25 you shouldn't have any issues adding this as an  
amendment because you don't have any problems  
with it. Thank you.

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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you very much.

4 Assembly Member Stefani.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I move to lay  
6 the amendments on the table.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion to lay  
8 the amendments on the table.

9 Madam Secretary, please -- oh, is there a  
10 second?

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Can I just make  
12 a comment?

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes, you may.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I'll second it.  
15 I do have a comment.

16 You know, it's really hard for me to  
17 consider any amendments when the first motion,  
18 within seconds of starting this meeting, was to  
19 adjourn this meeting.

20 So I have a question for the proposed  
21 amendments. How did you plan to submit these  
22 amendments if you were planning to end discussion  
23 in the first couple seconds of starting this  
24 meeting?

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, because I  
spent 12 hours last --

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3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Because clearly  
4 you were ready with some amendments.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: So how were you  
7 going to have a discussion when you were making a  
8 motion and a second to adjourn?

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes. Thank you  
10 for the question.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: And discussion.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you for  
13 the question.

14 The main reason why that motion was made  
15 in the beginning was because we just need more  
16 time. I did not have as much time as the  
17 majority party in this state as they've seen the  
18 maps. They've had these maps, they've had these  
19 bills, they've had the language significantly  
20 longer.

21 We didn't even set the Committee hearing  
22 on our member portfolio until yesterday. So  
23 we've had less than 24 hours to even know that  
24 this meeting was going to be here.

That's why the motion to end the meeting  
was there, just to give us time. Shouldn't we

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3 have more than 24 hours? Doesn't it worry you,  
4 my friend?

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Thank you.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: And the motion to lay  
7 the amendments on the table is not debatable.  
8 I've given you a little time --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But doesn't  
10 it --

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- to have some  
12 comments.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Doesn't it  
14 worry you that they (inaudible) and you agreed to  
15 that?

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: Madam Secretary, now  
17 please call the roll.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's all I'm  
19 trying to do is read this.

20 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes.

22 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, aye.  
23 Macedo?

24 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No.

25 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, no.  
Bennett?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Aye.

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COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, aye.

4

Berman?

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Aye.

6

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, aye.

7

Solache?

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Aye.

9

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, aye.

10

Stefani?

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Aye.

12

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, aye.

13

Tangipa?

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No.

15

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, no.

16

CHAIR PELLERIN: So the motion to lay the  
amendments on the table succeeded.

17

18

So we will now move on to the other  
witnesses in support of ACA 8. You may come to  
the mic.

19

20

21

And as I stated previously, we are giving  
you 30 seconds to provide some information, your  
name, organization.

22

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This is on  
support?

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: This is for  
people in support of ACA 8.

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3           Okay. There's folks outside. We'll give  
4 you a minute. This is for support and to ACA 8.

5           MR. LAZARDI: Thank you. Elmer Lazard,   
6 here on behalf of the California Federation of  
7 Labor Unions and also here in support of UFCW  
8 Western States Council. Thank you.

9           MS. PONTUS: Thank you. Angela Pontus on  
10 behalf of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of  
11 California, in support.

12           MR. KUMAR: Thank you, Chair. Keshav  
13 Kumar with Lighthouse Public Affairs, on behalf  
14 of Reproductive Freedom for All, in strong  
15 support and appreciation.

16           MS. BARREIRO: Thank you, Chair and  
17 members. Sandra Barreiro on behalf of SEIU  
18 California, in support.

19           MR. MIRAMONTES: Good morning, Chair and  
20 members. Bryant Miramontes with AFSCME  
21 California PEOPLE, in support.

22           MS. KING: Sadalia King with UDW Local --  
23 AFSCME Local 3930, in strong support.

          MS. COLES: Good morning. Krystal Coles  
from SEIU Local 1000, in strong support.

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3 MS. QUINTERO: Good morning. Annalisa  
4 Quintero with Local 1000, proud UAW member, in  
5 strong support.

6 MS. HILL: Good morning, Chair. My name  
7 is Constance Hill, SEIU 2015. I strongly  
8 support.

9 MR. HART: Good morning. Kaden Hart on  
10 behalf of Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis,  
11 in support.

12 MS. DARLING: Good afternoon. Faith  
13 Darling from Kern County, and support very much.

14 MR. SHAFFER: Jim Shaffer from Taft,  
15 California. Support very much.

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: Any other witnesses in  
17 support?

18 Seeing none, we'll now move on to the  
19 primary witnesses in opposition. Please come to  
20 the -- this is just for the primary right now.  
21 Primary witnesses, come to the presentation  
22 table. And you each will have three minutes.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And then there's  
24 plenty of seats. Yeah.

25 MS. DYE: Should we both sit over there?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No, it doesn't  
matter.

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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: You may begin when  
4 you're ready.

5 MS. DYE: Chair Pellerin and Members, I'm  
6 Cynthia Dye, a San Francisco Democrat, testifying  
7 also for fellow rotating chairs of the First  
8 Citizens Redistricting Commission, Riverside  
9 Republican Jodie Filkins Weber, and Claremont  
10 Republican Peter Yao, San Gabriel Democrat Jeanne  
11 Raya, and Oceanside Independent Connie Archbold  
12 Robinson.

13 Commissioners are chosen to be impartial,  
14 reflect their state's demographics, and apply  
15 constitutional criteria to ensure fair districts  
16 for all Californians, and commissioners cannot  
17 run for office in the districts they draw.

18 The people enshrined independent  
19 redistricting in our constitution, voting three  
20 times against gerrymandering.

21 The Citrin Center poll released just last  
22 week confirms Californians still support the CRC  
23 two to one. And a national YouGov poll shows  
24 that 76 percent of Americans think gerrymandering  
is unfair, and 69 percent think it should be  
illegal.

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The current CRC considered over 35,000 public comments to develop their maps, making difficult tradeoffs to protect communities. This new proposed map was developed by legislators and their consultants in a back room.

8

The CRC was prohibited from considering partisan interests. The new map has only that goal, adding safe seats.

10

11

CRC draft maps were posted for 14 days to allow for thoughtful public input. This map was released yesterday, yet you're voting today.

12

13

14

And why are you not hearing from good government organizations? Because it takes time for organizations to inform their members, debate, formulate, and agree upon a position statement. That's what democracy looks like.

15

16

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19

We recognize that many believe we face an existential threat, and this legislation has been touted as the only way to fight back and resist authoritarianism, but this is a false choice.

20

21

22

23

Thanks to the CRC, California has some of the most competitive districts in the nation. In fact, there are twice as many districts up for grabs as proponents of this legislation hope to eke out through gerrymandering.

24

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It just means that parties have to do the work of appealing -- fielding appealing candidates, developing a platform that speaks to the issues voters care about, and getting them to the polls. That's what democracy looks like.

8

Despite the serious attacks against our democracy, we cannot preserve it by torching its fundamental tenet, that voters choose their representatives, not the other way around.

10

12

At minimum, release the data and provide the rationale for your lines. If you want to do a midcycle redistricting right, do it the California way.

14

16

Instead of spending over \$200 million on a special election, fund the CRC to engage the public, create updated districts, and pass them by a cross-partisan supermajority vote.

18

20

We urge you to serve your constituents by defending California's independent process and rejecting this expensive and misguided attempt to bring back partisan gerrymandering. We welcome any questions.

22

23

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

Next witness, [depos@scanlanstone.com](mailto:depos@scanlanstone.com).  
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MS. RAYA: Thank you, Chair Pellerin and  
members of the committee, and I apologize for my  
back being to some of you.

6

My name is Jeanne Raya. I was privileged  
to serve on the first Independent Redistricting  
Commission starting in 2010.

9

It was independent, composed of a diverse  
pool, representative of California's diversity,  
and it was an initiative brought by good  
government groups to put voters first.

10

11

12

13

Approving that independent commission  
effectively ended the backroom political  
gerrymandering that had characterized  
redistricting for decades.

14

15

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17

We drew new maps with full transparency,  
giving citizens access to the process in real  
time through public meetings and the means to  
submit written comments.

18

19

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21

Voters had the opportunity to describe  
their communities, their environment, their  
infrastructure, and their economy so they could  
be placed in a district with a fair chance of  
electing accountable representatives.

22

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And in fact, there were significant  
changes to the Legislature last two

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3 Commissions, including the percentage of women in  
4 the Legislature doubled, AAPI representation  
5 tripled, Black representation nearly doubled, and  
6 Latinos increased by 8t percent.

7 If only Texas could learn from  
8 California. Their current attempts to rig the  
9 2026 election in favor of Republicans represents  
10 the basest self-interest of officials who are so  
11 fearful of losing their power that all they can  
12 think to do is cheat.

13 Their determination to stack the  
14 congressional deck in their favor has prompted  
15 our governor to threaten this retaliatory  
16 midcycle redistricting in an effort to elect more  
17 Democrats by sidelining the Independent  
18 Commission and holding a special election just  
19 this once.

20 I'm a registered Democrat, always have  
21 been, and I would celebrate replacing any  
22 congressional member who has forgotten his or her  
23 oath to represent their constituents and protect  
24 the Constitution.

But this can't be at the expense of the  
California Constitution.

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3 voters who mandated fair, nonpartisan  
4 redistricting.

5 Does the threat really call for  
6 retaliation? We have witnessed on a daily basis  
7 the chaos and mistrust that has come from revenge  
8 politics in Washington. That is not a model for  
9 the responsible government Californians deserve.

10 It's not a model for which we should  
11 spend millions of dollars on a gamble that  
12 different districts would produce different  
13 results, or that we might not lose incumbents in  
14 more competitive districts and fail to elect  
15 whatever magic number is needed to win this  
16 electoral war against Texas and whatever other  
17 states.

18 The Governor says the American people --  
19 the American people need a fair chance. We have  
20 a fair chance here in California. We have  
21 choice. We have a voice. It's called the  
22 Independent Redistricting Commission.

23 The maps that have been proposed are like  
24 a menu that offers you steak, but you're a  
vegetarian. Sorry, that's all we have.

California set the gold standard for --  
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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: If you could wrap up,  
4 please?

5 MS. RAYA: Yes.

6 California set the gold standard for  
7 redistricting. This is not the time to take a  
8 step back from innovative democracy. Thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, before  
10 we proceed --

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm sorry. You  
13 weren't introduced. Who are you at sitting at  
14 the table? I'm so sorry.

15 MR. SILVA: Sorry. My name is Aaron  
16 Silva. I'm with the law firm Olson Remcho. I'm  
17 here mainly to answer technical questions about  
18 the measure.

19 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Thank you.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: My technical  
21 witness.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

23 We'll now go ahead and bring in witnesses  
who are in opposition to ACA 8. You may come to  
the mic.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And Madam  
Chair, are we going to have an opp -- are we  
going to have an opportunity to ask questions --

CHAIR PELLERIN: We will.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- to the  
opposition?

CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah, yeah. We're going  
through our normal procedure where we hear from  
the witnesses first.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Just making  
sure.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

MR. HANNA: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
Apologies on being late.

My name is J.P. Hanna, on behalf of the  
California Nurses Association. We are in strong  
support of this measure. Just wanted to make  
sure I get on the record. Thank you so much.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. You threw me  
off there. Okay.

MR. HANNA: Strong support. Strong  
support.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.  
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3 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Me Too is in  
4 opposition.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We'll now take  
6 the opposition. Please come to the mic.

7 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: We go row by  
8 row.

9 MS. WILLIS: Linda Willis, President of  
10 Bakersfield Republican Women Federated, member of  
11 Greater Bakersfield Republican Assembly,  
12 California Republican Assembly, Revere Resource  
13 Group, and other Republican organizations, as  
14 well as a church-going Christian. Strong  
15 opposition to this bullying method you're using.

16 MS. DRAKE: Margaret Drake, citizen  
17 California, strongly oppose this -- this bill as  
18 a Santa Cruz, California resident.

19 MS. BAX: Hello. Thank you. My name is  
20 Gina Bax. I'm an immigrant, and I'm also the  
21 president for the Chico Evening Republican Women,  
22 and I strongly oppose this. Thank you.

23 MR. BUSSEY: Thirty seconds?

CHAIR PELLERIN: You may take 30 seconds.

MR. BUSSEY: Thank you.  
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My name is Nick Bussey, and I'm here on  
the behalf of the Placer County Republicans  
Assembly.

6

And look, redistricting, we could just  
have a simple blame for Trump for everything that  
goes on. And trust me, if it was that simple, I  
would blame the score board whenever the Niners  
have lost.

10

11

Now, I'm hearing words like transparency,  
representation and fairness, and it saddens me to  
be here today in this chamber and the other  
chamber and see the absolute opposite that's  
going on.

16

Now, under a supermajority, California's  
drowning in crime. We're not funding things like  
Proposition 36, unfounded Prop --

18

19

CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.  
Thank you so much.

20

21

MR. BUSSEY: Thank you. That was not 30  
seconds.

22

23

CHAIR PELLERIN: It wasn't?

24

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: It was.

MR. BUSSEY: Oh, yeah. I oppose.

CHAIR PELLERIN: That's all that. Thank you. Page 53  
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MR. NORIEGA: It's a pleasure to be with  
you all. My name is Nathaniel Noriega. So the  
nine most terrifying words in the English  
language are, I'm from the government and I'm  
here to help.

8

The California Independent Redistricting  
Commission was a bipartisan support, something  
that is nearly impossible today, as a check on  
all of you politicians.

10

11

12

There's a reason why those words were  
spoken by Reagan. Just because they're doing it,  
we can do it, too, is an argument that only a  
child will make.

13

14

15

16

We're not Texas. We are California. We  
are held to a different standard, or at least we  
should be.

17

18

19

It is my first time in our state's  
Capitol. It's beautiful. But when I see -- when  
I look outside and see someone smoking crystal  
meth --

20

21

22

23

CHAIR PELLERIN: And that is 30 seconds.  
Thank you.

24

25

MR. NORIEGA: -- on our Capitol steps --

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

MR. NORIEGA: I wonder.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

4

5 MS. AGUILAR: My name is Denise Aguilar.  
6 I'm a co-founder of Freedom Angels, in  
7 opposition.

8

9 We represent thousands of families across  
10 the state of California. And I'm just a little  
11 confused on why the California Teachers  
12 Association is one of the main witnesses as our  
13 children are graduating illiterate. I think that  
14 the Teachers Association should focus on our  
15 children's education.

16

Thank you. And I oppose.

17

18 MS. THORNTON: Hi. Tara Thornton,  
19 co-founder of Freedom Angels.

20

21 I actually didn't have anything prepared  
22 to say. I'm just really shocked. We shouldn't  
23 be doing this. Wrong is wrong, and the people  
24 don't want this. We want independent.

25

26 I happen to be from one of the districts  
27 that will get decimated with zero representation.  
28 But even if I wasn't, this isn't the right way to  
29 go. And you actually don't have the support of  
30 the people on it.

31

32 You have a mandate to be independent and  
33 to not do political ~~depos@scanlanstone.com~~ I oppose.

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MS. CARSTENS: Sophia Carstens,  
Decentralize America.

4

5

You can't actually redistrict without  
changing the ten-year rule around the census, and  
you can't do that without amending the California  
Constitution, which is very robust on this issue.  
And you can't do that without repealing the Equal  
Protections Clause, which you cannot do.

6

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11

All due respect, the argument is that we  
want to preserve democracy. You cannot preserve  
democracy by suspending it. I oppose.

12

13

14

MS. SHAW: Sonja Shaw, Chino Valley  
Unified School Board President and candidate for  
State Superintendent, trying to take back this  
insane California.

15

16

17

18

You call it democratic and transparent.  
Give me a break. California's collapsing under  
Newsom and his cronies -- most of you are here --  
style leadership. Just look around. Lawlessness  
in our streets. Schools are failing. Our kids  
can only--only 47 percent can read at grade  
level, and the CTA is over here doing this?  
Shame on you, CTA. You make me nauseated.

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Anyways, pushing ideologies in the  
classroom is something we should not do -- I mean,

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3 first partner in destruction is well aware of  
4 because she's pocketing while our kids are  
5 failing there.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.  
7 Thank you so much.

8 MS. SHAW: Put barf bags behind the  
9 seats.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

11 MS. ABDOSH: Kelly Abdosh, not only  
12 citizen of this republic, but also wife and  
13 campaign coordinator to a campaign -- oh,  
14 goodness -- person running for State Assembly, in  
15 complete opposition of this far overreach. Thank  
16 you.

17 MS. MASTIN: Heather Mastin with the  
18 elder -- El Dorado County Republican Party.  
19 Sixty-three percent of Californians do not want  
20 this. I strongly oppose.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Doug Williams, El Dorado  
22 Republican Central Committee. I strongly oppose  
23 this.

I am from South Lake Tahoe. I don't see  
any transparency on how these maps were drawn.

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During the redistricting, they had complete transparency. We could see where the maps were.

6

I have nothing in common with Sacramento, and neither does any of the people in South Lake Tahoe or the Tahoe Basin.

9

MR. AVILA: Hello. My name is Oscar Avila with California Movement. Totally opposed to this.

10

11

12

This is election interference at the highest level. You're going to use past results of elections to base the new maps to rig the election. This is -- this is election interference at the highest level. You know, it's not fair.

13

14

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18

You're going to literally move around the boundaries to make sure you get more votes to remove Republican seats. People voted for the state republic and you're going to remove those seats by stealing an election.

19

20

21

22

23

You guys are trying to commit a crime. It's a -- it's a -- it's a --

24

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds. Thank you.

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MS. DE JANARO: Florentina De Janaro,  
representing moms in California with MOM Army,  
also representing Glad Tidings Church in Yuba  
City and Freedom Coalition in Yuba City. Oppose.

7

MS. KAY: Good morning. Shan Kay, a  
proud wife of an International Union of Elevator  
Constructors Local 18, and I oppose.

10

MS. CORCORAN: Yvette Corcoran, resident  
of San Francisco, and strongly oppose this  
redistricting.

12

13

MS. PATEL: Hello. My name is Priya  
Patel, representing the Voters of Los Angeles  
County, and I strongly oppose AB 604, and  
recognize it as an uprooting of our  
constitutional rights and democratic process in  
this county -- in the State of California.

18

19

MS. PATEL: This bill violates state  
constitutional law, as well as the Voters Rights  
Act. And it seems to me that the author of the  
bill and the co-authors that signed off on this  
bill haven't actually read the wording and  
verbiage of the bill.

24

So I think that the voters of Democ -- of  
California deserve more

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CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds, and  
this is for ACA 8. Thank you.

5

MS. KONG: Jessica Kong, from an affected  
district, in strong opposition.

7

MR. BOLOG: David Bolog, member in good  
standing in the International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local 18, also representing  
the California GOP Labor Caucus, with the  
majority of our members being represented in  
collective bargaining by the California Teachers  
Association.

14

California Republicans are already  
disenfranchised with representation. We're a  
60/40 state; 60 percent Republicans, 40 percent  
Democrats. Excuse me, got it backwards. Sixty  
percent Democrats, 40 percent Republican. This  
will disenfranchise us more, and we see that in  
the legislation already. We're 75/20 percent.

21

CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.

22

MR. BOLOG: Thank you.

23

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

24

MR. ARIANO: Good afternoon. My name is  
Angel Ariano. I came over six hours to--from  
Pomona, California to say that I am in  
opposition, and also

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lack of dignity in this room. And to use the  
existing processes that we have. And that's my  
statement.

6

MR. CARRILLO: My name is Jose Carrillo,  
constituent of Riverside County. I'm a proud  
member of the National Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers Union in good standing. So I have my  
ticket and I don't know what unions are being --  
are a part of this, but I'm just a union member  
and I strongly oppose this. Yeah.

10

11

12

13

MS. CARRILLO: Maria Carrillo, mother,  
representing Riverside County, all the mothers  
that are fighting for our children's freedom and  
protections in every school.

14

15

16

17

Transparency, you guys keep bringing it  
up, but there's no transparency here.

18

19

TDS is a real thing. Stop hating Trump  
and just blaming him for everything. This is not  
right.

20

21

22

And Newsom said the people will speak.  
We the people will speak if that thing goes on  
the ballot on November 4th.

23

24

25

MS. BARBRO: Hi. Virginia Barbro from  
Solano county. I'm also a California native.

And I strongly oppose

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And I'm asking all of you to support real  
transparency and have real issues and work  
together and listen to the people. Because the  
people of California are being slaughtered by  
regulations and all that you're proposing to do.  
It's not real. Your assertions are off, and you  
need to come up.

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.

11

MS. BARBRO: Thank you.

12

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

13

MS. NIXON: My name is Twyla Nixon. I'm  
a native Californian from Solano county, and I  
oppose the bill.

16

And everything is becoming very demonic.  
We're just asking for God's guidance on this and  
pray that the Lord will see us through this.  
Praise the Lord. Thank you.

19

20

MR. GONZALEZ: Madam Chair, Oracio  
Gonzalez on behalf of California's Business  
Roundtable, one of the early sponsors of  
California's independent redistricting process.  
We urge you to reject both bills and keep our  
process free of politics. Thank you.

24

25

MR. BURT: Greg Burt with the California  
Family Council, in opposition to the bill.

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Some people have already brought up the issue of transparency. What was this I saw today out in the hallway was anything but transparent.

6

I'm not sure if the Republicans know this, but while you were trying to get your amendments laid out, they were shutting your mic off, right? So if you go back and listen to the recording, the mic was going off while you were talking.

12

How is that transparent, right? You're shutting people from just open conversation. We're all talking about democracy. Let's have an open debate.

16

You are not doing that, right? And then you go out and have a secret conversation when nobody saw what you decided.

19

CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds. Thank you.

21

MR. BURT: All right.

22

REVEREND DR. FRAZIER: Hi. Reverend Dr. Angelo Frazier from Bakersfield, California. I oppose the bill.

24

25

I'm a Christian. I'm a Republican. And I just happen to be Black. This is racism 101 all over again.

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MS. BURRELL: My name is Dina Burrell.  
I'm from Tulare county, Visalia, California, and  
I oppose this bill.

I am a Christian. I'm not in any kind of  
organization, but I'm an American citizen, and I  
want my voice to be heard that I strongly oppose  
this bill. Thank you.

MS. BROKAW: I'm Ruth Brokaw. I'm from  
Visalia, California. I'm part of the pastoral  
staff at Legacy Church. I represent a lot of  
people who, along with me, oppose this bill.

MR. BEITHER: I'm Matt Beither.  
Appreciate you taking the time.

I'm a native Californian, strongly oppose  
the bill, and we'll go down fighting for kids'  
voice and everything. So appreciate you  
listening to our voice.

MS. ANDERSON: Hi. I'm Tina Anderson.  
I'm coming from Tulare county, Visalia,  
California, representing Central California,  
predominantly Republican. And we oppose this  
bill strongly.

MS. WEISAR: My name is Patricia Weisar.  
I'm from Tulare county. I'm a first-generation  
American.

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I do not believe that my rights or my  
nationality, my primary nationality, is affected  
by redistricting, so I oppose the bill.

6

MS. AGUIRRE: My name is Myrna Aguirre.  
I'm here from Visalia, California, representing  
Deep Rooted Church, and I stand strongly against  
this bill.

10

MS. JIMENE: My name is Mary Jimenez from  
Visalia, California, Tulare county. I am in the  
pastoral ministry also, strong Christian  
Republican, and I strongly oppose this bill.

14

MS. CAMARILLO: Good afternoon. My name  
is Addie Camarillo from Visalia. I'm just a  
grandma. But thank you so much for listening to  
our voice. Thank you very, very much. And I do  
oppose this bill. Thank you.

19

MR. WILLIAMS: My turn? Okay. My name  
is Tim Williams -- I go by Tiki Tim -- from  
Suisun, California. You guys have probably heard  
a lot about us, about the California ForNever,  
you know, scam that's going on, right, you know?

24

But I heard about this meeting today and,  
yeah, really disturbs me. You guys could put my  
children in jeopardy

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CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.

4

Thank you.

5

MR. WILLIAMS: I'm a little upset about

6

this.

7

CHAIR PELLERIN: We hear you. Thank you

8

so much.

9

Next speaker.

10

MR. WILLIAMS: That's all the time we

11

get?

12

CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah. Thirty seconds,

13

yes.

14

MR. WILLIAMS: Remember, you're going to

15

get judged.

16

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

17

MR. WILLIAMS: You're going to get

18

judged.

19

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

20

MR. WILLIAMS: God is going to judge you.

21

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

22

MR. WILLIAMS: It's not a laughing

23

matter.

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm not laughing.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, you are.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Next speaker.

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3 MS. MUNOZ: Hi. My name is Euphemia  
4 Muñoz. I was born and raised in Tulare,  
5 California, and I strongly oppose this bill.

6 MR. MUNOZ: Good morning. My name is  
7 Iani Munoz. I was born and raised in Tulare,  
8 California also. I'm an Independent by choice.

9 My opinion on this whole redistricting  
10 matter, just seems to me the old adage of monkey  
11 see, monkey do. And it's unfortunate that we  
12 have to go in this direction simply to oppose  
13 another state that's trying to do the same thing.  
14 Which, in general, I believe they had the right  
15 to do.

16 However, California has already done this  
17 and now is simply throwing a monkey wrench into  
18 something to try to do it also. Thank you very  
19 much. I strongly oppose it.

20 MS. WOITALLA: Hi. My name is Ellen  
21 Woitalla. I am a citizen of Visalia, and I am  
22 also an elected member of the Tulare County GOP.

23 I spent 30 years plus being an elementary  
school teacher. And one of the basic tenets of  
education is learning to be fair.

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This bill is not fair, so I stand before  
you as a retired teacher saying, let's do better,  
let's not redistrict, let's not gerrymander.

6

CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.

7

Thank you.

8

MS. WOITALLA: Yeah. Thank you.

9

MS. VERDUGO: Hi. My name is Sandra  
Verdugo. I live in Visalia, California, Tulare  
county, and I strongly oppose this bill on behalf  
of myself and my family. Thank you.

10

11

12

13

MS. BARAJAS: Hi. My name is Juventina  
Barajas, known as Tina, born in Mexico, but a  
U.S. citizen. I oppose this bill.

14

15

16

We need to be fair and I believe it's  
just going to cause more problems. I oppose this  
bill.

17

18

19

MS. VAUGHN: Hi. I'm Kirsty Vaughn. I'm  
at Visalia, California, and I oppose this bill.

20

21

MS. SNYDER: My name is Valerie Snyder,  
and I'm from Visalia, California, and I oppose  
this bill.

22

23

24

MR. STAIB: Hi. I'm Troy Staib from  
Exeter, California, and I oppose the waste of my  
money, my tax dollars

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They seem like they keep going because y'all keep taking more of them. I'd like to have some of that back. And wasting that money on doing these type -- this type of legislation is unacceptable to me.

8

9

10

11

12

I'm opposed to it, obviously. And I would like to see you guys focus on things that are more pertinent to our day-to-day activities, like reduce the cost of doing business in California.

13

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds. Thank you.

15

16

MR. BRUMLEY: My name is Tom Brumley, and I'm here from Visalia, California.

17

18

19

I speak on behalf of the 30 -- 37 percent of the GOP of California, and opposing this legislation. And I believe it's a waste of time.

20

21

22

And I don't understand how you guys can be in favor or even see it manageable where you're trying to get back at what Texas is doing.

23

Thank you.

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: Next speaker.

MS. BRUMLEY: Hi. My name is Jessica Brumley from Visalia, California, and I

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absolutely oppose this bill as there's way better  
ways to spend our tax dollars. Thank you.

5

6

MS. ESCOBEDO: Ladies and gentlemen, my  
name is Judy Escobedo. I'm from Visalia,  
California. I'm here as a citizen of this state,  
and I would like to make sure that you understand  
that I vehemently oppose this bill.

10

11

We chose, we voted for this bill. We  
voted for this state to have a nonpartisan  
commission so that we could pick our politicians,  
not have our politicians pick our voters. So I'm  
hoping--

15

16

CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.  
Thank you.

17

MS. ESCOBEDO: Thank you.

18

19

MS. SYLVIA ESCOBEDO: Hi, ladies and  
gentlemen. My name is Sylvia Escobedo, and I'm  
originally from Texas. moved here back in '64.  
and we stayed here because we love California.  
But lately, I'm thinking I need to move back to  
Texas. Anyway, I greatly oppose this bill.

24

25

MS. SANTIAGO: My name is Maria Santiago,  
Visalia, California. Strongly oppose the bill.  
And I tell you right now, you think you're going  
to get away with some

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3 do answer -- you will answer to God and God  
4 Almighty.

5 Leave the children alone and leave our  
6 money alone. Use our money for the right things,  
7 not your own desires. Thank you.

8 MS. MORRIS: Hi. I'm Carmen Morris from  
9 Tulare County, and I strongly oppose this bill.

10 MS. PIERCE: Good morning. Thank you for  
11 hearing us today.

12 My name is Rachelle Pierce. I'm from the  
13 Visalia Republican Women. I'm a former member of  
14 the California PTA Board of Managers. I'm a  
15 retired military spouse, mother of three college  
16 students, and a proud native Texan. I oppose  
17 this bill.

18 Your everyday constituent is confused  
19 about where their district is, who their  
20 representative is. I've been working on the  
21 ground. People cannot tell me these things. And  
22 I think that redistricting would actually make it  
23 even worse. Thank you so much for hearing us  
today.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.  
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3 MS. BABB: Hi. My name is Gail Babb.  
4 I'm from Visalia, California, and I strongly  
5 oppose this bill.

6 MS. MORLAKE: I am Marla Morlake. I was  
7 bred and born in Southern California. Moved to  
8 Visalia about 20 years ago. And I strongly  
9 oppose this bill.

10 MS. ESCARSEGA: My name is Edie  
11 Escarsega. I'm from Visalia, born and raised  
12 there, Tulare County. I'm representing all of  
13 the Central Valley also. Strongly oppose this  
14 bill.

15 MR. GALVAN: My name is Gilbert Galvan  
16 from Visalia, California, Tulare County. As the  
17 famous words as Greta Thunberg, listen to me.  
18 Listen to me.

19 How dare you. How dare every one of you  
20 guys for trying to pass this bill. Shame on all  
21 of you. Shame, shame, shame. I oppose this  
22 bill. Thank you.

23 MS. GALVAN: Hi. My name is Evelyn  
Galvan. I'm from Tulare, California, and I  
oppose this bill strongly also.

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3 MR. SHAFFER: Jim Shaffer, native  
4 Californian, Republican taxpayer, live in Taft,  
5 California, and I strongly oppose this bill.

6 MS. DARLING: Faith Darling, Bakersfield,  
7 Kern County.

8 And I have been speaking with a lot of  
9 Democrats that are -- I guess you call them  
10 fence-riders. And so many of them are very  
11 confused as the rest of us. And they are getting  
12 help from a lot of us because they didn't sign up  
13 for this either.

14 So just to let you know, you think you  
15 have a lot of votes on your side and you really  
16 don't. I strongly oppose the redistricting.

17 MR. KAUFMAN: Scott Kaufman, Howard  
18 Jarvis Taxpayers Association. We supported  
19 independent redistricting on the ballot and we  
20 will defend it when it's on the ballot. We  
21 oppose this measure. Thank you.

22 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Lance Christensen,  
23 California Policy Center. The one thing I love  
about this place is we can actually have a debate  
when it's allowed.

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When I started in this building 20 years ago, my boss said, I may not like the results or the outcome, but I appreciate the process.

6

And what we've seen today is a show -- a circus and a show trial. So I hope the people of California see through this. And we oppose this redistricting effort. Thank you.

10

MS. RAMOS: Good morning. My name is Sandra Ramos. I'm also from Visalia, California. And I strongly oppose this bill because it's wrong and should never have even come to this, you know.

15

And also, because it's going to cost taxpayer money. Use the money on something good and useful. Don't waste your time on this. Thank you.

19

MR. RAMOS: Good morning and God bless you all. My name is Daniel Ramos from Legacy Church, Visalia, California. I'd like to say that I strongly oppose this bill.

23

I strongly oppose the nonsense of the leadership of Gavin Newsom and all the Democratic leaders, that they have nothing good to do except to drive people out of California because they

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have no substance to them. We need to have  
common sense again in government, so I --

5

CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.

6

Thank you.

7

MR. RAMOS: Thank you.

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

9

MR. FRIEND: Good morning, Madam Chair,  
honorable Members. Michael Friend, native  
Californian.

12

I was always brought up to believe that  
two wrongs do not make a right. I strongly  
oppose this bill and the blatant hypocrisy. What  
a joke.

16

MR. JOHNSON: My name is Bernie Johnson.  
I'm a resident here. I'm born and raised here in  
California. And I oppose this bill.

19

MS. JACKSON: My name is Jennifer  
Jackson. I'm from Burbank, California. And I'm  
here to speak for the 16,000 people that wrote  
in, took their time to write comments.

23

And you don't have the time to look at  
them and you won't put them in as part of this  
meeting. That's despicable. I am strongly  
opposed to this bill.

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MS. SANDOVAL: Hello, I'm Lynn Sandoval from Hemet in Riverside County. Strongly opposing this whole measure.

This is my first time in Sacramento and observing what goes on here, and I also am really frustrated by seeing how you're silencing the voices.

And it's a huge waste of money. How do we have this kind of money to waste at a time like this in California when so much is getting cut? Thank you.

MR. SANDOVAL: Hi, Mr. Berman.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Good to see you.

MR. SANDOVAL: Hello. My name is Rudy Sandoval, and I'm from Hemet, California, a native Californian.

And I drove all the way from Hemet just to see what a rig operation you guys run over here in Sacramento, and I just want to thank you for proving me right. Thank you. And I do totally oppose this bill.

MR. KROLL: Good morning. My name is David Kroll. I am from San Diego, California.

And I strongly oppose this bill.  
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And this is highly, highly unpopular.  
And you guys are actually doing us a favor, so  
thank you, because people are going to come out  
en masse against this. Have a great day. God  
bless.

MS. KIRKENDALL: Hi. My name is Deborah  
Kirkendall. I'm from Hilmar, Merced County.

And I first want to thank you for this  
honor. My dad and my husband, a disabled army  
veteran -- sorry -- with brain damage because  
they fought for our country, I get to come and  
speak before you, and I thank you for that.  
That's an honor.

But I want to tell you, my husband with  
brain damage, he knows this is wrong, and I'm  
here to say no for me and for him. Thank you for  
the honor to give my word.

MS. MINOR: Bella Minor with Central  
Valley Republican Party. And I strongly oppose  
this bill. And shame on everyone who is a  
support for this bill.

MS. LAU: Hi. I'm Catherine Lau from  
Tracy, California in San Joaquin County, and I  
represent Central Valley Impact Republicans, as  
well as Jim Shoemaker

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And as a native Californian, fourth generation, I am just appalled that you would take this opportunity to try to redistrict and not even -- in less than 24 hours, and not even read the bill. It's really, truly appalling, and I'm really saddened to hear this. And I strongly oppose this.

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: That's 30 seconds.

11

Thank you.

12

MS. LAU: Thank you.

13

MR. BONILLA: Good evening, Committee.

14

My name is Max Bonilla. I'm from Sacramento,

15

California.

16

I'm a taxpayer who would definitely love to see our money going to better things. Two hundred and thirty million could definitely do things like helping rebuild the Palisades, or communities that have been impacted by recent fire -- wildfires, but not this.

22

Not this political gerrymandering. Not this political posturing. Not these ridiculous talking points by Governor Gavin Newsom. Thank you very much.

25

DONNELLA: My name is Donnella, and I oppose.

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MR. GREGORY: Good morning. I'm Dennis Gregory. I'm from Eastvale, here in California.

5

And if you people weren't suffering so much from Trump derangement syndrome, you'd see the right thing and you'd understand what needs to be done in this state and this country. Open your eyes before it's too late.

10

MS. ANGELI: Good morning. Olivia Angeli from Elk Grove. Strongly oppose this.

12

MS. PLENT: Good afternoon. My name is Lena Plent from Chino Hills, California. I strongly oppose this bill.

15

MR. KNUTSEN: Good morning. Lars Knutsen, El Dorado County.

17

There's no political solution to this spiritual problem. And I've been praying for Gavin Newsom since he was the mayor.

19

20

And I'd encourage all of us to take a look at our own hearts. Be led by the true spirit of the living God. And I just ask God to bless you. May his wisdom flow, and tell the devil to get out in Jesus' name.

21

22

23

24

MR. NIIMI: My name is Riley Niimi. I'm from Temecula, California.

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And I want to tell you to oppose this because Republicans in California are already greatly underrepresented. We only have nine congressional seats out of 52, which means we have less than 20 percent representation in Congress, although Republicans make up 40 percent of the State of California. So thank you.

10

MS. ALLERS: Good morning. I'm Priscilla Allers from Montrose, California in Los Angeles county, and I strongly oppose this Bill.

11

12

13

MR. PANTOJA: My name is Adan Pantoja from Riverside, and I strongly oppose this Bill.

14

15

MS. SOPHIA PANTOJA: My name is Sophia Bell from -- my name is Sophia Pantoja from Riverside. California, and I strongly oppose this Bill.

16

17

18

19

MS. CECILIA PANTOJA: My name is Cecilia Pantoja, and I strongly oppose this Bill.

20

21

MS. ANNETTE PANTOJA: My name is Annette Pantoja, and I'm from Riverside, and I strongly oppose this Bill.

22

23

24

MR. JOHNSON: My name is Timothy Johnson from Fontana. There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the Lord. I strongly oppose this

25

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MR. SHOEMAKER: I'm Jim Shoemaker, and  
I'm a candidate for the 9th Congressional  
District, so I do oppose this Bill.

6

I see that -- what's happening. We need  
to go back and let the Commission handle all  
these things. I'd appreciate you guys to vote  
no.

10

MR. SCHULTZ: Hello, Dave Schultz,  
Bakersfield, California. I oppose this bill.

12

I don't understand why we are so involved  
that we have to redistrict our districts because  
something that is happening halfway across the  
country.

16

I oppose this bill. I think we should  
pay attention to what is really important to the  
people of California.

19

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Seeing no  
witnesses in opposition, we'll bring it back to  
the dais.

22

Members, any questions, comments?

23

Assembly Member Bennett.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Thank you very  
much, Madam Chair. I appreciate the indulgence.

I have nine points. I'd like to read them. I'd

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3 like to speak them all, but I want to make sure I  
4 actually get this said properly.

5 And the first point is, the fundamental  
6 question I think in front of us is who should  
7 have control of the power, the vast power of the  
8 federal government.

9 And our founding fathers agreed hundreds  
10 of years ago on a special form of democracy  
11 designed to protect our democracy from power  
12 grabs. They created the rules and norms for how  
13 we compete for power. That's the fundamental  
14 problem that democracies are created to solve.

15 We could have it just be military might.  
16 Whoever's strongest, they get the power. Not in  
17 the United States. We created these rules, and  
18 we're a rule of law, not men. We have checks and  
19 balances. We have a free press. And we created  
20 all kinds of historical norms that kept us all  
21 agreeing we would follow those rules rather than  
22 go to war with each other over power.

23 Democracy requires many of these critical  
24 components to work. Not just one of them, but  
all of these critical components need to work for  
democracy to thrive.

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Autocrats around the world today have learned to grab power by weakening these democratic institutions, rules, and norms. Weakening democracy by attacking and ignoring those rules and norms by intimidation, by deceit, by militarization of our civilian life. Those are all ways you weaken those norms that we have to have if we want to transfer power peacefully, and here in the United States.

12

Autocrats count on democratic advocates to play by the old rules while they grab power using their new rules. And I want to repeat that. Autocrats count on democracy advocates to play by the old rules while they grab power using their new rules.

18

It's a false scenario to say we can win simply by working harder, right? While autocrats grab power using their old rules.

21

A few decades ago, Russia was a democracy. Today, democratic advocates, no matter how hard they work, have no chance of voting Putin out of power. He will kill off any of the stronger opponents that he has.

25

Many of us prefer the old rules. We prefer the agreement to play by those

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rules, right? But when autocrats change the  
rules and the norms that we are using to decide  
who has power, we can either fight back or we can  
potentially permanently lose the ability ever to  
fight back again in the future.

8

That is the question in front of us, in  
spite of all kinds of other distractions we will  
have. What are the rules and norms for how we  
transfer power?

10

11

12

This is an attempt to grab control of the  
power of the House of Representatives with  
redistricting and permanently potentially grab  
that control.

13

14

15

16

That is too big of a risk for us to say,  
well, we like doing it the other way. We like  
the more get along, everybody follow democratic  
way. We simply don't have that choice today.

17

18

19

20

I strongly support this bill. I  
appreciate the Speaker's leadership. I  
appreciate the Chair's leadership in bringing  
this forward. Thank you very much.

21

22

23

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Tangipa.

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. I hope  
you bear with me because I spent a lot of time  
trying to catch up, ~~depos@scanlanstone.com~~ trying to

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inform myself as much as possible. Because we've  
had so little time, so little time that even the  
presenters stated that they didn't even read the  
bill.

7

And I would hope that the authors or --  
don't hold -- or the other co-authors on this  
bill, I hope they don't hold the same sentiment  
that the people of California don't even deserve  
a read on a bill.

12

I have a few technical questions,  
actually. And first and foremost, I do want to  
say thank you to the opposition testimony. I can  
say this, what we've seen today is, I know I'm a  
conservative, I know I'm a Republican, I know  
that we have differences, but the maps that both  
of you worked on, especially in the beginning,  
too, did give representation.

20

Now, I can say that I did not vote on the  
fair Commission mainly because I was 12 years old  
at the time, but I respected it. I truly  
respected it. And a lot of the work and the  
deliberation -- because I was one of those kids  
that was overly, overly into, you know, our  
elected leaders. And a big portion of that is  
because I grew up right across the street from the

25

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Capitol, you know, in one of the poorest

4

communities in the entire state of California.

5

6

And actually one of the roughest gang-

7

affiliated communities. And it was those gang

8

members that actually protected me, paid for me

9

to get into this position.

10

And now I can proudly say, as the first

11

Polynesian individual ever elected to the State

12

of California, you know, it was done by an

13

Independent Redistricting Commission that

14

actually believed in the efficacy of what this

state can be.

15

And there's a lot that we've heard today

16

of testimony, you know, and we've seen a true

17

bipartisan coalition here just trying to protect

18

because California should lead the way.

19

When other states decide to do something

20

else, we shouldn't react to them. We should

21

prove by example that we can do this better.

22

That we create the foundations for the rest of

23

the nation. Because it's supposed to go, as

24

California goes, the nation. That's -- we've

lost that. And that's what we've seen and heard  
today.

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I mean, we can't even read our own bill,  
but we'll decide to present it and vote on it,  
too. That's insanity. And that's heartbreaking  
to the rest of Californians.

7

Because, again, I was one of those kids  
who just obsessed that the policymakers in this  
building actually cared about the people of  
California.

11

But how can you say you actually care  
about the people of California if you didn't even  
read it, you know? And that breaks my heart  
because I spend so much time on this. Because  
I'll work myself to death trying, trying, trying  
to make sure -- I didn't ask a question, but I  
just wanted to make sure --

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No. But you're  
misrepresenting what I said, Mr. Tangipa. And  
you're doing it over and over and over again.

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And simply --

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And I will  
correct the record when it's my time.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I'm just  
asking --

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Assembly Member  
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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

4

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- Assembly Member

5

Berman speak.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I was --

7

no.

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: Tangipa, let's --

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Go ahead. Just

10 know that --

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I just

12

wasn't --

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- Tangipa is

14

absolutely misrepresenting what I said over and

15

over again.

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Do you

17

want me to (inaudible)?

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Which he needs

19

to do to try to justify his position on this

20

bill.

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I can.

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And I understand

23

that.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But you

stated --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Go ahead.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- you  
supported it prior to seeing it. Is that not  
what you said verbatim?

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: What I said is  
that there were discussions about the concept of  
the bill and I absolutely support those concepts.

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Prior to  
reading them, right?

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: The bill is five  
pages long. I'm sorry it took you so long to  
read it.

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'm sorry  
that --

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I  
understand.

18

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- yesterday  
morning was too long --

20

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's okay.

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- for you to be  
able to read a five-page bill.

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's all  
right.

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But we discuss  
as legislators, right?

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah. Uh-huh.

4

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We discuss  
5 concepts. We discuss ideas. We decide whether  
6 or not we're going to support things.

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, because  
8 this bill is attached to so many --

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So I don't  
10 understand why that's a new concept for you.

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's okay.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But I'm glad  
13 that you took 36 hours to --

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- read a five-  
16 page bill.

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It does.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And --

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It does take me  
20 time.

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And I welcome a  
22 debate.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It does take me  
24 time because I will take 36 hours to read a five-  
25 page bill for 40 million people in this state  
because they deserve it. Because they deserve  
it.

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3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It's five pages,  
4 Mr. Tangipa.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's okay.  
6 And those five pages --

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We're not  
8 debating the length of the time it takes to read  
9 five pages. Let's stick to the substance of the  
10 bill, please.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Exactly. Thank  
12 you, Madam Chair. So, truly, I appreciate it  
13 all.

14 Some of my technical questions, too. The  
15 lawyer that is here, so you have gone through the  
16 bill, right? You have read the language. It  
17 probably took you -- you got through it a lot  
18 faster than I did, I assume.

19 Can I ask you who is -- and actually,  
20 we're going to become really good friends. I  
21 hope you know that. Because who is paying your  
22 retainer?

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Excuse me, Madam  
24 Chair. The Assembly Member seems to be making  
veiled threats to my witness, which I don't  
appreciate. Well, I don't know who he's talking

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3 about becoming really good friends. Let's just  
4 ask some questions and get some answers.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: If we could definitely  
6 stick to just asking the questions --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- through the Chair.  
9 Thank you.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, because  
11 he is here to answer the legal question --

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Doesn't mean  
13 he's going to be your friend.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. That's  
15 fine.

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, are we  
17 just going to -- are we going to allow my  
18 colleague to ask questions, or is this going to  
19 be drawn out even longer?

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But I just would  
21 like to --

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I don't know.  
23 You did this (inaudible).

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: It's kind of going back  
and forth there. Let's have one person speak at  
a time.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, I  
asked you to respect us to ask these questions.

5

CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Tangipa,  
please ask your question to the witness.

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: As long as you  
don't make veiled threats to my witnesses, that's  
no problem at all.

10

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: A threat to  
(inaudible).

12

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Let's just let a  
Assembly Member Tangipa ask his question, please.

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, who is  
funding the retainer for you to be here, and how  
long have you seen the language in this bill?  
When did you first get it and when did you start  
seeing it? Because I did not get it till  
yesterday. So how much time did you have to  
review this?

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Go ahead.

22

MR. SILVA: Mr. Tangipa, I'm here to  
answer technical questions about how the bill  
works. I'm not here to talk -- reveal attorney-  
client privileged information about the  
representation I provided.

24

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3 into the work product. I can answer questions  
4 about the face of the measure.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, just for  
6 me, since it takes me so long to read, I just  
7 wanted to know how long you had to read it, and  
8 if you as a representative --

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's stick to the  
10 merits of the bill. Let's ask questions about --

11 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Isn't there -- this  
12 is back for comment.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: How long it takes  
14 somebody to read a bill is not --

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: (Inaudible) covered  
16 by attorney-client privilege.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible.) We  
18 consult with people before we introduce those  
19 bills.

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: This isn't a  
22 foreign concept. This isn't a lack of  
23 transparency.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So you admitted  
that --

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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Tangipa,  
4 if you have a question about the merits of the  
5 bill, please ask it.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Then  
7 we'll go into even more of the merits.

8 So under the new redistricting proposal,  
9 in a lot of these -- and the main reason why I'm  
10 asking for so much time is because the questions  
11 that I prepped yesterday when I saw this all  
12 changed because the maps changed at 8:00 p.m.  
13 last night.

14 And I think that it's well within the  
15 process to say like I should know -- the maps  
16 changed at eight o'clock, at 8:00 p.m. last  
17 night.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: The maps were released  
19 on Friday, I believe, and they have not changed.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: They change per  
21 the census tract.

