



PRESS RELEASE

Legislative Democrats Announce Plan Empowering Voters To Protect California

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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 [Senate and Assembly Elections Committee websites](#).

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.

Our Democratic Approach Empowers Voters, Protects People and Communities, and Promotes Transparency

Republican redistricting efforts in Texas and other states are dividing communities, undermining voter freedom — and their maps are drawn in secret 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,



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 communities of color and historically marginalized voters.** The new map makes no changes to historic Black districts in Oakland and the Los Angeles area, and retains and expands Voting Rights Act districts that empower Latino voters to elect their candidates of choices.
- **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 Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire Says

"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."

What Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas Says



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."

Overview of the Legislation

The Legislature will consider three bills 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



legislation

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

[En español](#)

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Mike McGuire is President pro Tempore of the California Senate. He represents the North Coast of California, which stretches from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, including Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin Counties. Website of Senate Leader McGuire: <https://sd02.senate.ca.gov/>