

2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

September 2012

Final Congressional Redistricting Plan



2012 Projections (13R, 33D, 7?)*

California's independent redistricting process shook up the delegation, leading to several retirements and intra-party district fights. But after 2012, we suspect elections in 2014-2020 will return to the state's more static norm, even with the top two primary system.

All but four incumbents (three R's and one D) who face challengers from another party are projected to win. Two incumbents will lose to other incumbents of their party. Two more incumbents face tough challengers from their party.

Democrats are projected to win at least 33 seats and Republicans at least 13 seats. With the current split as 34 D / 19 R, Democrats may well gain seats.

* See details and the fair voting alternative on the following pages.

California's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

New Redistricting Maintains Political Distortion



Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election.

Redistricting Process in California

California kept 53 House Members after the Census. Based on a 2010 law adopted by voters, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission is responsible for redistricting. The 14 commissioners are chosen in a complex process. They are split evenly by gender, and must be representative of state population by ethnicity, partisanship, and geographic origin.

The Commission released a draft map in June to weigh public reaction. Latino activists objected to the new districts as harming their chances for more representation. Some congresspersons threatened by the changes complained of the Commission's lack of voter accountability. A revised plan was adopted in August and precleared by the DOJ in January 2012.

A GOP-linked referendum to overturn the redistricting plan failed to gain enough signatures to appear on the ballot.

Competition and Voting Rights in California

	Current Plan	Previous Plan
District Competition	15% (8/53)	17% (9/53)
Latino Voting Strength*	25%	36%
Asian Voting Strength*	0%	0%
African American Voting Strength*	0%	0%

^{*} Measures the percentage of eligible voters of a racial minority in districts where their racial group is a majority of eligible voters. Voters might not choose to vote for a candidate of their same race.

U.S. House Elections in California

California used its new "top two" primary on June 5. All incumbents running for reelection finished in the top two.

Historically incumbents do very well in California. Incumbents won 253 of 255 general elections in 2002-2010. In 2010, California was one of the worst ten states for competitiveness: 79% of races were won by landslides of 20 percent, and the average victory margin was 36%.

But with the top two system and redistricting changes, more incumbents face serious challenges from their own party or from other major parties in balanced districts.

California has relatively high numbers of women and racial minorities in its delegation: 19 women, up from 15 women a decade earlier in 2000, and 13 people of color, up from 12 people of color in 2000.



2012 House Elections in California

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Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for California's new congressional districts. Incumbents are listed according to the districts in which they are running in 2012, with the 2010 district partisanship connected to that incumbent.

District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
1	OPEN (W. Herger)	R	Liected	Willing 78	40 / 60	40 / 60	Strong R	Safe R
2	OPEN (L. Woolsey)	D			73 / 27	70 / 30	Strong D	Safe D
3	John Garamendi	D	2009	59%	62 / 38	53 / 47	Balanced	Likely D
4	Tom McClintock	R	2008	61%	41 / 59	41 / 59	Strong R	Safe R
5	Mike Thompson	D	1998	63%	63 / 37	69 / 31	Strong D	Safe D
6	Doris Matsui	D	2005	72%	67 / 33	66 / 34	Strong D	Safe D
7	Dan Lungren	R	2004	50%	46 / 54	49 / 51	Balanced	None
8	OPEN (Jerry Lewis)	R			41 / 59	40 / 60	Strong R	Safe R**
9	Jerry McNerney	D	2006	48%	51 / 49	54 / 46	Lean D	None
10	Jeff Denham	R	2010	65%	43 / 57	48 / 52	Balanced	None
11	George Miller	D	1974	68%	69 / 31	67 / 33	Strong D	Safe D
12	Nancy Pelosi	D	1987	80%	83 / 17	83 / 17	Strong D	Safe D
13	Barbara Lee	D	1998	84%	85 / 15	86 / 14	Strong D	Safe D
14	Jackie Speier	D	2008	76%	71 / 29	71 / 29	Strong D	Safe D
15	Pete Stark	D	1972	72%	71 / 29	65 / 35	Strong D	Safe D**
16	Jim Costa	D	2004	52%	57 / 43	56 / 44	Lean D	Likely D
17	Mike Honda	D	2000	68%	65 / 35	68 / 32	Strong D	Safe D
18	Anna Eshoo	D	1992	69%	70 / 30	68 / 32	Strong D	Safe D
19	Zoe Lofgren	D	1994	68%	67 / 33	66 / 34	Strong D	Safe D
20	Sam Farr	D	1993	67%	69 / 31	70 / 30	Strong D	Safe D
21	OPEN*	R				50 / 50	Balanced	None
22	Devin Nunes	R	2002	100%	39 / 61	40 / 60	Strong R	Safe R

