

SA2004 RF0018



**PEOPLE'S
ADVOCATE, INC.**

Paul Gann, Founder

Your Voice in Government

April 8, 2004

Hon Attorney General
Bill Lockyer

Attention Trish Knight, Initiative Coordinator
Re: Amendment

Dear Trish:

Enclosed you will find an initiative, entitled "Redistricting Reform: The Voter Empowerment Act of 2004," five pages in length. Also included is a check for \$200.00 as is requested for filing fees.

I am asking you to prepare a title and summary. I am a registered voter in California and a citizen of the United States. I am also enclosing a 9608 affidavit.

Thank You

Edward J. "Ted" Costa

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APR 08 2004

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Ted Costa, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for this ballot.

Ted Costa /

Dated this 8th day of April, 2004

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INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Initiative No:

REDISTRICTING REFORM: THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2004

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO VOTERS

SECTION 1. Findings and Declarations of Purpose

The People of the State of California find and declare that:

(a) Our Legislature should be responsive to the demands of the citizens of the state of California -- not the self-interest of individual legislators or the partisan interests of the political parties.

(b) Self-interest and partisan gerry-mandering has created ideological polarization in our institutions of representative democracy, resulting in a disconnect between the interests of the people of California and their elected representatives.

(c) We demand that our representative system of government be fair to all, open to public scrutiny, free of conflicts of interest and dedicated to the principle that government derives its powers from the consent of the governed. Therefore, the People of the State of California hereby adopt the "Redistricting Reform: The Voter Empowerment Act of 2004."

SECTION 2. Fair Redistricting

Article XXI of the California Constitution is amended to read:

Section 1. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), in the year following the year in which the national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the beginning of each decade, the legislature shall adjust the boundary lines of the Senatorial, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization districts by a statute enacted pursuant to this Article, in conformance with the following standards:

(b) Within 90 days following the adoption of this amendment, the Judicial Council shall appoint a panel of Special Masters to propose a plan of redistricting adjusting the boundary lines

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of the Senatorial, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization districts for use in the next election to be held and until the next adjustment of boundary lines is required pursuant to subdivision (a). All other provisions of this Article shall apply to the proposal and adoption of the plan required by this subdivision.

(c)(1) On or before February 1 of the year following the year in which the national census is taken, the Judicial Council shall appoint a three-member panel of Special Masters to prepare a plan of redistricting adjusting the boundary lines of the Senatorial, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization districts pursuant to this Article. Only retired state or federal judges, who have never held partisan political office and have not changed their party affiliation, as declared on their voter registration affidavit, in the preceding 5 years are qualified to serve as a Special Master. A retired judge willing to serve as a Special Master shall also pledge, in writing, that he or she will not accept an appointment to any government position for at least 5 years and will not seek election to partisan political office for at least 5 years. The Judicial Council shall identify twelve qualified judges willing to serve as a Special Master. The Speaker of the Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Assembly, the President pro Tempore of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the Senate may each identify three qualified judges, who are not registered members of the same political party as the legislator making the nomination, willing to serve as a Special Master. Each legislator authorized to nominate a judge shall also be entitled to exercise one peremptory challenge striking the name of a nominee of any other legislator. From the list of qualified nominees, the Judicial Council shall then draw, by lot, three persons to serve as Special Masters and three alternates. If the drawing produces three Special Masters registered to vote as members of a single political party, or three Special Masters nominated by legislators, or two Special Masters nominated by the same legislator, or fails to produce at least one Special Master from each of the two largest political parties, the drawing shall be conducted again. The Special Masters shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties. The Special Masters' term of office shall expire upon enactment of a statute pursuant to this Article or discharge pursuant to subdivision (e).

(2) The panel of Special Masters shall establish a public schedule and deadline to receive and consider proposed plans from any member of the Legislature or any elector. A member of the Legislature may submit more than one plan and may sponsor a plan drafted by any elector or public interest group. The panel of Special Masters shall hold public hearings throughout the state to consider redistricting plans. A plan shall be unanimously approved and then presented to the Legislature pursuant to this Article.

(3) The Legislature shall make such appropriations from the Legislature's operating budget, as limited by section 7.5 of Article IV, as necessary for the panel to employ counsel, independent experts in the field of redistricting and computer technology, and other necessary personnel to assist them in their work.

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