



# Independent Redistricting Commission

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- Supervisor Brown is requesting that the Board provide direction to staff to create an Independent Redistricting Commission.

Presented to Solano County Board of Supervisors  
on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019  
Supervisor Monica Brown

Item 30  
File 19-93



# Overview of Redistricting

- **Every 10 years, under the U.S. Constitution, election districts at all levels of government – from Congress to County Board – must be redrawn to have equal population.**
- **Redistricting is done using, and following the release of, U.S. Census data, which will next occur in 2021.**
- **Historically, elected officials at local and state levels would draw the new district boundaries, but there is a growing movement to have independent commissions redistrict instead**



# Redistricting in California

- **In November 2008, California voters approved Proposition 11, which created an independent redistricting to draw boundary lines for the State Legislative Districts.**
  - **52% of Solano county voters voted in favor of this.**
- **In November of 2010, California voters rejected Proposition 27, which would have repealed the State Redistricting Commission**
  - **Solano County voters voted against Proposition 27 with 57% of the vote against.**



## Redistricting in California (Cont.)

- **In November of 2010, California voters approved Proposition 20, which extended authority to the State Commission over State Congressional districts.**
  - 60% of Solano County voters voted in favor of Proposition 20.
- **In November of 2012, California voters rejected Proposition 40, which would have rejected the State Senate boundaries recommended by the commission.**
  - 70% of Solano County voters voted against rejecting the boundary lines.



# Local Redistricting

- **Inspired by the State model, or in response to a polarizing redistricting, many Charter Cities have turned over redistricting to an independent commission**
  - Including: Sacramento, Modesto, Oakland, Berkeley, San Diego, & Escondido
- **In 2016, the State of California legislature approved SB 1108 (Allen), giving counties the authority to establish independent commissions for redistricting**
  - Pre-2017: counties could not create commissions
  - Currently San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego have special legislation, and Santa Barbara has a ballot measure



## District 2 - Reasons for Independent Commission

- **“Voters should chose their elected officials, elected officials should not chose their voters.”**
- **Increased public participation and transparency**
  - More public hearings, outreach, notice
  - E.g. Chula Vista Commission: 11 public hearings, 10 workshops, 300 public comments



## District 2 - Reasons for Independent Commission Cont.

- **Depoliticizes Redistricting**
  - Prohibits favoring or disfavoring candidates or political parties
  - Reduces intra-Board conflict
  
- **Better maps.**
  - Studies of the CA State Commission found it did a better job of:
    - Keeping communities whole
    - Drawing compact districts
    - Eliminating gerrymandering
    - Increasing minority representation

Studies: McGhee (2011); Kogan & McGhee (2012); Sonenshein (2012); & Stephanopoulos (2012).



# Creating an Independent Commission

- **Two types:**
  - Independent: Commission adopts districts
  - Hybrid: Commission recommends 2+ district maps, Board adopts one
- **Requirements**
  - Authority: Resolution or Ordinance
  - Size & Selection Method: Board's discretion, but not directly appointed
  - Commissioner Qualifications: Many, e.g. no recent candidates or their staff
  - Post-Service Restrictions: Several, e.g. cannot run for county office for 10 years
  - Public Hearings: 3 minimum, 7 day notice to adopt map



# Questions?

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