22 Madam Chair, the fact that you don't know  
23 that should cause worry to everybody.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Assembly Member  
Tangipa --

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CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

8:00 a.m. yesterday. Sorry. Sorry. Not

8:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. yesterday.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: They changed at

8:00 p.m. last night. There was a change at

8:00 p.m.

CHAIR PELLERIN: My understanding, it was

8:00 a.m. But --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I am eager to

hear your questions --

CHAIR PELLERIN: What are your

questions --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- in regards to

whatever changes there were to the maps.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Regardless, what is your

question to the merits of the bill?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Well,

that Clovis would be split into three different

congressional districts. Not anymore, because

the last change that I got as of 2 hours ago on

the new maps, now they are kept into one

district.

Can you explain the rationale for  
splitting up Clovis residents, thus weakening  
their voice?

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I think that  
would be a better question for the authors of the  
bill that actually has to do with the maps.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well --

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: My bill has to  
do with putting -- or the Speaker's bill --  
constitutional amendment has to do with giving  
voters the opportunity to have their voices heard  
and whether or not we will have a special  
election on November 4th.

13

So I am not prepared to speak to the  
specific iterations of the maps, but I believe  
somebody will be presenting that bill after this  
ACA, who hopefully will be better prepared to  
discuss individual line drawing of communities.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, the maps  
are pertinent to this ACA because they're all  
synonymous.

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But the ACA is  
to give voters the voice and an opportunity to  
have their voices heard on whether or not they  
want to have a mid-decade redistricting.

24

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Can you speak  
to the cost of the ACA and how much it's going to  
cost the taxpayers of Colorado when?

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: About the same  
as the recall --

4

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How much is  
that?

6

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- that  
Republicans put forward.

8

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How much is  
that?

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I believe  
it's --

12

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, but that  
recall was done by the citizens' initiative. It  
wasn't done by this body. Fundamentally  
(inaudible).

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But the answer  
remains the same, that it's the same cost. Your  
question was what's the cost, and I said it's the  
same as the recall. Doesn't matter who put it on  
the ballot.

21

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But how could  
you say its the same as the recall --

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible)  
answer.

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- since  
2021 -- or 2021 to when we've seen

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3 40 percent inflation rates. So is it 40 percent  
4 more with the tariffs?

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, I mean,  
6 with the tariffs that Trump just put into effect,  
7 it's probably more than 40 percent inflation  
8 rates.

9 But I believe the cost of the special  
10 election is --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, I'd  
12 ask you to speak the merits --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- approximately  
14 \$200 million.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- of the  
16 question that I asked. Just how much does it  
17 cost?

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible.)

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa, excuse me.  
20 Could you just let him answer the question? He's  
21 doing so. Just close your mouth, open your ears,  
22 listen to him for a second.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Did you  
(inaudible)? I just said I believe it's  
approximately \$200 million

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CHAIR PELLERIN: We all need to listen to  
each other. So when someone else is speaking,  
let's have one speaker at a time.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So why do I  
have to close my mouth when somebody else  
interrupts me?

9

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm just saying -- no.  
I'm saying it to both of you.

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do you not find  
that --

12

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm going to say that to  
both of you. I'm going to say that to both of  
you. Please refrain from speaking when the other  
person is speaking.

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you, Madam  
Chair.

18

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Ask the  
question.

20

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: How much does  
this cost?

22

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is there a  
actual fiscal analysis on how much this will cost  
the State of California in its current 2025-2026  
cost. Not to the 2021. You can't -- it doesn't  
make sense.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, I think  
the recall was approximately \$200 million, so  
this will be over \$200 million.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I think  
somewhere between 200 and \$250 million.

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. And so  
with a rolling and looming \$20 billion deficit  
predicted by the LAO all the way until 2028, you  
believe that it's within the right that the State  
of California and this legislative body, not the  
people who put it on the initiative -- when it  
came to the recall election, that was done  
through a citizens' initiative. Nobody here did  
that.

This is being done by us, the legislators  
here. Hang on.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: By all means,  
please.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'll let you  
pontificate as long as you want.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah. Thank  
you. I appreciate that.

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Is, do you believe that that 200 -- and  
we can adjust cost for inflation -- \$300 million  
is what a state in a massive deficit and a  
rolling deficit year over year predicted by the  
LAO is what this state should be spending money  
on?

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Can I answer?

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, sir.

11

12 Mr. Tangipa.

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

14

15 And the reason for that is because the damage  
16 that this Republican Congress has done to the  
17 State of California makes \$250 million looks like  
18 couch cushion change.

19

20 Santa Clara county, is going to voters -- to the  
21 ballot to try to recoup some of the over  
22 \$1 billion, over \$1 billion just to the County of  
23 Santa Clara, to their health system because of  
24 Trump's big, beautiful bill and the decimation  
25 that that is having that all nine Republican  
Members of California's congressional delegation  
voted on like a bunch of Scanlan's followers.

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No matter the damage that is doing to  
their communities, the billions of dollars that  
the Republican Congress is taking away, and the  
cost that that's having for Californians and  
California taxpayers.

8

And so that's just Santa Clara county,  
two million people, and it's over a \$1 billion  
hit that their healthcare system is taking that  
the poorest residents of Santa Clara county rely  
on just to get their basic healthcare. Over  
\$1 billion. Imagine the cost that this  
Republican Congress is costing the entire State  
of California.

16

So do I think that we should spend  
\$200 million for the opportunity to avoid  
billions of dollars in Republican hits to our  
budget? I absolutely do. And I'm curious to see  
if voters will agree with me.

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA:

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The biggest  
thing that I'm looking at -- and, again, we've  
had very, very little time, very little time.

25

The question for the Members that were on  
the Citizens Redistricting Commission, how much

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time on average did you spend when it comes to  
developing maps?

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MS. RAYA: Well, we were the first  
Commission. And because the Voters Act for  
Congress -- voted First Act for Congress passed  
pretty late, we got the congressional map along  
with the state legislative maps, and then we had  
to do it one month earlier. So I think in total  
we had seven-and-a-half months.

12

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Seven-and-a-  
half months.

14

15

MS. RAYA: Yeah. Which we worked pretty,  
pretty long hours to meet the deadlines.

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How many  
meetings do you think you can estimate around?

18

19

20

21

22

MS. RAYA: We had about a hundred  
meetings. Some of them were dedicated public  
input hearings and some of them were business  
meetings. We always had public input available  
at those meetings.

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you. And  
how many hours do you think?

25

MS. DYE: It would be the same.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

MS. RAYA: [depos@scanlanstone.com](mailto:depos@scanlanstone.com)  
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MS. DYE: The Commission was very diligent in all Members participating to the fullest.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: What do you think were some of the best protections that the independent redistricting, you know, really implemented, you know, some of the rules and stipulations? Can you go over that?

Because when -- you know, I just have very, very large, very large worries, especially with this ACA, that not only does it open us up for litigation just simply in the way that it's written, but that we're going to do this and then -- you know, some of us believe that we should spend hundreds of millions of dollars for something that will be sued and will be challenged, or could be implemented, and then -- I mean, we don't even, it won't even work by getting this onto the ballot.

And the big reason why I say that is because when it states here that redistricting in all the other states, so there's a portion of the bill that talks about that this won't kick into effect unless Texas, Florida and all the other states, you know, don't pass it unless court

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ordered. Unless court ordered. That's in the  
bill.

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Texas on the 7th of July got a DOJ  
notice, stated that they had a -- they had to do  
something different. So if they eventually get a  
court order, and we come back to this, we're  
going to do this ACA and it's not even going to  
be able to be implemented because the rules and  
stipulations under this ACA change that.

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So the protections under the Independent  
Redistricting Commission, can you speak to the  
merits of that?

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MS. DYE: So when we talk about the CRC,  
we talk about its independence, its transparency  
and the fact that it's community centered. So  
the independence is that it's a multipartisan  
Commission consisting of five Democrats, five  
Republicans and four Independents.

21

22

23

24

And as you may have heard me mention, we  
rotated the chair and the vice chair, so that  
every meeting we switched it up so that no party  
was in control at any time.

25

For transparency, everything we did was  
in the light of day. We drew lines in real time  
when we could, especially on the refinement

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3 period. Every map that we asked -- we directed  
4 our line drawing consultants to create was  
5 immediately shared with the public.

6 People were allowed to comment as these  
7 maps are being presented, and we would receive  
8 that input and put it in the public input file.

9 The current Commission, by the way, has a  
10 very nice dashboard showing all of the public  
11 comment they got and interactive. Wish we had  
12 that technology back in 2011.

13 And then, finally, that it's a very  
14 community centered process. So the fact that we  
15 had a hundred meetings that anyone could come and  
16 testify, or they could email. We were getting,  
17 you know, tweets at the time, and, you know,  
18 letters, hand-drawn maps, all kinds of different  
19 public testimony that we all worked really hard  
20 to read.

21 We had over, I think, 22,000 public  
22 comments in our cycle. I think the current  
23 Commission had about 35,000 public comments,  
24 thanks to new technology. So that was a very  
critical part, was this collaboration and  
interaction with the public.

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3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah. I spent  
4 a lot of time just listening into these  
5 commissions, and I could tell you that I truly,  
6 truly thank you for the sacrifice that you made  
7 to sit on there. Because, I mean, I did it from  
8 a phone and I got to listen because I cared about  
9 my community. This is before any political  
10 aspirations, any, any goals, just to listen into  
11 the Commission.

12 And it's something that I can say, you  
13 know, as they drew the maps in real time, that's  
14 a process, right? That the maps have to be drawn  
15 in public view and you can see the lines. That's  
16 part of the Redistricting Commission, right?

17 MS. DYE: Yeah. Just to be clear, the  
18 initial maps, you know, we would give direction  
19 in public to our line drawing consultants because  
20 took a lot of computer crunching.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Uh-huh.

22 MS. DYE: And they would come back and  
23 present them to make sure it was consistent with  
our direction. And those were available for the  
public to view and comment on

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And when they were official draft maps, they had to be posted for 14 days with no changes.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: One of the coolest things that I got to see is like which communities would come out, and they'd all say, keep us together and do all this. And just to see like the people of California really to just say, like, have a vested interest.

12

13

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah. I think there's no doubt that we support the work of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

15

16

17

But if we could bring the conversation back to the merits of the bill, that would be great.

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19

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21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Could you continue on some of the transparency portions of that and how the transparency is different compared to the bill that we're seeing today?

22

23

24

MS. DYE: Well, so live map drawing, interactive map drawing, we were not allowed to discuss redistricting matters outside of a public meeting, so commissioners were barred from discussing anything

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CHAIR PELLERIN: And I'd like to bring in  
a Assembly Member Bennett. You have a question?

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Yeah, I just  
have a question, and that is that, you know, when  
you watch committees at the national level, and  
oftentimes committees have some kind of time  
limit on each member in terms of the amount of  
time they get to talk, or else literally we could  
keep going and asking more questions about  
transparency and more questions about  
transparency.

14

I'm just raising the question. I would  
propose that this issue may be one of those ones  
where we need to have some kind of time limit. I  
want it to be fair, want everybody to have -- but  
there's -- it is appropriate for legislative  
bodies to at some point in time identify so a  
Member can focus on their most important  
questions before their time limit is up.

22

CHAIR PELLERIN: Absolutely. We're  
trying to bring the conversation back to the  
merits of the bill.

25

There's no doubt that we honor and  
appreciate the work that you've done for our  
state, but these are different and different

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times now, and we're no longer governing in a  
democracy. So we are having to move quickly in  
order to meet the timelines of doing this work  
and giving the voters an opportunity to vote on  
whether they support these maps or not.

8

Does any other Member have a question on  
the content of the bill?

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But, Madam  
Chair, I'm not done yet.

12

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Okay.

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And so I  
know --

15

CHAIR PELLERIN: What is your question  
about the merits of the bill?

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah, yeah.  
It's mainly I'm just trying to highlight the  
transparency differences between the ACA and  
that, so -- and I think it's --

21

CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's focus on the  
merits of this bill, on what's being proposed  
today.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is a comparison  
to the current iteration of what we do now to  
what we're trying to do not to the merits of this  
bill? Is that what you're asking?

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CHAIR PELLERIN: I think you've made your  
point on that. And if we can ask any other  
questions about ACA 8, please do so.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I  
completely agree, and I understand. And, you  
know, I mean, I just tried to get a time limit on  
me for something that we just heard had thousands  
of hours of negotiation, thousands and thousands  
and thousands of hours, and community meetings,  
hundreds of meetings. And now I'm being  
attempted to stop with 20 minutes of questioning.

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm just --

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Does that not  
worry us?

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Madam Chair --

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But when it  
comes to the transparency --

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me.

21

Assembly Member Bennett.

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: It is always  
appropriate for the Chair to identify when an  
appropriate time limit has come. That's normal  
procedure. So, yes, at some point in time. I'm  
not saying it's 20 minutes. It's up to the  
Chair.

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But the issue should be how much time is too much time for anybody to take to dominate so that we can go on and do the legislative business.

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: So that somebody doesn't abuse this privilege that we all have to speak here.

11

CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes. We have a lot of work to do and we want to keep the questions to the content and merits of the bill.

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Well, then I will continue, hopefully, Mr. Berman.

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It's up to the Chair.

18

CHAIR PELLERIN: Do you have another question?

20

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I do.

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Oh, perfect.

22

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Under the new redistricting proposal, Fresno would be split into four different congressional districts. How does that benefit the citizens of Fresno?

24

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Again, we're not  
doing the content of the districts. This is  
about the ACA 8. That is, putting the measure  
before the voters to do a constitutional  
amendment. That is what we're talking about  
here.

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: ACA 8 is --

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible) the  
other bill is going to be presented.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The contents of  
the bill in ACA 8, it states AB 604 and the maps.

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: Uh-huh.

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How is that not  
pertinent to this?

17

CHAIR PELLERIN: Because I think we need  
to be speaking to the author of that bill as far  
as the map and the lines and what they're doing.

20

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: There's a  
direct line between what can be done. So if --

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Sorry. I guess  
I was just --

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- if AB 604  
doesn't pass, then ACA 8 no longer moves forward.  
Because it can't, because it's written into the  
legislation. I'm trying to explain.

25

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5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'll defer to  
6 the authors of that bill when they present that  
7 bill in front of this Committee, I'm guessing  
8 around midnight, to give an opportunity to  
9 discuss the specific line drawing of different  
0 communities, like I mentioned about half an hour  
1 ago.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'm sorry?

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: That's not a  
22 question for me. That's up to the chair of the  
23 Committee, so ...

be -- they're not -- ~~depos@scam1anstone.com~~ to our  
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Members, and then they will be made public after  
the bill is processed.

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. How are  
we supposed to vote on this, like when we haven't  
even seen those public comments?

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, you have  
the five-page bill in front of you, and so I  
think the -- what you are voting on is the bill.  
It is not the public comments.

10

11

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So on that  
five-page bill it states AB 604 and SB 280.

14

Okay. Yeah. It took me a little while  
because. Those are longer than this one. It is.  
Yeah.

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So on that  
five-page bill it states AB 604 and SB 280.  
Those bills are hundreds of pages long. Since  
they're attached to each other, have you read  
those?

18

19

20

21

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I have not read  
every page of those bills.

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It took me a  
little while because

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I bet. Those  
are longer than this one.

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It is.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

7

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So, you know,  
I'm just -- since they're attached to each

9

other --

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

11

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- they cannot  
pass without the other one not passing. I really

13

do think the merits of one or the other are very

14

important to that.

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Uh-huh.

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And so is it  
possible that these maps are struck down in

18

court, and we're about to spend hundreds of

19

millions of dollars because of the way that we've

20

done this with such urgency?

21

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'm not prepared  
to predict what the courts might do.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Point of order.  
Point of order.

CHAIR PELLERINO: Okay. Yes.  
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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Could I make a motion that every Member's time speaking here is limited to 25 minutes?

6

(Pause on the record.)

7

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm trying to provide opportunity for people to speak to the measures and ask the questions that they have.

10

I know this is a very fast-moving process. I've already explained the reason why we are moving quickly on this issue. And I don't want people to be abusing this opportunity to ask pertinent questions related to the bills.

15

So give me one second here.

16

(Pause on the record.)

17

CHAIR PELLERIN: So I believe the questions you've asked so far have been answered. Do you have additional questions?

20

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, ma'am.

21

CHAIR PELLERIN: You may go ahead and ask another one.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

24

Is there a work into the bill with the fiscal cost of legal challenges?

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'm sorry, say that one more time.

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3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is there a work  
4 into the bill for legal challenges that are --  
5 that I presume are going to show up left and  
6 right?

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Is there work in  
8 the bill?

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is there a --  
10 when lawsuits --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Happen.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- happen --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- do we  
15 have -- are we prepared for that with this ACA?

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We have a very  
17 robust Department of Justice that is prepared to  
18 defend new laws that are passed by the  
19 Legislature, yes.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The way that  
21 the districts are drawn, you know, it really  
22 worries me that it makes it possible for us to  
23 not just spend the \$300 million to get this onto  
the ballot, but then to open up our communities  
and the State of California into more litigation.

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So when the lawsuits happen at the local  
county level as well, because they're split up,  
who's going to pay for that?

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, actually,  
a big distinction between these maps that were  
drawn in California and the maps that are  
currently being passed by the State of Texas, for  
example, are California's maps strictly abide by  
the Federal Voting Rights Act, which the Texas  
maps don't.

13

And so we've actually put ourselves in a  
very good position to defend the maps that have  
been drawn because the Voting Rights Act and the  
principles of the Voting Rights Act were taken  
into very high consideration when those maps were  
drawn.

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, that's  
interesting. The statement that you made is that  
Texas did not follow that.

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Correct.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It's bad.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So does that  
mean that Texas has

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It depends on  
what the courts do. I'm not a judge.

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

6

CHAIR PELLERIN: Again, can we bring the  
conversation back to the merits of ACA 8?

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This bill is  
written specifically triggering if Texas  
redistricts.

10

11

CHAIR PELLERIN: Right.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So it's in the  
bill. The name Texas is in the bill.

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: So is the  
question if Texas -- if Texas's maps are thrown  
out, would this move forward? Is that your  
question?

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, maybe I  
can ask -- I can ask your legal --

19

20

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'll go ahead  
and ask.

21

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- legal  
counsel anyway.

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But -- so the  
question is, if -- just so I understand the  
question --

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Uh-huh.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- if Texas's  
maps are determined to be unconstitutional by the  
courts --

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Uh-huh.

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- then would  
California -- would that trigger, actually  
trigger for the ACA? I think that's the  
question.

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, it  
actually states if they get a court order, it  
doesn't trigger it.

12

13

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, that -- so  
that was put in there, I believe, in regards to  
some other states. Maybe Ohio, is it --

15

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- that --

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Florida.

20

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- has --

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah, Florida.

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- has some  
different situations.

23

24

For Texas, that's the Legislature.  
There's no court.

25

And I know you alluded earlier to the  
federal Department of Education. You're not a

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court, even though I know Trump wants them to be.

4

And so that is not -- actually, when the DOJ

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sends a letter to Texas, that's not a court

6

order.

7

But if -- I believe your question is, if

8

the Texas maps are thrown out by the courts,

9

would California -- and no other state has passed

10

a partisan gerrymander --

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- would

13

Texas -- would Californians move forward? Am I

14

understanding just the crux of the question?

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Great.

17

Do you have thoughts on that?

18

MR. SILVA: The way the -- as you point

19

out, the way that the trigger works in the

20

measure is that it's only triggered if -- or it

21

would not be triggered if another state,

22

including Texas, is forced to redistrict -- is

23

required to redistrict by a federal court order,

24

so that's correct.

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So Texas

decided to stop and then they got a court order.

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300 millions of dollars, and then we couldn't  
even redistrict because of that work in, right?

5

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Assembly Member,  
I agree with you that I wish Texas wasn't doing  
this. And, you know, this was not on my bingo  
card a month ago when we broke for summer recess.

9

10

But, unfortunately, under the edict of  
President Trump, Texas Republicans are rushing  
through --

11

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's not  
accurate.

13

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- a partisan  
redistricting in --

15

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I think there  
was a lawsuit, Petteway v. --

17

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- in Texas.

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- Galveston  
County --

20

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I mean, I just  
ask for the same common courtesy --

22

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- that you  
demanded. Thank you, sir.

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But there was  
a -- there was a -- [depos@scanlanstone.com](mailto:depos@scanlanstone.com)  
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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And so -- I'm  
sorry.

4

5

CHAIR PELLERIN: Again, one person, one  
person at a --

6

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Madam Chair.

8

9

CHAIR PELLERIN: One person at a time,  
please. Thank you.

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And so when  
Texas -- when Trump demanded -- I'm sorry, let me  
get this straight.

12

13

When Trump said out loud that he was  
entitled, entitled to five additional Republican  
congressional districts in Texas -- which, for  
the record, is an insane thing for any President  
of the United States to think, let alone say out  
loud.

14

15

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19

But when he said that he was entitled to  
five more Republican congressional districts in  
Texas, and all the Texas legislators immediately  
lined up to do whatever Trump wanted, that forced  
us to put this together. Not because we want to,  
but because we have to.

20

21

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23

24

25

And that's why the trigger language is  
in, and that's why the trigger language is in the  
constitutional amendment.

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down -- which I really hope they do. If Texas  
backs down from their partisan gerrymander, per  
the edict of Trump and his entitlements, then  
this will not go into effect. And that's exactly  
why that's there.

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And that's what  
I'm saying is, because of previous lawsuits like  
Petteway v. Galveston County, which went through  
in Texas at the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals  
and is now sitting on the docket for the Supreme  
Court to weigh in on, that happened in Texas  
claiming that some of their districts were seen  
as unconstitutional.

16

That if they receive a court order -- and  
this is why it's important to me. If they  
receive a court order because they back down and  
stop, then we in the State of California are  
about to spend \$300 million to do nothing.

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: So --

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And that's the  
part --

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Madam Chair,  
point of order.

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. I think -- all  
right. We have a point of order.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: This is a clear  
abuse -- this is an attempt to try to stretch  
this out.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This is very  
personal.

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: This is a clear  
abuse of the discretion that we all have --

10

11

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: -- in terms of  
asking questions.

13

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm trying to be patient  
with you, and you have been asking the same  
questions over again, and your questions have  
been answered.

15

16

17

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Madam, can  
we --

19

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: This author is not  
prepared to --

21

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Can we move on  
to other speakers?

23

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to move on  
to some other questions --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair -- Page 127  
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CHAIR PELLERIN: -- in regards to the  
bill.

5

6

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- this is very  
important to me because of the cost. And the  
main reason why --

8

9

CHAIR PELLERIN: And the cost has been  
stated very clearly.

10

11

Does any other Member have a question in  
regards to ACA 8?

12

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But there's --

14

15

CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me.  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: --  
significantly more.

16

17

CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,  
please.

19

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: Give me one minute,  
please.

21

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: My --

23

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm asking --  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This entire  
break --

CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: My sister --

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CHAIR PELLERIN: I have one thing to say  
here.

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- was put on  
hospice because of Medi-Cal couldn't afford --

7

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm asking to see if any  
other Member has questions in regards to this  
bill.

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This last -- my  
sister was put on hospice because the State of  
California couldn't afford to pay it anymore  
because she was on Medi-Cal.

14

(Simultaneous speakers - inaudible.)

15

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. I do not -- I am  
sorry for that.

17

We need to bring control back to this.

18

Hey.

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And so I'm  
asking --

21

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm trying to get some  
control here.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- for the  
financials here.

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: And you are speaking  
when I'm asking you to please stop. Just give me  
one minute here.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, ma'am.

4

CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm asking if any other  
5 Member has a question in relationship to ACA 8.

6

We've given you plenty of time to ask  
7 questions and you're asking the same question  
8 over again. The questions have been answered.

9

Give me one second to see if anyone else  
10 has something to say. Can you please yield the  
11 floor to somebody else for a minute?

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Am I able to  
13 then return and ask more questions? Because the  
14 funding is important. It's very important.

15

CHAIR PELLERIN: And the funding has been  
16 clearly stated.

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. But --

18

CHAIR PELLERIN: So any other Member have  
19 a question?

20

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I have  
21 another question for the funding for Fresno  
22 county.

23

CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Bennett.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Yes. I have  
two quick points. Yes, every one of these issues  
is important, funding

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But the other thing that's important is that we have a responsibility to meet certain time frames to be able to actually adopt legislation.

7

And so it is appropriate for us to weigh all of these issues, the important issues of the bill, but also the timing issues that we have to operate under. This is not the only bill that this Assembly is going to deal with.

12

But I mentioned a number of techniques that autocrats use when they try to grab power, and it is deceit and it is intimidation. And intimidation comes in lots of different forms. It's militarization of civilian life.

17

But probably one of the most common things being used is literally distraction of the public with all kinds of other issues instead of focusing on the basic fundamental issue.

21

And so we'll talk about how cool was the redistricting that we did before. We all agree it was cool. The question is, is that -- going back to that, is that going to protect us from this power grab by autocrats?

25

And that's what we have to make sure we don't get distracted

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going on that says, come up with anything you can  
to distract people from the fundamental issue  
here, a power grab by autocrats that can't be  
fought by the old rules.

7

So we need two things. One, to pay  
attention to that, and to pay attention to the  
fact that we have a certain amount of time to get  
the legislative business done. And it's  
appropriate for us all to be limited into how  
much time we get to talk because none of us --  
even on the Assembly floor, we have a five-minute  
rule.

15

Certainly in a committee, we could have  
some kind of rule that says you don't get an  
unlimited amount of time.

18

The Chair, I strongly request, will  
assert that. Thank you.

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: Absolutely. And I think  
we've deliberated on this measure quite a bit.

22

Is there any other Member who has a  
question?

24

Assembly Member Stefani.

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Not so much a  
question. I just want to weigh in. Thank you,

Madam Chair, for this deposition.

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And I want to thank Assembly Member  
Berman for presenting this bill.

5

6

And I just want to recognize and  
associate myself with the comments of Assembly  
Member Bennett in terms of the theater that we  
are witnessing here. It is absolute theater.

9

10

We all know, we all know how we feel  
about what's happening in Texas. You feel one  
way, we feel another. We are responding to what  
Texas is doing. That is all. That is all that  
is happening here.

14

We have a different idea on how to  
respond to autocrats who want to basically  
control this country in an unfair way by  
redistricting in a way that completely avoids  
voter input. And that's what Texas is doing.  
And that's why California is responding.

20

So don't sit here and play games when on  
April 9th, 2025, when AB 1441 was before you by  
Soria, which directed the County of Merced to  
establish an independent citizens redistricting  
commission to ensure fairly drawn districts that  
take into account demographics and communities of  
interest, when the Republican on this Committee

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voted no. So don't sit here and play games. We  
know what's at stake. Don't interrupt me.

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,  
that is -- that is --

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Do not  
interrupt me.

9

CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: You have had --

11

CHAIR PELLERIN: She is speaking.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Don't interrupt  
her.

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: We are letting her  
speak.

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I as --

17

CHAIR PELLERIN: We are letting her  
speak.

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I am speaking  
now. I have not spoken yet. Do not --

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- interrupt  
me.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Do not  
interrupt me. I --

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of --  
point of order.

5

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: This is the  
Democrats' response --

7

8

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Wait. I --  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- to what is  
happening --

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But Madam  
Chair, you stated to me --

12

13

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- in Texas --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- that I had  
to remain on the purpose of the bill.

15

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- what might  
happen in Ohio, what might happen in Missouri.  
It's a blatant attempt --

18

19

20

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- to control  
the elections.

21

22

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: And this is  
California's response.

24

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Point of order.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: We have come up  
with a way to respond and this is --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order. Page 135  
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ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- the bill  
that we are presenting today.

5

You play stupid games, you get stupid  
prizes.

6

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: And that's what  
you are doing.

9

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: What is your point of  
order?

11

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I was  
constantly reminded to remain to the pertinence  
of the bill.

13

14

15

What does that bill in Merced have  
anything to do with this one?

16

17

And then I was constantly reminded,  
whenever I brought up Texas, to remain to the  
pertinence of the bill. So I would ask the same,  
please. Thank you.

18

19

20

21

CHAIR PELLERIN: Your point of voter was  
not well-taken.

22

23

Assembly Member Stefani, do you have any  
other comments?

24

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I support this  
bill, and I urge anyone that cares about  
democracy to support

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Is that a motion?

4

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: We moved the  
5 bill already.

6

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We have a  
7 motion --

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, I  
9 have questions.

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- and a second on the  
11 bill.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam --

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: We are trying to wrap up  
14 the vote on this bill.

15

If any Member who has not spoken yet has  
16 a question, please ask your question.

17

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Can I use the poster  
18 boards that I brought?

19

CHAIR PELLERIN: We have not gotten  
20 approval for any props, so, no.

21

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm asking for  
22 approval.

23

CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

24

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Well, I'll  
25 tell you what's on the poster boards. They're  
great. I'll show you at the press conference  
after.

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California's Citizens Redistricting Commission was born out of voter frustration with politicians gaming the system for their own benefit. Twice the people of California voted to take the power of drawing district lines away from the Legislature and give it to an independent body that operates with full transparency, open hearings, and strict rules, as we have heard, to prevent partisan gerrymandering.

This reform was not handed down by politicians. It was demanded and approved by voters. We are dismissing the will of those voters. Now, Governor Newsom, Democrat party bosses and Democrat lawmakers want to take the power away from the voters.

Three measures, ACA 8, SB 280, and AB 604, represent a coordinated effort to tear down independent redistricting and hand power back to the very politicians voters explicitly rejected. It is a blatant attempt to gerrymander congressional districts for partisan gain.

Even worse, it would force taxpayers to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a rushed, confusing special election at a time when

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California is already facing severe budget shortfalls and deep cuts to essential services like education, public safety, and healthcare.

6

I have questions. So ACA 8 cuts directly against the heart of California's democratic reforms. Voters twice went to the ballot box to take redistricting power away. So here are my questions.

10

11

Voters enshrined independent redistricting in the Constitution to prevent politicians from rigging the system. How does ACA 8 comply with the constitutional ban on favoring or discriminating against a political party?

16

17

And really quickly, Mr. Berman --

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: By all means.

19

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- who is your client, sir?

20

21

CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's stick to the question.

22

23

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well, he said he had attorney-client privilege, so that's pertinent.

24

25

MR. SILVA: I'm not here to talk about who my client is. I'm just here to talk about the substance of the deposition.

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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Assembly Member  
4 Berman, please answer the question.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: So going back.  
6 So the question was, how does the constitutional  
7 amendment amend the Constitution to allow this to  
8 happen?

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So there's a  
10 constitutional ban on favoring or discriminating  
11 against a political party.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And this is a  
13 constitutional amendment.

14 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What language in this  
15 is saying that you are reversing that  
16 specifically?

17 MR. SILVA: Well, the bill not withstands  
18 any other provision of this Constitution. So any  
19 criteria that currently exist in the Constitution  
20 regarding redistricting are suspended for  
21 purposes of this redistricting.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I understand. But  
23 what specific language, legal language, did you  
24 put in there saying that we are now changing --  
that we can now discriminate against a political  
party?

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I think he said  
that, but I'm going to ask him to repeat it.

5

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yeah.

6

MR. SILVA: Yeah. Again, the language in  
this provision not withstands any other provision  
in the Constitution, including the criteria that  
you're identifying.

10

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So we're throwing the  
Constitution in the trash and starting all over.  
Why should --

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We are --

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: Your question's been  
answered.

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We are asking  
voters --

18

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: (Inaudible.)

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We are asking  
California's voters whether or not they want to  
adopt this constitutional amendment,  
notwithstanding what is currently in the  
Constitution. We are not doing that. This does  
not go into effect if the Legislature passes it.  
Twenty million California voters have to vote to  
approve the constitutional amendment. That's the  
system we have in California.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yes, I got that. So why should lawmakers override the will of the people who have twice told us that they want to keep the redistricting in the hands of the people that we have here testifying that have given wonderful reasons why it should stay there?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I appreciate the question, and I think it's an important one.

We, once again, are asking the voters whether or not they want to approve this change. So this is not the Legislature approving this change.

This is the Legislature putting on the ballot the opportunity for every California voter in 2025 whether or not this is a change that they approve.

And I know it was jokingly mentioned earlier that my colleague and friend, Assembly Member Tangipa, was not able to vote on the original redistricting. I don't think that's a joke.

I think it's a very important point. And the point is that, since 2010, an estimated 3.6 million California voters have died, and there are 6 million

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to vote now than in 2010, including two very  
important voices in California, you two, Vice  
Chair Macedo and Assembly Member Tangipa. You  
did not have a voice in that decision.

7

Over half of registered voters in  
California did not have a voice in that decision.

9

And so what we are saying is let's give

10

California voters in 2025, half of which weren't

11

even registered voters in 2010, a chance to have

12

their voice be heard. And I can think of nothing

13

more democratic than doing that.

14

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So then why not a  
census to see who we have in California, who's  
registered to vote?

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We did a census,  
I believe, four years ago.

19

CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes. Thank you.

20

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay.

21

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. All right.

22

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: One more question.

23

CHAIR PELLERIN: We've deliberated on

24

this measure --

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You have given other  
Members plenty of time to speak. Please --

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CHAIR PELLERIN: How many more questions  
do you --

5

6

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- I have questions  
prepared.

7

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. What other  
question do you have?

9

10

11

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: (Inaudible.)

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And Madam  
Chair, I have some more questions as well.

12

13

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: We are done with the  
questions. We're going to try to wrap this up  
and put this to a vote.

15

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But --

CHAIR PELLERIN: Macedo, please ask your  
final question.

18

19

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22

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: My final question?  
Madam Chair, I came prepared after you gave me 24  
hours. All I'm asking for is a little bit of  
time. You let Mr. Berman speak twice. I'm  
sorry, Mr. Bennett speak twice.

23

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: Would you like to ask  
your question or would you like to not? Would  
you like to ask your question?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I would.  
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3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I will absolutely ask  
4 my question. I'm sure these will be asked in a  
5 courtroom, but this is ridiculous.

6 Governor Newsom himself said this  
7 proposal is about electing more Democrats. Isn't  
8 that the very definition of partisan  
9 gerrymandering voters sought to prevent?

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We are asking  
11 voters whether or not they want to have different  
12 criteria used in determining the congressional  
13 maps, and it'll be up to voters as to whether or  
14 not they want to say yes or no. That's the  
15 beauty of this.

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, may I  
17 proceed with my relevant questions?

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion and we  
19 have a second.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair --

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, I'd like  
22 to recess --

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have deliberated this  
24 measure --

25 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- and bring in the  
Chief Clerk --

CHAIR PELLERIN: We have deliberated this measure for several hours.  
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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- to see if it's in  
line (inaudible).

5

CHAIR PELLERIN: We are calling this  
debate --

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair --

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- to conclusion.

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,  
please --

10

11

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You are not allowing  
me to exercise my parliamentary right to speak.

12

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: And with that --

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam, you  
pontificated on transparency.

15

16

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- I will go ahead and  
allow the Assembly Member Berman --

17

18

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I (inaudible) last  
night if we (inaudible).

19

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me.

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair.

22

CHAIR PELLERIN: This is not the way we  
conduct our hearings. Okay?

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It's not.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It's not because  
you're not answering

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It's not the  
way.

5

CHAIR PELLERIN: I have allowed you --

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This is not the  
way we --

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- plenty of time to ask  
your questions.

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- conduct our  
hearings. This is an urgency that is being moved  
through.

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: I have allowed --

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So we --

15

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- plenty of time for  
you to --

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,  
please.

19

CHAIR PELLERIN: I have allowed you  
plenty of time to ask your questions.

20

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I am still not  
done.

22

23

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You have not allowed  
me (inaudible).

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It took me a  
long time --

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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: I have allowed you  
4 plenty of time to ask your questions.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: As the  
6 presenter stated (inaudible).

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Berman,  
8 you may close.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,  
10 please.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Out of respect  
12 for my Republican colleagues --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,  
14 there are so many more questions.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- I had a long  
16 close prepared, but I am going to forego that --

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: We do need to  
18 know --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- and just ask  
20 for an aye vote.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, we  
22 asked you --

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Mr. Berman, would you  
be willing to answer my questions that I have  
prepared?

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I am following  
the direction of the Chair on how the Committee  
hearing will proceed.

6

CHAIR PELLERIN: We have to be  
respectful --

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, can  
you explain to me how spending --

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: We have to be respectful  
of people's times.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- \$250 million  
on the special election provides a greater public  
health benefit than constructing egress routes  
for our mountain communities?

16

(Simultaneous speakers - inaudible.)

17

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Mr. Tangipa, you  
have been asked to stop. We are done --

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, can  
you explain to me how \$250 million --

21

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- with the questions  
and the deliberation of this measure.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- for a  
special election (inaudible).

24

25

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: I make a motion  
(inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Second.  
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(Simultaneous speakers - inaudible.)

4

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER:

5

CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa, you're out

6

of order.

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- when they

8

are overwhelmingly (inaudible).

9

CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa, you are out

10

of order.

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, can

12

you explain to me how spending 200 --

13

(Pause on the record.)

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa --

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I appreciate

16

your passion.

17

CHAIR PELLERIN: I know.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I appreciate

19

your passion.

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: I mean, our hearts break

21

for you and your family. I'm trying to -- I'm

22

trying to move this hearing along.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: (Inaudible.)

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: I understand.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: I call the

question.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: We call the question.

We have a motion. We have a second.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I'm just trying  
to get the questions -- when it comes to the  
question --

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Madam Secretary,  
please call the roll.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I care about  
the State of California.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: On ACA 8 by Rivas,  
the motion is --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- and I think  
that we should, too. This money is very  
important to me. It's personal.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: -- be adopted and  
be re-referred to the Committee on  
Appropriations.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I care  
about you. I know you care. We care. We all  
care.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

CHAIR PELLERIN: Aye.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's all  
we're asking for.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, aye.

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Macedo?

4

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No.

5

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, no.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's it. And

7

it worries me.

8

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett?

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Aye.

10

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, aye.

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It truly

12

worries me.

13

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman?

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Aye.

15

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, aye.

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I get it.

17

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache?

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Aye.

19

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, aye.

20

Stefani?

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Aye.

22

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, aye.

23

Tangipa?

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No.

25

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, no.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It should worry

everybody.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: That bill --

4

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's all I'm asking for.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I hear you.

7

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: That bill passes five to two.

9

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Without proper ability for us to ask questions. Let that be reflected in the record. I was given less than five minutes to speak.

13

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I've got to pay \$2500 later today so she can be cremated.

15

16

CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to go ahead and take a recess for 30 minutes.

17

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But the Medi-Cal doctors won't sign off on it.

19

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: This hearing --

21

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Madam Chair, (inaudible).

22

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The Medi-Cal doctors will not sign off on it.

24

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. I don't know if you can.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Mr. Tangipa, it's my turn to speak

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is that not  
important?

4

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Mr. Tangipa,  
it's my turn to speak.

6

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- for me to  
just -- since I haven't had a chance --

8

9

(Pause on the record.)

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And we've --  
everybody has seen this longer than me.

11

12

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We're going to --

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Everybody has  
seen this longer than me.

14

15

CHAIR PELLERIN: Call for order here.

16

We've had enough --

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I've gotten the  
least amount of time to even see this bill.

18

19

CHAIR PELLERIN: We've had enough  
comments taken out of order.

20

21

Solache, did you have a 30-second comment  
you wanted to make?

22

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I do, Madam  
Chair.

24

25

I just wanted to say that after the vote  
that I casted today, I'm happy that Californians  
will have a choice to feel,

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3 respecting everyone's opinion today, including  
4 those that support it and don't support this bill  
5 at today's public comment, and those that  
6 submitted.

7 Californians will have a right at the  
8 ballot box to express and to vote their  
9 conscience.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: So every  
12 Californian has a right, and I'm just happy to  
13 support that. Thank you.

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: And we will now take a  
15 30-minute recess. Thank you.

16 (Recess.)

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: Good afternoon. We will  
18 go ahead and reconvene the August 19th, 2025  
19 Assembly Elections Committee hearing.

20 We have two remaining items, one for a  
21 vote SB 280 by Cervantes, and then we will be  
22 doing an informational hearing only on AB 604.

23 And with that, in the spirit of ensuring  
that everybody has time to speak, we have  
expanded our witnesses to three minutes each.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: The ME TOOs can take up  
to 30 seconds and we'll hold you accountable to  
that.

6

For our members, we are going to limit  
debate to 15 minutes for you to present comments  
or questions. So we have a lot of work to do  
today and we need to be moving forward.

10

So with that, we will bring up our next  
author, Senator Cervantes. And you may begin  
when you're ready.

13

SENATOR CERVANTES: Thank you Madam Chair  
and Committee Members for the opportunity to  
present Senate Bill 280 today, which calls for a  
statewide special election on November 4th of  
this year.

18

The special election would allow  
California voters to consider an Assembly  
Constitutional Amendment, ACA 8, which would  
allow this Legislature to engage in a one-time,  
mid-decade redistricting of our state's districts  
in the U.S. House of Representatives.

24

The Citizens Redistricting Commission  
would then be able to engage in its regularly  
scheduled program, independent redistricting  
process after the 2036

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SB 280 also appropriates the funding  
necessary for the Secretary of State and for our  
county registrars to administer the special  
election.

7

The bill also makes the necessary  
statutory changes to allow the June 2026  
statewide primary election to be held on time.

10

California did not start this fight.  
This fight came to us. We are here because  
President Trump and Republicans in Congress know  
that their agenda is deeply unpopular and they  
see the writing on the wall.

15

They know that the mass deportation  
regime that uses secret police to kidnap  
police -- people off our streets and into  
unmarked vans goes against our American values.

19

They know that voters will hold them  
accountable for the spending cuts they jammed  
through Congress that strip healthcare away from  
millions of Americans.

23

And they know that giving tax cuts to  
billionaires while Trump imposes tariff taxes on  
essential goods, such as coffee and bananas, will  
continue to raise the cost of living for everyday  
working families.

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What Trump knows is that the only path for Republicans to hold onto the House in the midterms is to change the rules in the middle of the game. That is why in Texas and in other red states, Republican legislators are preparing to redraw their congressional maps so that Republican politicians get to choose their voters.

10

11

Again, Republican politicians get to choose their voters instead of letting voters choose their representative. They want to silence the voices of Latino voters, Black voters, API voters, and LGBTQ voters.

12

13

14

15

16

Trump wants to change the rules of the game in the fifth inning so that Republicans get four strikes while Democrats get three. Their goal is simple, to rig congressional maps in Republican states across our country to make it impossible for Democrats to retake control of the House of Representatives in 2026.

17

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California cannot stand by while Donald Trump dismantles our democracy piece by piece.

24

25

We will not let him determine the outcome of future elections years in advance before any vote is cast to prop up his presidency.

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And if you doubt that Trump is trying to become a dictator, remember that he sent armed federal agents to harass the peaceful press conference that took place last week in LA with Governor Newsom.

8

The truth of the matter is, if we let Donald Trump get away with this rigging of elections through gerrymandering, partisan gerrymandering, we may not have free or fair elections in the United States in the future. If Donald Trump pursues this partisan power grab, then California is ready to respond.

9

10

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Our plan will only go into effect if Texas and other states move to redraw their lines. Again, our plan will only go into effect if Texas and other red states move to redraw their lines.

16

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Trump can do the right thing today and stand down and not move forward in redrawing Congressional maps in Republican states, and California's current districts will remain in place.

21

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Ultimately, this is our preferred outcome because we do value the California's Independent Redistricting Commission. The gold

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standard of our country. And this crisis shows  
that we need to enact a nationwide citizens  
nonpartisan commission.

6

If every state followed California's lead  
and adopted these independent redistricting  
commissions, or if Congress required this, we  
wouldn't be in this crisis to begin with.

10

Gerrymandering would be a thing of the past.

11

Finally, I want to address Republican  
Members of Congress from California. You have  
the power to stop this from happening. The power  
is in your hands.

15

I appeal to your better angles, but if  
you refuse to listen to those angles, I will rely  
on your ambition, your self-interest and your  
desire to keep your House seats and your  
paycheck. You can ask President Trump to end  
this now. You can tell him to call off these  
partisan gerrymanderings in Texas and other  
states.

23

But if Trump decides to move forward with  
his plan to steal Democratic seats, then  
California will be the firewall. We have  
defeated authoritarianism before, and we will  
defeat it again, but

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voters in the state of California making the  
ultimate decision on November 4th, 2025.

5

Today we have two witnesses testifying in  
support. I'll allow them to self-identify.

6

7

CHAIR PELLERIN: And you each have three  
minutes.

8

9

MS. HICKS: Thank you. Thank you, Madam  
Chair. Thank you Members.

10

11

I am Jody Hicks, the CEO and President of  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, here  
representing all seven affiliates and over 100  
health centers throughout the State of  
California.

15

16

And I'm here in strong support to this  
measure and to California's response to President  
Trump, to Texas Republicans, to any state that's  
planning to game the 2026 midterm elections. And  
I just want to point out why.

20

21

I know this Committee has already heard a  
lot about the Commission. I'm sure there'll be  
more conversation about that.

23

24

What I want to talk about is the impact  
of what's happening to Californians, to  
California values. With HR 1 that just passed,  
California -- over the last 16 million

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people will be without healthcare. Planned  
Parenthood was effectively defunded in that bill  
for all of the services that Planned Parenthood  
provides, whether that's cancer screenings or  
birth control or even prenatal care.

8

Stripped all of the funding from Planned  
Parenthood in an attempt to try and reduce access  
to reproductive healthcare in the state of  
California, despite the fact that 67 percent of  
Californians voted to ensure that, in our  
California Constitution, Californians have access  
to reproductive healthcare.

15

So our intent is to go up and down the  
state and talk about the impact of what happened  
in HR 1. And what we know is, when Californians  
understand that access to healthcare, when their  
very values are at stake, they will respond and  
they will hold Members accountable. But that  
can't happen if another state is rigging the  
election before those votes even occur.

23

You know, if we were able to have our gold  
standard across every state in the state of  
California -- or in the country of the United  
States, we wouldn't be having this conversation.

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We'd be talking to voters the way that we want  
to.

5

6

But that's just not the case. And  
sending this to the voters, letting them decide  
how they want to respond to what another state is  
doing to try and hold on to power.

9

10

So there's no way to react to what is  
affecting their very lives, to what is affecting  
their healthcare, to what is affecting the very  
values of California.

11

12

13

We have a gold standard. We are the  
model with our Independent Redistricting  
Commission. But guess what? We are the model  
for our values here, too. We are a model for how  
we value diversity, for how we value  
inclusivity --

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CHAIR PELLERIN: If you could wrap up,  
please.

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MS. HICKS: -- and for how we value  
access to healthcare, including reproductive  
healthcare. And we are a reproductive freedom  
state, and voters deserve to vote on that. Thank  
you.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Next witness. You have  
three minutes.

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MR. CURTIN: Okay. Danny Curtin,  
California Conference of Carpenters. Whoopsie  
Daisy. Thank you.

You've all heard from me before not too  
long ago. Danny Curtin with the Carpenters  
Union.

I want to reiterate that we didn't come  
here because we were joyfully approaching this  
problem. There's no question that this was  
triggered by the President for reasons that we  
all understand.

The impacts of what's been happening in  
the past on this administration, but also the  
impacts of what happens in the future is really  
what's at point, the discussion point here.

The targeted tax on California workforce  
is one of the most disturbing portions of this  
for me. We are in the midst of a housing crisis  
that's dividing us like no other crisis. And we  
have plenty more to think about, water, energy,  
you name it. And that housing crisis is  
primarily private sector housing, which is not  
being produced at the rate it needs to be  
produced.

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And now we have armed battle ready -- I don't know what they are. They're not identifying themselves. In some cases, they're wearing masks. And I call them Rambo wannabes.

7

Attacking people on the job sites, going to places where people go to work. And the industry that's going to get most impacted by this, among others, is construction and housing construction.

11

That is the number one issue in terms of what's dividing Californians and causing part of this massive political rift. Not just housing, but ag, restaurants, hospitality. You know the differences here.

16

The cuts in healthcare were well laid out. This is not insubstantial in what's going on and what we're fighting about. And I want to keep the focus on what we're fighting about, not the specific details.