District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
23	Kevin McCarthy	R	2006	99%	35 / 65	34 / 64	Strong R	Safe R
24	Lois Capps	D	1998	58%	63 / 37	54 / 46	Lean D	Likely D
25	Buck McKeon	R	1992	62%	47 / 53	47 / 53	Balanced	Safe R
26	OPEN*	R				54 / 46	Lean D	None
27	Judy Chu	D	2009	71%	65 / 35	59 / 41	Strong D	Safe D
28	Adam Schiff	D	2000	65%	65 / 35	68 / 32	Strong D	Safe D
29	OPEN*	D				72 / 28	Strong D	Safe D
30	H. Berman B. Sherman	D D	1982 1996	70% 65%	73 / 27 63 / 37	64 / 36	Strong D	Safe D**
31	Gary Miller	R	1998	62%	42 / 58	54 / 46	Lean Dem	Safe R**
32	Grace Napolitano	D	1998	73%	68 / 32	61 / 39	Strong D	Safe D
33	Henry Waxman	D	1974	65%	67 / 33	62 / 38	Strong D	Safe D
34	Xavier Becerra	D	1992	84%	77 / 23	76 / 24	Strong D	Safe D
35	Joe Baca	D	1999	65%	65 / 35	63 / 37	Strong D	Safe D**
36	Mary Bono Mack	R	1998	51%	49 / 51	48 / 52	Balanced	None
37	Karen Bass	D	2010	86%	84 / 16	83 / 17	Strong D	Safe D
38	Linda Sanchez	D	2002	63%	63 / 37	60 / 40	Strong D	Safe D
39	Ed Royce	R	1992	67%	44 / 56	45 / 55	Lean R	Safe R
40	Lucille Roybal-Allard	D	1992	77%	72 / 28	76 / 24	Strong D	Safe D**
41	OPEN*	D				57 / 43	Lean D	Likely D
42	Ken Calvert	R	1992	56%	47 / 53	41 / 59	Strong R	Safe R
43	Maxine Waters	D	1990	79%	81 / 19	74 / 26	Strong D	Safe D**
44	J. Hahn L. Richardson	D D	2011 2007	55% 68%	61 / 39 77 / 23	80 / 20	Strong D	Safe D**
45	John Campbell	R	2005	60%	46 / 54	44 / 56	Lean R	Safe R

District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
46	Loretta Sanchez	D	1996	53%	57 / 43	56 / 44	Lean D	Likely D
47	OPEN*	D				56 / 44	Lean D	Likely D
48	Dana Rohrabacher	R	1988	62%	45 / 55	44 / 56	Lean R	Safe R
49	Darrell Issa	R	2000	63%	42 / 58	47 / 53	Balanced	Likely R
50	Duncan Hunter	R	2008	63%	42 / 58	37 / 63	Strong R	Safe R
51	OPEN (B. Filner)	D			60 / 40	64 / 36	Strong D	Safe D
52	Brian Bilbray	R	2006	57%	48 / 52	53 / 47	Balanced	None
53	Susan Davis	D	2000	62%	65 / 35	59 / 41	Strong D	Safe D

^{*} Seven of California's U.S. House incumbents opted to retire prior to the 2012 congressional primary, and four incumbents have chosen to face another incumbent in one of the newly crafted districts – leaving another two districts vacated. Some of the retiring incumbents' districts hardly changed, and their 2010 district partisanship scores are connected to those vacated districts. For the five remaining districts, we could not link them to a preexisting district, but indicated three of them formerly were held by Democrats (CDs 29, 41 and 47) and two by Republicans (CDs 21 and 26) to reflect the state's current partisan division.

^{**} Only that party's candidate advanced to general election



CALIFORNIA REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012

California's Fair Voting Plan



Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection 19R, 29D, 5?
A (CDs - 1, 2, 5)	3	702,905	25%	60 / 40	1R, 2D
B (CDs - 3, 6, 11, 12, 13)	5	702,906	16.7%	72 / 28	1R, 4D
C (CDs - 17, 18, 19)	3	702,905	25%	67 / 33	1R, 2D
D (CDs - 7, 9, 10, 14, 15)	5	702,904	16.7%	58 / 42	2R, 3D
E (CDs - 4, 16, 22)	3	702,905	25%	44 / 56	2R, 1D
F (CDs - 20, 24, 26)	3	702,905	25%	59 / 41	1R, 2D
G (CDs - 21, 23, 25)	3	702,904	25%	43 / 57	2R, 1D
H (CDs - 8, 31, 36)	3	702,905	25%	47 / 53	1R, 1D, 1?
I (CDs - 27, 28, 29, 30, 34)	5	702,904	16.7%	73 / 27	1R, 4D
J (CDs - 37, 40, 43)	3	702,904	25%	67 / 33	1R, 2D
K (CDs - 33, 44, 47)	3	702,904	25%	52 / 48	1R, 2D
L (CDs - 32, 38, 39, 45, 46)	5	702,905	16.7%	64 / 36	2R, 2D, 1?
M (CDs - 35, 41, 42)	3	702,905	25%	53 / 47	1R, 1D, 1?
N (CDs - 48, 49, 52)	3	702,905	25%	48 / 52	1R, 1D, 1?
O (CDs - 50, 51, 53)	3	702,905	25%	52 / 48	1R, 1D, 1?

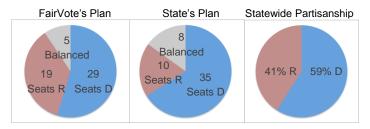
How Does Fair Voting Work?

* plus 1 vote

Fair voting describes American forms of proportional representation that uphold electoral traditions and are based on voting for candidates. They ensure meaningfully contested elections and provide voters with more accurate representation.

Instead of 53 individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into 15 larger "super-districts" with three or five representatives. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a quarter of voters in a three-seat district will win a seat. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a sixth of voters will win in a five-seat district.

More Accurate Political Representation*



^{*} Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election similar to the Partisan Voting Index. They do not account for other candidate-based factors like incumbency.

Meaningful Elections and Representation

	FairVote's Plan	State's Plan
District Competition	100% (15/15)	15% (8/53)
Shared Representation*	100% (15/15)	0% (0/53)

^{*} Shared representation indicates districts represented by both Democrats and Republicans – which enables more accurate congressional representation for most voters.

Benefits of a Fair Voting Plan

Shared representation of different views: Supporters of both major parties elect candidates everywhere, with accurate balance of that district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice: Better chance for third parties, independents and major party innovators, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat.

More competition: With voters having a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

Better representation of racial minorities: Lower threshold for racial minority candidates to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

More women: More women likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidacies.