



WORSE THAN NOTHING

Prop 1 sets up a redistricting process that is **WORSE than the already lousy process we have** now. If Prop 1 passes, **political control of redistricting would be mandatory** for the first time, enshrined in our state constitution. The current redistricting procedure is set up by statute, not by our state constitution.

This proposal does not change the fact that the **Legislature retains control** over the maps. If the Legislature votes down Commission maps twice, they can draw their own, like they do now.

Codifying this appointed panel as an independent redistricting process deeply undercuts what we are trying to achieve around the country on redistricting reform. This is the same old partisan process with a fake “independent veneer,” it is **dangerously misleading** the public to call this reform.

Prop 1 prevents fair impartial redistricting by forcing the Commission to start with the existing widely-criticized maps, requiring the new districts to maintain the cores of existing gerrymandered districts – redistricting code for **incumbent protection**. Mapmaking criteria in the amendment are deliberately drafted to be contradictory, to support drawing partisan district lines and inviting costly litigation.

NOT INDEPENDENT

Prop 1 sets up a Redistricting Commission that is **independent in name ONLY**. The commission is about as independent as a puppet would be - look closely, and you can see the strings.

Commissioners are legislative appointees, and as we’ve seen in other commissions (Moreland, JCOPE), there’s nothing to suggest the Legislature won’t act to control their proxies. In fact, the Legislature wrote procedures into the proposal that block any independent action, **guaranteeing control by legislative leaders**. The commission is **appointed directly** by the party leaders in the legislature. The commission **gets salaries** provided by the legislature. The commission **must submit its plans** for approval to the legislature.

NOT THIS WAY

There is time to get this right- redistricting doesn’t come up again until 2022. The current process is a statutory construct; we can create a truly independent, fair and impartial process by statute, work out the details and then write it into our constitution. If Prop 1 passes, we’re stuck for decades with what supporters admit is a flawed system, as any attempt to tweak it would require two consecutive votes of approval from the legislature AND another voter referendum.

This proposal will waste significant public funds, partisan double staff requirements will be costly for taxpayers and invites the kind of gridlock we see in the Boards of Elections. Ambiguity in the language invites costly litigation.

Once we defeat Prop 1 in November, other states and even some NY counties have fair, impartial redistricting procedures that can serve as models for setting up fair, Independent and impartial redistricting for New York.