21

I believe all of this is done constitutionally. We have the right to take a whack at this, give it to the voters. Other states have it, too. But we can't sit here and just let it go in one direction because of possible ramifications.

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One or two more little things. So far, the Congress -- Senate and Congress has been relatively supine in regards to the Trump agenda. Now, they were elected and that happens. And a lot of people don't like it, and a lot of people like it.

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But it's the next election that's going to matter now. And for Donald Trump to get up and say publicly, like he did a couple of things, while he's claiming the elections in 2020 were rigged, he is now openly, on behalf of the Republicans -- I heard this again on the radio today -- on behalf of the Republicans going after -- he's going to put an executive order attacking vote by mail. Because, he says, more Democrats vote by mail than more Republicans vote by mail. How can you not respond to that in a political manner?

21

22

23

24

We don't like it. We don't really want to see it happen. But there is no option if it's going to be a one-way street. And that's what's happening. He's saying it openly and there's no mystery here. And I appreciate the dilemma --

CHAIR PELLERINO: Please wrap up.  
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MR. CURTIN: Okay. I appreciate the  
dilemma that some of our Members here feel that  
they are in. I really do. Makes life very  
complicated. But we just can't sit around and  
let that agenda continue without people pushing  
back. So thank you.

9

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We'll now open it  
up to the mic. If anybody in support of SB 280  
can come up to the mic. And we are extending 30  
seconds to you as well.

10

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MR. HANNA: Thank you, Madam Chair,  
Members. J.P. Hanna on behalf of the California  
Nurses Association, representing over 100,000  
registered nurses in California.

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17

Nurses are unequivocally committed to  
blocking the over -- authoritarian overthrow of  
our democracy. These attacks on our democracy  
are much bigger than Texas.

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They are a power grab for the billionaire  
elite at the expense of our patients, the working  
class and the communities that we advocate for  
every day.

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We thank you for bringing this measure  
forward and proudly stand in strong support.

Thank you.

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MR. KUMAR: Thank you, Chair Pellerin and  
Members of the Committee. Keshav Kumar with  
Lighthouse Public Affairs on behalf of  
Reproductive Freedom For All.

7

We are in strong support on behalf of our  
4 million members across every single  
congressional district in this country, and we  
think that this is the moment and that California  
is meeting that moment.

10

11

12

We thank you, especially. We thank Chair  
Senator Cervantes, and we thank Mr. Berman.  
Because the leadership that you have demonstrated  
today is so powerful, and the rest of the country  
is watching in appreciation.

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MS. CHOU: Hi. Annie Chou with the  
California Teachers Association representing  
310,000 members in support.

18

19

20

There's been, you know, aspersions cast  
against CTA, telling me to stay in my lane.

21

22

I want to make it super duper clear that  
federal funding funds everything that happens in  
a school site, whether it be mental health  
services for kids, free and reduced meals.

23

24

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Whether it be, you know, IDA funding. There's a  
lot of things that are important to

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CTA's mission, and that's why CTA is very much in  
this lane. So thank you so much.

5

6

MS. HINES-SHAIKH: Honorable Chair and  
Members, Amy Hines-Shaikh for UDW AFSCME Local  
3930 and their 200,000 IHSS members in strong  
support in defending our Medi-Cal recipients and  
providers, and also UNITE HERE! Local 11 and  
their 32,000 hospitality members in Orange  
county, Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles  
county. Thank you.

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MR. BARREIRO: Thank you, Chair and  
Members. Sandra Barreiro on behalf of SEIU  
California, representing over 750,000 frontline  
essential workers who couldn't be here today  
because they are busy working and serving their  
communities.

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All of them have been targeted by the  
Trump administration's steamrolling of the  
democratic principles that our country is  
supposed to stand for.

23

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25

So SEIU is proud to support this bill  
because we can't stand by while Texas and Trump  
manipulates our election. It's the most  
democratic district setting process ever proposed  
by a state. And unlike

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Thirty seconds. Thank you.

5

MS. BARREIRO: Thank you.

6

7

MR. HART: Good afternoon. Kaden Hart on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis in support.

9

10

MS. NIELSEN: Good afternoon. Julie Nielsen on behalf of the National Union of Healthcare Workers in strong support of this important measure. Thank you.

11

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MS. COLES: Good afternoon. Krystal Coles. I'm a state worker with Housing and Community Development. I'm also on the board of directors for SEIU Local 1000 in strong support for the fight for our democracy. Thank you.

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MS. HILL: Good afternoon. My name is Constance Hill. I'm with SEIU 2015. I'm also an in-home support caregiver/provider. I strongly support.

22

23

24

I'm representing all those who are not here, but I'm here standing in solidarity with my brothers and sisters here. Thank you.

MS. MOK: Tiffany Mok on behalf of CFT, a union of educators and educational professionals.

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We stand here reluctantly, but are very proud to  
stand to defend our democracy and fairness.

5

6

Our educators teach about fairness and  
democracy, and we have seen nothing but incessant  
attacks, whether it's \$1 billion that's being  
demanded at UCLA by our lecturers there, through  
the special ed cuts that we see and mental health  
problems that are our educators and our students  
see that are being threatened by federal funding.

10

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Thirty seconds. Thank  
you.

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MS. MOK: Thank you.

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MR. GUSMAN: Good afternoon. Connor  
Gusman on behalf of Teamsters California in  
support. Thank you.

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MS. FLOCKS: Madam Chair, Members, Sarah  
Flocks, the California Federation of Labor  
Unions. We represent 2.3 million union members  
across the State of California, and we are in  
strong support. Thank you.

20

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25

MS. QUINTERO: Hello again. Analisa  
Quintero from SEIU Local 1000. I'm here in  
support because our state workers deserve fair  
representation, just like all workers across  
California.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: We will now move on to  
the primary witnesses in opposition.

5

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, while  
we're waiting for those witnesses to come up, I  
have a motion.

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes.

9

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I would like to  
motion to refer to Judiciary SB 280 and then to  
the Appropriations Committee.

10

11

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Second.

13

(Pause on the record.)

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We have a motion  
and a second to double refer this bill to  
Judiciary Committee.

16

17

And Madam Secretary, please call the roll  
on that. Takes a majority vote.

18

19

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

21

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.

22

Macedo?

23

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.

24

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.

25

Bennett?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: No.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, no.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.

4

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.

5

Solache?

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.

7

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.

8

Stefani?

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.

10

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.

11

Tanipa?

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.

13

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: That motion fails two to

15 five.

16

The primary witnesses in opposition,

17

would you like to come forward?

18

Anybody in the room who would like to

19

step up to the mic and state your name, and 30

20

seconds of time. Anybody in opposition, give you

21

opportunity speak.

22

MR. BOLOG: Thank you much for the 30

23

seconds. It's very generous and it's refreshing.

24

My name is David Bolog. I am AFL CIO

union member affiliate, and I represent the

California GOP Union. I represent

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3 Serving Family Values and Moms for Liberty. We  
4 are opposed to this bill. Thank you.

5 MS. ARIS: Hello. My name is Amber  
6 Arias. I'm standup ministry leader with Calvary  
7 Chapel, Solano county.

8 And I believe that this is very redundant  
9 and retaliatory. And just because other states  
10 don't want to play fair does not negate the fact  
11 that California Legislature has sworn an oath to  
12 uphold integrity and the Constitution of the  
13 United States. And with that, I oppose this  
14 bill. Thank you.

15 MS. RENTERIA: My name is Porphyria  
16 Renteria, and I'm in opposition of this bill.

17 MS. GONALEZ: Hello. My name is Rosa  
18 Gonzalez and I am a mother, and I am in  
19 opposition of this bill.

20 MS. MIXON: My name is Christina Mixon,  
21 and I am a mother, and I am in opposition of this  
22 bill.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

24 We will now bring the questions and  
discussion back to the Committee.

Any Member depos@scanlanstone.com Member Stefani.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Thank you,  
Chair Pellerin.

5

I'm just wondering if there's anyone from  
the California Association of Clerks and Election  
Officials that can comment on their opinion of  
this bill.

9

CHAIR PELLERIN: All right. So it looks  
like we do have someone here from California  
Association of Clerks and Election Officials.

10

11

12

You could come up and sit here at the  
desk and give us the perspective from the  
counties on -- so go ahead and ask.

13

14

15

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Can I ask that the  
your witnesses identify themselves that are with  
you as well that were not introduced previously?  
There's two gentlemen.

16

17

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19

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Oh, yes,  
certainly.

20

21

MR. WILLIS: Good afternoon. My name is  
Tom Willis with the law firm of Olson Remcho.  
I'm kind of replacing Aaron Silva.

22

23

24

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Who are you here  
representing?

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I think this is  
int response to -- **depos@scanlanstone.com**  
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CHAIR PELLERIN: (Inaudible.)

4

MR. SALINAS: I'm the Center's  
Legislative Director.

5

6

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. All right. So do  
you have a question or --

7

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Just wanting to  
get your perspective on this, given that there  
will be a huge undertaking, and I want to find  
out what the organization is thinking about it.

10

11

12

MR. SALINAS: Yes. Okay. Thank you very  
much, Madam Chair and Committee Members.

13

14

Jesse Salinas. I am the assessor, clerk,  
recorder and registrar of voters for Yolo County.  
I'm also serving as president of the California  
Association of Clerks and Election Officials. So  
very honored to be here.

16

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19

Thank you very much for the question.

20

And I can share with you that we are working

21

diligently. We're a very -- collection of highly

22

skilled professionals that are preparing for this

23

election, this pending election that's coming up.

24

And we are working diligently right now in

25

preparing for the election and identifying the

necessary sites and locations and preparing

accordingly with that. [depos@scanlanstone.com](mailto:depos@scanlanstone.com)  
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We also are working closely with the Secretary of State's office on follow-up details to ensure that this election is run as efficiently and effectively as possible moving forward.

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

9

10

Any other questions or comments from Committee Members?

11

Vice Chair Macedo.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I will leave my feelings on this out of this because I have 15 minutes and I want to make sure that I get my questions answered.

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How can the Legislature justify spending 235 million on a rush special election when core programs like education, healthcare and wildfire prevention are being cut?

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SENATOR CERVANTES: So first off, I want to say we're in this crisis because of the federal administration. And this election is going to cost as much as a new ballroom that President Trump wants to build at the White House.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: We have the fourth largest economy in the world. Large budget,

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3 so we can't figure out how to fund those things.

4 We're expecting the federal government to do

5 that.

6 My next question is, why was this urgency

7 election necessary when no genuine emergency

8 exists? The Governor has not declared a State of

9 Emergency.

10 Just feeling like we should sound the

11 alarm this is not enough to do so. There's an

12 urgency clause in here.

13 SENATOR CERVANTES: Again, this is a

14 crisis brought upon us because of what the State

15 of Texas is doing. If they would pull back their

16 measure, we would not be moving forward today

17 with this urgency. It is a crisis what is

18 happening to our families and our neighborhoods.

19 This is how Californians have a direct response

20 in what is occurring and the future that they

21 want to see for this country.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So because you feel

23 that way, but no real emergency has been

24 declared.

How will counties be reimbursed for these  
costs?

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SENATOR CERVANTES: The Department of Finance will determine the cost for this election. That will be through the Secretary of State, as well as to the county registrars to administer the election on November 4th.

8

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Will they be paid in full up front or left to bear the burden themselves?

10

11

SENATOR CERVANTES: The Secretary of State -- I know perhaps we have folks here or Madam Chair.

13

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: My understanding is the counties will be paid up front.

15

16

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Is that in the language of the bill? Because counties like mine won't be able to do the election to the extent necessary.

19

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: As a former county elections official, this is something I care very deeply about. And we want to make sure the counties are made whole and they receive the funds up front.

24

25

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So can we get that in the bill?

SENATOR CERVANTES: Yes, it is in the bill.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: It is stated as so.

4

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay.

5

6 SENATOR CERVANTES: It is very clear that  
7 counties will be made whole to administer the  
8 election on November 4th.

8

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Just wanted to  
10 make sure that my county, who's very rural, is  
11 going to be taken care of.

12 You made a really great point that I have  
13 questions, but I do want to mention that you talk  
14 about disenfranchising minority in communities.

15 At the Independent Redistricting  
16 Commission hearings, they have translators  
17 available. To my knowledge, we have no  
18 translators available for this hearing, so talk  
19 about disenfranchising minority communities.

20 What assurance do counties have that they  
21 will not be subject to unfunded mandates by being  
22 forced to carry out this rush process?

23 SENATOR CERVANTES: Again, it is stated  
24 in the bill and the analysis of the bill.

25 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Can you point to the  
exact language in the bill, or your attorney?

SENATOR CERVANTES: You have the analysis  
before you.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm not asking for  
the analysis.

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SENATOR CERVANTES: And we are making  
sure that --

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm asking for the  
bill language.

8

9

SENATOR CERVANTES: The Department of  
Finance will determine the cost of this election.  
And at the end of the day, we are going to ensure  
that the counties will have everything that they  
need to conduct a special election on  
November 4th.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. And I  
appreciate that. I appreciate that you're saying  
that.

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What I am asking for is verbiage in  
legislation. And you have an attorney next to  
you that I'm sure participated in the drafting of  
this, as well as your leg director. I'm asking  
for not just your testimony saying, we promise  
this is going to happen. I'm asking -- and not  
in the analysis, because that's not legally  
binding. I'm asking --

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CHAIR PELLERIN: I got it right here.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I got it right here.  
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CHAIR PELLERIN: Section 4(a) says, it is the intent of the Legislature to ensure counties have sufficient funding to effectuate the November 4th, 2025 special statewide election.

7

An amount is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the controller for the actual and reasonably necessary costs as determined by the Director of Finance for the counties to conduct that November 4th, 2025 statewide special election.

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Again, this is not a Appropriations Committee. The funding issues will be addressed in that Committee.

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We are policy, so let's move our questions back to policy.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And this is a funding a special election bill.

19

20

So my -- I'm glad that you read that aloud. So we have intent language. We know how much that's legally binding. We have, I'm sure, attorneys in the room that can tell us that.

21

22

23

24

Can counties realistically administer a statewide redistricting election on such a compressed timeline that you talked about without errors, lawsuits or ~~depos@scanlanstone.com~~

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MR. SALINAS: So we have actually had some tight timelines in the past and this is going to be a challenge. There's no question there's going to be challenging administrative challenges to this election.

8

But I think in working with what guidelines we have and in working with the Secretary of State's office on looking at some details, that we can work collectively to book this election. We've done a lot of successful, difficult elections in the past. I remind everybody of the 2020 election, which was a general election under COVID, and we were able to do amazing work.

17

And I know I have the highest confidence in my colleagues across the state, that they will be successful in making it happen with -- as long as these details that we're working through is -- are finalized and can be done in a timely fashion.

23

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What is the shortest timeline you've pulled an election together and been successful?

25

MR. SALINAS: When I think about the timing -- good question -- I think I can

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tell you of a specific timeline of what we've  
done. Typically we like to have additional  
timing.

6

That's why in the legislation, one of the  
things we did ask for is for E minus 88 cutoff in  
the legislation, which was helpful for us because  
that gives us time to start preparing and not  
have other add-ons to the legislation. So that  
was really appreciated on behalf of the Members.

10

11

12

So there's not a specific timeline that I  
can tell you. The earliest that I've ever run an  
election, I think it may have been the recall  
election in the past, because that -- but we had  
a little bit of a heads up on that one.

14

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But this is coming through the gate  
quickly and that's why we're responding as fast  
as we can on this.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So this potentially  
could be the shortest timeline you've pulled an  
election together?

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MR. SALINAS: Could potentially, yes.

24

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Which also  
makes me nervous when we've talked in extensive  
amounts on this Committee, particularly about  
making sure that all

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And although I can appreciate COVID, it seemed like daily things were changing, it was still during a general election that we knew was coming. so I think that's a little bit different. But seems like you're up for the challenge.

8

So then my next question is, is this process fair to county registrars and elections officials who already face tremendous pressure to ensure accuracy?

10

11

12

MR. SALINAS: So I know we are -- so to understand your question, you're asking if this is --

14

15

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Is how -- I mean, your job is tough enough.

16

17

MR. SALINAS: Yes.

18

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And we've heard from our chair, who was an elections official, this is a tough job. And now we are adding even more to your plate. I just don't think that's very fair that we're demanding more from you guys and not really giving you much of a runway to do it.

19

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MR. SALINAS: Well, I do think that the resources are going to be helpful, for sure, because it allows us

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Resources meaning  
finances or --

5

MR. SALINAS: Finances.

6

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- what other  
resources?

8

MR. SALINAS: Funding. Well, funding to  
be able to actually pay for it, because that is a  
critical need. And that's why right now I can  
tell you, across the state -- there are  
registrars across the state that have already  
begun the process. Because once we heard that  
this legislation was coming down the pike, we've  
begun to make plans.

16

So, for example, in my office, we've  
already begun to go through our checklist and  
making sure that we get caught up, because there  
is a checklist that we're going through, so we're  
quickly navigating that list.

21

And we're reaching out to our vendors.  
We're reaching out to our locations. Because  
we're expeditiously trying to make sure we are  
ready for this election.

25

And, yes, there's a lot of work ahead.  
I'm not going to say that there's not. And it's  
true across the state.

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challenge? Yes, there's administrative  
challenges to such a short timeline.

5

6

But I do believe that the elections  
officials, in the past they have stepped up in  
tremendous ways. Look again at the 2020  
election.

9

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I'm proud to say that I'm a member of  
this membership that has done an amazing job in  
the past. And I do believe we can rise to the  
occasion as long as we have the support and  
the -- not only the funding, but the little  
details that we'll be working with Secretary of  
State to make sure we can be effective in making  
sure to run these elections.

17

18

19

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So state resources  
have already gone into this process is what  
you're telling me?

20

21

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MR. SALINAS: No. We're planning as if  
it's coming because we've read through the  
legislation that there will be funding for it.  
So we are moving forward with the assumption that  
we will be having resources to pay for this  
election from the state.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Can you walk me  
through what this plan entails? If it

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3 doesn't require funding to do, what is the  
4 (inaudible)?

5 MR. SALINAS: So we have a checklist  
6 where we will contact vendors to make sure that  
7 they're able to do the print jobs in time. We  
8 will be contacting our locations that we are  
9 actually able to have locations available to run  
10 these elections, which are critical. Because if  
11 they are a VCA versus a polling place, there's  
12 different timelines that are required.

13 So those are factors that we're still  
14 working through because we have to be able to  
15 line up not only locations, the vendors. We have  
16 to get translators. Talking about translators,  
17 we have to make sure the translators are ready  
18 for all of this. So there's just a myriad of  
19 issues.

20 We have a checklist -- to give you a  
21 context, we have a checklist of some 500 items  
22 that we're going through through every election.  
23 So we're speeding through those to make sure we  
24 don't miss anything.

So one of the things I take great pride  
in in our association is our attention to

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detail. We have our checklist. We will make  
sure not to skip any of those.

5

6

Are we going to quickly go through them  
to try and catch up? Yes, we will. And  
everybody across the state is doing that. So we  
are working hard with the anticipation that this  
is a pending legislation.

10

11

12

13

14

That if it does go through, that we're  
ready to move forward to the best of our  
abilities given this very compressed timeline.  
Because it is a compressed timeline, I will  
acknowledge that.

15

16

17

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So no vendors, no  
locations, nobody has been contacted, just the  
creation of a checklist?

18

19

20

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24

MR. SALINAS: No. We've been contacting  
vendors. We actually have been contacting  
vendors, contacting locations. We are actually  
trying to lock down all of the locations. We  
have a few still outstanding. For myself in Yolo  
County, we still have a few outstanding. But  
we've got most of them locked up.

25

So there's still a process that we have  
to do to be able to continue to do the checklist  
and verify that we're ready for the election.

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3 We're not done yet. It's an ongoing process  
4 still.

5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: When specifically did  
6 you start this process? Do you have a date?

7 MR. SALINAS: So we started when we heard  
8 through the grapevine there would be a potential  
9 piece of legislation coming out. When  
10 announcements started coming out, we as  
11 registrars became proactive. Because you can't  
12 wait till it's already done and approved. You  
13 have to start lining up as quickly as possible.

14 So we are -- already started this a  
15 couple of weeks ago when the word was out that  
16 there was likely a possible piece of legislation  
17 coming through. So across the state, we started  
18 contacting our vendors, our contacts to say, in  
19 the event this happens, we want to make sure that  
20 we're ready for it. So that's primarily how  
21 we've approached it.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So you haven't signed  
23 any contracts with vendors or done anything?

24 MR. SALINAS: At this point, we have not.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You just contacted  
them?

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MR. SALINAS: Yes, we are contacting them to see their availability, to see if there's locations available, so we're in the process of doing that. Because, again, this hasn't officially been passed yet. We're not going to be able to do it until we know this legislation's passed.

10

But you try and frontload it as much as you can, and that's true of any election. You try and frontload as much as you can in that process.

14

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Interesting.

15

If the justification for urgency is political advantage rather than a true emergency, does this not set a very dangerous precedent for future Legislatures?

19

SENATOR CERVANTES: Well, I find it interesting that your line of questioning is on the timing and on the finance when your own party called for the recall in 2021 special election.

23

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: We're not talking about the recall. I don't know why this keeps getting brought up today. I'd really like to stick to the merits of the bill.

25

So no answer.  
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SENATOR CERVANTES: I gave you my  
response.

5

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Would any of the  
witnesses like to answer that question? I'm sure  
it'll come up in court, but -- okay.

8

That's all I have, Madam Chair.

9

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

10

Assembly Member Tangipa. And there's 15  
minutes.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

13

Yeah. I mean, we heard in the testimony  
that changing the rules of the game in the middle  
of it are, you know, unacceptable, and yet we  
displayed that right here. But, okay, we'll hop  
into the questions, then.

18

Do you believe that the Independent  
Redistricting Commission congressional lines  
conform to the California Constitution? To the  
author? Anybody? Do you believe --

22

MR. WILLIS: I'm sorry, can you repeat  
the question?

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do you believe  
that the Independent Redistricting Commission's  
congressional lines conform to the California  
Constitution?

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MR. WILLIS: Yes.

4

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do they follow  
the Voter Rights Act?

6

7

8

9

10

MR. WILLIS: I believe so, yes. I mean,  
they haven't been challenged. But, yes, I have  
every reason to believe they were legal and  
complied with all of the rules, federal and  
constitutional rules.

11

12

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So protected  
classes, districts were created to protect off of  
race, religion, sex, all of that?

14

15

MR. WILLIS: I wasn't involved in those  
lines, but --

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But you just  
spoke that you knew the lines.

18

19

CHAIR PELLERIN: And can you ask the  
questions to the merit of this bill?

20

21

22

23

MR. WILLIS: I have no reason to believe  
that the Redistricting Commission's plans were  
not in compliance with federal -- all federal  
laws, including the Voting Rights Act.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Can I ask you  
how long have you seen this piece of legislation  
and how long you were deposited to this?

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MR. WILLIS: So are you talking about  
the -- which -- what are we talking about? Are  
we talking about the re --

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The bill. How  
long have you seen the language?

8

MR. WILLIS: Are we talking about these  
lines or the Redistricting Commission's lines.

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: My original --  
these lines. I'm talking about --

12

MR. WILLIS: This is not the maps bill.

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No, I  
understand that. No, I know.

15

Do you think that any of the lines drawn  
by the Commission were racially gerrymandered?

17

18

MR. WILLIS: By the Commission?

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: By the  
Commission.

20

21

MR. WILLIS: By the Redistricting  
Commission?

22

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: These are not questions  
pertaining to SB 280. SB 280 contains the  
components that are critical to ensuring that  
county elections officials are the Secretary of

25

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State are able to administer the statewide  
special election in this timeframe.

5

So it's not going into the details of the  
maps. This is actually the administration of the  
election and the funding of it.

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. I  
understand.

10

There's so many changes that have  
happened, you know, it's -- wouldn't we think  
that a lot of these questions would be worked out  
if we had longer than 24 hours to review this?  
Because that's what I think. I mean, there's a  
struggle here for a general reason, because I  
haven't seen them.

17

The voter guide for Prop. 20 also stated  
it'll put an end to backroom deals by ensuring  
redistricting is completely open to the public.

20

KCRA just reported that there is a  
certain Senator who agreed to support this if  
congressional districts were drawn for him.

23

So you agree that the purpose of the  
process is to undermine Prop. 20 and a backroom  
deal was done.

25

My question to the author now is, how  
long have you known ~~depos@scanlanstone.com~~ with this

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urgency involved? Do you know anybody that has  
been involved that has a vested interest in this  
legislative body, and do you have a vested  
interest in these map -- in this election being  
performed?

8

SENATOR CERVANTES: Again, this bill  
before us, SB 280, calls for the election to take  
place on November 4, 2025 and the administration  
of that election, making statutory changes to  
ensure that a primary will be conducted on time,  
June of next year.

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do you have a  
vested interest in these lines in this election?

16

SENATOR CERVANTES: Pertaining to this  
bill, this is -- what we are debating today.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Pertaining to  
this election.

20

SENATOR CERVANTES: -- is the SB 280  
calling for the special election against the  
rigging that is happening across our country  
because of what Trump is demanding of Texas and  
Governor Abbott.

25

This is how California responds and this  
is how we allow 40 million Californians to have a  
say in the direction

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Because of the  
urgency in this bill, do you have any vested  
interests in it? Do you have any vested --

6

SENATOR CERVANTES: It is democracy that  
we are standing up for. This is an emergency  
situation --

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So democracy --

10

SENATOR CERVANTES: -- that requires an  
emergency response.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: You can't  
say --

14

SENATOR CERVANTES: And, again, you --

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: You can't say  
that you have a vested interest because of  
democracy?

18

SENATOR CERVANTES: I have a vested  
interest in supporting my constituency and making  
sure that I fight for them. When we go back to  
our districts, just as we did over summer recess,  
we get asked, what are you doing to stand up  
against this power grab, against this political  
gerrymandering that is happening? What can you  
do as our state representative?

25

This is how we respond. This is our duty  
to uphold and to ensure that we continue having

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3 fair and -- fair elections, not just in the State  
4 of California, but across our country. Because  
5 California will remain the firewall. This is  
6 what voters are asking for. They want to have a  
7 say at the ballot box.

8 And, again, much different than what  
9 Texas is doing. Texas is drawing their lines to  
10 choose their voters, as opposed to letting voters  
11 choose who their representative is.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Senator, I  
13 understand that and -- but this is California and  
14 this is the California Constitution that I'm  
15 trying to speak about, which is why I'm simply  
16 just asking if there is a vested interest in  
17 these lines and if anybody in California has a  
18 vested interest because of the urgency behind  
19 this. Because this -- we can do all of this and  
20 then completely lose it.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Madam Chair, I  
22 think the question's been asked and answered five  
23 times.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah. And the urgency  
on this is because the elections officials need  
to be moving ahead and their process

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to conduct that secure, accurate, transparent,  
accessible election on November 4th.

5

So if we can keep the questions to the  
merits of this bill, that would be appreciated.

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Can you speak  
to the fact that Members who are filing for  
Congress cannot put on their ballot statement  
incumbent, which is within the bill?

11

CHAIR PELLERIN: And that is based on  
prior procedures that we have used in these kinds  
of situations where they cannot use incumbent.  
They can only use their title of a Member of  
Congress or U.S. representative.

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is there any  
fear at all that that would be a violation of the  
First Amendment?

19

MR. WILLIS: No. I would say also this  
is past practice. And as the Chair mentioned,  
anyone can say that they -- what their title is  
in the ballot label.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Within this  
bill, too, it states that this was -- that the  
maps were created and submitted to the Assembly  
Committee and prepared by

24

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Because of the KCRA report, the maps were  
done by the DCCC. Is that an accurate statement?  
Were the maps created by the DCCC?

6

MR. WILLIS: I don't know personally. I  
know that they were publicly submitted and then  
the Legislature looked at them and reviewed them  
carefully for legal compliance.

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

11

CHAIR PELLERIN: Any other Members have  
any questions or comments?

13

Assembly Member Berman.

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah. I'll make  
some comments that I was going to make at the end  
of my presentation, but didn't in the -- to save  
everyone some time.

18

But it was said by the Vice Chair of the  
Committee that there is no emergency, and I would  
urge everybody to wake up.

21

If you don't think that our democracy is  
currently under attack, if you don't think that  
the President of the United States getting  
elections, getting democracy advice from Vladimir  
Putin isn't an emergency, and then bragging about  
it on national TV, if you don't think that the  
President of the United States is adding elections

25

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officials in Georgia and asking those Republican  
elections officials to find him 12,000 votes  
isn't an emergency.

6

If you don't think that this President of  
the United States won't continue to attack our  
democracy over and over and over again if we let  
him isn't an emergency, you're not paying  
attention.

10

11

And whether it's for your side or my side  
doesn't matter. This is our democracy we're  
talking about. And the President of the United  
States has shown zero interest in democracy. He  
has shown only interest in power.

16

And if California doesn't finally push  
back on these constant attempts to erode our  
societal norms, to erode our democracy, we won't  
have an America to fight for in the future. And  
we're there.

20

21

I don't like to be hyperbolic. It's not  
really my style. But if you don't think that the  
fate of our democracy is at stake when the  
President of the United States demands, says that  
he's entitled to five Republican congressional  
districts, and unlike those Republican elections  
officials in Georgia

25

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compass and said, no, Mr. President, that's wrong  
and we are not going to do that, that doesn't  
exist in the Republican Party in 2025.

6

The only answer from Republicans in 2025  
is, yes, Mr. President, how can I jump higher?  
Yes, Mr. President, how can I bow lower at your  
feet? So there is no check. There is no check  
on this President of the United States,  
especially when you've got an absolutely  
compliant majority in the House and the Senate.

10

11

12

13

And that's what he's trying to keep into  
perpetuity by rigging elections in Texas and  
other states. And that's what we're fighting  
back on in California.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

And we're going to put it to voters and  
give California voters the opportunity. Do you  
want to fight back on these power grabs by  
President Trump and Republicans in other states,  
who then make decisions that destroy communities  
in California, that rip away Medi-Cal from  
3.5 million Californians?

24

25

And what do our nine Republican Congress  
Members do? Do they defend their constituents?  
No. When they know that hundreds of thousands of  
their constituents are losing their healthcare,

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tens of thousands of their constituents are going  
to lose food stamps, free and reduced meals at  
lunch, a lot of the things at school, a lot of  
the things that generations of Californians have  
been able to depend on. And those things are  
being taken away. And if that doesn't scare the  
hell out of you, I don't know what will.

10

So the emergency is here. It's a  
ten o'clock -- ten alarm fire. And that's what  
we're responding to, and we need to respond to  
today.

14

And to the point of the timing, I think  
the timing sucks. But when we broke for recess,  
Texans weren't talking about rigging their  
election for the next decade.

18

Voters are going to have 74 days to  
review these maps. Voters, California voters,  
are going to get the chance to vote on these  
maps. And California voters will decide whether  
or not we enact these maps or not. I can't think  
of a more democratic process than that. I don't  
know why my Republican colleagues are so afraid  
of the voters of California.

25

So let's put it to the voters in  
California. Let's give them the opportunity to

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decide. Are they tired of President Trump  
attacking California over and over again? Are  
they tired of Republican Congress Members in  
California constantly bowing down to the  
President instead of standing up for them or not?  
And that's the chance that they're going to get.  
And that's the beauty of this process. That's  
the beauty of the opportunity that they're going  
to have on November 4th.

12

So I want to thank my colleague, the  
Elections Chair in the Senate, for bringing  
forward this bill. I want to thank my colleague,  
the Elections Chair of the Assembly, for joint  
authoring it. And I'm happy to support it. I'll  
move the bill.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Second.

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNET: Second.

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion, and we  
have a second.

21

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Can I --

23

CHAIR PELLERIN: You have one more  
question?

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I do.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.  
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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah. Well,  
more of a comment.

5

You know, the main reason why I truly  
brought up urgency and why it's so vital and so  
important, because I agree, when we all took a  
break here, this wasn't something that we all  
thought about, wasn't something that we talked  
about. I don't think anybody -- any of us want  
to be here going through this process.

12

But with urgency and the way this has  
been done and the way we're thinking about it,  
the people of California can see right now that  
if they wanted us to take on cost of living,  
insurance, utilities, everything else --

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Madam Chair, can  
we speak to the bill?

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- it's urgency  
and --

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: You're talking  
about urgency (inaudible)?

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, you  
just --

24

(Simultaneous speakers - inaudible.)

CHAIR PELLERINO: Excuse me. Page 205  
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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The main reason  
why --

5

6

CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion, and we  
have a second.

7

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,  
the main reason why --

9

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: And so for that, in all  
intents and purposes, ends debate.

11

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But for my 15  
minutes, can I just --

13

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: You're just about -- you  
got one more minute.

15

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. I'll do  
it in one minute.

17

18

19

20

21

22

It tells us that the State of California  
can move at lightning speed to handle something  
when it's for political gain, but we can't do it  
to take on the cost of living, to take on  
utilities, to take on everything else. And I'm  
sorry --

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you for  
not speaking of this bill at all.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I'm sorry  
that we can find urgent this bill, but we

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3 can't find urgency to take on so many issues here  
4 in the state of California.

5 And I'm sorry, but when your family would  
6 be sitting in the morgue right now, I think you  
7 would ask for 15 more minutes. I think you would  
8 ask for more --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I would  
10 (inaudible).

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- when I  
12 haven't seen this.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible)  
14 money away from (inaudible).

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When I haven't  
16 seen this.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. All right. So --

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.  
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- bringing the control  
21 back here to the Chair.

22 We have a motion, and we have a second on  
23 SB 280.

24 Senator Cervantes, you may close.

25 SENATOR CERVANTES: Thank you, Madam  
Chair and Committee Members, for the opportunity  
to close today.

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You know, I want to make a few statements because of what I heard from our two Republican colleagues, Assembly Member Macedo and Assembly Member Tangipa.

7

You know, earlier this year, you had an opportunity to vote on an independent, nonpartisan commission through a bill by your own colleague, Assemblymember Soria. And yet, you both voted against it twice. So that is where the hypocrisy lies.

9

10

11

12

13

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair -- Madam Chair, we've been attacked on this twice.

15

16

CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's let the Senator complete her close, please.

17

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Are we allowed to respond to the disparaging comments?

19

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: No, you're not. We're going to complete your close.

21

22

SENATOR CERVANTES: Thank you, Madam Chair.

23

24

25

This is an opportunity for the voters to have a direct say in the future of California and our country. This is a response to Trump's election rigging scheme, which is an emergency for our democracy.

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SB 280 is to hold an election to give voters, California voters, a voice that Texas Republicans are denying Texans. Let Californians vote and have a say at the ballot box.

7

I respectfully ask for your aye vote.

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

9

And I'm sorry, I did miss Assembly Member Bennett, who had a comment he would like to make, so I'm going to open the floor to him.

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. I'll try to be very brief here.

15

I talked earlier about this real issue is about how do we set the rules of the game to decide who controls the power of the federal government. And the old way is being changed at the federal government level. I talked about that in my earlier comments and so I won't repeat all that.

22

But I do think there's one thing that really merits repeating because between now and November, we will get an enormous amount of what I'm going to talk about, and that autocrats use four major techniques to -- autocrats use four major techniques to

25

and do these  
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3 kinds of things that are happening in Texas. And  
4 that is, they're just deceitful about what's  
5 going on, one.

6 Two, they practice lots of intimidation.  
7 I would offer the laughter and the jeering,  
8 et cetera that took place in this hearing in the  
9 first -- as we discussed the first bill as just  
10 an example of that. Didn't come from the other  
11 side anywhere near like it came from that.

12 The third thing is the militarization of  
13 civilian life is part of this create this crisis  
14 mentality.

15 But the fourth one that is the most  
16 difficult is to keep raising issues to deflect us  
17 from the real issue. This is about changing the  
18 rules, rigging the game so that one side has an  
19 advantage in keeping the resources and the power  
20 of the federal government.

21 And that technique is to deflect us with,  
22 well, why is this more urgent than that? Why is  
23 this, and why didn't we do it like the old  
24 Commission? It's every trick in the book and it  
25 is kabuki theater, as I said before.

But I want to repeat that we all have to  
be looking out for and

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between now and November and we have to do  
everything we can to educate the public.

5

And thank you very much for letting me  
make that point before we go.

7

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. And my  
apologies for missing that.

9

So there's a motion and a second, and the  
Senator has closed. So the motion is to do pass  
and re-refer to Appropriations.

12

Madam Secretary, please call the roll.

13

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: On SB 280 by  
Cervantes, Pellerin?

15

CHAIR PELLERIN: Aye.

16

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, aye.

17

Macedo?

18

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No.

19

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, no.

20

Bennett?

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Aye.

22

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, aye.

23

Berman?

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Aye.

25

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, aye.

Solache?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Aye.

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COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, aye.

4

Stefani?

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Aye.

6

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, aye.

7

Tangipa?

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No.

9

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, no.

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: That bill is out five to

11

two.

12

Thank you so much.

13

We are now going to go ahead and recess

14

our Assembly Bill hearing and move on to our

15

informational hearing on Assembly Bill 604. And

16

the author is present.

17

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, motion

18

to recess till tomorrow considering the maps were

19

just changed at eight o'clock last night.

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: We've already considered

21

that motion earlier.

22

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Different bill. That

23

was on the ACA, not on the maps bill.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This is a

25

different bill.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We have a motion

to recess again, yes deposit@scanlanstone.com 's an order

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again for this bill. And so we'll put that to a  
4 vote.

5

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

6

CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

7

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.

8

Macedo?

9

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.

10

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.

11

Bennett?

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: No.

13

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, no.

14

Berman?

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.

16

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.

17

Solache?

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.

19

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.

20

Stefani?

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.

22

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.

23

Tangipa?

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.

25

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.

CHAIR PELLERIN: That motion fails two to

five.

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Majority Floor Leader, you may begin your  
presentation of AB 604.

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Great.  
I'm just waiting for someone to hold -- okay.

7

Thank you, Madam Chair and Members.

8

Let's not dance around the issue here.  
If California Democrats had our way, the midterms  
would continue as they are with the map drawn by  
our state's Independent California Citizens  
Redistricting Commission. I think we need to --  
we agree on that.

14

But that's not good enough for this  
President or for Republicans following his  
commands in Texas and D.C. We weren't planning  
on redistricting until they made attempts to rig  
the 2026 election by stacking the deck in other  
states. We didn't start this and we are not  
going to roll over.

21

This bill lays out new congressional  
districts only, only if voters pass ACA 8. If  
voters approve the new map, the Independent  
Redistricting Commission will continue its  
mission after the 2030 census.

25

If California voters approve this plan,  
the temporary maps on display in San Francisco, C.

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Republicans and the Republican-led states push  
through mid-decade partisan maps first. Unlike  
Texas, which is forcing maps on their voters,  
we're taking ours for their approval. We're  
asking ours for their approval. There is nothing  
more Democratic than letting California voters  
decide.

10

Unlike the map proposed in Texas, the map  
in AB 604 respects California's constitutional  
requirement for maintaining communities of  
interest. With this bill, there is less breakup  
of local jurisdictions. With this bill, we seek  
the public's input. The voters will decide.

16

So if our Republican colleagues in  
California want this to stop, they don't need us  
to do it. They can convince the Republican  
colleagues in Texas and D.C. to stop trying to  
rig the 2026 elections. And they can ask  
Congressional Republicans to pass the Republican  
proposal to make midterm redistricting illegal,  
to finally create a system where every state uses  
a fair, independent districting system.

25

Again, colleagues, their choice is to  
stand down or support a fair system for every  
state. That's how the

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3 President's followers stop trying to rig the  
4 elections, we won't and we can't sit on our  
5 hands.

6 What happens next year is up to the  
7 President, and it's up to the national  
8 Republicans, and it's up to California voters.

9 With me today, I believe -- right now we  
10 will have Terry Brennand with SEIU and Tom Willis  
11 from Olson Remcho speak. We're also waiting for  
12 our other member. Thank you.

13 MR. BRENNAN: Madam Chair, Members, Terry  
14 Brennand on behalf of SEIU California.

15 SEIU local unions are made up of workers  
16 in the frontline, essential roles across the  
17 state, nurses, healthcare workers, janitors,  
18 social workers, security officers, in-home  
19 caregivers, school and university employees,  
20 court workers, airport workers, city, county,  
21 state employees, all of whom are targets of this  
22 federal administration.

23 On behalf of our 750,000 workers and 17  
24 SEIU locals, we are in strong support of this  
bill and the entire redistricting package. It  
represents a sensible

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only path for California to fight back against  
Trump's efforts to steal the next election.

5

6

As has already been stated, this bill  
only goes into effect if Trump and his MAGA  
loyalists are successful in the one party rule of  
redistricting, and only as a temporary measure to  
respond to the election rigging from the White  
House.

10

11

While SEIU wouldn't have chosen this  
path, it's not the cleanest, easiest way to do  
things, we are proud that California isn't going  
to just sit here like Texas, and let Texas and  
Trump roll over our democracy.

15

16

And unlike Texas, which obliterated their  
current congressional districts, drafting maps  
for this proposal overwhelmingly reinforced  
California's commitment to our democracy and the  
vote of every Californian.

20

21

The maps proposed in AB 604 build upon  
the work of the Redistricting Commission and keep  
the majority of districts established by that  
Commission intact.

24

25

The plan you will get to vote on and the  
voters will get to vote on in November was  
created using traditional districting criteria

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consistent with the State Commission criteria and the Fair Maps Act, but with the additional criteria of improving partisan gains in response to Texas and other states who are conducting mid-decade redistricting. Using objective metrics, the districts maintain and even, in some cases, improve district compactness compared to the existing commission maps.

10

11

For people who are concerned about splitting up cities, it should be noted that the maps in AB 604 split fewer cities than the current Commission plan that we're operating under. In contrast, the Texican -- Texican -- Texas Republicans aimed to maximize Republican gains with no consideration of the state's residents.

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Their proposed map doesn't even consider communities of interest or political subdivisions, splitting 142 cities, more than double the number of cities compared to the California map drawn by the Commission.

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Not only does California redistricting plan better represent the people of California, but the proposed changes impact significantly fewer residents.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: If you could wrap up.  
Thank you.

5

MR. BRENNAN: Okay, I'll wind up.

6

7

Californians will get a chance to vote on  
our future. Every American's voice and their  
voice will be at stake.

9

10

For these reasons we urge an aye vote  
when you get a chance to vote on this.

11

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

12

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: And welcome to Senator  
Gonzalez.

14

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: It's your turn.

15

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Oh, okay.

16

17

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. My  
apologies for being a little late. And thank you  
to the Members who are here today.

19

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22

23

And in partnership with Assembly Majority  
Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, presenting AB 604,  
which represents a reasonable and rational  
response to the anti-Democratic actions of this  
federal administration.

24

25

AB 604, as has been mentioned and we'll  
continue to reiterate, gives California voters  
the last say, an opportunity to decide in  
November whether they

drawn maps to Page 219  
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3 elect congressional representatives that will  
4 stand up against threats to our democracy.

5 Californians and all Americans are facing  
6 an endless cycle of worry under this reckless  
7 federal administration, and that means  
8 Republicans, Democrats, no party preference,  
9 Americans and Californians are facing this worry.

10 Families have been separated in my  
11 district alone. Immigrant communities completely  
12 traumatized for the overreach of this egregious  
13 administration.

14 Vital programs have been cut. Medicare,  
15 we have about 6 million folks on Medicare here in  
16 California. Over 3 million of them will be  
17 affected by the Medicare cuts in our communities.  
18 And that's exactly why this moment is so urgent.  
19 Our communities deserve better.

20 And for you, I don't know personally,  
21 seeing my Texas colleagues being locked up, being  
22 threatened with the FBI coming after them, being  
23 threatened to require them to have law  
24 enforcement at their every waking hour just to be  
able to do their job is really an egregious  
crime, in my opinion.

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3 your communities, but still have this hanging  
4 over you.

5 So AB 604 is a temporary solution that  
6 provides California voters with the means to  
7 balance the scales.

8 And I look forward to the discussion here  
9 and testifying in support.

10 In addition to Mr. Brennand, we also have  
11 Mr. Willis here, too, from Olson Remcho.

12 MR. WILLIS: Thank you. I'll just be  
13 very, very brief.

14 The AB 604 is obviously the Maps Act. It  
15 is a long list of census blocks. But  
16 nonetheless, that is seen through interactive  
17 maps that will be widely available. And more  
18 importantly, the SB 280, which you just had the  
19 hearing on, commands that the voter pamphlet  
20 include maps for everyone to see. I have a  
21 feeling that these maps over the next 74 days  
22 will be discussed widely by everyone, and so it  
23 is up to the public.

24 These maps only go into effect if Texas  
or other districts do mid-decade redistricting  
and if our voters, the California voters, approve

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them. Probably the most democratic process you  
can have.

5

So those are my two points. I'm happy to  
answer any technical questions or legal questions  
you have.

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

9

We'll now open it up to the room. If  
there's anybody who wants to add on as a support  
to AB 604, you may step up, and you're each given  
30 seconds.

10

11

12

13

MS. HINES-SHAIKH: Honorable Chair and  
Members, Amy Hines-Shaikh representing UDW AFSCME  
Local 3930 and their 200,000 in-home supportive  
services members standing up for Medi-Cal funding  
and these bills, the whole redistricting package,  
in strong support, and UNITE HERE! Local 11  
representing 32,000 folks in Orange County,  
San Bernardino, Riverside And Los Angeles  
counties, in strong support of the whole  
redistricting package, including this bill.  
Thank you.

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MS. CHOU: Annie Chou with the California  
Teachers Association in support of this bill.

Again, just reminding that CTA is  
supporting these bills. You know, the

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3 effect at the school site. So when we're talking  
4 about the reduction in force in the Department of  
5 Education and protecting those workers, when  
6 we're talking about funding for Education  
7 Department.

8 And I know that our state was involved  
9 in, you know, making sure that we were ensured  
10 those federal funding. Those are the types of  
11 things that are super critical to the task at  
12 hand for the California Teachers Association. So  
13 thank you so much.

14 MS. MOK: Tiffany Mok on behalf of CFT, a  
15 union of educators and classified professionals.  
16 We stand proud to support this legislation, not  
17 because we wanted to, but because we believe it  
18 is necessary to defend against the threats that  
19 we see every day on our school campuses.

20 CFT's mission is to ensure that there are  
21 the necessary conditions for learning. And under  
22 this administration, we feel like many of the  
23 attacks --

24 (Cell phone ringing.)

MS. MOK: Okay. And so that's not me.

Okay.

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Anyway, so we support this legislation because we feel we're threatened by this administration.

6

CHAIR PELLERIN: But now it's me.

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MS. NIELSEN: Julie Nielsen on behalf of the National Union of Healthcare Workers, representing healthcare workers up and down the state of California, in strong support of this legislation and the fight back. Thank you.

16

17

18

MR. KUMAR: Thank you, Chair and Members. Keshav Kumar for the final time on behalf of Lighthouse Public Affairs representing Reproductive Freedom for All.

19

20

21

22

23

Really want to say thank you to the Members of the Committee who are in support of this and the Legislature in general.

This is what we need to do at this moment because of what Texas is planning on doing and what other states may do. And Reproductive Freedom for All has members in every single congressional district. And we are in strong support on behalf of our 4 million members.

Thank you.

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MS. GUSMAN: Good afternoon. Connor Gusman on behalf of Teamsters California, in support. Thank you.

6

MS. FLOCKS: Madam Chair, Members, Sara Flocks, California Federation of Labor Unions. On behalf of our 2.3 million members, we're in strong support. Thank you.

10

MS. MCMICHAEL: Shelby McMichael on behalf of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, in strong support.

11

12

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

14

We will now open it up to primary witnesses in opposition. If there's primary witnesses in opposition, you may step up to the presentation table. And you're provided with three minutes.

15

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MR. BOLOG: Thank you so much. My name is David Bolog. I am an employee of the City of Los Angeles, although I do not speak for the City of Los Angeles, nor do I speak for my unions. I am a member of a union.

20

21

22

23

24

One of the presenters here today stated that, because of the cuts, we are losing to be able to provide services. In the City of LA, we are facing a budget

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off people. But it has nothing to do with the  
administration. It has to do with our poor  
planning of our leaderships and lawsuits.

6

So one of the big problems that a lot of  
Republicans have with this map and with the  
process of doing the redistricting is that we are  
losing representation. And I do know -- even  
though I do not agree with the supermajority  
party's politics, you've been nothing but fair to  
us.

10

11

12

13

You've been fair to my -- I consider them  
my representatives, even though they're not my  
district. You've given them ample amount of time  
and allowed them to express their dismay with  
this and allow them to ask their questions.

14

15

16

17

18

But by passing this -- and I understand  
the reasons why you're doing it. By passing  
this, you are limiting our congressional  
representation. We make up about 40 percent --  
and I said this already, and another person said  
it. We make up about 40 percent of the voting  
block.

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I think what this is going to do is limit  
it to, if I'm not mistaken, 20 percent, so it's  
going to cut our representation in half.

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And I do know you care about that. So I think  
you -- and I understand, again, why you're doing  
it. But I think you all could do a lot better  
than this.

7

And, again, thank you for your  
generosity, and I thank you for allowing me to  
speak, and I thank you allowing for everybody to  
give 30 seconds.

10

11

I know it's probably not going to happen,  
but I really wish that that will become a trend  
in this Legislature with the committees. Thank  
you.

14

15

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

16

Anybody else in the room that would just  
like to come to the mic and give your 30 seconds.

17

18

MS. PATEL: Hello. My name is Preet  
Patel, and I strongly oppose this piece of  
legislation.

20

21

Your duty as this state's Legislature is  
to the voters of California, not to perform  
retaliatory responses to the actions of other  
states.

24

25

So by overriding our State Constitution,  
to retaliate to the actions of the State of Texas  
is completely disregarding our constituents.

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And the reason that you are elected into  
office is not to sit here and --

5

CHAIR PELLERIN: That's 30 seconds.

6

MS. PATEL: Okay. Well, I don't know  
that that was 30 seconds, but thank you.

8

CHAIR PELLERIN: Actually, it's 37 now.

9

And let's refrain from the applause.

10

Thank you.

11

MS. KAY: Hello. My name is Shan Kay. I  
was in here earlier posing as well. Drove all  
the way up from Southern California this morning  
to come up and oppose.

15

My sentiments are the same. We are  
not -- I know you're trying to Trump proof  
California, but we are constituents in California  
and we feel like our voices should mean  
something, not just something to fight what's  
going on in another state.

21

So I'm just here, driving all the way up  
here from one o'clock in the morning to oppose  
this bill. Thank you.

23

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: All right. Thank you  
very much.

25

All right. Is that everybody that --  
okay.

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So we will now bring it back to the  
Committee.

5

Members, do you have any comments or  
questions?

7

Assemblymember Bennett.

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Just one quick  
one. This bill is on a tight time frame. All  
three bills are on tight time frames, and so I  
think it's appropriate for us to recognize that.

10

11

12

Many attempts will be made to delay  
things, and there will be all kinds of reasons  
for why we should delay. But I think we should  
all call out that one of the major reasons is, if  
you have a tight time frame and you can delay  
something long enough, that's a way to defeat  
this bill. And that's simply rather than -- it's  
a genuine issue that's being brought up, it's an  
issue being brought up for the ulterior motive of  
allowing the autocrats to win and change the  
rules and have us not be able to respond. Thank  
you very much.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Any -- I'm sorry,  
there's two more people that were wanting to have  
opposition recorded. Go ahead and take your 30  
seconds each. My apologies.

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MS. GRAY: No worries.

4

My name is Yasmina Gray, and I'm a  
resident here in Sacramento. And my sentiments  
are the same as what was explained before, is  
that as a citizen, as a resident here, I don't  
think that our law should be looking at  
countering what's going on in another state.

10

It should be reflective of what is needed  
here, for the residents here. And so I want to  
strongly oppose the bill. Thank you.

13

MS. CHAVEZ: My name is Diana Chavez.  
And as a Republican minority now here in  
California, I strongly oppose this because I  
think my voice is being completely shut down as  
being a Republican. It seems everything wants to  
go Democratic. And so I strongly oppose this  
redistricting.

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: Any other comments or  
questions from Committee Members?

22

Assembly Member Tangipa.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, I have  
quite a few.

24

So I actually just wanted some clarity,  
too. If you can answer that, did we first

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3 see the maps and when were you given the maps to  
4 start drawing these lines?

5 And I ask -- and the main reason why I  
6 ask that is because there was statement that was  
7 made that these congressional maps have fewer --  
8 you stated that there were fewer splits with  
9 these maps.

10 It is my understanding that, as of last  
11 night at eight o'clock that there are more splits  
12 now and that was completely changed. So if you  
13 wrote your testimony before 8:00 p.m., the entire  
14 maps are completely different.

15 MR. BRENNAND: I did it based on the maps  
16 released on Friday.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: On Friday?

18 MR. BRENNAND: Yeah.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. So the  
20 maps changed last night and now there are more  
21 splits.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Again, the maps were  
23 changed as of yesterday morning at 8:00 a.m., and  
24 it was just a couple of tweaks that were done  
in --

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER (Inaudible.)  
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CHAIR PELLERIN: I know, I know, I know.  
But it's not the entire map.

5

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I meant it  
more towards the testimony was wrong. It was  
incorrect.

8

9

MR. BRENNAND: Well, there are fewer,  
fewer splits than the Texas maps for sure.

10

That's what my testimony was.

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. The --

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: If you  
don't mind, there --

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When did --

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: -- there  
were -- just so you know, we did have -- there  
were some changes. They did two things. They  
eliminate a zero population split in the City of  
Industry and improve the compactness of the plan  
in Southern Santa Ana.

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When did those  
changes happen?

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Yesterday.

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When were those  
changes made public to all Committee Members?  
Because they weren't made public yesterday at

25

8:00 a.m. for me. Because I read mine, the

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City of Clovis had three congressional districts.

4

The City of Clovis now has a change and has one.

5

6

CHAIR PELLERIN: It's my understanding

7

that our Committee staff posted them on our

8

Assembly elections website yesterday morning at

8:00 a.m.

9

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: That's

when they were there.

11

12

SENATOR GONZALEZ: And we've had over

3,000 -- probably now about 5,000 residents

13

across California that have submitted to the

14

online portal that was available -- thank you,

15

Madam Chair on the Assembly side, as well as

16

Chair Cervantes in the Senate side -- a portal

17

that was available to residents as of Friday. I

18

think even before that.

19

20

And so we want to thank you for being so

transparent and providing the opportunity for

21

folks to see the maps.

22

23

And as been mentioned by our witnesses

too, you know, 70 -- I'm going to be very clear

24

here with the data, 76.7 percent of people will

25

be in their same congressional district. The

maps change 58 percent of districts by less than

20 percent, and 37 percent of districts by less than

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3 10 percent. Eight districts will be identical to  
4 the lines drawn by the Citizens Redistricting  
5 Commission.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Thank  
7 you.

8 SENATOR GONZALEZ: And we all know --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I've got to  
10 move on to my next question.

11 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I'm not done here.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I have a  
13 limited amount of time, so I got to move on.

14 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I understand, but I  
15 have the floor.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So do you agree  
17 that --

18 SENATOR GONZALEZ: If you don't mind --

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me. Assembly  
20 Member Tangipa, we're going to freeze your  
21 time --

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- and allow the Senator  
24 to finish with her report.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How much time  
do I have left?

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Eleven minutes and 45 seconds.

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

6

7

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8

And we just -- you know, I will certainly keep decorum here as much as possible, but I want to make sure that the public understands what we're doing here.

12

13

14

And then there's 21 districts, exactly the ideal district size, the same number as the Citizen Redistricting Commission.

15

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And the proposed congressional map, as been mentioned by Mr. Brennand, keeps more cities whole than -- within a single district than most recent maps enacted by the Commission.

19

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22

As you know, the Commission had six Republicans, five Democrats, four nonparty preference folks that were doing the hard work back in 2020.

23

24

And so I think that, you know, again, 76.7 percent of the current maps that you see here are based off that Commission map in 2020.

So that's -- these are all the maps, while also

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ensuring that we're combating Texas on this  
democracy issue, which is very important.

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

6

Do you agree that we have not -- are we  
starting? Okay.

8

Do you agree that we have not had as many  
hearings as were held by the Citizens

9

Redistricting Commission? Just do you agree that  
we haven't had as much -- as many hearings?

10

11

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Well, I  
think the information has been that the maps are  
based on proceedings, records and public input  
from Independent Commission process based on the  
2020 census.

13

14

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17

Voters are able to see those maps in the  
Assembly Elections Committee website, submit  
public comments so we can answer their questions.  
The voters will make the ultimate decision on  
their maps.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Got it. So you  
agree.

23

24

Do you agree that we have not followed  
the same requirements in drawing lines as the  
Citizens Redistricting Commission was required to  
follow pursuant to the

25

Constitution?

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SENATOR GONZALEZ: And we'll say again,  
over 76 percent of this map that you see here had  
been vetted publicly, had been done by the  
Commission. And from Mr. Willis's testimony  
back in Senate elections -- and if you'd like to  
pontificate on this -- is the Members of the  
public since Friday of last week will have 78  
days did we say? Seventy-eight days to look at  
this before it hits the ballots.

12

And on the ballot they will have a link  
that will direct them to the map, so they can  
obviously have -- be more educated when they're  
at the ballot box as well. And Californians will  
have the final say.

17

This is much more time than would be --  
than would have been given through the  
redistricting process, which was 14 days.

20

So if you'd like to add to that,  
Mr. Willis, we'd love to put you on the spot.

22

MR. WILLIS: (Inaudible.)

23

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Okay, good. I did  
well for you. Thank you.

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Was any  
nongovernment employee assisting in the drawings  
of these lines?

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SENATOR GONZALEZ: Not that I know of.

I'm not sure why you would infer that. Again,  
this is a -- this is an attack on Californians.  
This is an attack on Californians. Let's be very  
clear here what is happening.

There are Texas legislators that are  
being locked up and required to be with law  
enforcement because they're just trying to do  
their job representing their communities.

So our response is absolutely going to  
say we want as Californians to combat that. How  
in the hell are we going to say that Medicare --  
children that are on Medicare, it's okay to  
continue to cut 3.4 million Californians off of  
Medicare?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So I ask --

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Would you be okay  
with that --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I ask --

SENATOR GONZALEZ: -- telling your  
residents in the district that it's okay to cut  
them from Medicare?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So I'm asking  
the questions.

SENATOR GONZALEZ: I don't know about disabled children.  
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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And one of the  
main things that we wanted to know on this is  
because we want to know who wrote the maps.

5

There was a report done by KCRA that stated that  
the DCCC had a direct involvement with this.

8

In this legislation, it states that the  
maps were created, prepared by, by the Assembly  
Committee. That's inaccurate. That's why it's  
pertinent to this.

10

11

12

But moving on, do you believe that  
Members have a vested interest in these maps  
passed?

14

15

SENATOR GONZALEZ: We do in the sense  
that we want to protect Medicare. We want to  
make sure that Medicare is not continued to be  
cut. We want to ensure that SNAP benefits for  
children -- why are they being cut?

18

20

Why -- can you go back to your district  
and really tell them, we're going to cut your  
SNAP benefits, we're going to cut your Medicare,  
we're going to continue to racially profile you  
in Los Angeles because you're an immigrant?

23

24

25

And on top of that, we might just decide,  
if we lose this election, that Trump might be  
elected for a third

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3 electing kings all of a sudden. We cannot do  
4 that. We cannot and we won't.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Let's have order,  
6 please.

7 SENATOR GONZALEZ: You might think it's  
8 laughable, but this is where we're at right now.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No, but  
10 Senator.

11 SENATOR GONZALEZ: This is true -- this  
12 is true stuff.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I appreciate  
14 you truly being honest with that.

15 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Absolutely.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I really do,  
17 like honestly.

18 That's fairly surprising, understanding  
19 the urgency done with this and how we're moving  
20 it through, that it was openly admitted that  
21 we -- that the Members of this legislative  
22 Committee and this body have a vested interest.  
23 Thank you.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I appreciate  
that we not misrepresent the answers that are  
given.

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SENATOR GONZALEZ: That was not what was  
said, but --

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Given that  
this -- given this -- given this is being rushed  
through --

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Every member of  
California has a vested interest in our  
democracy, Mr. Tangipa.

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- with zero  
research --

12

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I realize that  
we like to play gotcha games today, but let's  
keep it in check.

16

17

CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's keep our  
questions --

18

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- to the merits of this  
bill, AB604, please.

21

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Given this is  
being rushed through with zero research or  
consideration of implication, I feel it's kind of  
worthless to ask. But, you know, have you read  
the study by Jones's regarding partisan  
gerrymandering and t

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Do you have questions about AB 604, the merits of the bill, what is contained in the bill?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, it's --

CHAIR PELLERIN: I don't see how that's relevant.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: In the bill it states that it's the gerrymandered map, and I'm asking about research done on gerrymandering.

CHAIR PELLERIN: The maps are publicly posted on the Assembly Committee's website for everybody to see. The voters will be the ultimate say on whether these districts are approved or not for the temporary basis until 2032.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I believe that gerrymandering is pertinent to it, and there is multiple studies that have to deal with gerrymandering that I think are very relevant to the bill since it's in the bill.

SENATOR GONZALEZ: We have not read it. What is your point? Can you tell us what your question is? That'd be great to know.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, it's the fact that gerrymandering is not anywhere else

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or everywhere else, when we have empirical data  
that it does not help the people of California,  
why would we bring that here if it shows us.

6

And it tells us that in these studies --  
you know, there's a study done by BMC Starkey  
that actually talked about the relationship  
between gerrymandering, redistricting.

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Voters  
will decide.

12

CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah.

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- and infant  
mortality and deaths.

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The voters  
will decide.

17

CHAIR PELLERIN: Am I taking this to be a  
position that you support independent  
redistricting for the entire 50 states in the  
United States?

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

22

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Good to know.

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, of course  
I do.

24

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: That's great to hear.

SENATOR GONZALEZ: We can actually align  
on that.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah. Anything you could do to help Texas and Florida, let them know that that position would be greatly appreciated.

6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I will say that time and time again. I've gone to advocate. But I also understand my position as a Legislator in the State of California is to the California people, and we can't react to what other states do, what everybody else does.

12

Because the way I think about it, seven months ago, there's a different person in the federal administration and in the White House. Cost of living was still \$825,000 in the state. 25 percent of residents, 20 percent of residents still couldn't afford it.

18

So if we created our policies, which it feels like here in this legislative body is reacting to everybody else, we're doing a disservice to the people of California. That's why it's important.

23

So, yes, I agree with you and everybody else here. I wish we would continue to be the model to the rest of the nation that they should adopt ours.

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But instead, it seems like we've forgotten the statement that was made by Michelle Obama that when they go low, we go high. But instead, now we've -- this -- the leadership here in the state says when they go low, we'll go lower. When they go authoritarian, we'll be more authoritarian.

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: And did you have more questions about the merits of the bill?

11

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, ma'am, I -- yes. I do.

13

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: Please go ahead and ask those.

15

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: You know, there are just so many empirical studies that are done on this. When we're looking at the maps, how did we take into consideration communities of interest?

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You know, were they done to protect race, religion, all the ideologies that we have right now to make sure that we're protecting the voters of California? Was that done in that consideration?

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SENATOR GONZALEZ: It's a partisan gerrymander. That's what we're talking about

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3 here. This is partisan politics is what we're  
4 talking about here.

5 If Texas wants to -- again, if Trump  
6 gives them a call and says, literally, as he did  
7 with Governor Abbott, find me five seats, well,  
8 we're not going to sit back and just say, well,  
9 it's okay, find the five seats. And you know  
10 what? Six million people will be taken off of  
11 Medicare in California.

12 We are not going to stand by for that.  
13 So, no, this is completely partisan politics  
14 here. Obviously, that is happening. And we're  
15 doing so with the intent of supporting and  
16 bringing forward the quality of life issues that  
17 have been so affected by Californians, regardless  
18 of what your party affiliation, regardless of  
19 where you live in the state.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do you know if  
21 the maps were made sure -- to make sure that we  
22 were protecting communities of interest?

23 Because it's stated in the bill. It  
states that these maps --

MR. BRENNAND: Yes.  
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3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- were created  
4 to protect communities of interest, and it  
5 defines that, too.

6 MR. WILLIS: Yeah, I'll just go back to  
7 what has been said several times, which is this  
8 map -- the main architecture of this map is from  
9 the Redistricting Commission.

10 And the Redistricting Commission issued a  
11 voluminous report and maps all about how they  
12 followed that, or how they followed the Voting  
13 Rights Act, how they followed communities of  
14 interest --

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When you say --

16 MR. WILLIS: -- how they followed  
17 geographic integrity.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Just for  
19 clarity for me, you mean the Redistricting  
20 Commission --

21 MR. WILLIS: Right.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- on the  
23 independent -- and you guys.

MR. WILLIS: That's correct. That's  
right.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- utilize  
those to create -- okay. So that was just for  
clarity on my part.

6

MR. WILLIS: Correct. Yes. And -- but  
that -- as many people have said already, that is  
the basis, the fundamental basis, the beginning  
part for this map.

10

And as people have said over and over  
again, 76 percent of that map is baked into this  
map.

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But what I  
heard from some of the testimony from SEIU, too,  
that the communities of interest were taken into  
account to make this map.

17

MR. BRENNAND: As they were by the  
Commission, correct.

19

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

20

MR. BRENNAND: They followed the same  
criteria, Fair Maps Act, the criteria for the  
Commission and consistent with the State  
Constitution.

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So all of  
those --

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CHAIR PELLERIN: And you have just over  
two more minutes.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yep. Thank  
you.

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No, I appreciate it. I appreciate the  
clarity provided here. You know, I -- you know,  
I really do wish that I had more time, that  
everybody had more time as we get to see this as  
it's changing so quickly.

10

11

So thank you for being here and thank you  
for the honesty.

12

13

14

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

We'll now move on to Assembly Member  
Solache.

15

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Thank you,  
Madam Chair and Committee Members.

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I do appreciate the second part of  
today's meeting a little more with decorum. And  
I do encourage all of us to remember that we are  
ambassadors of Californians and that our  
constituents want to see us behave with decorum.  
So I want to just thank my colleagues all that  
the second part has been a little more -- with  
more class and more respect to each other.

That being said, thank you to both  
Majority Leaders for their participation. I

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know this is informational. That continues part  
of the process.

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And I know that one of the questions that  
was asked multiple times, is there any vested  
interest? Well, I just want to, for the record,  
point out that in 2026, I have zero interest  
running for Congress. Want to put that on the  
record.

11

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14

I'm very happy to represent a half a  
million people in my Assembly district, and I am  
very proud to represent and so I will continue  
working with -- for them.

15

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That being said, also, I actually want to  
appreciate some of the comments made today by the  
public, specifically those that were in  
opposition. Why? Because they were raising the  
alarm of representation.

20

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And I cannot tell you how much I agree  
with you when I represent a district that's  
highly immigrant, highly undocumented, and they  
want a voice, a voice of their families being  
taken, their families being kidnapped by this  
administration.

And I will tell you firsthand that  
maybe -- I can't say deposit@scanlanstone.com

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good amount of examples where there's no  
warrants, there's no documentation and showing it  
to snatch people around. Take them. Just take  
them. So my district, who I probably represent,  
will not stand for that.

8

And what I'm very happy, including in the  
panel earlier that spoke in opposition, very  
credible individuals that spoke about the process  
of the Independent Commission and how they were  
part of the process. And, yeah, they shared that  
there's -- there are no sides.

9

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But they spoke about the process, the  
public comment, what it took to get to this  
point. And as they say, as California goes, the  
nation goes.

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So now that we're talking about how this  
process was great and meaningful, I could tell,  
as a formal council member of my district, we  
were part of that process in public hearings and  
raising our hand and saying that this city should  
be part of that city, that this city that.

19

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It just -- it was a process that at least  
as a local council member I was part of. And I  
could tell you that it felt good to be part of a  
process of what our

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3 for congressional, for State Senate and for State  
4 Assembly.

5 I'm happy -- because I will be honest  
6 with you, I had some concerns of this, moving  
7 forward with this. But when I read in the bill,  
8 because I read it, too, that it would be  
9 temporary and that it will return back to the  
10 Independent Commission, I was very proud.

11 And I think Independents out there in  
12 California, not looking at either representation  
13 of a party, I think that's very meaningful  
14 because this is very direct to my pro tem, my  
15 majority leader's comments.

16 She said, you know, this is a temporary  
17 approach. That once we get back to the regular  
18 schedule, Californians will have a Commission  
19 that they support and they like, Independents,  
20 Republicans and Democrats. So that being said is  
21 a temporary approach.

22 And I respect the opposition's comments,  
23 but I also have to represent in my district. As  
24 Senator Cervantes earlier said, when she goes to  
the district -- we were out for -- in the  
district for 30 days and I have to come from community,

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how are you going to protect me? How are you as  
being a state rep?

5

6

You were a local mayor, and now you're a  
state rep. You now have, quote, unquote, I quote  
the resident, more power now. And they see it as  
more authority, more power.

9

10

I see it as more of a voice. And I'm  
bringing that voice to my constituents to say,  
yes, this is how we're going to react.

12

13

And the biggest part of this process,  
unlike Texas, where they're going to legislate  
and do this and ram it down people's throats,  
we're going to give the voters of California a  
voice, say you decide.

17

18

And so everyone talked about a process of  
how we got here. Fully understand and fully  
respect my colleagues on the other side of how we  
got here. Fully respect that.

21

22

But I can assure you that one of the  
questions that I asked in this process is, how  
were these maps put together?

24

25

And I think within time of us moving  
forward, we will see that the process of the  
Commission was mirrored in protecting  
communities. Protected

communities. Protected

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percent? To my Majority Leader's comment, it's a  
process to protect community. It's not going to  
be a hundred percent favorable for everyone, but  
it's temporary. It's going to be three cycles,  
'26, '28 and '30. Back in '32, we're going to go  
back to the Commission.

9

And I will happily, Mr. Tangipa, with  
you, and I will co-author a resolution saying  
that we should have all 50 states do this. I  
will co-author that with you with as Republican  
and Democrat, saying all states should do this  
moving forward. Happily would do that because  
it's the right thing to do.

16

And once the voters decide that this  
might be a temporary approach to protect  
democracy, and we will happily do that today, at  
least my vote for my constituents, that we go  
back in 2032 and the voters go back to this  
Commission that they fully support, Independents,  
Republicans, Democrats, based on today's public  
comment.

24

But SNAP programs, Medi-Cal, Medicaid are  
on the line.

25

And I will not stand for any one more of  
my community members

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from my community. Because one part of our  
nation, one part of our state, one part of our  
city is being targeted. So I welcome the support  
of community.

7

Let's make this a temporary approach.

8

And last thing I'll say is, if Texas and any  
other states backs down, so will California.

10

Because it's very clear in the language that if  
no one else does anything, California will remain  
and we will continue respecting the lines that  
the Commission put together.

14

So with that, I look forward to

15

Californians of 20 million voters. Is that what  
we said?

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Twenty plus.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Twenty plus

19

million voters will have a say at the ballot box  
November 4th. And respecting everyone's opinion,  
they will decide what happens next.

20

21

22

And the last, last part of that process,

23

they will have 78 days to look at the maps. It's  
public now. I have the link. If anyone wants, I

24

25

can send it to you. There's a link of our  
Assembly website where our Chair has put the  
maps, and it shows c

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You could tap on it. It's pretty interesting, to be honest. You tap on it. There's a demographics, population. It's pretty interesting how the map is.

And again, these are, these are three years, three cycles. So I look forward for Californians, Republicans, Democrats, Independents and anyone that votes to have the right to say, we do like these maps, we don't like these maps.

It's not politicians voting. It's just giving Californians the option of do you want these maps or not. And in my district, we need to protect democracy to the fullest.

Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

Any other Members have questions, comments?

Assembly Member Macedo.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well, I have great news for all of you. AJR 21 is in print and you are welcome to join on with us. That sends the message to all 50 states that we would like independent redistricting commissions. So we --

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5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yes, absolutely.

9 But before I begin, sir, who are you one  
0 more time, I'm sorry, here to answer technical  
1 questions?

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: With who?

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And who are you  
17 representing today?

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Are you being paid  
23 for your time to be here today?

CHAIR PELLERIN: Again --

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3 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- if you have questions  
4 to the merits of the bill, AB 604, that's what  
5 we're --

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well, he's been  
7 testifying, so I would like to know who he is  
8 testifying on behalf of.

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: He is a technical  
10 witness. He's identified himself and his law  
11 firm.

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Well, I'm sure  
13 we'll figure that in a courtroom.

14 But who drew these maps? And I'm not  
15 saying general groups. I'd like specific names.  
16 Who specifically drew these maps?

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: So these  
18 are the legislators' maps, the Legislature's  
19 maps. We did three important things. We took  
20 the knowledge and public input from the  
21 independent Commission. We keep the more cities  
22 whole than the Commission's map. And we are  
23 letting our voters see the map to make the  
24 ultimate decision.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Majority  
Leader, I understand

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Who drew the maps? It's a very simple question. Names, preferably.

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: The Assembly.

6

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The Assembly did.

8

9

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. I'm in the Assembly and I did not draw these maps.

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Well, you're not the leadership, though.

12

13

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No, and I'm aware of that.

14

15

16

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But the same way that in this bill it says that the Assembly Elections Committee, not Chair Pellerin, not Assembly Member Solache, not Assembly Member Bennett.

18

19

I am a part of that group. So by association, I have been lumped in, Mr. Bennett.

20

21

So I'm asking, who drew these maps? Not a general group.

22

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The Legislature drew the maps.

24

25

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Who specifically in the Legislature?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The Legislature drew the maps.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: This is transparency  
that we don't get to know who drew the maps?

5

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The  
Legislature drew the maps.

7

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Again, over  
76 percent --

9

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: That's not what I'm  
asking.

10

11

SENATOR GONZALEZ: But you are, though.

12

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I've heard --

13

SENATOR GONZALEZ: This is where the maps  
are coming from.

15

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I have heard --

16

SENATOR GONZALEZ: (Inaudible.)

17

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- your response to  
that. I am asking you a specific question --

19

SENATOR GONZALEZ: The Citizen  
Redistricting Commission, which is bipartisan.

20

21

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- that you are --

22

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Let's have one  
person speak at a time, please.

23

24

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And my question has  
not been answered. The information you've given,  
I've already heard.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: The question has been  
answered. You just don't like the answer.

5

6

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You said the  
Legislature. I am the Legislature. I am part of  
the Legislature. Is that correct, Madam Chair?

8

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Madam Chair,  
can I try again?

10

11

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Because I'm not a  
Democrat, I'm not (inaudible).

12

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Bennett,  
you may --

14

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Can I just try  
and answer in good faith?

16

17

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Is my time paused?

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Yeah, you could  
pause the time.

19

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24

But when we say the Legislature, all  
kinds of things happen in the Legislature. We're  
not all involved in every one. But they're all  
controlled by the legislative leadership. The  
legislative leadership wrote these maps. A  
combination -- we have a leader right here.

25

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: And she's part  
of the leadership.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So you wrote the  
map --

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6

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: So the  
leadership team --

7

8

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- or helped write  
the map?

9

10

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: The leadership  
team --

11

12

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The team  
did.

13

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Leadership  
team --

15

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: I didn't  
personally write the maps.

17

18

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So, then, there you  
go. She's in leadership, and she just said she  
didn't write the maps.

20

21

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: No.  
There's others that are in the leadership.

22

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: She had some --  
she was part of the leadership team. That  
doesn't mean everybody on the team (inaudible).

24

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Can we bring the  
debate back to the Chair, please?

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So is the team?

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You know who the team  
is?

6

7

SENATOR GONZALEZ: I think we've answered  
the question.

8

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No, you have not.

9

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: The question has been  
answered. Do you have another question?

11

12

And I'm sorry, did you have a comment you  
wanted to make?

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MR. WILLIS: I just wanted to say -- you  
can all verify this -- this week's edition of  
Capitol Weekly Podcast had Paul Mitchell as their  
guest from Political Data. He spoke about the  
fact that he foregone an Italian vacation with  
his family in order to work on redrawing these  
maps.

20

21

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Fantastic. Why can  
we not have Paul Mitchell here, then, to testify?

22

23

SENATOR GONZALEZ: We're the authors of  
the bill.

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah.

25

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Do you have other --

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yes, we have witnesses -- Page 263  
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CHAIR PELLERIN: Do you have other  
questions about --

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yes. I have lots of  
them.

6

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's go ahead and move  
forward with those questions.

8

9

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. So then my  
question is, is how much was Paul Mitchell paid?  
Does anybody know?

10

11

12

Okay. Well, if it was over \$5,000, he  
would have to register as a lobbyist.

13

14

So did any lobbyists help with this? No?  
Okay.

15

16

How many versions of these maps were  
created?

17

18

SENATOR GONZALEZ: I'm sorry?

19

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: How many versions of  
the maps have been created to this point?

20

21

SENATOR GONZALEZ: This is the version  
you see here. There were tweaks done yesterday  
at 8:00 a.m. They were timestamped. The  
changes --

22

23

24

25

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: How many versions?

SENATOR GONZALEZ: This is the version  
you see here as Friday --

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You guys have been  
well prepped by Legal, let me tell you.

5

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Friday of last week we  
saw the maps.

7

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: You're welcome.

8

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What safeguards are  
there to prevent legislators or staff with  
conflicts of interest from manipulating the maps?

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Repeat  
that again.

12

13

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What safeguards  
prevent legislators or staff with conflicts of  
interest from manipulating the maps?

15

16

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: My morals  
and my ethics. Let's start -- just start there.

17

18

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I -- and I know,  
Ms. Curry, that you are.

19

20

But I'm asking, within the language, what  
are we doing to safeguard that? Not just a  
handshake and a promise.

22

23

CHAIR PELLERIN: The maps are publicly  
posted on the Election Elections Committee's  
website.

24

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SENATOR GONZALEZ: The public has 78  
days, as we've been

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3 more transparent process than our colleagues in  
4 Texas who, as has been mentioned by the good  
5 Assembly Member from southeast Los Angeles, that  
6 has been just a nontransparent process and have  
7 locked up legislators.

8 I mean, is that what we want to do? We  
9 don't. We want to provide the public an ability  
10 to look at these maps and then have an option to  
11 weigh in, which they have been able to do over, I  
12 think, 4,000 or 5,000 people.

13 You know more than I do, Madam Chair, on  
14 this good work that you've done to be able to  
15 make the maps very public.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: So the  
17 maps were based, remember, on knowledge and  
18 public input from the Independent Commission, so  
19 we agree with that.

20 And the proposed map splits fewer cities  
21 than the Independent Commission map. We agree  
22 with that.

23 The map reduces the number of split  
24 cities from 60 to 57. This map makes 26 cities  
whole that have been split up under the current  
lines.

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So I'm going to give you a little bit  
example because I did overhear your conversation  
before, Assembly Member Tangipa, because you were  
concerned about the City of Clovis; is that true?

7

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

8

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Okay.

9

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes. The  
original map that I'd seen --

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: So I did a  
little bit of --

12

13

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- Clovis was  
split into three --

14

15

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: I did a  
little bit of --

16

17

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Okay.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- but the map  
yesterday put it in one.

19

20

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: So it's  
great. I'm glad you were looking at the maps to  
understand the impacts on your communities.  
Because of this legislation, every Californian  
will be able to do that.

23

24

25

So specific to the city of Fresno, the  
city was already split by the Redistricting  
Commission into three

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Specific to the City of Clovis it was previously whole and is split by this plan.

5

However, there are 26 cities that were split by the Redistricting Commission that this plan makes whole.

8

So as a result, the total number of cities split is reduced from 60 to 57, and two of those involve zero people.

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That was direct. Can I respond?

12

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to go back to Vice Chair Macedo. She had the floor here. Let her continue with her questioning, please.

14

15

16

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm not expecting an answer to this, but I'll ask it anyway.

17

18

Did anyone with a conflict of interest, including potential candidates for Congress -- Mr. Solache, I know this takes you out of it, so don't worry -- participate in drawing or reviewing the maps, any potential candidates for Congress?

19

20

21

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23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Not to my knowledge.

25

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. If these maps are challenged in court, we should

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Californians be left uncertain about who  
represents them in which districts they reside?  
That probably would be a question for the  
attorneys.

7

MR. WILLIS: Can you repeat the question?

8

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: If these maps are  
challenged in court, which I'm assuming they  
likely will be, how long could Californians be  
left uncertain about who represents them and in  
which districts they reside?

13

MR. WILLIS: I think they will always be  
certain -- I mean, they will always be certain on  
who represents them and what maps apply to each  
election.

17

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So you don't see any

19

MR. WILLIS: I think that these maps are  
legally sound, absolutely.

21

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Interesting. Okay.  
Whoever is paying you I'm sure will maybe agree  
with you.

24

How can the Legislature justify  
abandoning the transparent voter-approved  
Commission process in favor of a secretive  
process controlled by

25

depos@scanlanstone.com said,  
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partisan interest? Because this is a partisan  
gerrymander.

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SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yeah. Texas started  
it. I mean, if Texas -- when President Trump  
calls the Governor of Texas to find him five  
seats -- let's be clear what happened. Just like  
he did in Georgia during the '20 -- the last  
election.

11

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So you want to talk about conflict of  
interest and corruption? Let's talk about it.  
Let's absolutely talk about it because I think  
the public should know what exactly is going on  
here.

16

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21

So what we're doing in the very legal way  
and transparent way is providing a reaction to  
the Texas phone call that Trump decided to do to  
ask for five seats to basically circumvent our  
democracy, to supersede and to take away  
healthcare from people.

22

23

24

25

That's the reason why we have a bunch of  
working family organizations that are here today  
because they're tired of it. Rural hospitals are  
going to be completely decimated. I mean, all of  
it. You know this. And it's going to be really  
tough.

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And I would actually just say, too, if --  
I'm down with you. I think if you want to create  
a constitutional amendment at the federal level,  
you all have the opportunity to do that. You can  
go to the White House and ask for it now to  
create a 50 state nationwide independent  
redistricting plan. That would be fantastic. I  
think we can all do it.

10

11

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Do it for  
us. Thank you.

12

13

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Absolutely.

14

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: If you keep -- you  
guys keep bringing up Texas. Why is other  
states --

16

17

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: And  
Missouri.

18

19

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well, so now you  
bring it up, Majority Leader, but that's -- I  
mean, this isn't a -- this isn't about Texas.

20

21

22

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY:  
(Inaudible.)

23

24

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And I understand what  
you guys are going at. Listen, Texas does not  
have the independent redistricting commission.

25

And this -- whether we pass it or not about it or

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not, this started with Democrat groups suing the  
State of Texas for their maps.

5

And, yes, then afterwards we can talk  
about what happened and disagree on it.

7

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Over the Voting Rights  
Act.

9

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So they had to redo  
their maps because Democrat groups told them they  
had to. That's what this all started with.

12

SENATOR GONZALEZ: It wasn't democratic  
groups.

14

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: That was exacerbated,  
likely, by other things.

16

But my question is, is what consideration  
was given to compliance with California's  
requirement that districts be contiguous and  
compact?

20

Because there's one district that is, I  
believe, 30 miles wide and 40 -- or, I'm sorry,  
30 miles wide and 400 miles long, or something  
like that.

24

MR. BRENNAND: Are you talking about the  
current Kevin Kiley district? Because that's the  
case.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: That's not.

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MR. BRENNAND: It goes from Lake Tahoe to  
Death Valley.

5

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm not speaking  
of --

7

MR. BRENNAND: Is that the district --

8

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No.

9

MR. BRENNAND: -- that exists now.

10

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. If we could bring  
comments through the Chair here as well.

12

MR. BRENNAND: Oh, I'm sorry.

13

CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's go ahead and have  
the Vice Chair continue to ask her questioning of  
the authors.

16

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What consideration  
was given to compliance with California's  
requirement that districts be contiguous and  
compact?

20

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: I don't  
have legal (inaudible) for that.

22

SENATOR GONZALEZ: (Inaudible)  
Redistricting Commission requirements as well.  
So, again, I'm going to continue to hit this  
point, and I know you don't want to hear it, but  
76.7 percent of this map currently is based off  
of the 2020 Redistricting Commission.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So just yes or no.

4

5 SENATOR GONZALEZ: All of the parameters  
that are required under that --

6

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No consideration was  
given, then, to the compliance with California  
8 requirements?

9

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: There are  
more contiguous now than they've been before.

11

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yes.

12

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The new --  
the maps that are out there now --

14

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Less splitting.

15

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: -- are  
more contiguous and more compact.

17

18 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So just that  
particular compliance rule, I wasn't -- I'm not  
19 part of leadership, as Mr. Bennett pointed out.  
20 So I don't know if this was, hey, we need to make  
21 sure we're doing this.

22

23 Was is it talked about? Was it, hey, we  
need to make sure we're doing this, or you're  
24 just saying it's done?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: As far as  
I'm concerned, it's done

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. If the Commission's maps are already constitutional and enforceable, what public interest is served by passing AB 604 besides giving the middle finger to President Trump?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Taking care of our constituents.

SENATOR GONZALEZ: I think we've given you a lot of the data. I mean, again, 6.4 million Californians are on Medicare. And as you've seen here, we've got health workers that are in the audience that have supported this bill because 3.4 million are under attack and may lose their healthcare based on what this big, beautiful, ugly, horrible bill just did. And so that is a direct attack on Californians.

And I don't know how I can go back to my district, if I were a Republican, and say, I allowed this and I'm not even speaking up on it, and I'm not going to even fight up against it. I'm not going to try to even in one slightest bit try to claim five more seats to actually protect my constituents, which is what we were all done -- which we all decided to do when we took the oath to become State Legislators.

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And, you know, I think SNAP benefits, education, you name it. We're getting a \$1 billion ransom now from the Trump administration against UCLA. This is horrendous. For research grants to (inaudible) cancer.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm glad that you brought up rural -- like healthcare.

CHAIR PELLERIN: And just a couple more minutes here.

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm glad that you brought that up because I, as a Republican, have gone back to my districts. Because I've been asking Gavin Newsom why he left billions of dollars ready to be reimbursed to our Medi-Cal system that he didn't even bother to turn in the application for. I have fought for reimbursement for providers in rural hospitals because they are leaving.

So as a Republican, I can tell you I'm fighting for my constituents. But the same way that we don't have jurisdiction over the federal government, I don't have jurisdiction over Texas electeds. I'm trying to focus on what I can do here with the dollars

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With that being said, there was  
disparaging comments made about myself and my  
colleague's vote on a redistricting bill. And I  
would like to clarify, if the Chair would allow  
me that vote.

8

9

SENATOR GONZALEZ: I'm not sure what this  
has to do with the bill.

10

11

VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It was brought up  
previously.

12

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Can we hold on  
that? And we'll allow that at the end of the  
hearing here.

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VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well --

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

CHAIR PELLERIN: Try to continue on

AB 604.

19

20

Any other comments from Members on the  
dais?

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22

23

24

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Quick comments.  
I know there's been a lot of conversation and  
bipartisan support, which is amazing, for federal  
independent redistricting legislation.

25

The good news is we have a template for  
that because it has been passed by the House of  
Representatives at the

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There was the For the People Act in 2019  
legislative session, and the Freedom to Vote Act  
in the 2021 legislative session.

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Both versions passed the House. Both  
versions were filibustered by -- unanimously by  
Republicans in the Senate. So we would have this  
in the United States if Republicans at the  
federal level would support it.

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I want to encourage my -- because I know  
y'all have more sway with Republican Senators, US  
Senators, than I do. I'd encourage you to reach  
out to them and let them know, hey, this is  
important for America. This is important for  
democracy. Because right now it's Republican  
United States Senators that are blocking the  
ability for us to have that in the United States.

19

20

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And I will say kudos to my former  
colleague, Congressman Kevin Kiley, for finding  
Jesus on this issue when all of a sudden he has  
concerns about his political future and  
introducing his legislation. I don't care what  
caused him to all of a sudden support independent  
redistricting. I just support him in that  
effort.

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And so I want to say, everybody get out there. Get Mike Johnson, the Speaker, to let Kevin Kiley bring his bill and let's have that be a vote in the United States Congress. And then let's get Republican U.S. Senators who oppose it prior to support it now because that's the best solution to this problem, to this situation.

10

And I'm happy to move the bill if it hasn't happened already.

12

CHAIR PELLERIN: This is just an informational hearings, so we're just --

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No motions. No motions.

16

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- we're just hearing each other out.

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: There will be no votes.

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: And is there any Member who has not spoken yet that would like to say a few words or have any questions?

23

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But, Madam Chair, because this is an informational hearing, can we ask more questions?

25

CHAIR PELLERIN: Absolutely, no.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Why?

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah, yeah.

4

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But it's an  
informational hearing.

6

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: I know. I know. And  
you have had more than 15 minutes of time to ask  
8 your questions.

9

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Because I  
believe the people of California, which this  
11 affects 40 million people, they deserve more than  
12 15 minutes.

13

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And they're  
going to get 75 days.

15

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. So we are going  
to allow the authors to have any close, and then  
17 I'm going to have a few closing statements as  
18 well.

19

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So the 40  
million people, they don't get more than 15  
21 minutes? But not only that --

22

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to have  
our --

24

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: They're going to  
have 78 days, Assembly Member Tangipa.

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- co-authors go ahead  
and close.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Seventy-eight  
days.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But  
Mr. Berman --

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7

CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We are not doing  
cross talk.

8

9

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Part of what  
I --

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12

CHAIR PELLERIN: I am speaking to the  
authors.

13

14

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It's an --

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16

CHAIR PELLERIN: -- and I would like you  
both to just please give me a little bit of time  
and respect.

17

18

ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yes, Madam  
Chair.

19

20

CHAIR PELLERIN: So thank you.

21

22

I'm now going to turn it over --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I asked for  
more time.

23

24

CHAIR PELLERIN: --to our co-chair -- our  
co-authors to go ahead.

25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Thank you  
very much. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much for the discussion

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today. I appreciate it. I appreciate some of  
the commitments my colleagues have made today.

5

6

But remember, we didn't pick this fight  
or this timing, but our process will be most  
transparent in the nation. Finally, our voters  
will decide. And you can smirk all you want.

9

10

Thank you for all your thoughtful  
consideration. And we will move forward and we  
will do the right thing. The voters will decide.

11

12

CHAIR PELLERIN: Did you have any  
comments?

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SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam  
Chair. I just want to say thank you. I respect  
you so very much and all of your incredible work  
in the elections world. And I know that  
Californians will have an opportunity to have the  
final say in November.

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We're very thankful to the witnesses and  
the testimony in support, and the many working  
people that rely on this. They're really looking  
to us and the eyes are on us to make this the  
best decision for them. Their health, their  
safety, education, we're safeguarding that by  
this bill today.

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CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. Page 282  
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Now, I would like to say a few words.  
First of all, I just want to thank the Members of  
this Committee for being here today and  
participating in this hearing. I appreciate your  
time, your thoughtfulness, your care, your  
concerns. I feel your comments. I feel your  
ideas. And it's very important for the public to  
hear from all of us.

I do want to say to you, Assembly Member  
Tangipa, I'm so sorry about your family  
situation. That truly does break my heart, and I  
know how difficult that is. So you have my  
condolences.

These are definitely difficult, uncertain  
and trying times right now, and we have got to  
find a way to move forward and to protect the  
people of the State of California.

In my over 27 years serving as a chief  
elections official, I fought very hard to ensure  
that we had independent redistricting commissions  
to draw these lines.

And we are no longer governing in a  
democracy that I love. We are governing with a  
President who is an absolute fascist, who

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3 does not care and concern himself with the well-  
4 being of the residents of this state.

5 And I was thinking about this. I spent a  
6 lot of time, a lot of hours at home struggling  
7 with where we are at this particular point in  
8 time.

9 And I thought about what would happen if  
10 someone broke into my home and attacked my  
11 children. Would I be able to fight that person?  
12 And I would. I would do whatever it took to  
13 protect what I love.

14 What is happening now in this nation is  
15 an attack on the people of this state. We have  
16 seen children torn from their families. We have  
17 children without enough food. We have seniors  
18 who cannot support their healthcare.

19 We have a climate existential crisis on  
20 our hands and we are throwing out science and  
21 scientists. We are closing education, so  
22 children that need special education no longer  
23 going to get those services.

24 So damn right I'm ready to fight. And  
these bills is not my fight alone. This is the  
fight for the people of the State of California.

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We are not jamming this down your throat.  
We are not doing it in a closed room. We are  
doing it openly and transparently. And the  
voters, the 40 million voters of this state,  
every one of you have a right and a  
responsibility to stand up and cast your vote for  
these measures.

And they will be on your ballot November  
4th of 2025. And I expect every eligible  
registered voter of this state to make their  
voice heard.

And with that we are concluding this  
hearing.

(Hearing concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, MARY ANN SCANLAN, hereby certify that  
I transcribed the California Assembly Elections  
Committee meeting held on August 19, 2025, as  
completely and correctly to the best of my  
ability.

I further state that pages 1 through 286,  
inclusive, constitute an accurate and complete  
transcription of the video recording for the  
proceedings specified.

Dated: November 1, 2025



Mary Ann Scanlan, CSR

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# Exhibit 454

# EXHIBIT E



IN RE CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO RECORDING

August 21, 2025

CERTIFIED COPY

Case 2:25-cv-10616-JLS-WLH-KKL Document 42-6 Filed 11/17/25 Page 3 of 263  
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TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO RECORDING

IN RE CALIFORNIA STATE HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING  
Transcription of Video Recording on 08/21/2025

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

TRANSCRIBED BY:

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Case 2:25-cv-10616-JLS-WLH-KKL Document 42-6 Filed 11/17/25 Page 4 of 263  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Secretary, please  
call the roll.

THE SECRETARY: Allen, Alvarado-Gil,  
Archuleta, Arreguin, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon,  
Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo,  
Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limon,  
McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla,  
Perez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-  
Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab,  
Weber Pierson, Wiener.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: A quorum is  
present. Would the members and our guests beyond the  
rail and in the gallery, please rise.

We will be lead in prayer this morning by  
Senator Durazo, after which, please remain standing for  
the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

SENATOR DURAZO: Thank you, Madam  
President.

Merciful and compassionate God, we ask you  
to abide with us in all the needs of our lives, enable  
our caring to be wise, our support honest, and our  
concerns thoughtful.

May our loves as well as our fears be  
accurate. May our spirits be so open to your guidance

1 that we will become faithfully daring, expectantly  
2 patient and responsibly hopeful with each other and with  
3 your people in our neighborhoods, our state, and our  
4 nation. We ask this in your name. Amen.

5 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Members, please  
6 join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

7 (Pledge of Allegiance)

8 Majority Leader, you are recognized at  
9 your desk.

10 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam  
11 President. We'll be calling a Democratic caucus in the  
12 Maddie Lounge immediately.

13 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Seyarto,  
14 you are recognized.

15 SENATOR SEYARTO: The Republicans will  
16 caucus as well.

17 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senate will recess  
18 for caucus.

19 (Recess taken for caucus)

20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Members of Senate  
21 will now reconvene. We are back at privileges of the  
22 floor. There are none.

23 Messages from the Governor will be deemed  
24 read. Messages from the Assembly will be deemed read.  
25 Reports of committees will be deemed read and amendments

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1 adopted.

2 Members, just a reminder, pursuant to our  
3 rules, we may not debate more than two times on one  
4 measure on the same day.

5 We will now move to motions, resolutions  
6 and notices.

7 Senator Gonzalez, you are recognized at  
8 your desk.

9 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam  
10 President. I move that Senate Rule 29.10(d) be suspended  
11 as it relates to Senate Bill 2AT.

12 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: This is not  
13 debatable.

14 Senator Jones, you are recognized.

15 SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Madam  
16 President. I object to the motion and ask for a roll  
17 call vote.

