

CA District Map Submission Narrative

Maps were drawn using the Draw My CA plugin for the open-source GIS platform, QGIS and submitted as "shape" files.

Files are WATSenate01_3857.shp, WATAssembly001_3857.shp, and WATHouse001_3857.shp.

The QGIS program did not provide any existing Board of Equalization district maps to modify and there was no time to draw from scratch so no maps for those districts were submitted.

Narratives:

Congressional Districts:

Government works best when people know their representatives and where the representatives are familiar with the people of their districts. In addition, in these times of political turmoil the people of California deserve some stability and continuity. California has to lose one district under reapportionment, so district lines must be redrawn even if the time schedule is shorter than planned, but that does not mean the redistricting cannot minimize the turbulence. I analyzed the existing districts to see which ones, if deleted and absorbed into other districts, would have the least impact on the smallest number of communities and still comply with the other required parameters such as population and empowering minority groups. I looked for geographically compact districts that are surrounded by other districts that share a lot of common community characteristics. Geographically large districts or districts that are only bordered by 1 or 2 other districts were not considered as candidates because eliminating them would be very disruptive. There are 4 House districts that best fit the criteria: District #7 near Sacramento, District #17 near San Jose, and Districts #32 & #40 in Los Angeles. Neither #7 nor #17 are suitable because the adjoining districts were already overpopulated. Districts #40 and #32 are both below the population target and are surrounded by lower population districts that could better absorb them and they share a more homogeneous community. I chose #40 to eliminate because it created more of an opportunity to gain or increase minority representation in adjoining districts. All of the districts that bordered district #40 gained in population, and I attempted to smooth boundaries along clear community borders. Eliminating a district and absorbing its people into adjacent districts is a bit like dropping a stone in a pool of water, there are ripples that spread out in all directions. The directly adjoining districts probably grew too much and it likely will be necessary to adjust boundaries with the next outer ring of districts. However, at this point the QGIS tool I was using stopped working and CA redistricting technical support was unable to fix it so I was unable to make adjustments within the submission deadline.

Assembly & Senate:

Along with many Californians, I have admired the dedication, persistence and hard work of the redistricting commission. However, as the Commission documented in its petition to the CA Supreme Court, no amount of dedication can effectively accomplish a 6 month process in a

little over 3 months. It is not the drawing of the lines that can't be done in the shorter time, it is the process of gaining acceptance by the people of California that is being shortchanged. The people of California require a fully vetted and debated product, not a slap-dash set of lines. In addition there is the taint of manipulated census data with prisoner "adjustments". To avoid these issues my proposed maps use the current Senate and Assembly districts for use during the 2020 election cycle, while the Commission continues to work on and get public acceptance of new districts for future elections. Is it better to have districts that are continually challenged and never fully accepted for 10 years or fully vetted and accepted districts for 8 years? Using the current districts for the 2020 election season will neither harm nor deprive anyone of equal representation. I urge the Commission to decline to submit new district maps for 2020 for State districts by the deadline. This will leave the State no choice but to use the current maps and enable the Commission to fully perform its mission.