18 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

19 Senator Jones is asking for a no vote.  
20 Senator Gonzalez is asking for an aye vote.

21 Secretary, please call the roll.

22 THE SECRETARY: Allen.

23 Alvarado-Gil.

24 Archuleta

25 Aye.

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1 Arreguin.  
2 Aye.  
3 Ashby.  
4 Aye.  
5 Becker.  
6 Aye.  
7 Blakespear.  
8 Aye.  
9 Cabaldon.  
10 Aye.  
11 Caballero.  
12 Cervantes.  
13 Aye.  
14 Choi.  
15 No.  
16 Cortese.  
17 Aye.  
18 Dahle.  
19 No.  
20 Durazo.  
21 Aye.  
22 Gonzalez.  
23 Aye.  
24 Grayson.  
25 Aye.

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1 Grove.  
2 Hurtado.  
3 Aye.  
4 Jones.  
5 No.  
6 Laird.  
7 Aye.  
8 Limon.  
9 Aye.  
10 McGuire.  
11 Aye.  
12 McNerney.  
13 Aye.  
14 Menjivar.  
15 Aye.  
16 Niello.  
17 No.  
18 Ochoa Bogh.  
19 No.  
20 Padilla.  
21 Perez.  
22 Reyes.  
23 Richardson.  
24 Aye.  
25 Rubio.

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1 Seyarto.  
2 No.  
3 Smallwood-Cuevas.  
4 Aye.  
5 Stern.  
6 Aye.  
7 Strickland.  
8 No.  
9 Umberg.  
10 Aye.  
11 Valladares.  
12 No.  
13 Wahab.  
14 Aye.  
15 Weber Pierson.  
16 Aye.  
17 Wiener.  
18 Aye.  
19 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Secretary, please  
20 call the absent members.  
21 THE SECRETARY: Allen.  
22 Aye.  
23 Alvarado-Gil.  
24 Caballero.  
25 Aye.  
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1 Grove.  
2 No.  
3 Padilla.  
4 Aye.  
5 Perez.  
6 Aye.  
7 Reyes.  
8 Rubio.  
9 Aye.  
10 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Secretary, please  
11 call the absent members.  
12 Alvarado-Gil.  
13 Reyes.  
14 Aye.  
15 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes, 30. Noes 0.  
16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 9.  
17 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: 9. Sorry. That  
18 measure carries.  
19 Senator Gonzalez, you are recognized.  
20 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam  
21 President. I move that Senate Rule 19 be suspended as it  
22 relates to Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8.  
23 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: This is not  
24 debatable.  
25 Senator Seyarto, you are recognized.  
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1 SENATOR SEYARTO: Thank you, Madam  
2 President. In an effort to minimize our lawlessness and  
3 rule breaking, we simply ask for a no vote on this.  
4 Thank you.  
5 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.  
6 Senator Seyarto is asking for a no vote.  
7 Senator Gonzalez is asking for an aye vote.  
8 Secretary, please call the roll.  
9 THE SECRETARY: Allen.  
10 Aye.  
11 Alvarado-Gil.  
12 Archuleta.  
13 Aye.  
14 Arreguin.  
15 Aye.  
16 Ashby.  
17 Aye.  
18 Becker.  
19 Aye.  
20 Blakespear.  
21 Aye.  
22 Cabaldon.  
23 Aye.  
24 Caballero.  
25 Aye.

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1 Cervantes.  
2 Aye.  
3 Choi.  
4 No.  
5 Cortese.  
6 Aye.  
7 Dahle.  
8 No.  
9 Durazo.  
10 Aye.  
11 Gonzalez.  
12 Aye.  
13 Grayson.  
14 Aye.  
15 Grove.  
16 No.  
17 Hurtado.  
18 Aye.  
19 Jones.  
20 No.  
21 Laird.  
22 Aye.  
23 Limon.  
24 Aye.  
25 McGuire.

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1 Aye.  
2 McNerney.  
3 Aye.  
4 Menjivar.  
5 Aye.  
6 Niello.  
7 No.  
8 Ochoa Bogh.  
9 No.  
10 Padilla.  
11 Aye.  
12 Perez.  
13 Aye.  
14 Reyes.  
15 Aye.  
16 Richardson.  
17 Aye.  
18 Rubio.  
19 Aye.  
20 Seyarto.  
21 No.  
22 Smallwood-Cuevas.  
23 Aye.  
24 Stern.  
25 Aye.

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1 Strickland.  
2 No.  
3 Umberg.  
4 Aye.  
5 Valladares.  
6 No.  
7 Wahab.  
8 Aye.  
9 Weber Pierson.  
10 Aye.  
11 Wiener.  
12 Aye.  
13 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes, 30. Noes,  
14 9. The rules are suspended.  
15 Senator Gonzalez, you are recognized at  
16 your desk.  
17 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam  
18 President. There is a resolution at the desk requesting  
19 that Joint Rule 10.5 be suspended as it relates to  
20 Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8.  
21 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Secretary, can you  
22 please read the resolution?  
23 THE SECRETARY: Resolve that Joint Rule  
24 10.5 be dispensed with.  
25 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: This is also  
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1 non-debatable.

2 Senator Seyarto, you are recognized at  
3 your desk.

4 SENATOR SEYARTO: Thank you, Madam  
5 President. I'd like to make a substitute motion that ACA  
6 8, because of its costs, be referred to the Committee on  
7 Appropriations for a full hearing and vote since it was  
8 not done before.

9 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator, I  
10 apologize, but your motion is not in order. It does need  
11 to be approved by the Rules Committee.

12 SENATOR SEYARTO: I wish to appeal that  
13 ruling. It should be.

14 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: We will now appeal  
15 vote to appeal the ruling of the chair. I put the  
16 question to the body. Shall the ruling of the Chair be  
17 upheld?

18 Secretary, please read -- call the roll.

19 Senator Seyarto is asking for a no vote.  
20 I am asking for an aye vote.

21 THE SECRETARY: Allen.

22 Aye.

23 Alvarado-Gil.

24 Archuleta.

25 Aye.

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1 Arreguin.  
2 Aye.  
3 Ashby.  
4 Aye.  
5 Becker.  
6 Aye.  
7 Blakespear.  
8 Aye.  
9 Cabaldon.  
10 Caballero.  
11 Aye.  
12 Cervantes.  
13 Aye.  
14 Choi.  
15 No.  
16 Cortese.  
17 Aye.  
18 Dahle.  
19 No.  
20 Durazo.  
21 Aye.  
22 Gonzalez.  
23 Aye.  
24 Grayson.  
25 Aye.

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1 Grove.  
2 No.  
3 Hurtado.  
4 Aye.  
5 Jones.  
6 No.  
7 Laird.  
8 Aye.  
9 Limon.  
10 Aye.  
11 McGuire.  
12 Aye.  
13 McNerney.  
14 Aye.  
15 Menjivar.  
16 Aye.  
17 Niello.  
18 No.  
19 Ochoa Bogh.  
20 No.  
21 Padilla.  
22 Aye.  
23 Perez.  
24 Aye.  
25 Reyes.

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1 Aye.  
2 Richardson.  
3 Aye.  
4 Rubio.  
5 Aye.  
6 Seyarto.  
7 No.  
8 Smallwood-Cuevas.  
9 Aye.  
10 Stern.  
11 Aye.  
12 Strickland.  
13 No.  
14 Umberg.  
15 Aye.  
16 Valladares.  
17 No.  
18 Wahab.  
19 Aye.  
20 Weber Pierson.  
21 Aye.  
22 Wiener.  
23 Aye.  
24 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Secretary, please  
25 call the absent members.  
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1 THE SECRETARY: Alvarado-Gil.  
2 Cabaldon.  
3 Aye.  
4 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes, 30. Noes,  
5 9. The ruling stands.  
6 We'll go back to the motion that was made  
7 by Senator Gonzalez.  
8 Secretary, please call the roll.  
9 THE SECRETARY: Allen.  
10 Aye.  
11 Alvarado-Gil.  
12 Archuleta.  
13 Aye.  
14 Arreguin.  
15 Aye.  
16 Ashby.  
17 Aye.  
18 Becker.  
19 Aye.  
20 Blakespear.  
21 Aye.  
22 Cabaldon.  
23 Aye.  
24 Caballero.  
25 Aye.

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1 Cervantes.  
2 Aye.  
3 Choi.  
4 No.  
5 Cortese.  
6 Aye.  
7 Dahle.  
8 No.  
9 Durazo.  
10 Aye.  
11 Gonzalez.  
12 Aye.  
13 Grayson.  
14 Aye.  
15 Grove.  
16 No.  
17 Hurtado.  
18 Aye.  
19 Jones.  
20 Laird.  
21 Aye.  
22 Limon.  
23 Aye.  
24 McGuire.  
25 Aye.

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1 McNerney.  
2 Aye.  
3 Menjivar.  
4 Aye.  
5 Niello.  
6 No.  
7 Ochoa Bogh.  
8 No.  
9 Padilla.  
10 Aye.  
11 Perez.  
12 Aye.  
13 Reyes.  
14 Aye.  
15 Richardson.  
16 Aye.  
17 Rubio.  
18 Aye.  
19 Seyarto.  
20 No.  
21 Smallwood-Cuevas.  
22 Aye.  
23 Stern.  
24 Aye.  
25 Strickland.

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1 No.  
2 Umberg.  
3 Aye.  
4 Valladares.  
5 No.  
6 Wahab.  
7 Aye.  
8 Weber Pierson.  
9 Aye.  
10 Wiener.  
11 Aye.  
12 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes --  
13 THE SECRETARY: Jones, no.  
14 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes, 30. Noes,  
15 9. Joint rules are suspended.  
16 Senator Valladares, you are recognized.  
17 SENATOR VALLADARES: Thank you, Madam  
18 President. I move to remove AB 1214 from the from the  
19 consent file at the request of the author.  
20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: The desk will  
21 note.  
22 Not seeing any other members wishing to  
23 remove anything from the consent file, we will now move  
24 to consideration of the daily file. We will begin with  
25 second reading file.

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Secretary, please read.

THE SECRETARY: Assembly Bill 42 with  
amendments, 1255 with amendments, 1003 with amendments,  
696 with amendments.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Second reading  
will be deemed read. We will now move to assembly third  
reading file item 226 AB 604 by Senator Gonzalez.

Secretary, please read.

THE SECRETARY: Assembly Bill 604 by  
Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry. An act relating to  
redistricting and declaring the urgency thereof to take  
effect immediately.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Gonzalez,  
you are recognized.

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam  
President and Senators. I rise today as a proud joint  
author to present AB 604, which is a reasonable and  
rational response to the anti-Democratic actions of the  
Republican party as they attempt to rig our congressional  
elections.

AB 604 contains the census block data that  
will define the temporary congressional districts that we  
are being forced to adopt through the actions of the  
President and his complicit party leaders.

Just yesterday, the Texas House passed an  
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1 aggressively partisan map giving President Trump the  
2 gerrymander he requested to produce five new Republican  
3 seats in the U.S. House next year. These undemocratic  
4 actions are a betrayal to the values of our great nation  
5 and to the people we all swore to represent, defend, and  
6 protect.

7 Unlike Texas' actions, the decision to  
8 approve the temporary maps outlined in this bill will  
9 ultimately be in the hands of California voters. This  
10 bill gives voters a choice. A choice to keep the current  
11 districts or adopt maps to counter the actions of MAGA  
12 extremists in Texas who are obediently working to tip the  
13 scales for President Trump.

14 Despite the minority party's hypocrisy and  
15 their attempts to confuse the narrative with sound bites  
16 and tweets, the truth is clear that the maps are based on  
17 the work, comments, and hearings of the Independent  
18 Citizens Redistricting Commission, which is a bipartisan  
19 commission.

20 In hearings over the last few days, I was  
21 actually very shocked to learn of the minority party's  
22 well-timed epiphany that independent redistricting  
23 commissions are actually beneficial to voters and  
24 democracy. Well, what do you know?

25 This timely awakening of the Republican  
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1 Party is actually very surprising given that members of  
2 the party have voted against redistricting bills and  
3 reform bills for independent redistricting on at least 30  
4 different occasions over the last 14 years in this state.

5 I'm hopeful that my colleagues across the  
6 aisle will use their newfound enthusiasm for  
7 redistricting reform to reach out to their colleagues and  
8 to the President in D.C. If you have his number in your  
9 phone book, please call him and demand that they adopt  
10 these commissions nationwide and stop the President's  
11 illegal gerrymandering efforts so we can shelf the bill  
12 and get back to serving our constituents and the daily  
13 needs that they have.

14 As this body is now on the same page on  
15 the value of the Independent Redistricting Commission, I  
16 think it's important to highlight how the temporary maps  
17 described in this bill are grounded in the Commission's  
18 work. The adjustments in the maps are as follows.

19 Again, they were supported by maps and  
20 testimony submitted by the public, commissioner  
21 testimony, and draft or completed commission maps. They  
22 also include eight districts that will be identical to  
23 the lines drawn by the Commission. And as I mentioned  
24 over and over again in committee, over 76 percent of  
25 Californians will actually be in their same congressional

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1 district; 58 percent of the maps in this bill are changed  
2 by less than 20 percent, and 37 percent are changed by  
3 less than 10 percent.

4 The redistricting commission that  
5 completed the work and the maps that are rooted in this  
6 work was comprised of five Republicans, five Democrats  
7 and four no party preference individuals who did the hard  
8 work to create over 76 percent of the maps you see in  
9 this bill, demonstrating the real independence and non-  
10 partisanship that informed the original maps and guided  
11 these temporary maps.

12 Members, the greatest consequence for us  
13 today is inaction. Today, the decks are stacked against  
14 us, so what we have to do is fight back. We know that  
15 right now President Trump is gutting vital programs and  
16 increasing economic uncertainty and chaos to some of our  
17 most vulnerable Californians.

18 Medicaid cut \$1 trillion over the next  
19 decade with California at risk of losing 28 billion in  
20 federal funding. That puts 3.4 million Californians at  
21 risk. 3.1 families will lose SNAP food assistance  
22 benefits, mostly children. Billions will be cut from  
23 classrooms and institutes of higher learning. UCLA is  
24 being ransomed by President Trump now for \$1 billion.

25 This is what we're talking about here.  
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1 California stands to lose so much more. Over 7.8 billion  
2 in lost tax revenue due to the Trump tax tariffs. And  
3 the list goes on and on, and our communities absolutely  
4 deserve better.

5 What do we do? Just sit back and do  
6 nothing? Or do we fight back and provide some chance for  
7 our Californians to see themselves in this democracy?

8 And while the minority party will continue  
9 to misdirect and misinform the public today, with  
10 dramatic ties and cries about transparency, process, and  
11 rushed timelines, the truth is that they hold the power  
12 to stop all of this. It's very clear. You all hold the  
13 power to stop this today.

14 And again, actions do have consequences  
15 and if the Republican party truly wanted to stop these  
16 temporary maps, again, you have the power to do so. And  
17 by voting against this today, that means you are  
18 unwilling to stand up against a dictator, a leader that  
19 has taken so much from our most vulnerable constituents,  
20 regardless if they live in Republican or Democratic  
21 districts.

22 Again, I will close by sharing that AB 604  
23 is a temporary solution that provides California voters  
24 with the final say so that we don't tip the scales and  
25 allow this unchecked power to continue. This is how we

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1 fight back and protect our democracy. I respectfully  
2 request an aye vote on this bill.

3 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

4 Senator Blakespear, you are recognized.

5 SENATOR BLAKESPEAR: Thank you, Madam  
6 President.

7 Members, we could debate many details here  
8 today, but here's the bottom line. Republicans are  
9 trying to cheat to win congressional midterm elections  
10 under their unpopular President, and Democrats are  
11 fighting back. This is about trying to level the  
12 national playing field so we can have something close to  
13 fair elections for Congress in 2026, period. Full stop.

14 Republicans are trying to corrupt  
15 democracy; Democrats are trying to honor it. Republicans  
16 can say what they want, but their party started this  
17 madness, racing to gerrymander in Texas and other  
18 Republican controlled states to stack the deck for  
19 themselves in next year's election.

20 Yes. It is lamentable that we are pausing  
21 California's superior process for drawing districts  
22 through a nonpartisan citizen commission that was started  
23 17 years ago, but that was a different political time,  
24 under different political circumstances; and it was a  
25 different electorate. We're giving the voters a choice

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1 to be politically relevant. It would be naive and  
2 foolish to stick to an old model, an old set of rules,  
3 when Texas and likely other Republican states are  
4 rewriting the rules to rig the game.

5 The Trump Administration has made clear in  
6 all of its actions that it believes might makes right,  
7 that it has no respect for the U.S. Constitution, the  
8 separation of powers, the courts, or the democratic  
9 process. Corrupting our elections is the first step  
10 toward fake elections. Donald Trump is trying to remake  
11 America in Russia's image. Total control, no dissent, no  
12 democracy, fake news and fake elections.

13 What did we learn at the outset of the  
14 second World War? That aggressors and bullies take  
15 whatever you give them. There is no appeasing them. The  
16 only way to counter aggressors and bullies and wannabe  
17 autocrats like Donald Trump is to challenge them and to  
18 fight them straight up.

19 There are many decent people in this  
20 chamber, both Democrats and Republicans. All of us are  
21 committed to serving constituents and doing what's best  
22 for California. We do have our disagreements on policy  
23 and on politics, and we work through them as best we can  
24 to serve the people who elected us. But today's debate  
25 is not about California politics. It's about national

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1 politics. It's about owning up to the realities of the  
2 national political landscape and a Republican President  
3 who will stop at nothing to consolidate power, including  
4 corrupting congressional midterm elections. And we in  
5 California cannot stand idly by and do nothing.

6 And with that, I am proud to be a strong  
7 aye for this measure.

8 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

9 Senator Strickland, you are recognized at  
10 your desk.

11 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Questions for the  
12 author.

13 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Will the author  
14 take a question?

15 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Absolutely.

16 SENATOR STRICKLAND: It was stated that  
17 Governor Newsom announced that this legislation and  
18 ballot measure has the explicit goal of electing more  
19 Democrats in response to Texas redistricting. Would you,  
20 therefore, agree with Governor Newsom that the  
21 predominant purpose why we're here today of this  
22 constitutional amendment is to redraw these maps to elect  
23 more members of the Democratic party to the House of  
24 Representatives?

25 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Through the President,  
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1 thank you, Madam President.

2 Thank you for the question. I would say  
3 again, Texas started this. It is very clear. And when  
4 our democracy is at stake, as been mentioned, when there  
5 are millions of people in California that will be kicked  
6 off of Medicaid and kicked off of SNAP benefits because  
7 of your party's control, we absolutely have to react.  
8 And that means doing this bill today, AB 604. And that  
9 means ensuring that the voters of California in November  
10 have a say. They will have a say ultimately.

11 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Okay. So it sounds  
12 like the answer is yes.

13 Another question for the author.

14 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Just a moment.  
15 Excuse me.

16 Will the author take another question?

17 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yes.

18 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: You may proceed.

19 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Did you use the 2020  
20 census to draw these maps?

21 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Through the President,  
22 thank you for the question again. Over 76 percent of the  
23 maps that you see here today are based off of the 2020  
24 Redistricting Commission, which is a bipartisan  
25 commission that we all like to praise. And I'm hopeful

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1 that at the end of this that we actually get your side of  
2 the aisle to support a nationwide independent  
3 redistricting commission plan. Provisions of that are  
4 included in the ACA 8 which will be taken up later today.  
5 And that is the hope is that we can do that.

6 But yes, absolutely, over 77 percent.  
7 There's minor tweaks to this bill, as has been mentioned  
8 -- or to the to the previous maps, as has been mentioned.

9 SENATOR STRICKLAND: So it sounds like the  
10 answer is yes, they used the 2020 census. Because I  
11 found it interesting. I'll get to that later.

12 Another question for the author.

13 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Will the author  
14 take the third question?

15 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yes.

16 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Under current law the  
17 Legislature cannot draw the lines, but it's been reported  
18 this week that the Legislature draw the lines, but no  
19 member of either body of the Senate or Assembly has said  
20 they participated in drawing these lines.

21 One, did you draw these lines or had any  
22 influence on these lines? And two, what member of the  
23 Legislature participated in drawing these lines?

24 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: You may proceed.

25 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you. Again, the  
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1 Legislature has the constitutional right to send an  
2 amendment to the voters, which we will be doing later  
3 today. And the voters will have the ultimate say. The  
4 maps have been online since Friday evening. A very  
5 public process, which -- and the Assembly and the Senate  
6 both had portals. Thank you to the election chairs, the  
7 good senator from Riverside as well as the good Assembly  
8 member from the central coast providing a ton -- the maps  
9 online on Friday and soliciting thousands -- thousands of  
10 responses, which folks can do even today.

11 And in fact what was stated in the  
12 committee as well is that the voters now will have over  
13 70 days to actually, before they make a vote -- hit the  
14 ballot box on November 4th, will have over 70 days to  
15 view these maps, which is incredible. It's actually many  
16 times more than the current redistricting process we have  
17 through the Independent Redistricting Commission which  
18 only allows 14 days. So that is the current process as  
19 it stands now.

20 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Okay. Thank you for  
21 an answer because under the current constitution no  
22 member is allowed to adjust these lines. So my next --

23 A question for the author.

24 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Will the author  
25 take a fourth question?

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1 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yes.

2 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Who has seen these  
3 maps in the Legislature before they were introduced in  
4 the Legislature and when did you see them the first time?

5 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Again, Friday they were  
6 all available publicly online. The Assembly, the Senate  
7 provided opportunity for the public to see these maps.  
8 And you have what we have now. There were slight tweaks  
9 made in amendments this past Monday, which we all  
10 debated, and now we're in the midst of continuing to view  
11 those maps and solicit input from the public. And again,  
12 ultimately, the California voters will vote on this.

13 SENATOR STRICKLAND: A follow-up question  
14 on that same. So is your testimony or your statement  
15 here today that no member of the Legislature saw these  
16 maps before they were public?

17 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Again, I will reiterate  
18 that these maps were available publicly on Friday and we  
19 had the ability, all of us, to solicit our residents and  
20 provide additional -- they had the ability to provide  
21 additional input. And so that's what we're doing today.

22 And what we're not talking about,  
23 unfortunately, is the fact that, you know, Texas has  
24 continuously gerrymandered mid-cycle. Texas has, every  
25 single year since 1965, violated the Voting Rights Act,

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1 every single time. We're going down a rabbit hole here  
2 on transparency and all of the procedural matters. But  
3 what's not included here is the reaction that Texas,  
4 your colleagues in Texas, have continuously violated the  
5 Voting Rights Act, have continuously mid-cycle  
6 gerrymandered. It's unfortunate.

7 SENATOR STRICKLAND: So on my own time, it  
8 sounds like the statements today is that no member of  
9 this Legislature saw these maps before they were public.  
10 And we all know that's not true and I'm encouraging the  
11 media to follow up with every member of the Legislature  
12 because under current constitution, not one member in  
13 this body, on either house, is allowed to adjust a map.  
14 And it was reported that there was different members that  
15 adjusted these maps. And if you wanted to do it  
16 correctly, you should have gone to the people of  
17 California, get the authority, and then draw the maps.

18 So any member here -- let's be crystal  
19 clear, and I'm asking the media to follow up. Any member  
20 here that adjusted these maps violated the constitution  
21 today and is again -- evasive answers that we know that  
22 now, it just shows that there's no transparency because  
23 no one can answer one member on this floor that had  
24 participated in drawing these maps.

25 You say it's the Legislature. You're the  
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1 author, but you didn't have any participation in these  
2 maps. Again, that's not transparency and I'm urging The  
3 media to follow up with each and every one of these  
4 members as this moves forward -- if you get the  
5 two-thirds vote, which I believe you will -- to ask these  
6 questions.

7 Now, if I had the power, as was stated --  
8 and by the way, I don't know one member of the Texas  
9 Legislature. Not one. I was elected here in California,  
10 not Texas. And it was stated in the opening, "You have  
11 the power to shut this down." If I had the power to stop  
12 this, I would stop it. I'm telling the media right now,  
13 if the Republicans in California had the power to stop  
14 this, we would stop this today. And they are  
15 misrepresenting what is the actual truth moving forward.

16 Redistricting commission -- let's make it  
17 clear. The nonpartisan redistricting commission --

18 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Excuse me.  
19 Senator Strickland, if you can please address the body  
20 and not the media when you're speaking.

21 SENATOR STRICKLAND: I'm looking around my  
22 other colleagues. I could look around my whole --

23 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Excuse me, Senator  
24 Strickland.

25 SENATOR STRICKLAND: I'm only allowed to  
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1 look forward?

2 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Please look at me  
3 while you are making your address. Thank you.

4 SENATOR STRICKLAND: That's a new rule  
5 that I haven't heard of before.

6 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: I would appreciate  
7 if you comply.

8 SENATOR STRICKLAND: I've been here over a  
9 decade.

10 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Everything is  
11 through the presiding officer. Thank you.

12 SENATOR STRICKLAND: It is through the  
13 presiding officer.

14 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Exactly. So you  
15 can direct your comments to me or if you have a question,  
16 you can direct it --

17 SENATOR STRICKLAND: So let's be clear --

18 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Excuse me.

19 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Okay.

20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: If you have a  
21 question, you can direct it to that member. But if  
22 you're speaking, please direct it to the presiding  
23 officer. Thank you.

24 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Thank you.

25 Let's be clear. It was stated in the  
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1 opening that the Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission  
2 drew these lines and these maps. That's a false. They  
3 might have took it as a blueprint, but the Nonpartisan  
4 Redistricting Commission did not draw these maps as it  
5 was stated in the opening. Again, people are trying to  
6 be misled of what this actually is.

7 Members, this week's actions demonstrate  
8 why we need a Nonpartisan Citizens' Redistricting  
9 Commission, and why it was passed in the first place.

10 For my colleagues on the other side, who I  
11 deeply respect, sometimes I believe you think the ends  
12 justify the means. Let's go through what happened this  
13 week with no transparency, no input from the community  
14 across the state to draw these maps. And these maps were  
15 drawn behind closed doors with the Governor and, what I  
16 understand, legislative leadership. No one admits that  
17 they had any participation in these maps. They just came  
18 out with thin air.

19 But again, let's look what happened this  
20 week in terms of transparency. You violated your own  
21 rule, the 30 day rule, to push this through. No one will  
22 admit that they drew these maps.

23 And to the media, I'm saying you need to  
24 move forward as this moves forward, to the famous line,  
25 what did they know, and when did they know it? Which

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1 lawmakers saw these maps and had influence on these maps?  
2 Who paid for these maps? And the lack of transparency  
3 keeps going on and on and on.

4 Let's see what we have here today,  
5 currently, before you go to the voters in November. What  
6 we have here today is the gold standard for redistricting  
7 nationally. It should be the national model and not  
8 thrown out. It's something that we should brag about  
9 here in the state of California. The fact that the  
10 people pick the lines, not the politicians.

11 We have full transparency. In fact, we  
12 have hundreds -- hundreds of hearings throughout the  
13 state of California, in every corner of the state of  
14 California, so citizens can participate in the drawing of  
15 these maps that keep communities together of whole cities  
16 and counties. And the lines are drawn in public in front  
17 of everybody, in front of the world.

18 Members, fair districts lead to fair  
19 representation, and if you pass this bill moving forward,  
20 and if it passes in November, which I don't believe it  
21 will, but if it does, what you're striving for is  
22 predetermined elections, meaning that there won't be one  
23 competitive race for Congress in California for the next  
24 three cycles. Members, that's not good for Democrats,  
25 Independents, and Republicans. You're taking the voice

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1 away from Californians in terms of having fair  
2 representation and earning the trust of your voters. Not  
3 having a predetermined election.

4 Here in California, we have a system where  
5 citizens pick the representatives and not politicians  
6 picking the citizens. That's what you want to throw  
7 away. And what I heard from many of my colleagues on the  
8 other side, this is going to be temporary. From my  
9 experience, and I have over a decade of experience here,  
10 nothing is temporary when you do it. Former President  
11 Ronald Reagan said it best. "We have long discovered  
12 that nothing lasts longer than a temporary government  
13 program."

14 Even this week, the assembly elections  
15 chair stated that the Democrats should do what we're  
16 doing here today in 2030. It was quoted already. So  
17 when you say to the people of California, this is  
18 temporary, my experience is nothing's temporary here. I  
19 don't believe one second that this will be temporary and  
20 neither should the people of California.

21 Now, I do have a Joint Resolution 10.  
22 It's not up yet. I put it across the desk. But it says  
23 we should have nonpartisan redistricting districts and  
24 make it a model nationwide.

25 I do believe it is wrong for Texas to do  
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1 this. I do believe it's wrong for Illinois to do this.

2 I do believe it's wrong for every other state where the  
3 politicians pick their citizens. It is wrong. Both on  
4 the Democrat and Republican side. We should be promoting  
5 what we do here in California, not throwing it away. And  
6 that's what you're going to do if this is successful.

7 You're going to take what is the national model for  
8 redistricting and putting power in the people, and you're  
9 going to take it back to put in the power of the  
10 politicians; so you don't have to really earn the vote of  
11 your constituents because the election will be  
12 predetermined.

13 I also support Congressman Kevin Kiley's  
14 legislation that bans mid-decade redistricting  
15 nationwide. Members, I heard that Speaker Pelosi and  
16 other Democrats from the DCCC from California were here.  
17 What would be more constructive is that you jump on board  
18 to Kevin Kiley's bill, pass it on the national level, and  
19 therefore, we won't have mid-decade redistricting.

20 So members, again, going back to the  
21 census 2020, there's been massive population shifts since  
22 2020. And when you look at these maps, for example, Los  
23 Angeles has lost representation in the last five years,  
24 but under these maps, they pick up a seat. The Inland  
25 Empire has gained population over the last five years,

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1 but they lose a seat.

2 And it's very clear in federal law that  
3 these districts have to be equal in representation. So  
4 if you use the 2020 census, as was stated here before us,  
5 this will be thrown out by courts because it is very  
6 crystal clear that the deviation that you have when you  
7 draw congressional districts is very, very small.

8 And members, you know this is wrong. You  
9 know what you're doing today is wrong. You know it's not  
10 good for democracy in California. And you weren't  
11 elected by anybody. You weren't elected by the people of  
12 Illinois. You weren't elected by the people of Texas.  
13 You weren't elected by the people of New York or North  
14 Carolina. You were elected by the people of California,  
15 and you were elected to defend the constitution. The  
16 Constitution -- again, I believe my colleagues, whether  
17 you knew it or not, violated the oath of the constitution  
18 that you swore to.

19 And I do believe -- I understand, but the  
20 ends don't justify the means. You know this is bad for  
21 Independents, Democrats, and Republicans throughout the  
22 State of California. I want you to look deep inside your  
23 soul and you know this is wrong moving forward. You know  
24 this is not good for democracy in California, and I'm  
25 urging your no vote. Thank you.

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1 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you.

2 Madam President, may I respond?

3 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: So would you like  
4 to respond in your close?

5 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I can do that too, but  
6 I just wanted to make sure that it was known, if I may,  
7 just to refute some of the misinformation that had been  
8 put out.

9 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Can you hold on  
10 for just one moment?

11 SENATOR STRICKLAND: You're going to  
12 respond to every speaker?

13 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Gonzalez,  
14 unless someone has asked you a specific question, which  
15 there was not a question, we're going to have you use  
16 those in your close.

17 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Okay.

18 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Niello,  
19 you are recognized at your desk.

20 SENATOR NIELLO: Thank you, Madam  
21 President.

22 Members, I hope you will indulge me for a  
23 moment for a bit of digression into some political  
24 history. No misdirection, just the facts, ma'am. In  
25 2008, Proposition 11 was put on the ballot to establish

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1 the commission for redistricting for state legislators,  
2 and I think also the BOE. And my friend from West  
3 Sacramento was correct in the -- I think the assembly  
4 elections committee yesterday when he said that that bill  
5 barely passed. It was definitely a squeaker. Maybe less  
6 than 1 percent over 50 percent. That's correct. There  
7 is a rest of the story, though, which I'll get to in a  
8 moment.

9                   Importantly, one main opponent to that  
10 Proposition was the California State Democratic Party.  
11 Well, what do you know? Now, fast forward, 2010.  
12 Proposition 20 was placed on the ballot to perhaps  
13 correct an incompleteness of the previous Proposition 11 to  
14 add congressional districts to the commission's  
15 responsibility. That's what we're talking about here,  
16 congressional districts. Not what Proposition 11 did,  
17 only state offices, but congressional districts.

18                   Now, the rest of the story. That  
19 proposition passed overwhelmingly. Over 60 percent of  
20 the vote. Interestingly, there was very little  
21 opposition to that proposition. Now, this is important.  
22 There was a reason for that. What is the easiest way to  
23 defeat a proposition? That's where misdirection comes  
24 in. Confusion.

25                   There was also, on that ballot,  
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1 Proposition 27, which proposed to completely abolish the  
2 redistricting commission. Get rid of it. Not maintain  
3 it, which we're talking about supposedly here, but get  
4 rid of it. The ostensible proponent for that in the  
5 literature was UCLA professor and former chair of the  
6 Fair Political Practices Commission, Daniel Lowenstein.  
7 But he said the real sponsors were democratic members of  
8 Congress.

9 Well, what do you know? The contributors  
10 to that campaign, which ranged from 5000 to \$225,000,  
11 were Judy Chu, Anna Ashu, Zoe Lofgren, Nancy Pelosi,  
12 Doris Matsui. Our own colleague here from San Pedro who  
13 was in Congress at the time, Linda Sanchez, and Adam  
14 Schiff, as well as a number of others who are no longer  
15 in Congress.

16 The confusion didn't work. What was the  
17 result of that competing measure? It was defeated by  
18 almost an exact mirror image by which Proposition 20  
19 passed. It was defeated with 60 percent saying no. So  
20 now comes a convenient opportunity, very convenient  
21 opportunity. Governor Newsom wants five more democratic  
22 congressional seats.

23 And Democrats see an opportunity for  
24 California taxpayers to pay for what they could not get  
25 with Proposition 27 in 2010. It has, after all, been

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1 reported that the DCC has been involved with the current  
2 effort.

3 A quarter billion dollars, or whatever the  
4 amount is to fund this partisan effort to thwart the will  
5 of the voters, is absolutely unacceptable. Members just  
6 history, not misdirection. Those are just the facts,  
7 ma'am. I urge a no vote.

8 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

9 Senator Grayson, you are recognized at  
10 your desk.

11 SENATOR GRAYSON: Thank you, Madam  
12 President. I do have a question to the author.

13 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Will the author  
14 take a question?

15 SENATOR GRAYSON: Thank you very much.  
16 First, I have two questions. I'll just ask them both and  
17 then answer all in one. The first one is the actions  
18 taken by Texas, are they permanent or temporary? And  
19 does Texas practice midcycle redistricting?

20 And then -- so that was a two part  
21 question on the first one. And the second question is,  
22 for redistricting bills, I believe there was some  
23 reference made to that. Could there be -- could the  
24 author elaborate on what was talked about as far as some  
25 redistricting bills that had been opposed?

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1 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: You may proceed.

2 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you for the  
3 question. And yes, first question, Texas' actions --  
4 their action yesterday is actually permanent. There is  
5 no temporary aspect to the gerrymandering they just  
6 approved yesterday through their House midcycle.  
7 Redistricting is a constant and there's no input for  
8 Texas voters to weigh in. Very opposite from what we're  
9 doing here. Ours is temporary until 2030. And of  
10 course, we are letting the voters decide whether to do  
11 this midcycle or not, which we are doing through a  
12 constitutional amendment. So we are absolutely doing  
13 that.

14 On the second piece, thank you for your  
15 question on redistricting. Now, as mentioned, just as of  
16 last year, there have been over 30 bills last year and up  
17 until going back to about 2014, where a number of bills  
18 had been presented in this body to support an independent  
19 redistricting commission in various parts of the State of  
20 California, in places like San Luis Obispo, and  
21 Sacramento and Orange County, Riverside, Fresno, Kern.  
22 And all of those bills and efforts to establish an  
23 independent citizens' redistricting committee in all  
24 parts of the state of California had been voted no by my  
25 colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

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1 And so I'm not understanding what they're  
2 saying in terms of wanting now an opportunity to have an  
3 independent redistricting commission be the end all say  
4 all while we're sitting here getting attacked by  
5 President Trump on our democracy.

6 SENATOR GRAYSON: Thank you for that  
7 additional information. If I may, through the chair,  
8 would this -- and this is just a hypothetical question on  
9 my part or maybe not. Would this measure impact any  
10 other districts outside of congressional districts? The  
11 answer is no.

12 And another question is who will  
13 ultimately -- ultimately have the final say on this  
14 matter? And the answer is the voters of the state of  
15 California.

16 Senators, I rise in support of this  
17 measure. Throughout my life and throughout my career, I  
18 have been guided by some very simple and basic values.  
19 First and foremost among them, fairness and respect with  
20 commitment to be fair and respectful of my neighbors and  
21 also to respect the rule of law.

22 This is an impactful day, especially for  
23 all of us here in California, which is why the mid-decade  
24 redistricting efforts being conducted by other states  
25 certainly appear to undermine these values in pursuit of

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1 power, simply for the sake of power.

2 And what is most troubling to me is that  
3 these efforts appear to be equivalent of changing the  
4 rules of a game after it has started. Imagine a football  
5 game that is tied at halftime and one team comes out for  
6 the second half declaring that for the rest of the game  
7 their touchdowns are worth twice as many points. Is that  
8 just. Is that justice? Is this not the situation we  
9 face here where a number of states have decided to change  
10 the rules of redistricting to at halftime?

11 Senators, we are literally at halftime in  
12 this redistricting match that we now find ourselves in; 5  
13 years into a 10-year cycle facing the same situation as  
14 the hypothetical football game that was just described.  
15 Fairness would dictate that either all the touchdowns are  
16 worth twice as many points or none of the touchdowns are  
17 worth twice as many points. Justice would dictate that  
18 we all abide by the same rules regardless of the game,  
19 which is exactly why we're here today. Thank you.

20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

21 Senator Choi, you are recognized.

22 SENATOR CHOI: Thank you, Madam and the  
23 Members.

24 I rise today in strong opposition to this  
25 proposal for special election to redraw our congressional

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1 districts in California. Many points have been raised,  
2 and Texas has been described as a bad actor. Very  
3 interesting. And then also the regulations on the sports  
4 and halftime changing the rules. I would like to apply  
5 these two points. If Texas was a bad actor, are you  
6 supposed to follow the bad actor? If somebody runs  
7 through a red light or kills somebody, you do the same  
8 thing? I mean that's exactly what we are trying to do.  
9 And as a model for Texas, it's a model we now follow  
10 whatever Texas does. If you say that that action is  
11 wrong, just let's don't do that. Isn't it more common  
12 sense?

13 Now many points in this direction we can  
14 argue about but let me focus on this measures in another  
15 sense, not urgent item. It is not necessary. It is  
16 certainly not affordable. Let me focus on the financial  
17 aspect of that. In California, we have projected to face  
18 \$12 billion of deficit in the coming year. You all know  
19 that. Every dollar matters. Yet this proposal would  
20 drain an estimated a quarter billion dollars of general  
21 budget just to conduct a special election. This is money  
22 we do not have and the money that could be put to far  
23 better use.

24 Think about what a quarter billion dollars  
25 can do or represents. It could finance tens of thousands  
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1 of childcare slots for working families. It could  
2 support financial aid for thousands of college students  
3 struggling with tuition. It could keep after school  
4 programs and mental health services available for our  
5 children. It can fund public safety and wildfire  
6 prevention programs at a time when California depend on  
7 them most.

8 In order to help close the \$12 billion  
9 state budget deficit, the supermajority decided to cut  
10 California Peer-Run Warm Line in Orange County. A key  
11 program that has provided a free 24/7 mental health  
12 service to millions of residents. That was only \$5  
13 million. I was hoping that you would agree to that, but  
14 it was cut off. And here a quarter billion dollars is  
15 just pocket money to spend on this unnecessary special  
16 election special election and special redrawing in the  
17 mid-decade.

18 As a result of Orange County, where I  
19 represent the county warm line program, has a laid of 127  
20 staff members and is now facing to end operations  
21 completely. Think about the victims, the customers who  
22 have used this warm line and then also unburdened all the  
23 burdens that the 911 system is getting. And we know that  
24 the 911 system right now is -- answer so late because of  
25 a shortage of people with the shortage of staffing in 911

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1 answering service.

2           Instead of funding critical programs like  
3 this, we are being asked to throw these dollars away on a  
4 political maneuvering. This is not about the fairness.  
5 This is not about the people. And this is certainly not  
6 about protecting democracy that you all say that we must  
7 keep the democracy fairness of fairness. This is a  
8 partisan power grab, and it comes at the expense of  
9 Californians we are here to serve.

10           So I ask you, my colleagues, will we tell  
11 Californians that their childcare, their education, their  
12 healthcare, their public safety programs don't matter as  
13 much as a rushed and unnecessary special election  
14 redrawing? Or we will stand with them and say no to this  
15 reckless use of taxpayer dollars.

16           Senators and colleagues, let us show some  
17 fiscal responsibility and common sense. Please vote for  
18 no on this wasteful proposal. Thank you.

19           SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

20           Senator Laird, you are recognized.

21           SENATOR LAIRD: Thank you, Madam  
22 President.

23           In 2021, a particularly egregious  
24 gerrymander was done in my district in San Luis Obispo  
25 County. It was for the board of supervisors' districts,  
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1 and it was proposed by one party. A party that was  
2 losing registration was no longer the party with the  
3 greatest plurality in that county and they passed a map  
4 suggested by one political committee to egregiously  
5 gerrymander that county. Under the census, minor tweaks  
6 to the existing districts would have been in order.  
7 Instead, it was jam the Democrats into one district, make  
8 the other four districts in a way that they likely could  
9 go the other way, and preserve a majority that didn't  
10 exist in the electorate at large.

11 And it was gross. There were some people  
12 that would vote in three -- every two years for three  
13 cycles for supervisor. There were some that were the  
14 opposite. There were -- thousands of people would have  
15 two supervisors at once. Thousands more would have no  
16 supervisor. It was a dislocation that was off the  
17 charts.

18 And so what happened? I introduced, last  
19 year, Senate Bill 977 to say we would have independent  
20 redistricting for San Luis Obispo County. We would have  
21 the commission. That egregious line drawing would never  
22 happen again for that county.

23 And then what happened in this body? In  
24 this body, nine senators thought that was just fine.  
25 That that egregious redistricting that would have been

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1 rectified by commission is what they voted against. And  
2 it was said "Just the facts," on one speech, and then  
3 there were all the names that were given about those  
4 facts. Well, let me say in just the facts, it was  
5 senators from Jackson, Bieber, Bakersfield, San Diego,  
6 Sacramento, Yucaipa, and Murrieta that said, "We are fine  
7 with egregious gerrymandering. We do not want a  
8 commission. We do not want fairness in redistricting."  
9 Let's be clear about that.

10 So when it was said, "What is known and  
11 when did we know it?" in 2024 we knew that was an  
12 egregious redistricting and nine Senators said it was  
13 just fine with them. It was said fair districts lead to  
14 fair representation, but nine Senators said not in San  
15 Luis Obispo County. It was said that politicians should  
16 not pick their voters but was fine for nine Senators in  
17 San Luis Obispo County. It was said that we are  
18 witnessing a partisan power grab. We witnessed one there  
19 and it was fine for nine Senators in San Luis Obispo  
20 County.

21 So let's just call that what it is. We  
22 have born again commission lovers here. They had a  
23 chance to have the fair redistricting in different parts  
24 of the state, and it was rejected. And so I just think  
25 it's fair to expose that level of partisanship because

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1 that's what's going on. And I think now we have a  
2 national crisis and we are responding and I asked for an  
3 aye vote on AB 604.

4 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

5 Senator Grove, you are recognized at your  
6 desk.

7 SENATOR GROVE: Thank you, Madam  
8 President.

9 Colleagues, I rise in opposition of this  
10 redistricting package, all three bills that are coming  
11 before us today to redraw congressional lines. The move  
12 undermines the will of the people and the voters of this  
13 state. I don't wholeheartedly agree with the actual  
14 commission, the people that are on the board of the  
15 commission. But I don't agree that legislators should be  
16 able to draw their own lines either. And I'm a  
17 legislator, and I don't think I should be able to draw my  
18 own lines. I think the people should be able to pick the  
19 people they want to have them represented, and it should  
20 be that a standard across the United States.

21 I listened to your comments, and I really  
22 wasn't going to speak, but I listened to all the comments  
23 and it's all about transparency, and this has been  
24 transparent. Colleagues, this bill -- this bill was put  
25 in print on Monday. We had a hearing on Tuesday. On

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1 Tuesday, when the hearing took place, both election  
2 chairs in the Assembly and the Senate could not answer  
3 one question. Who drew the lines? The Assembly  
4 elections chair said it was a collaboration. The  
5 Assembly elections chair said it was leadership.  
6 Leadership? What leadership? Give us a name.

7 The individual who was providing technical  
8 assistance in that committee would not answer any  
9 questions about who they were, who they represented, who  
10 was paying them. It's a public process and you're asking  
11 from the dais, "Who do you represent?"

12 "I'd rather not answer that question."

13 "Who's paying you?"

14 "I'd rather not answer that question."

15 I mean, this is a public process where we  
16 got no answers and you're talking about transparency.  
17 They were asked, "Who drew the lines?" and in the  
18 Assembly, the response was, "It was a group of  
19 leadership. It was the same state Legislature." And the  
20 response was, "We're in the state Legislature, and we  
21 didn't participate in that process." And they said,  
22 well, "You're not in leadership." So then it fell on  
23 leadership.

24 I watched the interview on our own  
25 elections chair here in the Senate. "Who drew the

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lines?"

"Well, the Rules Committee."

I'm the Vice Chair of Rules. We did not participate, that I know of, of drawing any lines. My colleague from Santa Cruz sits on rules. He did not participate in drawing any lines. It was not the Rules Committee. They also said that the Rules Committee placed this information and the maps on the website. We didn't do that. I went back through the last three hearings. We did not vote to do that.

No one is being truthful and transparent when we're just trying to ask questions. Who drew the lines? Did you know about the lines before it was -- you know, did you have input? And I know that's just a simple thing and it's just one thing that needs to be brought up. But if we're going to talk about transparency, this process put in print on Monday where lines were already drawn when the bill was put in process with no public comment because the first public comment went up on Tuesday during the hearing and the maps were already drawn. And it's supposed to be a public process. That's not what we're doing here and we're better than that.

And I know the rhetoric on the other side is about Texas. Let's talk about Texas for just one

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1 second. Texas was sued by the Elias Group. The Elias  
2 Group --

3 Permission to read?

4 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Permission  
5 granted.

6 SENATOR GROVE: "The Elias Group is a  
7 mission driven firm committed to helping Democrats win  
8 citizens' votes and progressives make change." That's  
9 the Elias Group. The Elias Group won a lawsuit against  
10 Texas. Like it or not, constitution says we have three  
11 branches of government, the executive branch, the  
12 judicial branch, and the legislative branch. The  
13 judicial branch ordered the State of Texas to redraw  
14 their lines. The State of Texas complied with the  
15 judicial order -- the judge's order. That's it.

16 Now, because of the way the lawsuit was  
17 structured, Texas did take it in a way that, you know,  
18 nobody really expected it to happen, but they did. The  
19 bottom line is, is that the response that California is  
20 having because of a lawsuit from a Democrat activist  
21 lawyer group in D.C. and then California jumps on this  
22 bandwagon. We are not involved in that lawsuit. We are  
23 not involved in Texas legislation. Contrary to my  
24 colleague's statement, he knows no Texas legislators, I  
25 know several.

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1 They're under a judicial order to redraw  
2 the lines. For us to engage in that process, I think  
3 sends a bad message across the nation because that old  
4 adage, "So goes California, so goes the nation." There  
5 is no doubt in my mind that other states will look at  
6 what we are doing to offset Texas, which is a judicial  
7 directive, a judgment against Texas to redraw those  
8 lines.

9 And looking at what we're doing -- and  
10 again, their policy is different. Legislators can redraw  
11 those lines. Our policy is separate. It's a  
12 constitutional amendment where we have a citizens  
13 redistricting committee and we as legislators can't draw  
14 the lines. And no one in this body will answer the  
15 question, including the author that's presenting or the  
16 presenter this morning, the majority floor leader. It  
17 was asked by my colleague three different ways, "Who drew  
18 the lines?" and there's still no response. Why is that  
19 such a hard question?

20 If you look at what's happening, it's  
21 going -- "So goes California, so goes the nation." And  
22 I'm telling you, you guys have not thought this all the  
23 way through because you don't have the votes. You just  
24 don't have the leeway that we do on our side of the wild  
25 from a national experience.

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1 Pritzker can't help you. He's got 3  
2 Republicans out of 17. Massachusetts has zero. New  
3 York, very few. This is not going to go well for your  
4 side of the aisle coming the midterm elections and I just  
5 don't think that you've thought that through.

6 I can tell you that, you know, if people  
7 did participate on the lines and you can make an  
8 assumption that you have forever congressional seats here  
9 in the state of California, and you're making those  
10 decisions because of the congressional lines that are  
11 going to benefit you for the rest of your life, it still  
12 doesn't help the voters in California, all of the people  
13 that we represent.

14 We have serious problems to solve in this  
15 state. have a potential of refineries closing. We've  
16 got a potential of cement businesses going out of  
17 business. We've got LA wildfires where only four permits  
18 have been issued. We don't need to get involved in this  
19 nonsense. The people of the state of California voted in  
20 a citizens' redistricting commission. I didn't like that  
21 idea either. I did vote against it. But that's what we  
22 have. And unless that is changed in a process that is  
23 not like this -- if you want to work on this next year,  
24 and I realize that probably run out of time for the  
25 elections.

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1 But the bottom line is that this bill was  
2 put in print on Monday. The people of the state of  
3 California had Tuesday and one committee hearing to  
4 comment on it. That's not transparency. And in that  
5 committee hearing, no one would answer those questions.  
6 That's not transparency and that's not the way this body  
7 should operate.

8 I've been here since 2010. I came in in  
9 the Tea Party district, and I was that rant and raving  
10 individual on the Assembly floor that got my mic shut off  
11 several times. I get it. But there is a collegiality,  
12 whether you agree with policy or not, that you have on  
13 this floor and that we have to be 1 of 40, right? 40  
14 Representatives of the state of California.

15 And I'm just telling you that the way this  
16 is put together is not right for the voters, it's not  
17 right for California, and this thing is going to backfire  
18 on you. So, next year when all this goes down, I want  
19 you guys to say, just like you're saying right now,  
20 "Gosh, Groves has been screaming from the rooftops for 10  
21 years regarding our oil and gas prices going up and the  
22 avenues that we're taking." And next year, you're going  
23 to go, "Wow, Grove was saying this is going to backfire  
24 us." Mark my words, they will pick up almost 25 mid-  
25 state congressional seats.

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1 The way this process is working is not  
2 good for us, our party, your party, or the people of this  
3 nation in this state. I support Kevin Kiley's bill that  
4 says no midterm redistricting -- no midterm  
5 redistricting, and that we should abide on the census  
6 every 10 years just like it's set in place.

7 Respectfully ask for a no vote based on  
8 the voters in this state and across our nation for this  
9 redistricting passage that has zero transparency. Zero  
10 transparency. And even if you did have a hearing, you  
11 won't answer anybody's questions.

12 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

13 Senator Valladares, you are recognized.

14 SENATOR VALLADARES: Thank you, Madam  
15 President.

16 And I too want to raise my mic in  
17 opposition. So I want to raise an issue that I think has  
18 been overlooked in this process, and that is communities  
19 of interest. Our Constitution is really clear. When we  
20 draw districts, we're supposed to keep communities  
21 together. Cities, neighborhoods, agricultural regions,  
22 aerospace hubs, working class communities, watersheds,  
23 school districts. These are groups of people with shared  
24 and social interests who deserve to have fair and  
25 effective representation. What we're not supposed to do

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1 is draw maps around politicians, incumbents, political  
2 parties, or the partisan advantage or disadvantage of  
3 voters, yet that is exactly what these maps do.

4 To echo a lot of the sentiments from my  
5 colleagues on my side of the aisle, this process has been  
6 secretive from the very beginning. We don't know who  
7 drew these lines, or rather, it's difficult for those who  
8 were involved to name names, really at this point, but we  
9 all know it was politicians. It was consultants and D.C.  
10 insiders that are going to all benefit from these maps.

11 And the result, the result is truly  
12 unmistakable. Communities of interest were ignored, they  
13 were divided, and they were sacrificed for political  
14 gain. Take Modoc County. Farmers and ranchers, people  
15 who feed the world. They are now lumped in with wealthy  
16 Bay Area neighborhoods whose daily realities couldn't be  
17 further apart. Look at Lodi, an agriculture community  
18 split three ways. Some bundled into Sacramento suburbs,  
19 others into Bay Area commuter towns. Instead of one  
20 strong voice in Congress, their representation is now  
21 diluted and divided.

22 In my own district, the Antelope Valley,  
23 an isolated region with shared concerns of aerospace and  
24 defense. It's the nation's backbone for defense, for  
25 innovation. It's where America's most advanced aircraft

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1 and space technologies are designed, built, and tested.  
2 It's carved into five different congressional districts.  
3 This means no single representative is fully going to be  
4 accountable to the needs of my community in the Antelope  
5 Valley.

6 And let's talk about Sonoma County,  
7 chopped into three districts, silencing the ability of  
8 that community to speak with one voice. This isn't just  
9 bad mapping. This scheme is bad governance. The voters  
10 of California created an independent redistricting  
11 commission precisely to prevent this kind of power grab.  
12 They voted for fairness, transparency, and independence.

13 The Constitution says maps are not to be  
14 drawn for politicians, for incumbents, or for parties.  
15 But here we are with maps engineered in secret, rushed  
16 forward, and designed to benefit a few select few. This  
17 is in clear conflict of interest, and it undermines  
18 public trust and our elections. It tells voters that  
19 their voices matter less than political insiders and it  
20 confirms every fear they already have about Sacramento.

21 Colleagues, this isn't about Democrats or  
22 Republicans. In my district, I represent more Democrats  
23 than I do Republicans. I want every single voter to be  
24 represented fairly. This is about the constitution.  
25 This is about transparency. It's about whether the

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1 people of California get what they voted for, a fair and  
2 open process. Not maps drawn in back rooms for political  
3 convenience.

4 The people of California deserve better.  
5 They deserve fair maps. They deserve good government,  
6 and they deserve leaders who will honor California's  
7 constitution, not undermine it. I cannot support this  
8 plan. And I think it's ironic to hear, in response to my  
9 colleague from Santa Cruz, how history is repeating  
10 itself. How right now we're seeing that across the  
11 nation and even in California, that Democrats have lost  
12 2.1 million voters and Republicans have picked up 2.4  
13 million. And further makes me question this paragraph.  
14 Is history repeating itself?

15 I urge you to vote to uphold the  
16 constitution of California today. I urge you to be the  
17 voice -- to be the voice that your constituents elected  
18 you to be. To uphold their rights, their voices,  
19 respectfully ask for a no vote.

20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

21 Senator Umberg, you are recognized.

22 SENATOR UMBERG: Well, thank you, Madam  
23 President.

24 Let me speak to some self-evident,  
25 irrefutable proofs. Truth number one is that all 39

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1 members of the California State Senate sitting here today  
2 are here because they want to improve the lives of  
3 Californians. Irrespective of whether they have a D or  
4 an R behind their name, they're here to improve the lives  
5 of Californians.

6 Truth number two, we would not be here but  
7 for the President of the United States ordering Texas to  
8 create five new seats. And why? Why? Because he's  
9 concerned about the Congress potentially being a check on  
10 his power.

11 Truth number three. Truth number three is  
12 that the \$811 million that the President has asked to be  
13 taken from California K-12 education, to include after  
14 school programs that were referenced by my colleague from  
15 Irvine, that that diminishes the quality of life of  
16 Californians.

17 Next truth, the billion dollars right now  
18 that is attempted to be extorted from UCLA diminishes the  
19 quality of life of Californians.

20 Next truth. The 57,861 individuals  
21 detained by masked agents, many unknown, that diminishes  
22 the quality of life in California and in particular, the  
23 47,000 plus who have not had a conviction for anything  
24 other than being of a certain race and having a certain  
25 occupation. That is the only criteria that was used to

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1 detain those 47,000 individuals. That diminishes the  
2 quality of life in California.

3 The \$164 billion taken over the next 10  
4 years in terms of health care, that diminishes the  
5 quality of life here in California. And in terms of the  
6 cost-benefit analysis, whatever it costs for this  
7 election, if we can save but a small portion of the  
8 amounts that the President wishes to remove, to take, to  
9 punish California, it is a cost-benefit analysis that we  
10 should engage in.

11 Now, James Madison in Federalist 47 said  
12 look, here's what we do is we as our government, we  
13 create a government with checks and balances, and the  
14 Congress is supposed to be a check on the executive, a  
15 check on the -- but this Congress has been absolutely  
16 supine in terms of being a check, including the nine  
17 members of the Republican delegation from California have  
18 basically decided to disarm.

19 Now, what is the response? The response  
20 is to actually respond to what the President's trying to  
21 do. Again, we wouldn't be here but for that.

22 Now, let me also commend and congratulate  
23 those of the Republican party who have stood up to the  
24 President. I heard my colleague from Huntington Beach  
25 today talk about Texas, say that what they're doing is

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1 wrong. That's hard. That's hard, and much harder for  
2 Republicans to say that than Democrats. Same thing with  
3 my colleague from Irvine who condemned what the  
4 President's doing in Texas. The same thing with Kevin  
5 Kiley who's saying, "Look, we should not be doing  
6 midterm, mid-decade reapportionment."

7 The same thing with Carl DeMaio, and  
8 you're never going to hear these words spoken again, is  
9 that I commend Carl DeMaio for citing his disdain for  
10 what's going on in Texas. But that is not sufficient.  
11 And by the way, I appreciate the humility of my  
12 colleagues here too. That's not a trait that's common to  
13 most of us who are elected. But their humility in saying  
14 that they have no influence. They have no influence on  
15 the President. They have no influence on Texas.

16 Well, I invite them to join with me in the  
17 letter that I circulated asking the Governor of Texas  
18 cease and desist, to stand down. If he stands down, we  
19 will stand down. The 9 members of the Republican  
20 delegation in the Congress are larger than 23 states in  
21 this union. Those 9 members, plus our colleagues here in  
22 the California Legislature, they have a very strong  
23 voice, and I urge them to use that voice. I'll go to  
24 Austin with them. I urge them to basically make sure  
25 that this crisis is averted.

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1 If this crisis is not averted, then we in  
2 California must stand up. We in California must stand up  
3 for the quality of life of Californians as we see it  
4 being assaulted. We must stand up and vote aye on AB  
5 604. Thank you.

6 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

7 Senator Durazo, you are recognized.

8 SENATOR DURAZO: Thank you, Madam  
9 President.

10 Good morning, colleagues. Today's vote is  
11 not about us. Today's vote is not about politicians.  
12 Today's vote is about people. Working people living  
13 ordinary lives. Today's vote is about whether Texas and  
14 Trump have the right to water down what is right for the  
15 people who elect us.

16 California's average hourly wage is \$7 an  
17 hour more than Texans make. Our minimum wage is \$9 more  
18 than theirs. And before any of you knee jerk to "Yeah,  
19 but everything is more expensive in California," consider  
20 the facts for working people beyond wages. Texas  
21 families pay \$4,300 out of pocket for health insurance.  
22 Californians pay \$1,100 less. 16.6 percent of Texans  
23 don't have any health insurance at all. But only 6  
24 percent of Californians are without it. Retirees in  
25 Texas scrape by with \$600 less than California retirees.

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1 Texas utility bills are about the same as Californians.

2 And the median home price in Texas capital city of Austin  
3 is the same as Sacramento.

4 This issue and our vote today is about our  
5 right to live in a California that Californians control.  
6 Texas and Trump want to water down that right. That's  
7 what's at stake. 40 years ago, Texas state government  
8 came up with a famous anti-litter campaign slogan.

9 "Don't mess with Texas." You know what? We aren't  
10 stupid. Don't mess with us either. Thank you.

11 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Seyarto,  
12 you are recognized.

13 SENATOR SEYARTO: Thank you, Madam Chair  
14 and -- or Madam President.

15 So today, members, I stand before you and  
16 this is going to be no surprise. I do not support what  
17 we are doing. There's a lot of reasons not to support  
18 this and I'm going to list a couple of them but I'm going  
19 to talk in chief about one thing in particular.

20 For one thing, I know we've been belittled  
21 for trying to bring it up or pretending that it's  
22 something that's not, but this does lack transparency.  
23 This effort is a week old for us, for the people out  
24 there that got to see, maybe if they knew to get on the  
25 thing. The reason it lacks transparency is because there

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1 hasn't been an opportunity for the public to be able to  
2 get engaged enough to look and see what these three bills  
3 that we're going to be doing are doing.

4 A lot of the public -- there's a lot of  
5 people out there, they don't even know what a senator is.  
6 But they do pay attention, eventually, and that's why  
7 there's a 31-day waiting period usually before we can do  
8 these. But we've done what we always do with our super  
9 majority. We've waived that. Let's get rid of that. So  
10 yeah, there is a lack of transparency in this.

11 And then the second thing that I want to  
12 say is it also lacks integrity. You know, sometimes I'll  
13 ask a question that I know the answer to. You know why?  
14 Because I want somebody to either tell me the answer and  
15 I'll go, good, they're being honest with me. Or I'll  
16 watch them evade the answer when I know they're smart  
17 enough to -- and they know the answer, and they just  
18 won't do it. They're evading the question.

19 And, you know, when I see that happen, to  
20 me, that lacks integrity. We asked questions in the  
21 committee that were pretty easy. We know -- we know the  
22 answers to some of this. But they're kind of rumors, so  
23 you're just kind of trying to get the affirmation of what  
24 the answer is to who drew these. Was it a consultant?  
25 Was it staff? Was it a consultant to one of our

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1 legislative offices? Because none of those are eligible  
2 under our constitution in California to be drawing maps.

3 And yet somehow, this map dropped out of  
4 the sky. Because I can tell you when we're told the  
5 Legislature drew the map -- that was one of the answers.  
6 The Legislature. The Legislature is not a human being.  
7 That's like saying the car drew the map. The car decided  
8 where to go. It did not. It's not a thing. I mean, it  
9 is a thing, but it's not a living thing. It can't think  
10 on its own.

11 So, we didn't get the answers that we  
12 wanted in our committee, and I was told "You already got  
13 the answer." No, I've asked the question, I just never  
14 got the answer. But I knew the answer, and I didn't get  
15 the answer, which means people are being evasive, which,  
16 in this body and what we do up here, that lacks  
17 integrity. It also flies in the face of the wishes of  
18 voters to make drawing of districts the sole  
19 responsibility of the Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

20 And the last thing I'll mention on this  
21 particular, reasons why we shouldn't even be doing this,  
22 as you know -- and I'm glad people brought this up.  
23 During the past few sessions, numerous bills have been  
24 introduced and passed by the Legislature, demanding that  
25 the citizen redistricting commissions be formed in

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1 counties that do not have them. And the reason given by  
2 my colleague in Riverside -- and I remember her speech.  
3 The reason given was to preserve democracy. And yet,  
4 today we're told, "Hey, you know what? 30 of you voted  
5 against those redistricting."

6 You know why? You know why I voted  
7 against those redistricting efforts? Number one, I'm  
8 kind of a local control guy. I think counties, cities,  
9 they need to weigh in on how they operate. But more than  
10 that, it's because all of those reflected what a super  
11 majority will do when they're passing a bill. They set  
12 it up for their party to be successful in the  
13 redistricting effort. So what they did was they created  
14 a partisan makeup ahead of time. They created partisan  
15 results from a partisan commission.

16 So heck yeah, I am voting no on that. You  
17 want an independent? Don't tell us what the makeup is of  
18 it other than we have to find independent people to be  
19 able to be on a commission like that. If you're going to  
20 tell me it has to be this many Democrats and then two  
21 Republicans and the Republican votes don't count, we're  
22 not going to vote for that. That's why. That's why we  
23 voted against that. It's not because we are against the  
24 concept of an independent redistricting commission. It  
25 is because we are against the ability of a super majority

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1 to put things in -- poison pills in there, to make it not  
2 so independent. So please, enough with that.

3 But those are just a few reasons we have  
4 to scrap this plan and move on to dealing with the real  
5 problems in California. Because guess what -- and you  
6 guys should be really proud of this -- we have a lot of  
7 real problems in California, and they are not getting  
8 solved. We have water problems, energy problems. We  
9 have affordability problems. We have housing problems.  
10 None of those are being solved, while we sit here trying  
11 to debate about what Texas did.

12 And I want to mention this. I do know  
13 Texas legislator. Congressman Carter, really nice dude.  
14 He really is. But you know what? I'm not going to call  
15 him and tell him, "Congressman Carter, this is Senator  
16 Seyarto, I need you to stand down." You know why?  
17 Because they have different rules than we have. That's  
18 their process. They don't have a constitution that says  
19 this is the process. Their process is, hey, if they're  
20 going to do it that way, they're going to do it that way.  
21 It's not for us to call them and tell them, "No. You  
22 have to do this because otherwise, California" -- I think  
23 my colleague from Bakersfield laid it out really well  
24 what's going to happen. You want to bite your nose to  
25 spite your face? Hey, whatever.

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1 But here, you know, earlier we had some  
2 percentages, and I was thinking, man, if I start talking  
3 percentages, people are going to go to sleep. But since  
4 somebody already brought up percentages, I'm going to  
5 speak my percentages. Because what this deals with is  
6 this other issue I always hear from this body, and that's  
7 proportionality. Hey, when we're talking about crime  
8 stats, well, that's not in proportion to this.

9 So let's talk about proportionality. And  
10 here are some numbers. 46 percent of registered voters  
11 in this state are Democrats. Yes. That's a pretty  
12 dominant number. 25 percent of registered voters are  
13 Republican. But here's a little something. 29 percent  
14 are declined to states, no party preference, or other,  
15 which means they're registered as another party.

16 But you know what? The representation in  
17 the Legislature for the Republicans, yes, it's very, very  
18 proportional. We're 25 percent registered and we got 25  
19 percent membership. You know who isn't is the decline to  
20 states and the no party preference. And one of the  
21 reasons that that's important to remember as we go  
22 forward and talk about the congressional seats is because  
23 those folks don't like the Democrats, the Democratic  
24 platform, and they don't like the Republican platform.  
25 They are in the middle.

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1 But you know what? They can't win a seat.  
2 They can't go out there and win an election. So it's up  
3 to us to try to make sure that we're representing them.  
4 And the only way to do that is to understand that half of  
5 them usually break to the right and half of them break to  
6 the left, which would mean six more seats for the Dems  
7 and six more seats for the Republicans.

8 An appropriate makeup for this body, if it  
9 were fair, is 24 Democrats, 16 Republicans. That way we  
10 would not have a super majority. And that also reflects  
11 the voting trends in California. We vote 60-40 on  
12 constitutional offices and things like that, right. And  
13 that's exactly what that breakdown is.

14 But let's look at what we're -- in the  
15 Legislature, it's 75 percent Dem. In other words, every  
16 single one of those people that are in the middle are  
17 actually represented by Democrats. And you know what?  
18 In this state -- sorry to break the news -- that means  
19 it's represented by progressive Democrats. And that is  
20 exactly what they don't like.

21 So let's move on to the Congress,  
22 congressional seats. We have 52 of them. So let's talk  
23 about democracy. 52 seats. You know how many are  
24 Republican seats? 9. We already have 43 percent.  
25 That's 83 percent is -- 83 percent of our population, our

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1 voters in this state, are represented in the  
2 congressional level by Democrats. That means zero --  
3 zero people in the middle have representation other than  
4 from a Democrat.

5 And then, when you look at what we want to  
6 do, we want to push that number to 92 percent. Already,  
7 we got 17 percent -- we have 8 percent of Republicans at  
8 that point being represented by Democrats. That's your  
9 democracy is Democrats represent 93 percent of our  
10 population in Congress? You guys, that's absurd. That  
11 is absurd.

12 So this effort to save the nation at the  
13 expense of democracy in California, it doesn't make  
14 sense. And you know what? I have more confidence in you  
15 guys. I know you're smart enough to know that. And I  
16 know some of you don't like this bill and I know some of  
17 you would really like not to have to vote for it. But  
18 that's how it works in California. We've got a super  
19 majority. With the super majority comes a lot of power.  
20 And with that power comes no power for the other side.

21 So, this notion that somehow the 10  
22 Republicans are going to spring to this position of  
23 influence and power over all of the other states is  
24 absurd. We can't get anything done here and you know it.  
25 So this effort is reckless. This effort is ridiculous,

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1 and it needs to be abandoned so we can start working on  
2 the real problems that California has. And maybe, just  
3 maybe, we can start working together to make some real  
4 bipartisan solutions. Not just one Republican vote on  
5 one of the bills. That's not bipartisan.

6 So I urge a no vote on this. I urge us to  
7 move on. And so thank you for indulging me today and  
8 allowing me to explore and talk about the real issues  
9 with democracy in California, not Texas. Thank you.

10 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

11 Senator Becker, you are recognized.

12 SENATOR BECKER: Thank you. Thank you for  
13 allowing me to speak on this important topic. And my  
14 colleague who just spoke said that he was not going to  
15 call the folks in Texas. Well, the folks in Texas called  
16 us. They called us and they said, "You are our 911  
17 call." And I got to tell you, I had chills. I mean, it  
18 was an incredible moment, and I have such respect for  
19 them. They said, "You are our 911 call. We are calling  
20 you in California. We need your help."

21 And, friends, I'm a history major, and  
22 history teaches us that we must stand up to bullies. I  
23 love the point by my colleague from Encinitas. We must  
24 stand up to bullies or face incalculable damage. And  
25 that is what we're doing here today. We are standing up.

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1 When the bully and chief in the White House called up the  
2 Governor of Texas, he said, "Find me five seats," the  
3 Governor of Texas said, "Yes, sir."

4 And so now it's our chance to stand up.  
5 And to my friends on the other side of the aisle, and  
6 usually, you know, we are very cordial here, but I've  
7 heard a lot of hypocrisy. If you want to fight for  
8 independent redistricting, then fight for independent  
9 redistricting. I know many of you have been to the White  
10 House. Go to the White House. Call the White House.  
11 Call out the White House and tell them you want  
12 independent redistricting. Tell them to back off, and we  
13 will back off, but we will not unilaterally disarm.

14 So, I stand here today as a father deeply  
15 concerned about the future of our country. I stand here  
16 as a patriot, as the grandson of immigrants who came, who  
17 came through Ellis Island.

18 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Becker,  
19 I'm sorry, can you please address your comments to me as  
20 the presiding officer.

21 SENATOR BECKER: Oh, thank you. You mean  
22 turn around?

23 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Yes, thank you.

24 SENATOR BECKER: Okay. I often do it this  
25 way for the cameras.

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1 Thank you. I say I stand here as a father  
2 deeply concerned for the future of my children. I stand  
3 here as a grandson of immigrants who came through Ellis  
4 Island through the Statue of Liberty. And I stand here  
5 as an elected official serving the people. And today, I  
6 stand up for democracy. And it's been said that  
7 democracy is not a spectator sport, and we need every  
8 American engaged now.

9 It's like when you go to the Airport and  
10 they say, "If you see something, say something." So we  
11 need every American. I need my Republican colleagues.  
12 We need our Republican legislators in Congress. If you  
13 see the President doing something wrong, you need to call  
14 it out. And this is wrong. We know what he's doing is  
15 wrong. And we know that we must stand up. And  
16 California is standing up. It's about time. I've never  
17 been prouder of our state. And we need each American to  
18 act as though democracy depends on them because we know  
19 ultimately, it does. Thank you.

20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

21 Senator Ochoa Bogh, you are recognized.

22 SENATOR OCHOA BOGH: Thank you, Madam  
23 President.

24 California deserves a redistricting  
25 process that is fair, transparent, and free from

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1 political gatemanship. It was mentioned the fact that as  
2 Republicans, we haven't supported such measures in the  
3 past. But unfortunately, many a times when measures are  
4 placed forward in this body, because of the  
5 supermajority, many of the times we're not included to  
6 give feedback and input on these measures and therefore,  
7 these measures don't necessarily become equitable or  
8 fulfill the full intent of that bill. And it's one of  
9 the reasons why we could not support the measure that was  
10 mentioned earlier by my dear colleague from Santa Cruz.

11 I looked up the analysis for that  
12 particular bill right after you mentioned it, and we'll  
13 have conversations after the -- of the session.

14 But going back to this particular bill,  
15 weakening and discarding the independent commission, even  
16 temporarily, temporarily, betrays the trust of the voters  
17 placed in us and undermines the integrity of our  
18 democracy. California has long set the standard for fair  
19 redistricting outfitted with a voter-established  
20 independent commission.

21 Question of the author, ma'am?

22 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Will the author  
23 take a question?

24 Will the author take a question?

25 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yes.  
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1 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: You may proceed.

2 SENATOR OCHOA BOGH: Through the  
3 President. Does the state of Texas have an independent  
4 commission on redistricting voted by the voters of Texas?

5 SENATOR GONZALEZ: They do not.

6 SENATOR OCHOA BOGH: Okay. The Citizens'  
7 Redistricting Commission was created to end decades of  
8 political gerrymandering. Rolling back the progress for  
9 short term gains, risk undoing years of hard fought  
10 reforms. Californians deserve leaders that will protect  
11 the independent system voters demanded and preserve it  
12 for generations to come. Unlike Texas, we have this.  
13 They do not. And it falls --

14 Oh, question of the author?

15 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yes.

16 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Will the author  
17 take a question?

18 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Absolutely.

19 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: You may proceed.

20 SENATOR OCHOA BOGH: Does the Texas  
21 Legislature have the purview to redraw their lines?

22 SENATOR GONZALEZ: They do. They don't  
23 have the purview to violate the Voting Rights Act and  
24 disenfranchise their voters, but that is what they're  
25 doing.

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1 SENATOR OCHOA BOGH: So as mentioned  
2 earlier by my colleague from Bakersfield, the state of  
3 Texas was sued and was obligated to redraw their lines.  
4 Checkpoint.

5 Before the commission's creation, district  
6 lines were developed in secrecy through insider deals,  
7 often protecting incumbents or political insiders.  
8 California voters ended that in 2008 with Proposition 11,  
9 the Voters First Act, which established the Commission.  
10 Two years later, Proposition 20 expanded its reach to  
11 include congressional districts. Since then, the  
12 commission has consistently delivered maps through open,  
13 publicly reviewed processes, even successfully adapting  
14 during the pandemic-delayed 2020 cycle. Earning praise  
15 for transparency and efficiency.

16 If signed into law, today's proposed  
17 legislative package would strip the commission's  
18 authority "temporarily," granting lawmakers control over  
19 congressional redistricting for the 26th, 28th, and 30th  
20 election cycles. While framed by some as reactive to  
21 nationwide redistricting trends, critics warn that it  
22 compromises California's voter approved safeguards and  
23 damages its leadership and electoral fairness.

24 This proposal undermines the voters' trust  
25 since the commission was created by the voters to ensure

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1 fairness, transparency, and accountability. Repealing it  
2 would feel like repudiating the voter intent. AB 604 was  
3 drafted without constitutional safeguards intended to  
4 promote fair and representative district maps.

5 Stated that these maps are intended to  
6 elect five additional Democrat congressional seats.  
7 Let's register that. This mid-cycle redistricting plan  
8 undermines the state's constitution by seeking a voter  
9 approved amendment that would temporarily waive the key  
10 provisions of the California State Constitution's Article  
11 21, allowing politicians to redraw lines for partisan  
12 gain rather than adhering to established democratic  
13 principles.

14 First, the plan ignores the constitutional  
15 mandate that redistricting occur only in the year  
16 following the year in which the national census is taken  
17 under direction of Congress at the beginning of each  
18 decade. By pushing for changes mid-decade outside the  
19 post-census window, this proposal disrupts the every 10  
20 year rhythm that's designed to ensure districts reflect  
21 accurate, updated population data. This could open the  
22 door to arbitrary manipulations where the political winds  
23 shift.

24 Second, it waives the rigorous criteria  
25 outlined in the state constitution that prioritizes

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1 geographical and social considerations to promote  
2 fairness. These include requiring districts to be  
3 geographically contiguous, criterion three; respecting  
4 the integrity of cities, counties, neighborhoods, and  
5 communities of interest by minimizing their division,  
6 criterion four; and ensuring compactness where  
7 practicable, criterion five.

8 And I know that it was stated that 76  
9 percent of these congressional districts fit the  
10 redistricting commission's criteria, meaning these, but  
11 the additional and the remaining do not. Therefore  
12 violating the very intent and the guidelines of the  
13 Constitution.

14 The Legislature's secretive -- and  
15 secretive meaning no one can divulge one where they came  
16 from -- and rushed map drawing processes discards these  
17 standards. And secretly meaning that no one knows how  
18 they were drawn, but yet they've appeared secretly by an  
19 unknown hand online. And now, they're transparent  
20 because they're there, but no one knows who placed them  
21 there and who drew them in the first place. Potentially  
22 fracturing cohesive communities and creating convoluted  
23 districts that prioritize electoral outcomes over logical  
24 boundaries, as stated on this body, in this floor, today.

25 Finally, the plan flouts the  
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1 Constitution's explicit prohibition against partisan  
2 gerrymandering, which states that districts shall not be  
3 drawn to favor or discriminate against an incumbent  
4 political candidate or political party. And yet, once  
5 again, on this floor, today, it was mentioned that it was  
6 due to the reasoning of electing five Democrat  
7 congressional districts, stated on this floor.

8 By suspending the Citizens' Redistricting  
9 Commission and empowering the Legislature to redraw these  
10 maps, this legislation invites blatant favoritism,  
11 eroding the impartiality voters enshrined -- voters  
12 enshrined in the constitution to prevent self-serving  
13 power grabs.

14 Folks, this is serious. Ladies and  
15 gentlemen, this is very, very serious. When we are  
16 elected, we swear an oath to uphold both the U.S. and the  
17 California Constitution. Regardless of what any other  
18 state does, that is what we do when we stand on this  
19 floor, this red carpet, and we raise our hand. Two  
20 wrongs don't make it right. And when it says to join our  
21 colleagues in repudiating other states for what they're  
22 doing, folks, we were elected to represent the state of  
23 California.

24 I had a podcast I was listening to just  
25 this morning talking about whether or not term limits

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1 should exist and one of the arguments that were stated in  
2 this podcast was whether or not, you know, we should have  
3 term limits, and the gentleman speaking said, "Well,  
4 people get what they elect and if we have an electorate  
5 that is uneducated and they continue to pick someone to  
6 be elected, then that's what they get."

7 If Texas has not changed their  
8 constitution, if they have not created a redistricting  
9 commission, then, folks, who are we to direct the  
10 autonomy of the Legislature of that state? What  
11 authority do we have to influence another state's  
12 Legislature elected by their people? I think it's  
13 humbling to think that we should do that.

14 If we have relationships, great; have  
15 those conversations. But as a body, to go to another  
16 state as elected and think that we have the authority to  
17 tell them how to run their state, I think it's  
18 ridiculous. I think it's disrespectful to them and to  
19 the people who elected those to represent them. I  
20 respectfully ask for a no vote.

21 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

22 Senator Caballero, you are recognized.

23 SENATOR CABALLERO: Thank you, Madam  
24 President.

25 It's been interesting listening to the  
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1 comments today. Senators, California didn't start this  
2 fight. We've always had an amicable relationship with  
3 our President. Amicable because the President  
4 understands that California is a donor. A donor state to  
5 this great country, and we've lived with it for years.  
6 We pay more in taxes than we get back. We all know that.

7 So why come after California? Why make us  
8 an example to the rest of the country by attacking our  
9 immigrants, by putting tariffs that have hurt our farmers  
10 and that now is going to start to hurt our residents? By  
11 taking away benefits that are really important in our  
12 state as we've tried to meet the needs of our country?  
13 So California didn't start this fight, and my party  
14 didn't start this fight either.

15 Let me be clear: I don't shy away from a  
16 good competition. I love sports--soccer, football,  
17 baseball. I love it all. In my family, we have our  
18 favorite teams that we watch, and we follow, and that we  
19 support, and I can tell you, they are raucous games when  
20 we have people on different sides supporting different  
21 teams. So I don't have a problem with opposition or with  
22 conflict, but what I do insist on is that the game be  
23 fair.

24 I do insist that everybody know what the  
25 rules are at the beginning of the game and then it's not

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1 changed. We all know how the game is played. We all  
2 need to expect that the refs are going to be fair, and,  
3 you know, we have our arguments about whether that call  
4 was right or not, but we want everybody to be treated  
5 with respect and that everyone will follow the rules,  
6 including the players.

7 Folks, that's not what's happening in our  
8 country today. The President knows that what he's doing  
9 is hurting people, and it is. It is. It's hurting every  
10 day, average Americans, and that hurt is real. The  
11 prices have gone up. There's uncertainty in the market.  
12 It's hard to get a loan. Housing isn't selling. That's  
13 not because of what we've done. That's because of the  
14 pressure of tariffs and messing around with the market.

15 So the President's afraid he can't win.  
16 He's afraid he can't win an election in two years to  
17 ensure that he maintains control, control over everything  
18 that's going on in the country. So he's taken an action  
19 to rig the election. It won't be a fair competition.  
20 It's playing dirty. It's cheating. It's cheating and  
21 it's making sure that he continues to be in charge even  
22 if the voters want change. Even if the voters want  
23 change, he's rigging it.

24 It's a power grab. We didn't pick this  
25 fight, but my residents have asked me to take action, to

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1 do something to relieve the pain caused by the  
2 President's attack on California and on our families.  
3 And some of that attack won't be felt until after the  
4 midterm elections, which is really cynical.

5 Look, it didn't have to be this way. We  
6 all could have worked together, all of us on this floor,  
7 across party lines, to denounce and condemn the  
8 President's attempt to rig the next election. We could  
9 have done it together to put public pressure as leaders  
10 and as elected officials to say we want a fair game, no  
11 shenanigans, no cheating, no dirty games.

12 But listen, my good friends on the other  
13 side of the aisle, you haven't said a peep. You've said  
14 nothing to condemn the President's attacks on California  
15 and on our residents. Nothing, nothing, nothing. And I  
16 get it. You don't want to contradict your President, and  
17 so you've taken sides. Well, I choose the people in my  
18 district. I choose to defend Californians. I choose to  
19 fight for a fair election. I choose to listen to the  
20 people who say, "We need you to take action." So I ask  
21 you for your aye vote today.

22 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

23 Senator Cervantes, you are recognized.

24 SENATOR CERVANTES: Thank you, Madam  
25 President and members. As we know, the proposed maps in  
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1 this bill are not wholly new. They build upon the  
2 year-long process undertaken by the California Citizens'  
3 Redistricting Commission after the 2020 census. About 75  
4 percent of Californians will remain in the same district  
5 that they reside in currently today.

6 These maps do a better job of avoiding  
7 splitting counties and cities than those created by the  
8 commission. And let me just say, how is it okay when  
9 their party adopts redistricting, but when it's the other  
10 party, it's a problem? Please. Spare us the hypocrisy.

11 That said, I am puzzled by the admiration  
12 that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are  
13 showing for independent citizens' redistricting  
14 commissions. Except for our colleague from Huntington  
15 Beach who has not been present for any of these bills,  
16 every Republican of this Senate body has voted against  
17 bills creating county citizens' redistricting  
18 commissions.

19 The Legislature is entitled to propose  
20 amendments to the state constitution, and unlike Texas,  
21 we are taking it to the voters. We are acting now to  
22 save our future. I respectfully ask for an aye vote on  
23 AB 604.

24 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

25 Senator Jones, you are recognized.  
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1 SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Madam President  
2 and members. A couple of fine points. First, Madam  
3 President, regarding the comments from our colleague from  
4 Santa Ana mentioning that if Texas goes forward with  
5 their redistricting, we will continue with our  
6 redistricting, my understanding is that the  
7 constitutional amendment has been amended to take that  
8 language out and California is moving forward regardless,  
9 but I will clarify that when the ACA comes over and ask a  
10 question of the author on that.

11 On this particular bill, AB 604, I do have  
12 a quick question of the author, if she would be willing  
13 to take it.

14 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Will the author  
15 take a question?

16 SENATOR JONES: Are you familiar with or  
17 can you cite for us any lawsuit in California of somebody  
18 suing the redistricting commission for the lines that  
19 they drew either in 2012 or 2022, arguing that those  
20 lines were unconstitutional?

21 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: You may proceed.

22 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I am not personally  
23 familiar with any lawsuits.

24 SENATOR JONES: Great. Thank you.  
25 Neither am I, and that's because our process isn't

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1 unconstitutional. Now, many of us had problems with the  
2 lines with 2022 when they came out. Both Democrats and  
3 Republicans got a little gripey about some of the lines,  
4 legitimately, I believe so. But we didn't sue. We kind  
5 of, you know, went with it and made the best of it that  
6 we could.

7 One of the things I want to share this  
8 morning is I'm very proud of my Republican colleagues for  
9 their demeanor this morning and their professionalism in  
10 their comments, regardless of the incendiary and  
11 accusational comments of the open on this bill, AB 604,  
12 and I will share that compliment with my Democrat  
13 colleagues as well. I think that the debate has been  
14 very professional and moving us along.

15 One of the things I'm very concerned about  
16 in the debate this morning that I want to raise attention  
17 to is some terms that were used this morning on the  
18 floor. "Rigged," "dictator," "unchecked power."  
19 "Period, full stop." That one cracks me up when you all  
20 use that one because I know the Governor uses that all  
21 the time. So I don't know if you're trying to get in his  
22 good graces by imitating him or whatever. Period, full  
23 stop. There's usually a lie behind that, by the way.

24 "Bully," autocrats."

25 Permission to read, Madam President?

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1 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Without seeing any  
2 objection, it is granted.

3 SENATOR JONES: While this was all going  
4 on, a term came to mind, "projecting" or "projection."  
5 So I looked it up to make sure that I had it right.  
6 Projecting refers to a psychological defense mechanism  
7 where an individual unconsciously attributes their own  
8 unacceptable feelings, thoughts, or traits to another  
9 person.

10 Why did this come up in my mind today, as  
11 you've been standing on this floor, railing against  
12 Republicans in Texas? Railing against Republicans in  
13 Washington, D.C. for not having any courage to stand up  
14 to the dictators of the Governor of Texas and the  
15 President of the United States. Where's the courage for  
16 the Republicans?

17 Let me ask you this. Every single year,  
18 we pass off this floor and the assembly floor a handful  
19 of bills that pass on unanimous votes. Unanimous. Every  
20 Republican, every Democrat votes for these bills. Some  
21 of these bills are authored by Democrats, and some of  
22 these bills are authored by Republicans.

23 One bill in particular comes to mind is a  
24 very simple bill authored by the incoming pro tem. She's  
25 attempted to pass this bill -- has passed the bill four

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1 times, and it's been vetoed four times. Where is the  
2 courage when a bill has unanimous votes to conduct a veto  
3 override? You don't even need us for a veto override.  
4 You can do it by yourselves.

5 But we've come to you over and over and  
6 over and over every single year. We will support you in  
7 a veto override. We will help you in a veto override on  
8 a simple bill. Just pick the simplest one. Let's just  
9 do it and prove that you have the courage that you're  
10 accusing us of not having.

11 I will share with you there are examples  
12 of Republicans in supermajority Republican states of  
13 doing that exact same thing on a Republican governor. I  
14 encourage you to have that courage.

15 SENATOR CORTESE: Point of order, Madam  
16 President. This dialogue has nothing to do with what's  
17 before us here, and I'd ask you to rule in that way and  
18 ask the speaker to stick to the matter that's on the  
19 floor before us. Thank you.

20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Point is  
21 well-taken. If Senator Jones could please stick to the  
22 merits of the bill before us.

23 SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Madam President.  
24 I appreciate our colleague standing up and recognizing  
25 that my comments might be incendiary and accusational,

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1 similar to the opening remarks of the author.

2 The important thing that I think to share  
3 here is I rise in strong opposition to AB 604. The  
4 gas-lighting that has been -- or Gav-lighting, if you  
5 prefer that term better -- that's been going on this  
6 morning is just -- the mental gymnastics that you have to  
7 do to come up with these arguments that you're making for  
8 what we're trying to do here on the floor in the State of  
9 California, it's just amazing to me how you do that.

10 And I want to share -- and again, other  
11 Senators have said -- I appreciate every single one of  
12 you. I count every single Senator on this floor a  
13 friend, all 30 Democrats. I honor you. I admire you.  
14 This is not an easy job, but sometimes we have to call it  
15 like it is. We have to call balls and strikes according  
16 to the gamesmanship analogies that were used earlier.

17 What's happening here is simple: Gavin  
18 Newsom and Democrat politicians are trying to ram through  
19 a corrupt redistricting scheme to rig California's  
20 elections. This scheme is unconstitutional. It's  
21 undermining both the letter and the spirit of the  
22 California Constitution. It ignores the principles of  
23 germane law, election integrity, twisting the rules to  
24 benefit one party.

25 It tramples on the will of California  
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1 voters. California voters, the same people that elected  
2 all of us to office. Those voters created an independent  
3 redistricting commission precisely to keep politicians  
4 from drawing their own lines. And those voters, it was  
5 so important to them, they put it in the Constitution.

6 This effort slices up communities,  
7 connecting desperate areas and splitting apart regions  
8 with common interests, violating the very standard the  
9 redistricting is supposed to uphold. Democrats are  
10 rushing this through under the guise of urgency. There  
11 is no emergency that justifies this abuse of process. It  
12 discards years of work by the Citizens Redistricting  
13 Commission and replaces it with raw, partisan power  
14 plays.

15 Importantly, Democrat legislators continue  
16 to refuse to answer the one simple question that's been  
17 asked dozens, if not hundreds of times, and I'll ask one  
18 more time on this floor: who drew the maps? They claim  
19 it's a transparent process, yet fail to answer the most  
20 transparent question, and it comes at an outrageous cost.  
21 It has been mentioned more than \$250 million for a  
22 special election at a time when California is facing a  
23 \$20 billion deficit, and you all are cutting vital  
24 services.

25 The result is the maps that destroy  
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1 representative proportionality are rigged for partisan  
2 gain, not fair representation.

3 Senate Republicans are united against this  
4 abuse of power. We're standing together to defend  
5 Californians, to uphold our Constitution, the California  
6 Constitution, and to fight for fair and honest elections.

7 And let's make two more points before I  
8 close. The interesting thing is you all keep bringing up  
9 Texas. Texas right now -- the Republicans in Texas right  
10 now have an effort afoot to make it easier for the  
11 Legislature to override -- do a veto override in Texas.  
12 Republicans are trying to make it easier in Texas to  
13 conduct a veto override. I'm asking you just to try.

14 Now, the other interesting thing about  
15 this effort is we all know this is going to fail on the  
16 ballot. This is a loser from the beginning. So what's  
17 the win? What's the upside for all of us here on the  
18 Senate floor to go blindly along with the Governor's plan  
19 here? It's going to fail, and what's the only gain?

20 I'll tell you what the only gain is.  
21 Governor Gavin Newsom is getting more headlines. He's  
22 getting more name ID, and he's creating a brand across  
23 the country so that he can run for President; and you're  
24 helping him.

25 To my colleagues across the aisle, I  
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1 strongly encourage you to stand against this self-serving  
2 Governor with courage rather than acting like a march of  
3 the lemmings. I urge a no vote on AB 604.

4 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you. Seeing  
5 no further discussion or debate, Senator Gonzalez, would  
6 you like to close?

7 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yes. Thank you so  
8 much, Madam President, and I do want to say to my  
9 colleagues on both sides of the aisle, thank you so much  
10 for this very robust debate.

11 This is exactly what democracy means and  
12 what we want the public to see, the discourse, even if we  
13 agree to disagree or we disagree and disagree beyond  
14 measure, that is exactly what we're here for. We were  
15 all elected to take an oath to defend our democracy and  
16 to ensure that the folks that we support and represent  
17 all can see a better quality of life, and that's why  
18 we're here today.

19 And as my colleagues on the other side of  
20 the aisle, except for one, I think of one missing member  
21 from Jackson, you know, what I will say is, I hear you on  
22 integrity. I hear you on transparency. I hear you on  
23 all of that.

24 And this is where I'm really confused  
25 because, with all due respect, it is very hypocritical to

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1 say that you believe in all this. But yet when you've  
2 been offered the opportunity to talk about what is the  
3 egregious actions by this federal government, the  
4 egregious actions by Texas legislators to disenfranchise  
5 voters, to additionally split counties and cities, to  
6 continue to violate the Voting Rights Act, to just  
7 completely ignore communities of interest and to continue  
8 to safeguard the Trump presidency because guess what? It  
9 doesn't just stop after 2028. Let's be real here. He  
10 wants a third term.

11 So what does that mean for Californians if  
12 we don't do this? Well, I'll tell you what it means. It  
13 means that, again -- it means that there's going to be  
14 unconcern for a ransom of a billion dollars to our UC  
15 system. There's going to be silence when it comes to  
16 SNAP benefits for children when are disabled. It means  
17 there's going to be additional unconcern for the kids  
18 that won't have afterschool programs and school lunches.

19 And it means that every budget that we put  
20 out here because we've continued to put state budgets out  
21 here, and everyone's talking about wildfires. If we're  
22 so concerned about wildfires, why didn't the other  
23 party -- why didn't you all support the wildfire package  
24 relief of \$2.5 billion for Altadena and Pacific Palisades  
25 residents? Why didn't you do that?

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1 So we can't sit here and talk about  
2 transparency and integrity and we want democracy. And  
3 all of a sudden now we have an epiphany about an  
4 independent redistricting commission, and we're going to  
5 stand, you know, strong for that.

6 Well, let's do that today. And today,  
7 again, AB 604 is an urgency measure, contains the new  
8 proposed congressional maps that will ultimately be the  
9 decision of California voters on November 4th. This bill  
10 will be in print for over 70 days. The maps will be  
11 available for insight from our voters. And ultimately,  
12 they will have the say.

13 And would remain in effect only until the  
14 Citizens Redistricting Commission certifies a new map of  
15 congressional districts after 2030's census maps. So  
16 these maps are temporary. Again, for the elections of  
17 2026, 2028, and 2030. Then the redistricting commission,  
18 which is still in effect, will then take effect -- will  
19 then take the helm in 2032 to continue the good work that  
20 they've done.

21 Again, the hypocrisy remains. Why are you  
22 so unconcerned? Why are you so unwilling? Why have you  
23 remained silent during this egregious overreach when  
24 Latino communities across California have been kidnapped?  
25 Why?

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1 All our democracy is being dismantled, and  
2 you want us as California legislators to just sit by on  
3 the sidelines and do absolutely nothing. Well, that's  
4 not good enough. And if you want to support my  
5 Republican minority leader, if you'd like to support a  
6 diversity, equity, and inclusion bill by the incoming pro  
7 tem, we are happy to provide that opportunity for you to  
8 do that again.

9 So again, Californians will have the final  
10 say. I appreciate all the debate here. I respectfully  
11 ask for an aye vote.

12 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.  
13 Secretary, please call the roll.

14 THE SECRETARY: Allen?

15 Aye.

16 Alvarado-Gil.

17 Archuleta.

18 Aye.

19 Arreguin.

20 Aye.

21 Ashby.

22 Becker.

23 Aye.

24 Blakespear.

25 Aye.

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1 Cabaldon.  
2 Aye.  
3 Caballero.  
4 Aye.  
5 Cervantes.  
6 Aye.  
7 Choi.  
8 No.  
9 Cortese.  
10 Aye.  
11 Dahle.  
12 No.  
13 Durazo.  
14 Aye.  
15 Gonzalez.  
16 Aye.  
17 Grayson.  
18 Aye.  
19 Grove.  
20 No.  
21 Hurtado.  
22 Aye.  
23 Jones.  
24 Laird.  
25 Aye.

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1 Limon.  
2 Aye.  
3 McGuire.  
4 Aye.  
5 McNerney.  
6 Aye.  
7 Menjivar.  
8 Aye.  
9 Niello.  
10 No.  
11 Ochoa Bogh.  
12 No.  
13 Padilla.  
14 Aye.  
15 Perez.  
16 Aye.  
17 Reyes.  
18 Aye.  
19 Richardson.  
20 Aye.  
21 Rubio.  
22 Aye.  
23 Seyarto.  
24 No.  
25 Smallwood-Cuevas.

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1 Aye.  
2 Stern.  
3 Aye.  
4 Strickland.  
5 No.  
6 Umberg.  
7 Aye.  
8 Valladares.  
9 No.  
10 Wahab.  
11 Aye.  
12 Weber Pierson.  
13 Aye.  
14 Wiener.  
15 Aye.  
16 SECRETARY: No.  
17 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Secretary, please  
18 call the absent members.  
19 THE SECRETARY: Alvarado-Gil.  
20 Jones.  
21 No.  
22 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes, 30. Noes,  
23 9. That measure passes.  
24 Members, we are now going to take a very  
25 brief 20-minute recess for lunch. Stay in the building.  
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1 We will come back in 20 minutes. We are now on recess.

2 (Recess taken)

3 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: The Senate will  
4 now come back to session. We have a message from the  
5 Assembly. Secretary, please read.

6 THE SECRETARY: Madam President, I am  
7 directed to inform your honorable body that the Assembly  
8 on this day adopted Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8,  
9 Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly.

10 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: We have a referral  
11 for Rules. Secretary, please read.

12 THE SECRETARY: The Committee on Rules has  
13 ordered the following bill to third reading. Assembly  
14 Constitution Amendment 8.

15 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: We will now move  
16 to supplemental file number 1, which is file number  
17 262ACA8. Secretary, please read.

18 THE SECRETARY: Assembly Constitutional  
19 Amendment 8 by Assembly Member Rivas, an act relating to  
20 redistricting.

21 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Pro tem  
22 McGuire, you are recognized.

23 SENATOR MCGUIRE: Thank you so much, Madam  
24 President, and good afternoon, members. I stand with  
25 Senator Cabaldon who will complete the presentation on

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Constitutional Amendment 8.

I got to say, it does pain me a bit to say what I'm about to say. And I want to also take a moment to acknowledge Brian Jones. I have deep respect for Leader Jones, and I know this has been a tough week on all sides. And I do want to acknowledge him and say thank you for the partnership.

And I also want to say I take this very seriously. I think that all folks know I don't really care if you have an R or D behind your name. It's about representing California. And as I said last night, people don't know us if we're a Republican or Democrat. They know us as Californians, and that's what we need to remember as we make our way through this and come back next week.

I'm really honored to represent one of the most rural districts in the State of California. Third of the California coastline. There are four counties in the district of seven that voted for Kamala Harris. There are three counties in the district that supported President Trump.

What I know when I go into Weaverville or High Palm, Crescent City, or Fort Bragg in rural California, no matter if you're a Democrat or a Republican, you want a few key things for your family.

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1 You want quality healthcare. You want to  
2 keep your hospital open, that rural health center open  
3 for your kids and your grandparents.

4 You want a good job so you can stay in the  
5 community that you love. You want to send your kid to a  
6 good public school. You want to be able to live in that  
7 community you love and afford a home.

8 And in rural California, you don't want to  
9 use dial up internet anymore. You want to have access to  
10 high-speed broadband.

11 You know, there isn't a single one of us,  
12 not one, who wouldn't be here today if we hadn't put our  
13 faith in the voters of California. Put our faith in  
14 fellow Californians to walk into the voting booth or sit  
15 at their kitchen table and do their best for all of us to  
16 do the right thing.

17 And that's really what this is all about  
18 today. All we're asking is allow the voters to do their  
19 thing, to pass this constitutional amendment. We need to  
20 put our faith in the voters to do the right thing, the  
21 way we have countless times over the decades, initiative  
22 after initiative. It's ultimately up to the voters.  
23 There's nothing more transparent than that.

24 Now, we're here today for one reason: the  
25 nefarious actions of the Republican leadership in Texas.

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1 California didn't pick this fight. This was not on our  
2 bingo card six weeks ago, let alone six months ago.  
3 Actions of Republicans in Texas, compounded by the  
4 inaction of some Republican leaders here in California,  
5 that's why we're here today. All of this could have been  
6 avoided. To be able to stop this, talk to Texas. Talk  
7 to our President.

8 I have been astounded this week. I've  
9 seen Republican colleague after Republican colleague go  
10 on television, hold press conferences, go live on the  
11 social media, expressing outrage about California. But  
12 what about Texas? What about Donald Trump, who started  
13 all this, who started this circus?

14 You know, sometimes in life, I'm a firm  
15 believer that you just got to stand for the greater good,  
16 and you got to tell your boss no. You got to tell your  
17 boss no.

18 Today, I hope that we can do something  
19 constructive. We should do everything in our power to  
20 ensure free and fair elections. But let me be very  
21 clear. This action about redistricting, we all know  
22 this. We talk behind the scenes. We have a beer  
23 together. We go out to coffee. When I talk to folks  
24 when are on the other side of the aisle, they know why  
25 we're here. Can't say it publicly, but we all know why

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we're here.

And we also know that this is just the beginning. Mail-in ballots. It's now a predominant way folks votes in the United States. Mail-in ballots. Our President wants to end mail-in ballots. Make it harder to vote.

You know why he wants to be able to upend the census here? To rig it. In the United States Constitution, it says, "Count all persons." The reason why Donald Trump doesn't want to count all persons is because it hurts Republicans.

So then I hear Members of Congress, some in the Legislature, say, "I support independent redistricting." So I got three pages of votes on independent redistricting bills that have come through this Legislature over the past several years. Three pages right here. Let me just tell you what the predominant theme is. Republicans voted no. They voted no. All public votes.

Now, why is it? Why? All of a sudden, you all have seen the light? I would hope that we could do more than file frivolous lawsuits, which, by the way, within 48 hours, the Supreme Court just tossed out. I would hope that we could do more than just file bunk court action. When there are Republican leaders in this

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1 country that are having state troopers follow Democratic  
2 legislators, when the Attorney General of Texas and the  
3 Governor say we need the FBI to track elected members of  
4 a state house, what the hell is happening and where is  
5 the outrage?

6 You're outraged that California is  
7 responding? The only reason -- the only reason we are  
8 here today is because of Texas.

9 And by the way, two nights ago on live  
10 television, state troopers drug out a Democratic female  
11 legislator out of the bathroom. Out of the bathroom  
12 because she did not have a pass to go.

13 And I hear about how unfair California is.  
14 Can you imagine if the Democratic majority said to the  
15 California Highway Patrol, "Follow Republican leaders in  
16 the Assembly and the Senate"? Yet today, nothing about  
17 that. Nothing. Fake outrage about what California is  
18 doing.

19 You know, we've seen this story play out  
20 in history. And hypocrisy today won't save your hide  
21 tomorrow when the secret police and the Mar-a-Lago goons  
22 find a reason to come after you. We are in a flashpoint  
23 in history if we do not stand up, if we do not shout out.  
24 This has to stop.

25 I've always supported independent  
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1 redistricting. I've supported independent redistricting  
2 on the local level here in California. I support  
3 national redistricting. Sounds like now that it may be a  
4 bipartisan bill.

5 What I do not support, what we cannot  
6 support in California, is unilateral disarmament when the  
7 fairness of the 2026 elections is being threatened. And  
8 yes. Donald Trump wants to rig the damn election. Other  
9 states want to play games. California is the only state  
10 committed to fairness whose potential redistricting goes  
11 away the minute others drop theirs. In Texas, it's  
12 permanent.

13 One of our colleagues in the Assembly said  
14 the other day, "When I go to a restaurant, I don't have  
15 to meet the chef." You all saw that. Senators, I also  
16 don't believe we need to meet the chef, but we do need to  
17 meet this moment. And the stakes are so high, and I want  
18 to end it right here.

19 Here's what's at stake. Millions of  
20 Californians are going to lose their health care next  
21 year. Millions. Tens of millions of Americans are going  
22 to lose their health care next year because of Donald  
23 Trump.

24 I've never seen a President come after  
25 fire aid and assistance like this President has

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1 threatening to be able to cancel cleanup and recovery  
2 because he doesn't like our Governor or doesn't like the  
3 politics of the state.

4 I never thought I had to explain to my  
5 four-and-a-half-year-old who saw on a friend's television  
6 why someone was being thrown in a moving van. This is  
7 what we're fighting for today.

8 One of the main reasons I believe that we  
9 should be voting for this constitutional amendment will  
10 be waiting for me this evening at our kitchen table to  
11 tell me about his first week in school.

12 As much as some want to say this is about  
13 politics, this vote today is about people. It's about  
14 standing strong for people who are under assault by an  
15 authoritarian who's coming for our jugular. All we have  
16 now, the only choice, is to fight. This is a cynical  
17 ploy, and it's just the start. First, they come for the  
18 districts. Then they come for your ballots. Next, it  
19 will be your family.

20 Today's vote is about the future. It's  
21 about fairness. It's about trusting voters. I would  
22 respectfully ask for an aye vote, and I yield my time to  
23 Senator Cabaldon.

24 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Cabaldon,  
25 you are recognized.

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1 SENATOR CABALDON: Thank you, Madam  
2 President.

3 This bill, this package of bills has been  
4 among the three most heavily reported bills in the  
5 California and in the country. The notion --

6 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Cabaldon,  
7 can you address the presiding officer, please?

8 SENATOR CABALDON: For a point?

9 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Can you address  
10 the presiding officer, please?

11 Oh, I usually stand there. Okay. All  
12 right. Thank you, Madam President.

13 This package of bills has been among the  
14 most heavily reported. It's widely known across the  
15 State of California that this effort is underway, which  
16 is odd, because when I talk to my own constituents and I  
17 mentioned the word "redistricting," a glazed look goes  
18 over their eye.

19 Very few Californians spend their time or  
20 their worries or their concerns or their hopes thinking  
21 about redistricting. They are thinking about food on the  
22 table, and rent, and public safety, and their ability to  
23 walk free on the streets of this state.

24 But I hear about it constantly in my own  
25 district, and I hear about it in places that you might

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1 not expect. And it reminds me of one of my favorite  
2 parts of the year -- and I know I share this with many of  
3 my colleagues from both parties -- Little League opening  
4 day.

5 The parade goes down the neighborhood on  
6 Meadow Road, turns the corner. We all end up at Memorial  
7 Park for the first day of the Little League season. And  
8 once the ceremony is over, the certificates have been  
9 presented, then the teams go onto the field.

10 And you sit -- for me as a mayor, now as a  
11 Senator. You sit with the parents, ready to watch the  
12 game. And the first inning comes up, and the other team  
13 keeps striking out. And the second inning, they've  
14 stricken out every time. When they pitch, sometimes they  
15 intentionally hit our players, and you're starting to get  
16 a little worried.

17 By the fifth inning though, something  
18 weird happens. You see that on their side -- on the  
19 other team's players, the first base is now been taken  
20 over by one of the dad's. One of the mom's is subbed in  
21 at second base. Another mom is at shortstop. Another  
22 dad is at third base and another at catcher.

23 And you look at the field. You say, this  
24 is not -- this is Little League. Where are the kids at?  
25 You can't just sub in five adults to play a Little League

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1 game. That's not fair. It's also not safe. What you've  
2 created is a Little League I would never be a part of.

3 We don't sit in the stands in that moment  
4 and argue with each other, you know what I'm going to do  
5 about this? I'm going to go to the next Little League  
6 board meeting in two months to complain because what we  
7 really need is a policy that prevents this from  
8 happening. You don't pen a harshly worded letter to the  
9 other team.

10 You stand up. You do something. In that  
11 moment, most likely, what most Americans would do is  
12 we're sending five of our parents out there. We're  
13 pulling our kids off the field. We are taking action to  
14 ensure that that cheating, that endangerment, does not  
15 happen.

16 If, when the Olympics are at the Rose Bowl  
17 here in California -- I'm sorry -- yeah -- the Rose Bowl  
18 in California and the soccer team come on the field and  
19 we're playing against Russia, and they sub in five  
20 people, five additional players onto their team, you can  
21 be damn right we'll be calling for our team to be doing  
22 the same. We won't be waiting to file a complaint after  
23 the game is over that we lost because someone cheated  
24 right in front of our eyes, right in broad daylight.

25 That's why Californians every day, more  
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1 and more Californians are like, I don't know that much  
2 about redistricting, but this ain't right. This cannot  
3 happen, and California cannot stand for it. That's what  
4 this is all about.

5 And so what's different here is it's not a  
6 trophy that's on the line. What is on the line is  
7 everything that we've heard described by the pro tem and  
8 others on this floor. The HR 1 cuts, the massive cuts  
9 that will hit California, but many of them that won't  
10 take place until after the congressional election. So we  
11 have a shot to stop them from happening. What's on the  
12 line is our freedom on the street and the terrorism  
13 that's happening with ICE. The attacks on UCLA, on our  
14 very elections, and reproductive freedom across the  
15 board, we have a chance to do something about it.

16 Because right now, everyone at the Little  
17 League game is always asking me, "What can I do as an  
18 American? What can I do to prevent the erasure of our  
19 democracy, the decline of our institutions and our  
20 protections?"

21 Now, until we have to both fix the rules,  
22 we do have to go to that Little League meeting, and  
23 that's exactly what ACA 8 does. It's first provision is  
24 California calls upon the Congress of the United States  
25 to place a constitutional amendment before all of the

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1 states for a national independent redistricting system.  
2 That is number one in ACA 8. And so we are doing that.  
3 And we must also get on the field and protect our kids  
4 and our families and our communities.

5 Now, it's ironic because we stand here  
6 today, 99 years after the very first redistricting  
7 initiative went on the ballot here in the California.  
8 Redistricting is one of the most contested ballot  
9 initiatives over and over and over again that  
10 Californians typically face. And we've been doing it now  
11 for a century.

12 And that ballot measure, which created an  
13 independent Citizens Commission in Redistricting was  
14 rejected almost two to one. When it was proposed again a  
15 decade and a half later, it was rejected by 10 points.  
16 It was rejected and rejected and rejected and rejected  
17 and rejected.

18 In the 1980s, it was rejected four times,  
19 four times. And then in the 2000s, it was rejected right  
20 before it barely passed.

21 And so when we talk about that the voters  
22 have enshrined this in the constitution as something that  
23 can never change, the voters have been changing their  
24 minds about redistricting almost since the admission of  
25 this state into the union.

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1 And in fact, in 2008 when the voters  
2 passed the initiative that the senator from Fair Oaks  
3 noted, there were two other ballot measures on that 2008  
4 ballot that are noteworthy here.

5 One was the voters' overwhelming support  
6 for high-speed rail, which we've heard previously on this  
7 floor. Senators from the other side of the aisle,  
8 Republican senators saying we should toss that out. We  
9 should throw that one out. But this one that passed by  
10 less is somehow divinely inspired and can never be  
11 changed by the voters themselves.

12 The second measure that was on that ballot  
13 was Proposition 8, the infamous Proposition 8, which said  
14 that we were amending the Constitution to prevent folks  
15 from marrying the person that they loved, marriage  
16 equality. That's what happened in 2008 by a larger  
17 margin through this commission. And yet, last year, the  
18 voters of California overwhelmingly reversed that  
19 decision.

20 Democracy is an everchanging progress.  
21 It's a book that we are writing together, and the only  
22 ones that can tell us to respect the will of the voters  
23 are the voters. And the only way we can know what their  
24 will is in this critical time for the preservation of our  
25 democracy is by passing this constitution to let the

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1 voters decide.

2 I want to speak briefly to the notion of  
3 this mid-decade redistricting that we've heard about  
4 repeatedly this morning as well and the outrage over the  
5 idea that we might do redistricting in the middle of the  
6 decade, as though this were the first time this idea's  
7 been considered.

8 Republicans and their agents submitted  
9 mid-decade redistricting initiatives nearly every single  
10 year in the 1980s, and then again in the 90s, and the  
11 2000s. The outrage -- the hypocritical outrage here is  
12 palpable. The only folks who proposed mid-decade  
13 redistricting before today have been the Republicans of  
14 California. And so the outrage that this is  
15 unconstitutional, how can it be unconstitutional to ask  
16 the voters of California if they choose to, if they  
17 decide to, if they elect to amend the Constitution to  
18 accomplish this?

19 And also, Texas did not consider the 2020  
20 census data or any updates. In fact, the Chairman of the  
21 Election Committee in Texas said, "Well, I don't have  
22 that census data. I haven't looked at it."

23 This process, on the other hand, has  
24 examined every available data source. That census from  
25 2020 and all the data since, all of the testimony in

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1 relevant areas in California where the lines are changing  
2 to look to see what did regular people say about their  
3 communities of interest to the Redistricting Commission.

4 And then finally, the notion that this is  
5 expensive. Another example of fake outrage because we  
6 heard no outrage about the cost -- the annual petitions  
7 to the Secretary of State for a recall of the Governor or  
8 someone else. Every single year, we've had these  
9 petitions submitted with zero, dead silence, about the  
10 cost of that election, which is exactly the same as the  
11 cost is this.

12 So please spare me the sanctimony about  
13 the cost of the election when you've remained silent  
14 every single time that another recall election has been  
15 proposed.

16 Now, I also represent Sonoma County, just  
17 as a response to the senator from Santa Clarita, and many  
18 other communities that have constantly been shifted from  
19 district to district over time. And Sonoma County will  
20 be doing just fine under this map. I can speak to my  
21 constituents. We can handle -- we can handle having  
22 three members of Congress. It's a feature, not a bug.

23 But let's not think that today's  
24 redistricting map, it comes from a commission that did  
25 outstanding work, but it ain't -- it's not from some

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1 divine text, right. Let's go up to one of the closest  
2 districts from here. Maybe stop in Citrus Heights at the  
3 Jolly Cone and just head up the freeway. You've now met  
4 about five percent of the voters in this congressional  
5 district.

6 Head up the Highway 50 a little bit.  
7 You'll end up in Folsom. Maybe stop at the auto malls or  
8 maybe the old town. Then head over to Roseville and to  
9 Rocklin and Placer County. You've now met half the  
10 voters -- over half the voters of this district.

11 But you got to keep on going. Because in  
12 that district, you got to keep driving on Highway 80 up  
13 all the way to almost Mount Lassen. And then you have to  
14 turn around, get back on the freeway, get back on 12  
15 freeways in order to get to Death Valley, Death Valley.

16 So please, don't tell me about, you know,  
17 splitting Lodi, which is a fan community of mine just  
18 nearby here in three when the current map places hundreds  
19 of thousands of people in Sacramento County, steps away  
20 from this building, in the same congressional district as  
21 Death Valley itself.

22 And so these maps represent a step forward  
23 for representation. They respect communities of  
24 interest. They fully comply with the Voting Rights Act.

25 But most importantly, they meet the moment  
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1 that we are here because of Trump, and we're  
2 here -- President Trump, and we're here because of what  
3 Texas is doing, seeking to cheat and steal the game. We  
4 are doing this not in response to Texas alone but to  
5 parry Texas, to neutralize and to nullify their illegal  
6 actions to cheat this congressional election and undo the  
7 will of the voters in 2026.

8 California, we are the fourth largest  
9 economy. We are the most populous state in the country.  
10 It is our duty to America to be the last line of defense,  
11 and I ask for an aye vote on ACA 8.

12 Thank you, Madam President.

13 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

14 Senator Valladares, you are recognized.

15 SENATOR VALLADARES: Thank you, Madam  
16 President. And I do believe I have amendments at the  
17 desk.

18 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Secretary, please  
19 read the amendments.

20 THE SECRETARY: Amendments by Senator  
21 Valladares, set one.

22 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: You may proceed.

23 SENATOR VALLADARES: Thank you. Members,  
24 ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. I rise to present  
25 important amendments to ACA 8.

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1 If this body insists on moving forward  
2 with stripping power away from the voter-approved  
3 redistricting commission, then the very least that we can  
4 do is we owe Californians meaningful safeguards against  
5 corruption.

6 This amendment simply provides that any  
7 legislator that votes yes on ACA 8 will be prohibited  
8 from running for elected office for 10 years. That is  
9 not a radical idea. It merely extends to members of this  
10 Legislature the same 10-year moratorium that already  
11 applies to the citizen volunteers who serve on the  
12 independent redistricting commission.

13 The people of California demanded ironclad  
14 guarantees that those who draw district lines never place  
15 personal ambition above the voters. If this is good  
16 enough for the citizens who volunteer their time, it  
17 should be good enough for politicians seeking to reclaim  
18 power. Let's be clear, you cannot demand that ordinary  
19 citizens give up the right to run for office for a decade  
20 and then exempt politicians from the same rule. That  
21 would be hypocrisy.

22 If you truly believe that ACA 8 is about  
23 fairness, if you truly believe that this isn't about  
24 creating career opportunities for members of this body or  
25 those who influence these maps, then you should have no

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1 problem supporting this amendment. Because if everything  
2 is above board here, then what do you have to object to?

3 Sixty percent of Californians voted to  
4 give redistricting power to an independent commission  
5 because they were tired of tortured lines drawn to serve  
6 those in power. The current process is transparent.  
7 It's independent, and it's accountable to the people.  
8 They said clearly, we do not want politicians drawing  
9 their own lines.

10 Today, this body risks turning its back on  
11 that mandate. But if we're going to press forward, then  
12 we must at least bind ourselves to the same ethical  
13 standards that we demand of our citizens. This amendment  
14 is a test, a test of whether or not this body values  
15 integrity over expediency, fairness over partisanship,  
16 and accountability over ambition. I respectfully ask for  
17 your aye vote.

18 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

19 Senate Gonzalez -- Senator Gonzalez,  
20 you're recognized.

21 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam  
22 President, members. Again, ACA 8 is very clear. It's in  
23 response to what colleagues in Texas are doing, and this  
24 is absolutely egregious. I'm wondering where the outcry  
25 is against the Texas officials that are continuously

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1 disenfranchising voters in Texas. And it also requests

2 --

3 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Excuse me. Point  
4 of order.

5 SENATOR VALLADARES: If the majority  
6 leader could please speak to Germanists of the  
7 amendments.

8 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Your point is well  
9 taken. Can you please limit your comments to the  
10 amendments that we are hearing at this moment?

11 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yes. And I am  
12 absolutely going to do that. And so, ACA 8 also  
13 represents a reasonable and rational response to this  
14 overreach. And the amendments specifically, what I will  
15 say is I would love an outcry for the fact that there is  
16 going to be -- if we're going to talk about corruption  
17 and transparency, why aren't we talking about the fact  
18 that President Trump has already said he wanted to run  
19 for a third term, a third term, and become the next king  
20 of the United States of America?

21 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Again --

22 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Point of order.

23 SENATOR GONZALEZ: So, I will ask that --

24 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Just a moment.  
25 Excuse me. Just a moment.

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What is your point of order?

SENATOR STRICKLAND: The speaker is not addressing the amendments directly before us in this body. I believe the amendments have no -- nothing written about the President of the United States. So --

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

Just a moment, please.

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yeah.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Gonzalez, the amendments that we have before us are dealing with whether or not the members of the Legislature will be able to run as a candidate for 10 years. Your comments must stick to the amendments that we are voting on or that have been --

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: -- presenting before us. Thank you.

SENATOR GONZALEZ: I think the floor is yours.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Valladares, would you like to respond?

SENATOR VALLADARES: Thank you. Again, to clarify, this is a really simple amendment. It is three lines. This is about fairness. This is about holding ourselves, elected members of a Legislature, to the same

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standards that we require of our Citizen Redistricting  
Commission. Again, if this ACA is to really be about  
fairness, then you should have no problem supporting this  
amendment.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

Senator Gonzalez, you are recognized.

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Madam President, I ask  
that we lay the amendments on the table asking for an aye  
vote.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Gonzalez  
has requested that we lay the amendments on the table.  
This is not debatable. Senator Gonzalez is asking for an  
aye vote. Senator Valladares is asking for a no vote.

Secretary, please call the roll.

THE SECRETARY: Allen.

Aye.

Alvarado-Gil.

Archuleta.

Aye.

Arreguin.

Aye.

Ashby.

Aye.

Becker.

Aye.

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1 Blakespear.  
2 Aye.  
3 Cabaldon.  
4 Aye.  
5 Caballero.  
6 Aye.  
7 Cervantes.  
8 Aye.  
9 Choi.  
10 No.  
11 Cortese.  
12 Aye.  
13 Dahle.  
14 No.  
15 Durazo.  
16 Aye.  
17 Gonzalez.  
18 Aye.  
19 Grayson.  
20 Aye.  
21 Grove.  
22 No.  
23 Hurtado.  
24 Aye.  
25 Jones.

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1 No.  
2 Laird.  
3 Aye.  
4 Limon.  
5 Aye.  
6 McGuire.  
7 Aye.  
8 McNerney.  
9 Aye.  
10 Menjivar.  
11 Aye.  
12 Niello.  
13 No.  
14 Ochoa Bogh.  
15 No.  
16 Padilla.  
17 Aye.  
18 Perez.  
19 Aye.  
20 Reyes.  
21 Aye.  
22 Richardson.  
23 Aye.  
24 Rubio.  
25 Aye.

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1 Seyarto.  
2 No.  
3 Smallwood-Cuevas.  
4 Aye.  
5 Stern.  
6 Aye.  
7 Strickland.  
8 No.  
9 Umberg.  
10 Aye.  
11 Valladares.  
12 No.  
13 Wahab.  
14 Aye.  
15 Weber Pierson.  
16 Aye.  
17 Wiener.  
18 Aye.  
19 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes 30, noes 9.  
20 The amendments are laid at the table. We will continue  
21 our debate.  
22 Senator Wiener, you are recognized.  
23 SENATOR WIENER: Thank you very much,  
24 Madam President. Because this is really about California  
25 punching back against Donald Trump. Donald Trump has  
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1 been punching down at everyone for a long time, punching  
2 down at states, punching down at trans kids, punching  
3 down at immigrants. We are punching back to protect our  
4 democracy against this fascism.

5 This is about California checking Donald  
6 Trump. And -- and I wanted to say with respect to Trump,  
7 there was some reference to corruption before. I hope if  
8 people are going to talk about corruption, we can talk  
9 about the corruption in the White House, that Donald  
10 Trump is accepting all sorts of bribes, these scam meme  
11 coins that people use to funnel cash to him. The -- the  
12 plane that he received from the Qatari government, the  
13 bribe that he received from Paramount to settle that  
14 bogus defamation lawsuit. So let's talk about that  
15 corruption.

16 And we're seeing corruption here as well  
17 in terms of Donald Trump trying to seize control of our  
18 government in perpetuity. And that's what's happening in  
19 Texas and what we are responding to. So, when I say that  
20 California is checking Donald Trump, it's because not  
21 that many institutions are actually stepping up to check  
22 this aspiring dictator. The Republicans in Congress are  
23 not checking him. They just give him whatever the heck  
24 he asks for.

25 The Republicans in Congress voted to kick  
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1 their own constituents off of healthcare and food  
2 assistance and to close hospitals in their own district  
3 at the request of Donald Trump.

4 The Supreme Court is not checking him.  
5 The Supreme Court basically rubber stamps whatever the  
6 heck Donald Trump wants to do, whether it's illegally  
7 deport immigrants or tear down the government illegally;  
8 the Supreme Court just rubber stamps it.

9 It's not red states because Donald Trump  
10 called up the Governor of Texas and said, hey, I want  
11 five more seats in Congress. Can you do a scam  
12 redistricting? And instead of saying, you know what,  
13 Mr. President, like mind your own business. We're going  
14 to handle our own stuff here in Texas, the Governor of  
15 Texas just said, yes, sir. Whatever you want, sir.  
16 We'll do whatever you need, sir.

17 Universities aren't doing it. They're  
18 caving in one after the other, adopting his MAGA  
19 policies. Most recently, even Harvard, which it was so  
20 depressing. Harvard was standing up, and then even  
21 Harvard caved in.

22 It's not the media. Some media are  
23 standing up like the AP, which is still banned from a lot  
24 of things because it refuses to say the Gulf of America,  
25 but other media are even paying bribes to this President.

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1 So California is not going to do that. We are going to  
2 check this fascist overreaches. We're going to check  
3 him. We're not going to back down.

4 We are the fourth-largest economy in the  
5 world. We are the largest state by far. We have the  
6 wherewithal to be able to fight back and punch back  
7 against this despicable human being who is trying to tear  
8 down so much of what is good in this country. And Trump  
9 knows that we have the ability to punch back and that we  
10 will punch back.

11 And that's why he is targeting California  
12 so severely. Why he is demanding a billion dollars in  
13 extortion from UCLA. Otherwise, he'll kill off  
14 Alzheimer's and cancer research at UCLA. He's doing it  
15 by targeting, especially Southern California, with these  
16 horrific immigration raids, grabbing people from their  
17 front yards, and from bus stops, and from work sites --

18 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Point of order.

19 SENATOR WIENER: -- and disappearing them.

20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Just a moment.

21 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Point of order.

22 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Just a moment.

23 What is your point of order?

24 SENATOR STRICKLAND: I deeply respect my  
25 colleague from San Francisco and his passion about a lot

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of different issues throughout the state of California.

But I would encourage this body to talk about the bill that's before us. And I gave a lot of leeway before my point of order, but it seems like it's going into a lot of different issues. And I would hope that my --

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you so much, Senator Strickland. You've stated your point of order. Just a moment.

SENATOR WIENER: Madam President, it's directly relevant.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you so much for -- for waiting. We have allowed during this debate for people to give outside context on both sides to their arguments for whether or not they support or oppose the measure that is before us. And therefore, your point is not well taken.

Senator Wiener, you may continue. Thank you.

SENATOR WIENER: Thank you very much. Madam President.

In addition to targeting UCLA, in addition to these horrific fascist secret police immigration raids, he is directly targeting California with his unconstitutional plan to upend the census and to do a new scam census so that he can move even more seats out of

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1 California and other states that don't support his  
2 fascism.

3 So on so many levels, he is targeting  
4 California, and he is targeting so much that is good  
5 about this country. And California is not going to take  
6 it sitting down. We are going to punch back. And that's  
7 what we are doing today.

8 I wanted to say one final thing. I  
9 supported the creation of the Independent Redistricting  
10 Commission. I have been an admirer of the work of this  
11 Commission, and I understand that there are some folks,  
12 people I know and respect, who want us to keep the  
13 Independent Redistricting Commission, and we are keeping  
14 it.

15 But we also have to be clear that this is  
16 about so much more than whether we are taking a  
17 particular approach to redistricting. That all becomes  
18 irrelevant if we lose our democracy because we have a  
19 fascist who freezes himself in power and continues to  
20 tear down people's access to healthcare and destroy civil  
21 rights for so many communities, and destroy our ability  
22 to engage in scientific research.

23 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Wiener,  
24 let's --

25 SENATOR WIENER: Yes.  
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1 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: -- go back to the  
2 -- the bill before us.

3 SENATOR WIENER: Yes.

4 And so it's about the bill. It's about  
5 the Independent Redistricting Commission. And so as much  
6 as we all want to have the best redistricting possible,  
7 this is the right approach right now in response to what  
8 Texas is doing and what this President is trying to do to  
9 our country. And I respectfully ask for an aye vote.

10 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

11 Senator Reyes, you are recognized.

12 SENATOR REYES: Thank you, Madam  
13 President.

14 My mother has often told me, and I'll say  
15 in Spanish (Spanish). My mother says, if it is unjust,  
16 it is incorrect. And if it is incorrect, it is your  
17 responsibility to correct it. Not because it affects  
18 you, but it's because it affects others and because it  
19 affects society.

20 The actions of this administration have  
21 terrorized our communities. Sometimes it is direct, and  
22 sometimes it is not only direct in our -- in our  
23 districts, but also throughout California. In San  
24 Bernardino County alone, 155,000 children rely on SNAP,  
25 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. They're going

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1 to -- many of them are going to lose this. That is an  
2 injustice.

3 We are seeing armed masked men stopping  
4 and kidnapping people right off the street, putting them  
5 in unmarked cars, and sending them to unknown countries.  
6 Just last week, we had a young man who was stopped by  
7 these unmasked -- or by these masked armed men. He  
8 wouldn't roll down his window. He asked them to identify  
9 themselves, asked for a warrant. They could not provide  
10 anything. They broke his windows. He immediately fled.  
11 They fired at his vehicle. And on his way home, he  
12 called 911 and asked San Bernardino PD to please come and  
13 help.

14 We've lost due process, which is a  
15 fundamental right of Americans. We have lost it under  
16 this administration. The fear in our country is  
17 unacceptable, especially for our children who are no  
18 longer going to school. We have -- we have  
19 superintendents now concerned in sending the teachers out  
20 to welcome the students to make sure the students feel  
21 that they are protected in their schools.

22 This Trump big, ugly bill has taken \$1  
23 trillion that was for Medicaid. In every one of our  
24 counties, every one of our districts, our people, our  
25 people, our constituents are losing their benefits. And

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1 who benefited under that big, ugly bill? Billionaires.  
2 They can write off their jets now under this bill in  
3 addition to so many other things.

4 Because of the President's failure, he  
5 went to Texas, as has been talked about. He went to  
6 Republican states to do what failures do best when they  
7 don't get their way - cheat, found a way to cheat. He's  
8 cheating because he knows that he will have to fairly  
9 answer to the consequences of his actions, and to the  
10 American people, who will wholeheartedly reject him.

11 This is why we're here on the floor, to  
12 hold him and others accountable. And to show that when  
13 you pick a fight with California, California will fight  
14 back. It's been mentioned so many times, we didn't start  
15 this fight, but we cannot back away from it.  
16 Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures.

17 That is why we are doing this the right  
18 way. We are taking this fight to the voters to ask them  
19 to join us in offsetting the partisan, hostile acts of  
20 the Trump administration.

21 If California truly leads a nation, as is  
22 often said on this floor, then it has to be us that shows  
23 the rest of the country, democracy is what is at stake.  
24 We are witnessing injustices under this President and  
25 this administration. These injustices are incorrect, and

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1 we have a responsibility to correct what is wrong.

2 If it is unjust, it is incorrect. We are  
3 here to protect democracy. And I've got to tell you that  
4 we take this responsibility -- I take this responsibility  
5 very seriously. And I am so proud to have returned to  
6 this floor at this time to exercise my right to join with  
7 my colleagues in exercising this responsibility and to  
8 correct something that is so wrong and so unjust. Thank  
9 you, Madam President.

10 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.  
11 Senator Strickland, you are recognized.

12 SENATOR STRICKLAND: Thank you,  
13 Ms. President, members. I would like to bring it back to  
14 the bill that's before us instead of rehash the  
15 Presidential campaign. And I also -- I want to point out  
16 on the open of this debate, Mr. Leader, who I have deep  
17 respect for, said we had fake outrage.

18 I'm here to say there's nothing fake about  
19 our outrage on our side of the aisle. I hear a lot of  
20 different terminologies being used by the other side.  
21 The word "authoritarian" came up very, very frequently.  
22 Well, it's authoritarian to have a predetermined  
23 election, and that's exactly what will happen if we pass  
24 and the people pass ACA 8. We will have predetermined  
25 elections where there's no competition in California, and

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1 that is authoritarian.

2 I do trust the voters of California. And  
3 a lot of the members here say, well, why don't you just  
4 trust the voters of California, because they get to  
5 decide the final say in November? I do trust the voters.  
6 However, I don't trust the truth in advertising. We need  
7 to have truth in advertising. And when you look at  
8 what's going to be called the title and summary with the  
9 Attorney General, the first lines are going to be, do you  
10 want to keep the non-partisan Citizens Redistricting  
11 Commission?

12 Members, you know, that's not true. You  
13 know, that's not truth in advertising. And I'm glad one  
14 of my colleagues called out the high-speed rail because  
15 at the time when that came forward, I said there was no  
16 truth in advertising to that bill. Because they said it  
17 won't be \$33 billion, and it won't go from San Francisco  
18 to Los Angeles.

19 SENATOR CORTESE: Point of order.

20 SENATOR STRICKLAND: By the way --

21 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Just a moment.

22 SENATOR STRICKLAND: -- I'm responding --

23 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Just a moment.

24 Just a moment.

25 SENATOR STRICKLAND: -- to --  
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SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Just a moment.

What is your point of order?

SENATOR CORTESE: Point of order. There's nothing on the floor before us today that has anything to do with high-speed rail and the arguments that a colleague from Huntington Beach has made in the past about high-speed rail. And I just ask that he stick to the matters on the floor. Thank you.

SENATOR STRICKLAND: Madam President, I'm responding to a member.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Just a moment.  
Just a moment.

SENATOR STRICKLAND: It's truth in advertising.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you. So seeing that a senator did mention high-speed rail earlier, we are going to allow for latitude to allow Senator Strickland to include those in his remarks. However, please try to keep your remarks as close to --

SENATOR STRICKLAND: I will.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: -- the measure that we are debating as close as possible. Thank you.

SENATOR STRICKLAND: Thank you, Madam President.

Again, I have faith in the California  
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1 people and the California voters, but when they're misled  
2 in terms of what they're actually voting for, like the  
3 high-speed rail and like what's before us here today,  
4 when you're telling the people of California, you're  
5 preserving the non-partisan Citizens Redistricting  
6 Commission, you're not being truthful to the people of  
7 California.

8 And again, we've done this without  
9 transparency. We haven't done it in the light of day,  
10 but again, I firmly believe when it comes down to it, the  
11 people of California -- if this bill moves forward, the  
12 people of California will fight to preserve what is the  
13 non-partisan Citizens Redistricting Commission, a gold  
14 standard, because they don't want the authoritarian  
15 politics to have predetermined elections.

16 They want to have a voice, and they will  
17 not have a voice in California if this bill moves  
18 forward. And instead of people in Congress earning the  
19 votes of their citizens, the elections will be  
20 predetermined. And I can't think of anything more  
21 authoritarian than having predetermined elections. And  
22 for that reason, I urge a no vote on ACA.

23 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

24 Senator Padilla, you're recognized.

25 SENATOR PADILLA: Thank you very much,  
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Madam President and colleagues. I rise in support.

You know, to be honest, Madam President, I'm reminded of a famous line from a classical movie we're all familiar with, The Wizard of Oz. Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain.

The question before the Senate on this amendment is first whether we should adopt its content, what it does, and whether we should submit it to the voters of California for their good judgment to decide whether or not to adopt it and to put it into operation. But really, Madam President, this is a conversation about the why and not the what.

I think we know the what, what a contrast it presents. Sitting President of the United States phones up the Governor of Texas with their time-honored tradition of gerrymandering and being in court defending that they don't violate the Voting Rights Act, disenfranchising voters, doing it their way, which they're entitled to do. But in this case, having a sitting President ask that they do it now, mid-census, with an eye towards the next midterm elections for representation in the United States House of Representatives.

And so here we are with this question in response to that, but doing it slightly differently. Not

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1 because a President called us up and said, can you find  
2 me some more districts? But putting the question before  
3 the people enfranchising and empowering the voters of  
4 California to make this critical decision and paying them  
5 the respect and honesty as to the why.

6 And we should think about the why. Why is  
7 it important in the midterms for the US House of  
8 Representatives that there be an even exchange of debate  
9 and ideas, and opportunity for the people of this country  
10 to decide what that house looks like instead of giving  
11 greater weight to one point of view before the game is  
12 even played and diminishing the voices of another point  
13 of view? The why is pretty obvious. It's to continue  
14 the trajectory and the policies of regression, and  
15 reduction, and undoing that we are witnessing in this  
16 time at a level we've never seen in modern American  
17 history.

18 That's why it's important to balance the  
19 equation so that all voices in our congressional midterms  
20 have an opportunity to be heard. Not for its own sake,  
21 but because of what is at stake.

22 There was a young democratic President in  
23 January of 1961 named John Kennedy, who talked about  
24 being part of a generation of leaders, new leaders that  
25 were not and were unwilling to witness or permit the slow

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1 undoing of the basic human rights for which this nation  
2 has always been committed here at home and around the  
3 world.

4 And two decades later, a Republican  
5 President named Ronald Reagan, upon taking his oath,  
6 talked incredibly and articulately well about the fact  
7 that freedom and the dignity of the individual must be  
8 and has been more available and assured here in this  
9 country than in any other place on earth.

10 The question is really about the why. Why  
11 did President Trump ask Texas to act? Why is it  
12 important that they rigged the game before it's played?  
13 It's not for its own sake. It's for what they want to  
14 continue to do, the slow undoing. The slow undoing that  
15 we've witnessed in the undoing of individual liberties  
16 and protections, ignoring courts of law. The snatching  
17 of persons by unidentified masked agents off the streets,  
18 something people haven't seen since behind the Iron  
19 Curtain during the Cold War in the most oppressive states  
20 in the world, pushing millions out of the social safety  
21 net. Those who can least afford it, and those who are  
22 most vulnerable.

23 The undoing that is the biggest tax  
24 giveaway in American history to the wealthiest Americans  
25 at the expense of the most vulnerable. The retreating

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1 from American leadership abroad in the world. The  
2 failure to defend territorial integrity, sovereignty, and  
3 democracy. To stand for something that we pledge  
4 allegiance to every day, the slow undoing.

5 And the question today, colleagues, are we  
6 -- are we part of a new generation of leaders in 2025 who  
7 are unwilling to witness or permit that continued slow  
8 undoing of everything we hold dear? Are we going to be  
9 part of a generation of leaders that are determined to be  
10 sure that the freedom and dignity of the individual must  
11 be available and assured here in America, more so than in  
12 any other place on earth? That's what this debate is  
13 really about. We must be that generation of leaders.  
14 And I respectfully ask for aye vote.

15 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.  
16 Senator Rubio, you are recognized.

17 SENATOR RUBIO: Thank you, Madam  
18 President, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate.

19 Today, I rise first and foremost as a  
20 teacher, just thinking about what this moment means to my  
21 students, as a former council member, just thinking of  
22 how this moment is going to impact my community, and as a  
23 formerly elected city clerk who ran elections, what this  
24 means to democracy. And I rise in strong support of ACA  
25 8, and now, of course, as a state senator, caring very

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1 much about what happens in this beautiful state to the  
2 beautiful people of California.

3 But I want to be clear. I've been hearing  
4 over and over from my colleagues their outrage about the  
5 money that's being spent in this election. And really, I  
6 think the outrage is hollow. One of the things that  
7 keeps running through my mind constantly is that, you  
8 know, we have a President, Donald Trump, who has wasted  
9 millions and millions of dollars, of our tax dollars, in  
10 his own luxury, and we haven't heard any outrage about  
11 that spending.

12 He has spent millions of dollars  
13 retrofitting a private jet that he received from a  
14 foreign country no less. He is currently spending  
15 millions of dollars on a grand ballroom so that he can  
16 continue to have his lavish parties. And he continues to  
17 spend money gold-plating a White House that was meant to  
18 be white.

19 And yet we have so many of our seniors  
20 whose lives are being threatened, healthcare being cut  
21 back, and their Social Security also threatened. We have  
22 our students, our children, our community members who now  
23 are going to be impacted by the cutbacks in SNAP and food  
24 assistance. And it always happens to the most  
25 vulnerable. But let's not talk about the millions in

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1 that ballroom that's going to have gold plating.

2 And then we don't think about the millions  
3 that were spent deploying our military on American soil  
4 on Americans. While college students are not going to be  
5 able to afford to go to college because their grants were  
6 frozen. I don't remember the outrage over those tax  
7 dollars, and never mind that his children and himself  
8 continue to make billions. He didn't divest, and I  
9 believe he has continued to violate the Emoluments  
10 Clause. Again, where is the outrage? They're making  
11 billions.

12 The truth is that the outrage is not over  
13 the spending. It's about accountability. It's about  
14 democracy itself. And that is why ACA 8 matters so much  
15 because we need to give Californians the power to decide  
16 if it matters to them as well. And I believe that the  
17 way this is set up, it does. We're giving Californians  
18 the power to decide in November for themselves if this is  
19 fair, and it's in the hands of the voters.

20 And if we don't protect democracy now,  
21 then when? When it's gone and history is looking back?  
22 History will look back on us. Future generations will  
23 look back on us, and I think this is the right time to do  
24 the right thing.

25 Government should always be about service  
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1 and not self-indulgence, as we have seen from our  
2 President. It's about feeding children, not feeding  
3 egos, as we have seen from the President. It's about  
4 protecting seniors, not protecting golf outings, as we  
5 have seen from the President.

6 ACA 8 is our chance to say enough, to put  
7 power back where it belongs, and that is in the hands of  
8 our Californian people.

9 The maps are already online. They will be  
10 printed on official voter guides. Voters will have  
11 plenty of time to review them and cast their vote. The  
12 people will decide. All Californians will decide, and it  
13 doesn't matter what side you're on. So with that, I  
14 respectfully ask for your aye vote. Thank you.

15 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

16 Senator Smallwood-Cuevas, you are  
17 recognized.

18 SENATOR SMALLWOOD-CUEVAS: Thank you,  
19 Madam President and colleagues. I rise in strong support  
20 of ACA 8.

21 Today's conversation just reminded me of  
22 something that my grandmother said, and that is, if you  
23 don't know your history, your children will be doomed to  
24 repeat it. When our people marched across the Edmund  
25 Pettus Bridge, facing dogs, and fire hoses, and the

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1 terror of Jim Crow and racial violence, we were not only  
2 demanding the right to vote for ourselves, we were  
3 expanding the promise of democracy for the nation. And  
4 out of that sacrifice came the Voting Rights Act of 1965,  
5 the most important civil rights law in our history.

6 And yet every year since the act was  
7 passed, Texas has found ways to violate it. A reminder  
8 that progress is never permanent, and vigilance is always  
9 required. And Californians know, and what today's vote  
10 on ACA 8 is about, is that this fight is not over. The  
11 same forces that tried to stop us in Selma are still  
12 working today to silence our voices through voter  
13 suppression and this Texas gerrymandering.

14 In fact, we must honor the Voting Rights  
15 Act, not just with memory but with action. And we must  
16 protect the right to vote and ensure that we are  
17 strengthening all communities of interest, ensuring  
18 people who have saved our democracy can never be shut out  
19 again. ACA 8 is about one thing - defending our  
20 democracy from being rigged by a tyrant.

21 Texas and other Republican-led states are  
22 rushing through a mid-decade redistricting scheme  
23 designed to steal seats in Congress. In Texas, what this  
24 looks like is that black Texans will lose much of their  
25 power, being reduced to about a fifth of what their power

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1 was before this gross attack. This is not just a power  
2 grab. It is a direct attack on communities of interest,  
3 on young voters, and on anyone who stands for equity, and  
4 justice, and due process of law.

5 Californians, we understand that we cannot  
6 sit back while these extremists tilt the balance of power  
7 under this hand of Donald Trump and unchecked control of  
8 Congress. We cannot let this happen. And ACA 8 provides  
9 a safeguard. It states that if Texas gerrymanders their  
10 maps, California will temporarily adjust ours to level  
11 the playing field. And we understand we always need to  
12 work at leveling the playing field.

13 Time and time again, when our nation's  
14 future was on the line, this history of the black vote is  
15 key because it's carried us forward. ACA 8 offsets  
16 partisan gerrymanders in Texas. It protects vulnerable  
17 communities here in California. And it's not maps alone  
18 that safeguard our future. Let's remember our history,  
19 and let's take a closer look at Texas history.

20 Texas once saw black political power rise  
21 during reconstruction, as it had across much of the  
22 country, only to be stripped away by the black codes, and  
23 Jim Crow, and racial terror, poll taxes, white-only  
24 primaries that cut black voter rolls in Texas from over  
25 100,000 to just a few thousand. The Voting Rights Act of

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1 1965 reclaimed that. But today's gerrymandering in  
2 Texas, the voter suppression, shows that Texas is now  
3 sliding back, a reminder that every generation must fight  
4 to keep democracy alive. And that is what we are  
5 stepping up to the plate to do here in California.

6 This is bigger than what we are doing on  
7 this floor, and it's bigger than what our voters will  
8 have to do this November. This is about sending a clear  
9 message to the nation and the world that we will not  
10 allow Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans to steal  
11 elections from the people. We know what happens when  
12 Trump has power.

13 Many of my colleagues have described the  
14 painful and cruelty of it - denying disaster relief to  
15 fire victims, imposing illegal tariffs that is destroying  
16 our economy and threatening hundreds of thousands, if not  
17 millions, of workers. He's hurting working families by  
18 rolling back over 60 years of hard-fought labor  
19 protections. He's ordered the mass arrest, deportations,  
20 racial profiling, and terrorizing of families and  
21 children.

22 He's criminalizing diversity, dismantling  
23 DEI programs that protect equity in our schools and in  
24 our workplaces, and that allows us to grow and be  
25 innovative by bringing new voices, and ideas, and thought

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1 partners to the table. If given unchecked control, we  
2 know that Trump will roll back decades of human civil,  
3 women, workers' rights.

4 ACA 8 is California, once again, standing  
5 up to defend democracy, just as we have led on climate  
6 resiliency, just as we have led on workers' rights, on  
7 women's rights, on equity. Today, we will lead on  
8 protecting free and fair elections. Let's make sure the  
9 voice of California and all Californians will not be  
10 silenced by partisan power grabs at the hands of a  
11 dictator. And with that, I respectfully urge an aye vote  
12 on ACA 8.

13 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

14 Senator Arreguin, you are recognized.

15 SENATOR ARREGUIN: Thank you, Madam  
16 President.

17 Senators, I rise in strong support of ACA  
18 8, a bill that is vital to the preservation of our  
19 democracy, that is under assault by President Trump.

20 And first, let me address the question of  
21 whether it is legal for us to take this action today.  
22 The Legislature and the voters often put constitutional  
23 amendments on the ballot. And what we are doing today is  
24 putting this question to the voters and giving them the  
25 opportunity to decide whether to allow for the temporary

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1 implementation of these congressional boundaries if the  
2 voters approve this measure.

3 In today's debate, my colleagues on the  
4 other side of the aisle have failed to address what I  
5 think is the elephant in the room: their party's leader,  
6 President Trump, and the Republicans in Texas who are  
7 gerrymandering democratic and minority -- majority  
8 districts to give Trump five new Republican seats in  
9 Congress. And why? The President is afraid that he  
10 can't win an election in a fair fight. So he has to rig  
11 the process to give his party an unfair, partisan  
12 advantage. That is not fairness.

13 So we wouldn't be here today if it wasn't  
14 for the President's actions, and the actions of the  
15 Governor of Texas, and the Texas Legislature. I wish we  
16 weren't here today, but we are.

17 And I would agree with my Republican  
18 colleagues, we have a lot of important business to  
19 address for our state, but this is probably just, if not  
20 more important than that business that we have to take up  
21 over the next few weeks because the impact of Trump and  
22 the Republican Congressional majority have had in our  
23 state has been so significant. So much of what has  
24 impacted our state over the last eight months has been  
25 directly in response to the devastating policies of this

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administration.

I've also heard concerns about the cost of this special election, but let's put this in the context of what's at stake. Potentially billions of cuts to state grants and funding by the Trump administration. Within the first month, the Trump administration tried to freeze federal funds to California. And let's also remember that we are the largest donor to the federal government. One in four taxes are paid by Californians.

Thanks to the actions of Democrats in this Legislature by providing emergency funding and the actions of our Attorney General, we unfroze \$168 billion in federal funds, approximately a third of our state's budget. We also took action to prevent 11 billion in health and human services cuts, and 7 billion in transportation cuts.

That doesn't even account for the devastating cuts that will be realized by the passage of HR 1 to our federal Medicaid budget, which will kick millions of Californians off of healthcare coverage, the cuts to SNAP, which will mean that children and families will starve in our state, the threatened cuts to education funding, and other essential programs. This will further crater our state's budget.

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1 economic prosperity. This administration's trade  
2 policies are having a direct impact on our state's budget  
3 and are wreaking havoc on our state's economy.

4 So when we talk about budget deficits,  
5 where do we think they come from? My constituents in  
6 Senate District 7 in the East Bay and people across the  
7 nation are outraged seeing the federal government  
8 destroying their livelihoods. From dismantling our  
9 safety nets, eliminating healthcare coverage, reversing  
10 the progress that we've made on civil rights and on  
11 environmental protections, and the kidnapping of our  
12 hardworking immigrant neighbors.

13 Our constituents call on us to take  
14 meaningful action during these unprecedented times. And  
15 ACA 8 is that action to give voters an opportunity to  
16 take a stand.

17 Now, I'm a proud supporter of independent  
18 redistricting, something that our state will retain, even  
19 if the voters approve this map. And I believe that all  
20 states should have independent commissions, something  
21 that congressional Republicans have long opposed.

22 And so as the author had mentioned, ACA 8  
23 specifically calls on Congress to adopt legislation and  
24 to put on before all the states a constitutional  
25 amendment to allow for independent commissions

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1 nationwide. But why have Republicans in Congress opposed  
2 these efforts? Why are they afraid of giving power to  
3 redistrict to the people? Do they not believe in free  
4 and fair elections? To me, the answer is simple.  
5 Because if the people had their way, Congress would  
6 actually reflect the will of the people.

7 So Trump's solution is to push our 250-  
8 year experiment in democracy to the brink in order to  
9 hold on to power.

10 So the question before us is a simple one.  
11 Will we enable this assault on our democracy, a necessary  
12 step to continue the President's attacks on immigrants,  
13 the LGBTQ plus community, on reproductive rights, on  
14 anyone who dares to stand against authoritarianism? Or  
15 will we say enough is enough and take action to counter  
16 these attacks?

17 During this critical moment, I urge you to  
18 stand on the side of democracy. Colleagues, the country  
19 is watching what we are doing here today, and history  
20 will remember what we do. With that, I respectfully ask  
21 for your aye vote on ACA 8.

22 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

23 Senator Cortese, you are recognized.

24 SENATOR CORTESE: Well, thank you, Madam  
25 President. I rise in support of ACA 8.

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1 We are here today because our democracy is  
2 under attack, as we've heard over and over and over  
3 again. But what does that really mean in specifics?  
4 We've seen the dangers of unchecked power. What does  
5 that really mean today in this context? You know, after  
6 the last national elections, the President of the United  
7 States was able to consolidate power to the executive  
8 branch in the House and the Senate, and he has a very  
9 favorable judicial branch.

10 Most of us are taught in eighth-grade  
11 civics that those three branches of government are  
12 supposed to check themselves, but democracy was in play.  
13 The American people voted, and we are where we are. But  
14 when you talk about trusting the voters, what I've seen  
15 over and over and over again in my lifetime, especially  
16 my voting lifetime, is that the American people are the  
17 other branch of government.

18 The American people will check and will  
19 swing the pendulum back when they see the three branches  
20 of government become too extreme. And that's happened.  
21 And the President of the United States was surrounded by  
22 his own advisors, who said that your extreme policies are  
23 going to cost us the midterm elections. And when you  
24 cost us the midterm elections, you cost us the  
25 consolidation of power. This, as my colleague from

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1 Berkeley and others have said here today, you're going to  
2 cost us unified power for the Republican Party in this  
3 country, but more importantly, for our extreme policies.

4 Why? Because the one thing that can check  
5 all three branches of government are the sanctity of the  
6 vote, the franchise of the vote. And that's when the  
7 President of the United States said, unless we can  
8 disenfranchise those voters; then we've got them too.  
9 And that's a decision that was made.

10 And that's why this President and this  
11 administration is such a powerful threat to democracy  
12 because he's no longer consolidating power among three  
13 branches of government. He's disenfranchising and  
14 literally taking away the right to vote for whom people  
15 want to vote.

16 That's manipulation of democracy and the  
17 vote, but we're doing it differently here under ACA 8.  
18 Here in California we're saying, as our Governor has  
19 said, we can counter what's going on in Texas. We can  
20 counter what's going on in the administration. But here,  
21 because of the way that we operate, we're going back to  
22 the people of California. We're respecting the sanctity  
23 of the vote. And we ask the voters of California, what  
24 do they choose?

25 Do they choose the methodology that we  
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1 have in place now for selecting our Congressional  
2 representatives, or in light of what's going on in  
3 Washington and Texas, do they want to change the rules?  
4 They get to decide. They get to decide. And so here in  
5 California, the sanctity of the vote is paramount. In  
6 Washington DC, it's not. That's the difference. That's  
7 why ACA is not a power grab. Quite the opposite. It's a  
8 safeguard. It's a temporary safeguard.

9 In California, voters, not politicians,  
10 will decide whether we should use this temporary  
11 safeguard to keep the playing field level and whether we  
12 should protect our democracy from a power grab by our  
13 President, not just of three branches of government. ACA  
14 puts the choice squarely in the hands of the people. Why  
15 do we call this authoritarian overreach? Think about it  
16 for a moment. This President has gone to an autonomous  
17 state, Texas, a self-governing state, Texas, a  
18 freestanding state, Texas, a sovereign state within the  
19 United States of America, and said, you'll do what I tell  
20 you to do.

21 ACA 8 is the only thing we have in our  
22 toolbox to counter that. But we have tools, and we'll  
23 use those tools. Thank you. And I urge your aye vote.

24 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

25 Senator Grove, you're recognized.

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1 SENATOR GROVE: Thank you, Madam  
2 President.

3 Again, I wasn't going to speak on this  
4 because I wanted to voice my opinion on the previous  
5 bill, and they're all considered a package. But I do  
6 want to set the record straight and make some comments  
7 with some leeway from Madam President regarding some of  
8 the comments that were made on the floor.

9 Again, if you look at the lawsuit between  
10 Petteway versus Galveston County, the court, the three  
11 branches of government that were just mentioned by my  
12 good colleague, that the court ordered Texas to redraw  
13 the lines. President Trump did not order Texas to redraw  
14 the lines. This is an independent judge. He said,  
15 redraw the lines based on a lawsuit filed by the Elias  
16 Commission, which I described earlier.

17 It's absurd to stand. And again, I just  
18 love my good colleague. I mean, he's only right 10  
19 percent of the time, but when he is right, I agree with  
20 him; but he's right -- or wrong a lot of the times. My  
21 good colleague from San Francisco made the comment that  
22 UCLA was being punished by a mean dictator because they  
23 were being fined \$1 billion by President Trump.

24 UCLA is being fined by the President  
25 because they failed to protect Jewish students. Where  
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1 Jewish students were attacked, threatened, locked in  
2 rooms, refused to allowed to go to class. They won a  
3 \$600 million lawsuit against the university system, and  
4 President Trump fined the UC -- UC system, \$1 billion for  
5 not protecting Jewish students. Nobody wants to relive  
6 history in the 1940s and that era, that timeframe of  
7 World War II. And the President is standing up for  
8 Jewish students. That's why he fined them \$1 billion.

9 So just a point of clarification to my  
10 good friend and my colleague from San Francisco, and the  
11 co-chair of the Jewish -- Legislative Jewish Caucus.  
12 That was a justification, and we should all stand behind  
13 the fact that people who hurt and harm our Jewish  
14 communities should be punished in some way. And I  
15 applaud the President for doing this.

16 Again, read Galveston versus -- read  
17 Petteway versus Galveston County. That's what started  
18 this whole thing. It was not President Trump. It was a  
19 court case that required Texas to redraw the lines, which  
20 triggered your response, which is going to trigger a lot  
21 of other responses.

22 And as I made in my comments earlier,  
23 Maryland Democrats occupy 7 out of 8 seats even though 40  
24 percent of votes were Republican. Massachusetts, all 9  
25 seats are Democratic despite President Trump getting 40

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percent of the vote.

It continues down the line, and this ACA to gerrymander even further, the seats that you have in California, where Republicans got 40 percent of the vote and we occupy 17 percent of the congressional seats. And to allow these maps with no other choice other than the voters to say no for this to happen, based on the rhetoric that is coming out of this body, that it's President Trump.

It's a court case. The documents are right there. I'd be glad to send it all to you. Most of you are attorneys. I barely have a high school diploma, and I was able to read that and determine where the lawsuit came from. Respectfully ask for a no vote.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

Senator Perez, you are recognized.

SENATOR PEREZ: Thank you, Madam President.

I'm proud to rise in support of ACA 8 as well as a co-author of the Election Rigging Response Act. You know, I think it's really important that we articulate why we are here today and why we are even taking up ACA 8.

Over the last several weeks, we have seen Texas Republicans, along with Governor Greg Abbott, take

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1 actions to try to redraw their maps to add an additional  
2 five Republican seats. In addition to that, they have  
3 threatened Texas Democrats, enforcing police force  
4 against them to go searching for them, threatening to  
5 utilize the FBI, and in one case, even locking a Texas  
6 legislator in the chambers, refusing to allow her to  
7 leave unless she signed and agreed to have 24-hour  
8 surveillance.

9 We have Texas members of the Legislature,  
10 democratic members that are being followed by police  
11 officers in the grocery store. This is complete  
12 absurdity and complete madness. And while I heard  
13 clearly from my Republican colleagues that they do not  
14 believe that President Donald Trump reached out to  
15 Governor Greg Abbott, we have seen otherwise. That the  
16 President has reached out to Texas Governor Greg Abbott  
17 to ask him to deliver these five Republican seats. That  
18 he's reached out to the states of Missouri, Florida,  
19 Ohio, Indiana, and possibly even Kansas in order to  
20 redistrict the maps so that he can turn the 2026 election  
21 in his favor.

22 Now, why is this happening? That is  
23 because the President has moved forward a set of policies  
24 that is wildly unpopular. We have seen the cost of  
25 living skyrocket. We have seen ICE raids across our

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community.

1                   We had a man die in Camarillo. Mr. Alanis  
2                   (phonetic), who died while running from an ICE raid, fell  
3                   more than 30 feet to his death. Just a few days ago, a  
4                   man died in my district. Roberto Carlos Montoya Valdez  
5                   was killed when he was running from an ICE raid and was  
6                   struck by a vehicle. This is unacceptable, and I want to  
7                   emphasize this, that lives are on the line. That is what  
8                   is on the line.

9                   We are not just talking simply about  
10                  funding. We talk a lot about numbers in this House and  
11                  the millions of dollars that have been cut from  
12                  education, from healthcare, from food programs, the  
13                  millions of dollars that are being spent on additional  
14                  ICE raids, on surveillance, and policing of our  
15                  communities.

16                  But what has that ultimately resulted in?  
17                  That has ultimately resulted in people dying. People  
18                  losing access to critical healthcare. Less people  
19                  showing up to their doctors' appointments. Less people  
20                  having access to healthy and nutritious food. And  
21                  ultimately, that is going to have an impact on the 2026  
22                  elections because voters know, Americans know, regardless  
23                  of party, they are seeing that these policies are not  
24                  yielding results for them. That this is an

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1 administration that is more interested in investing in  
2 billionaires, in trillionaires, and their interest in  
3 giving them huge tax breaks than everyday working people  
4 like you and me, and it is utterly unacceptable.

5 Now, what we have done here today in  
6 introducing ACA 8 is allow us to neutralize what is  
7 happening in Texas so that we can create an additional  
8 five Democratic seats to stop this mess and stop this  
9 chaos.

10 But what does it also do? It protects our  
11 independent redistricting commission. Something that was  
12 approved by the voters, and it was not easy to get it  
13 approved. It was put on the ballot several times. We  
14 finally earned the support of the voters. You have both  
15 Democrats and Republicans that serve on that Commission.  
16 They will be redrawing the lines come 2030 again. And  
17 that is important. That is critical.

18 And I want to highlight that it is  
19 Democratic states that have independent redistricting  
20 commissions. It is not Republican states. In fact, here  
21 in the United States, the five most gerrymandered states  
22 are Republican states. And we need to call that out to  
23 continue to pretend as if partisan gerrymandering was  
24 just something that came up, as if California created  
25 this. To watch the Vice President, JD Vance, continue to

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spread this misinformation is utterly unacceptable.

What do we know? That back in 2021, when Democrats introduced a measure to ban partisan gerrymandering, it was Senate Republicans who killed it. And we could have stopped this mess then, but they have refused to allow such a measure to pass.

And we know that come 2026, voters are going to turn out, and they're going to send a message. They're going to send a message that they do not support cuts to food stamps. That they do not support cuts to Medicare programs. That they do not support ICE raids in their communities, robbing their neighbors in broad daylight and causing deaths left and right of hardworking people - farm workers, day laborers, blue collar workers that look like my father and my grandfather. That they do not support Republicans leaving session early in Congress to prevent the release of the Epstein files.

We are going to hear loud and clear come 2026, and that's what this moment is about. California is stepping up. We did not want this battle. And I want to make very clear, and folks that have worked with me know, I have been very invested in independent redistricting. We have moved measures like this forward at the local level. But unfortunately, this is a moment that requires us to respond. California didn't pick this

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1 battle, but we can end it. And that is our job here  
2 today. I urge an aye vote on ACA 8, and I'm so proud to  
3 be supporting and co-authoring this message. Thank you  
4 so much.

5 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

6 Senator Niello, you are recognized.

7 SENATOR NIELLO: Thank you, Madam  
8 President.

9 With regard to some final comments of my  
10 friend from Pasadena relative to who supports and doesn't  
11 support redistricting, at least in this state, I would  
12 just make reference to my past historical notes when I  
13 spoke to the previous bill.

14 But I have a question of the author.

15 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Will the author  
16 take a question?

17 SENATOR CABALDON: Yes, Madam President.

18 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

19 You may proceed.

20 SENATOR NIELLO: And in connection with  
21 that, I'd like permission to read.

22 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Seeing no  
23 objection, you may proceed.

24 SENATOR NIELLO: I am reading from Article  
25 21, Redistricting of the State Constitution,

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1 Redistricting of Senate Assembly Congressional and Board  
2 of Equalization Districts. This is Section 2J.

3 "If the Commission does not approve a  
4 final map by at least the requisite votes or" -- and this  
5 is the relevant section -- "if voters disapprove a  
6 certified final map in a referendum, the Secretary of  
7 State shall immediately petition the California Supreme  
8 Court for an order directing the appointment of special  
9 masters to adjust the boundary lines of that map in  
10 accordance with the redistricting criteria and  
11 requirements set forth in three other previous  
12 subdivisions. Upon its approval of the master's map, the  
13 court shall certify the resulting map to the Secretary of  
14 State, which map shall constitute the certified final map  
15 for the subject type district."

16 Now, within the allowance of ACA 8 and the  
17 issues we're speaking today, it does ask the voters to  
18 disapprove the certified final maps, but with other maps  
19 being substituted, which is in direct conflict with that  
20 specified by this constitutional requirement. So my  
21 question is: how does that not make this  
22 unconstitutional?

23 SENATOR CABALDON: Thank you, Madam  
24 President. First let me emphasize that the Senate has  
25 paid close attention to each word and each provision of

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1 the constitutional amendment in the construction of this  
2 bill, along with our colleagues in the assembly but also  
3 to point out what might be the obvious - that this is  
4 Assembly Constitutional Amendment Number 8, and  
5 therefore, its provisions already being not inconsistent  
6 with the constitution will amend the constitution, and  
7 they will be, by definition -- if the voters choose to  
8 enact them, they will be constitutional.

9 SENATOR NIELLO: So in other words, you  
10 are actually amending Article 21.

11 SENATOR CABALDON: No. So Article 21 --  
12 Article 21 of the constitution will be -- remains in  
13 place as a result of ACA 8. ACA 8 adds new provisions to  
14 the constitution and an alternative procedure that is  
15 temporary and for this one purpose and this one time, an  
16 alternative that the voters have the ability through  
17 their votes to enact. And the Senate has complied in  
18 every respect with the entire constitution in the  
19 drafting of this measure.

20 SENATOR NIELLO: So this also amends or  
21 basically eliminates Section 2J.

22 SENATOR CABALDON: Now, Section 2J  
23 remember --

24 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Excuse me.

25 SENATOR CABALDON: -- let us --  
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1 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Excuse me.

2 SENATOR CABALDON: Oh sorry, Madam  
3 President.

4 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Will the Senator  
5 take another question?

6 SENATOR CABALDON: Yes, Madam President.

7 Section 2J -- as you know, my colleague  
8 from Fair Oaks, Section 2J exists in the article that  
9 describes the procedure by which the commission  
10 constructs the maps each -- after each decennial census.  
11 And in fact, that is the first line of that article is  
12 each 10 years after the census this -- the following is  
13 about what is to occur.

14 This ACA 8 creates a different provision  
15 of the constitution, this alternative procedure that  
16 would be temporary for this one-time purpose. And so as  
17 long as it's not inconsistent with other provisions of  
18 the constitution, this measure gives the people the power  
19 to design the proper approach for this one time temporary  
20 measure. So it is not inconsistent with it. It fully  
21 complies with the constitution.

22 SENATOR NIELLO: Well, thank you for that.

23 On my own time, all of the testimony here  
24 by everybody that we believe we have an excellent system  
25 for redistricting after each census. And we will most

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1 certainly go back to that after 2030. Nonetheless,  
2 again, referring back to my little history dissertation  
3 earlier today and the involvement, reported involvement  
4 of the DCCC in this action that is going on that has been  
5 developed behind the scenes. One has to be awfully  
6 suspicious of significant changes to this process and  
7 whether, indeed, the intent or the power to continue on  
8 our previous track after 2030 is of great concern to me,  
9 and I think should be of great concern to everybody who  
10 votes in favor of this ACA and the other two bills that  
11 we have, and of great concern to the voters of California  
12 once this goes on the ballot.

13 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

14 Senator Wahab, you are recognized.

15 SENATOR WAHAB: Thank you.

16 I first just want to state that I try  
17 really hard to represent my entire district, both  
18 Republicans, Democrats, as well as independents, non-  
19 voters, new immigrants, and anybody that lives in my  
20 district. And I believe that is the role of when we  
21 create policy, it is for the entire State of California  
22 representing all people, just as when we do a census.  
23 It's about all people.

24 And it was referenced about lawsuits. In  
25 2023, the Supreme Court ruled in Abbott versus Perez,

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1 that Texas's redistricting plan violated the voting  
2 writers -- the Voting Rights Act, mandating that voters  
3 of color be placed in districts with more opportunity to  
4 select their preferred candidates. And continuously we  
5 have seen that Texas has been violating the Voting Rights  
6 Act since 1965, and even this most recent action in  
7 August of this month, of 2025, we are seeing violations  
8 being made.

9 And I heard multiple times today a number  
10 of things - that you know it's wrong, what's being done;  
11 and there's zero transparency; and it's a power grab.  
12 And I call that into question. So when President Trump  
13 calls for Texas to do a partisan mid-decade redraw, which  
14 handed themselves plus five GOP seats behind closed  
15 doors, is that okay? Shutting down Democrats in these  
16 rushed maps? Is that okay? The fact that California is  
17 different. We're giving voters the final say and  
18 opportunity to use their voice by voting on this effort.  
19 The highest form of transparency for all voters.

20 We hear that it's unconstitutional or  
21 overturning the will of the voters. And the US  
22 Constitution does not forbid mid-decade redistricting.  
23 In fact, California's constitution requires voter  
24 approval, which is exactly what we are doing. We are  
25 following the rules and going to the voters. The

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1 Commission remains in place even after this. This is a  
2 temporary safeguard until 2030. And again, it's up to  
3 the voters, not politicians deciding whether to authorize  
4 this action; that's respecting the will of the people.  
5 We are going to the voters.

6 So I've heard Democrats are hypocrites,  
7 but the real hypocrisy, I will say, is claiming to  
8 support housing, childcare, and healthcare, but voting no  
9 consistently on funding those items. Calling themselves  
10 the party of law and order but excusing President Trump's  
11 attempt to overturn the 2020 election and pardoning the  
12 January 6th rioters. Claiming to care about women and  
13 children, but blocking the release of the Epstein files  
14 of sexual abuse of children and women.

15 Call for the release of the Epstein files.  
16 I want to see the Epstein files. I'm sure many of my  
17 colleagues, as much as we talk about it, as much as we  
18 talk about human trafficking, children, women, women of  
19 color, and the abuse of power, call for the release of  
20 the Epstein files. And he died under President Trump's  
21 administration with a failure of cameras, dereliction of  
22 duty of guards, and much more, and the other party is  
23 silent.

24 And then people want to say, especially in  
25 California, especially at the national level, that

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1 Governor Newsom is just raising his profile. Well, guess  
2 what? America is getting engaged, and this nation is  
3 just now seeing what Californians already know. When  
4 others are scared to act, Governor Gavin Newsom shows the  
5 courage to lead. As a woman, a daughter of immigrants, a  
6 former foster youth, the actions at the federal level  
7 have been a direct attack on each of us. For every  
8 identity and ideal we hold dear, I'm proud to heed  
9 Governor Newsom's call to defend our democracy. Finally,  
10 a leader willing to boldly take on what is happening in  
11 this country.

12 And so with this vote is giving the choice  
13 back to the voters of California. I trust the voters and  
14 for the greater good, I respectfully ask for an aye vote.  
15 Thank you.

16 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

17 Seeing no further discussion or debate,  
18 Senator Cabaldon, would you like to close?

19 SENATOR CABALDON: Yes. Thank you, Madam  
20 President.

21 Let me first remind us of what is in ACA  
22 8. The first and critical provision is a call to the  
23 Congress of the United States to put an end to this  
24 madness that has consumed the country, thanks to Donald  
25 Trump and Texas, and submit a constitutional amendment to

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1 all of the states for nationwide redistricting reform.

2 Number two, the authorization for the  
3 people of California to approve this temporary set of  
4 maps that will allow us to fight back, push back and  
5 preserve democracy across the country. And third, to  
6 make it very clear that the Independent Registering  
7 Commission is undisturbed by this constitutional  
8 amendment, and it will be back in 2031 for the drawing of  
9 the new lines after the census as is its constitutional  
10 responsibility.

11 Now, we've heard said that Texas isn't  
12 meaning to do anything devious or untoward here. They're  
13 simply complying with a court order. Well, in this  
14 country, a strongly worded letter from Attorney General  
15 Pam Bondi at the urging of President Donald Trump,  
16 following up one of his phone calls, demanding that you  
17 serve up five seats on a silver platter, is not a legally  
18 binding court order that requires emergency action on  
19 this timeframe. That is a ruse that even they don't even  
20 say that in Texas, the chair of the Texas Elections  
21 Committee and the author of the new maps has made it very  
22 clear - this is a partisan map that we are doing in order  
23 to increase Republican power at the urging of President  
24 Donald Trump.

25 Now, in the elections committee hearing  
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1 led by our outstanding elections chair from Riverside,  
2 one of the witnesses, a former member of the Independent  
3 Commission, said that democracy means that we -- that  
4 each political party, each idea takes turns being humbled  
5 at the ballot box by the people.

6 That is the essence of what democracy is,  
7 that we have our policy programs, our ideas, our  
8 accountability, and our results. And we go to the  
9 voters, and sometimes they applaud and reelect us.  
10 Sometimes they say, no, thank you. That is ultimately  
11 the essence of democracy, not Article 2J, not something  
12 else. It is that notion that all of us, even if we  
13 actually have the key or the card key to the capitol  
14 building or to the Governor's office, we have the keys.  
15 Our name is on the door. That we do not own that. That  
16 we serve at the likelihood that we will, at one point, be  
17 humbled.

18 What's happening in Texas, what's  
19 happening as a result of the proposed changes to the  
20 census and mail-in balloting is an attempt to immunize,  
21 to end that cycle so we will never have accountability  
22 and democracy again. And you heard this in our debate  
23 today as it was said that I -- you know, one of my  
24 Republican colleagues said, "I have faith in the voters.  
25 I have faith in the voters, absolute faith in the

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1 voters." Except, except, and let me point -- you know,  
2 turn back to the ballot measure that shall not be named,  
3 but except when they get it wrong because they've paid  
4 too much attention to advertising, and when they get it  
5 wrong because they listen to a governor, right. You  
6 know, when the campaign is not exactly balanced, then we  
7 can't listen to the voters in that case.

8 And fundamentally that is what's going  
9 wrong with our democracy. The idea that democracy is  
10 only real if it bolsters our power, if it agrees with our  
11 ideology and with our issues. And so this measure  
12 protects the power of the people to assure that they can  
13 hold us, the Congress, and the President of the United  
14 States accountable for all of the things that have been  
15 said today.

16 And it is the case that millions of  
17 Californians are asking themselves in the face of all of  
18 these threats to democracy, to safety, to healthcare, to  
19 everything: what can I do about it? The fear, the  
20 resolute anger of Californians about this. And all of us  
21 hear this every single day. What can I -- what are you  
22 doing and what can I do? And this is our answer. We  
23 Californians, California voters have the opportunity, not  
24 just to raise our voices, but to cast our votes. The  
25 most fundamental way of rescuing democracy is by casting

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1 our votes if this measure allows the ACA to go on the  
2 ballot.

3 And it still matters because HR 1 and the  
4 census changes, everything else is still pending in terms  
5 of implementation. And so let us not in a year when one  
6 of our residents says, "I'm not getting my Social  
7 Security" and none of the helplines -- they've all been  
8 turned off. DOGE fired everybody. Let us not say, well,  
9 you know, what about the cost of that special election  
10 when somebody says, my hospital in the rural parts of my  
11 district is gone. Who's going to stand up and say, but  
12 did you know that that one bill had an urgency clause in  
13 it?

14 When my Navy son has been abducted off the  
15 streets in LA, who of us is going to say, but the  
16 amendments really weren't germane? When we lose our  
17 votes, either directly through the mail or our seats in  
18 Congress, which of us is going to say, well, you know,  
19 the voters might have gotten it wrong if we gave them  
20 their voice. When Marines and National Guard are  
21 ordered, against their will, to occupy, I don't know,  
22 West Sacramento, San Diego, Murrieta, any other part of  
23 California as they have -- already doing in DC and as  
24 they started here in California, will we say that the  
25 voters just couldn't be trusted to make a hard

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1 complicated decision like this? No. This is what this  
2 vote is about.

3 Let the voters make the decision. We've  
4 heard them, and we are responding. And they are the  
5 ultimate judges of whether this is the right way forward.  
6 The voters of California are sovereign. Regardless of  
7 Article J, they are sovereign. They have the authority.  
8 They have the legitimacy. And with ACA they will have  
9 the power to make this right.

10 Madam President, I urgent aye vote.

11 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

12 Secretary, please call the roll.

13 THE SECRETARY: Allen.

14 Aye.

15 Alvarado-Gil.

16 Archuleta.

17 Aye.

18 Arreguin.

19 Aye.

20 Ashby.

21 Aye.

22 Becker.

23 Aye.

24 Blakespear.

25 Aye.

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1 Cabaldon.  
2 Aye.  
3 Caballero.  
4 Aye.  
5 Cervantes.  
6 Aye.  
7 Choi.  
8 No.  
9 Cortese.  
10 Aye.  
11 Dahle.  
12 No.  
13 Durazo.  
14 Aye.  
15 Gonzalez.  
16 Aye.  
17 Grayson.  
18 Aye.  
19 Grove.  
20 No.  
21 Hurtado.  
22 Aye.  
23 Jones.  
24 No.  
25 Laird.

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1 Aye.  
2 Limon.  
3 Aye.  
4 McGuire.  
5 Aye.  
6 McNerney.  
7 Aye.  
8 Menjivar.  
9 Aye.  
10 Niello.  
11 No.  
12 Ochoa Bogh.  
13 No.  
14 Padilla.  
15 Aye.  
16 Perez.  
17 Aye.  
18 Reyes.  
19 Aye.  
20 Richardson.  
21 Rubio.  
22 Aye.  
23 Seyarto.  
24 Smallwood-Cuevas.  
25 Aye.

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1 Stern.  
2 Aye.  
3 Strickland.  
4 No.  
5 Umberg.  
6 Aye.  
7 Valladares.  
8 No.  
9 Wahab.  
10 Aye.  
11 Weber Pierson.  
12 Aye.  
13 Wiener.  
14 Aye.  
15 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Secretary, please  
16 call the absent members  
17 THE SECRETARY: Alvarado-Gil.  
18 Richardson.  
19 Aye.  
20 Seyarto.  
21 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes 30, noes 8.  
22 That measure passes.  
23 Members we have messages from the  
24 Assembly.  
25 Secretary, please read.  
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1 THE SECRETARY: "Assembly chamber August  
2 21, 2025. Madam President, I am directed to inform your  
3 honorable body that the Assembly amended and on this day  
4 passed as amended Senate Bill 280 and respectfully  
5 request your honorable body to concur and send amendments  
6 to Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly above bill order  
7 to unfinished business.

8 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

9 Members, we will now move to Senate  
10 supplemental file number two.

11 Secretary, please read.

12 THE SECRETARY: Senate Bill 280 by Senator  
13 Cervantes in equating to elections, making an  
14 appropriation, therefore, and declaring the urgency  
15 thereof to take effect immediately.

16 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Senator Cervantes,  
17 you are recognized.

18 SENATOR CERVANTES: Thank you, Madam  
19 President and members.

20 Today I am proud to present Senate Bill  
21 280, which calls for a statewide special election on  
22 November 4 of this year. This special election gives  
23 Californians the power to decide whether we redraw our  
24 congressional districts to protect fair representation  
25 through Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8.

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1 SB 280 also appropriates the funding  
2 necessary for the Secretary of State and our county  
3 registrars to administer this election. The bill also  
4 makes the necessary statutory changes to allow the June  
5 2026 statewide primary to be held on time.

6 Members, this is not politics as usual.  
7 This is a rigged game. We are here because the federal  
8 administration and Republicans in Congress know they are  
9 losing. They see the scoreboard. They know their  
10 playbook is unpopular and instead of competing fairly,  
11 they are changing the rules of the game. Think about it.  
12 They send mass federal agents into our community,  
13 snatching people up because their skin tone looks like  
14 mine.

15 They slashed healthcare from millions  
16 while handing billionaires a tax break and slapping  
17 working families with tariff taxes on everyday essentials  
18 like coffee and bananas. They know voters will hold them  
19 accountable. So what do they do? They redraw the field.

20 Just yesterday in Texas, Republicans have  
21 redrawn congressional maps so that instead of voters  
22 choosing their representatives, politicians get to choose  
23 their voters.

24 Let's be clear, the goal is to lock in  
25 power, but in California we aren't just spectators in the

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1 stand, we are stepping up to the plate. California is  
2 ready to defend fairness, to defend representation, and  
3 to defend democracy.

4 Now, some of our colleagues will ask: why  
5 the urgency? Why the special election? Because this is  
6 a five alarm fire blazing in our democracy. And if you  
7 don't see that, it's because you're choosing to ignore  
8 it. And let's not pretend that this timeline is unusual.

9 Republicans were more than happy to rush  
10 through the failed recall of Governor Newsom in 75 days.  
11 The clock ran then, and it can run now. Yes. This  
12 election will cost money, but let's be clear, the price  
13 tag is less than President Trump's golden White House  
14 ballroom.

15 What's the cost of protecting fair play in  
16 America? It's nothing compared to letting President  
17 Trump cheat the country. We will not let him move the  
18 goalpost. The truth is a republic where people fear  
19 practicing their beliefs or worry their vote won't be  
20 counted, is no republic at all. That is not a democracy.

21 On November 4th, the voters of California  
22 can punch back. They can say no more to power grabs.  
23 They can say no more to cheating. They can take back  
24 their agency. Take it back at the ballot box. Take back  
25 your power on November 4th. Take it back for California

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1 and for our country. Californians aren't going to quit  
2 in the fourth quarter. We will not fold in extra innings  
3 because this is our spirit; this is our fight. And when  
4 the dust settles, California will remain standing. I  
5 respectfully ask for aye vote on SB 280.

6 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

7 Seeing no further discussion or debate,  
8 secretary, would -- Senator McNerney, would you like to  
9 -- you are recognized.

10 SENATOR MCNERNEY: Madam President and  
11 colleagues, I rise in strong support of SB 280 because  
12 it's logical. Yes.

13 It's logical to adopt the new  
14 congressional districts here in California, and here's  
15 why. First, this President's policies are hurting  
16 California and the country. For example, the  
17 deportations are decimating our workforce and terrorizing  
18 our families. The tariffs are taxes. Yes, the tariffs  
19 are taxes and they're slowing our economy. Defunding our  
20 universities are robbing our future. He is throwing  
21 military into our cities, incredibly dangerous. He's  
22 throwing millions of people off healthcare across this  
23 country.

24 Now, the Republicans in Congress have not  
25 and will not put any breaks on this President. He can do

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1 anything he wants. This is what dictators do. If the  
2 Republicans retain the majority in 2026 in the House of  
3 Representatives, the President will continue to degrade  
4 our country and make us a banana republic.

5 But the Democrats can win a majority in  
6 the House in 2026 and will put breaks on the President  
7 unless he manages to rig the election. The President and  
8 the Texas Republicans are rigging the election by having  
9 adopted gerrymandered congressional districts, just  
10 yesterday, to replace five Democrats with five  
11 Republicans. They are trying to rig the national  
12 election.

13 California is the only state in the union  
14 that has the people and the will to stand up to the  
15 President. This is our duty to fight fire with fire and  
16 approve new congressional districts that satisfy the  
17 Voting Rights Act. And unlike Texas, we will ask the  
18 voters to judge the new districts. Democrats did not  
19 want this fight. We did not ask for this fight, but we  
20 will not run away from it. We will fight for our economy  
21 and for our values.

22 Therefore, it's logical to put this  
23 question of adopting new congressional maps before the  
24 California voters on November 4th. California voters  
25 must have the right to decide if the state should respond

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1 to the President's efforts to rig the elections. If you  
2 think America needs more authoritarian government, then  
3 give up these five seats. I sure don't. I ask my  
4 colleagues -- no. I implore my colleagues with respect  
5 to vote aye on Senate Bill 280.

6 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

7 Senator Jones, you're recognized

8 SENATOR JONES: Madam President and  
9 members, I rise in opposition to SB 280.

10 This bill is an unwanted, unnecessary, and  
11 expensive distraction. This measure would redirect,  
12 scarce state resources and attention to an unnecessary,  
13 unwanted, and expensive legislative democrat fabricated  
14 distraction.

15 With the state facing a \$12 billion  
16 deficit, an unemployment rate higher than any other  
17 state, a housing crisis, the highest poverty and  
18 homelessness rates among the states, and ongoing massive  
19 crime problem, and continued fire recovery needs, the  
20 last thing that this Legislature should be doing is  
21 creating a massive distraction while also wasting scarce  
22 taxpayer funds on an unnecessary. The special election  
23 will cost alone -- are estimated at a quarter of a  
24 billion dollars, a quarter of a billion dollars for this  
25 unnecessary partisan power grab. I ask for a no vote.

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1 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

2 Seeing no further discussion or debate,  
3 Senator Cervantes, would you like to close?

4 SENATOR CERVANTES: Thank you, Madam  
5 President.

6 On November 4th, Californians have a  
7 choice. Let Trump cheat or punch back. Take back your  
8 agency. Take it back at the ballot box. Take it back  
9 for California and for the country.

10 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

11 Secretary, please call the roll.

12 THE SECRETARY: Allen.

13 Aye.

14 Alvarado-Gil.

15 Archuleta.

16 Aye.

17 Arreguin.

18 Aye.

19 Ashby.

20 Aye.

21 Becker.

22 Aye.

23 Blakespear.

24 Aye.

25 Cabaldon.

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1 Aye.  
2 Caballero.  
3 Aye.  
4 Cervantes.  
5 Aye.  
6 Choi.  
7 No.  
8 Cortese.  
9 Aye.  
10 Dahle.  
11 No.  
12 Durazo.  
13 Aye.  
14 Gonzalez.  
15 Aye.  
16 Grayson.  
17 Aye.  
18 Grove.  
19 No.  
20 Hurtado.  
21 Aye.  
22 Jones.  
23 No.  
24 Laird.  
25 Aye.

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1 Limon.  
2 Aye.  
3 McGuire.  
4 Aye.  
5 McNerney.  
6 Aye.  
7 Menjivar.  
8 Aye.  
9 Niello.  
10 No.  
11 Ochoa Bogh.  
12 No.  
13 Padilla.  
14 Aye.  
15 Perez.  
16 Aye.  
17 Reyes.  
18 Aye.  
19 Richardson.  
20 Aye.  
21 Rubio.  
22 Seyarto.  
23 Smallwood-Cuevas.  
24 Aye.  
25 Stern.

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1 Aye.  
2 Strickland.  
3 No.  
4 Umberg.  
5 Aye.  
6 Valladares.  
7 No.  
8 Wahab.  
9 Aye.  
10 Weber Pierson.  
11 Aye.  
12 Wiener.  
13 Aye.  
14 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Secretary, please  
15 call the absent members.  
16 THE SECRETARY: Alvarado-Gil.  
17 Rubio.  
18 Aye.  
19 Seyarto.  
20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes 30, noes 8 on  
21 the urgency. Ayes 30, noes 8 on the amendments.  
22 Assembly amendments are concurred in.  
23 Members we are going to move back to  
24 motions and resolutions. There are floor amendments to  
25 AB 40 at the desk.

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1 Senator McGuire, are you prepared to make  
2 these amendments?

3 SENATOR MCGUIRE: Thank you so much, Madam  
4 President and members.

5 Amendments on AB 40 are at the desk. It's  
6 clear that the State of Texas is now pulling their own  
7 trigger as the State House voted last night to be able to  
8 advance redistricting. We anticipate the Senate will be  
9 acting tonight or tomorrow morning. And the bill will be  
10 signed in the law by the end of the week. In order to  
11 keep the ballot and initiative crystal clear, we're  
12 moving the trigger from the ACA. But in AB 40 will  
13 remain in case something miraculous happens in Texas, and  
14 everyone comes to their census.

15 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.  
16 Senator Jones, you are recognized.

17 SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Madam  
18 President. I have come to my senses, and I object to  
19 this motion and ask for a roll call vote.

20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

21 Seeing no further discussion or debate,  
22 Secretary, please call the roll.

23 THE SECRETARY: Allen.

24 Aye.

25 Alvarado-Gil.

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1 Archuleta.  
2 Aye.  
3 Arreguin.  
4 Aye.  
5 Ashby.  
6 Aye.  
7 Becker.  
8 Aye.  
9 Blakespear.  
10 Aye.  
11 Cabaldon.  
12 Aye.  
13 Caballero.  
14 Aye.  
15 Cervantes.  
16 Aye.  
17 Choi.  
18 No.  
19 Cortese.  
20 Aye.  
21 Dahle.  
22 No.  
23 Durazo.  
24 Aye.  
25 Gonzalez.

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1 Aye.  
2 Grayson.  
3 Aye.  
4 Grove.  
5 No.  
6 Hurtado.  
7 Aye.  
8 Jones.  
9 No.  
10 Laird.  
11 Aye.  
12 Limon.  
13 Aye.  
14 McGuire.  
15 Aye.  
16 McNerney.  
17 Aye.  
18 Menjivar.  
19 Aye.  
20 Niello.  
21 No.  
22 Ochoa Bogh.  
23 No.  
24 Padilla.  
25 Aye.

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1 Perez.  
2 Aye.  
3 Reyes.  
4 Aye.  
5 Richardson.  
6 Aye.  
7 Rubio.  
8 Aye.  
9 Seyarto.  
10 Smallwood-Cuevas.  
11 Aye.  
12 Stern.  
13 Aye.  
14 Strickland.  
15 No.  
16 Umberg.  
17 Aye.  
18 Valladares.  
19 No.  
20 Wahab.  
21 Aye.  
22 Weber Pierson.  
23 Aye.  
24 Wiener.  
25 Aye.

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1 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Ayes 30, noes 8.

2 The amendments are adopted.

3 There are additional floor amendments at  
4 the desk. If there are no objections, they will be  
5 deemed adopted. Seeing no objection, they are deemed  
6 adopted.

7 Are there any other motions, resolutions?

8 Anyone else want to remove an item?

9 Senator Hurtado, you are recognized.

10 SENATOR HURTADO: Under motions and  
11 resolutions. Thank you, Madam President.

12 At the request of the author, please pull  
13 file item 250 AB 1069 bans off the consent calendar.  
14 Thank you.

15 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: The desk will  
16 note.

17 Senator Allen?

18 SENATOR ALLEN: Thank you, Madam  
19 President. I'd like to request the author remove file  
20 item 231 AB 290 by Bower K. Hahn (phonetic) from the  
21 consent calendar for amendments.

22 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: The desk will  
23 note.

24 Senator Cervantes?

25 SENATOR CERVANTES: At the request of the  
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author, I'd like to pull item 1511, AB 1511.

1  
2 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: The desk will  
3 note.

4 Senator Umberg?

5 SENATOR UMBERG: Thank you, Madam  
6 President.

7 Please remove file item number 238 AB 515  
8 from the consent calendar at the request of the author.

9 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: The desk will  
10 note.

11 Senator Cervantes, were you removing that  
12 bill from the consent calendar?

13 SENATOR CERVANTES: Calendar, yes.

14 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Okay. Thank you.  
15 Okay. All right.

16 If there is no other business, Senator  
17 McGuire, the desk is clear.

18 SENATOR MCGUIRE: First of all, Madam  
19 President, I want to take a moment to say thank you.

20 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: I'm sorry, Senator  
21 McGuire.

22 Senator Grove, you are recognized.

23 SENATOR GROVE: Thank you. I apologize  
24 Mr. Pro tem. I had requested a point of personal  
25 privilege. They didn't call me. I apologize deeply.

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1 Colleagues, on a lighter note after today,  
2 for those of you that are Raiders fans or Saints fans,  
3 Derek Carr would be here on the floor on Monday. Please  
4 wear appropriate attire. Thank you.

5 Sorry Erica -- Ms. Contreras.

6 Only team colors.

7 SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

8 Now there is no other business.

9 Senator McGuire, the desk is clear.

10 SENATOR MCGUIRE: Thank you so much, Madam  
11 President.

12 I want to take a moment to say thank you,  
13 first and foremost to our presiding officers of the week,  
14 Madam President and, of course, to Mr. Senator. Can we  
15 please give them a round of applause. Thank you to the  
16 good doctor and of course to Mr. Grayson who did a  
17 phenomenal job as well. This has been one heck of a week  
18 for presiding officers.

19 Number two, I want to take a moment to say  
20 thank you to the senators who are in this chamber. We  
21 had some passionate, intense, and at times spicy debate  
22 today, but I think once we leave these chambers, we  
23 recognize, again, we are Californians first. Yes. We're  
24 going to have to fight the election rigging, but we also  
25 know that we have a lot to fix. And over the next three

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1 weeks, we're going to continue to focus on where  
2 California voters also want us to be - making life more  
3 affordable for them and their home. Lowering the cost of  
4 electricity bills, lowering the cost of housing, making  
5 sure that we continue to invest in strong public schools  
6 and making our communities more wildfire safe. That is  
7 where I think that we can all come together as  
8 Californians to be able to move this great state forward.

9 I'm incredibly appreciative of the  
10 senators in this room. If you take a look at bodies like  
11 this across the nation, across the world, debates like  
12 this can get physical. And we are so lucky to be able to  
13 live in a country where we can have these discussions,  
14 have these discussions and debates and go home, still  
15 holding hands together on several issues that are in  
16 front of us. And I just want to say thank you to Leader  
17 Jones, to the Republican Caucus, the Democratic Caucus,  
18 for their incredible work. I hope that you get some rest  
19 this weekend.

20 We have a long three weeks. We're going  
21 to jam about six months into the next three weeks. So  
22 gear up, drink some coffee. The next floor session is  
23 scheduled for Monday, August 25th.

24 Madam majority leader into our floor team,  
25 thank you so much as well for all of the hard work.

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We'll see you next Monday.

SENATOR WEBER PIERSON: Thank you.

The Senate is in recess until 3:30, at  
which time adjournment motion will be made. We will  
reconvene Monday, August 25, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

(MEETING ADJOURNED)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the digital recording provided to me in this matter.

I do further certify that I am neither a relative, nor employee, nor attorney of any of the parties to this action, and that I am not financially interested in the action.

Date: 11/1/2025

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J2', is written over a horizontal line.

Julie Thompson, CET-1036

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