

incurred in the performance of their duties. The Special Masters' term of office shall expire upon approval or rejection of a plan pursuant to subdivision (f).

(e) Public notice shall be given of all meetings of the Special Masters, and the meetings shall be open to the public. The panel of Special Masters shall establish and publish a schedule to receive and consider proposed plans from any member of the Legislature or any elector. The panel of Special Masters shall hold at least three public hearings throughout the state to consider redistricting plans. Before the adoption of a final plan, the Special Masters shall submit their plan to the Legislature for an opportunity to comment. The final redistricting plan shall be approved by a single resolution adopted unanimously by the Special Masters and shall become effective upon its filing with the Secretary of State for use at the next statewide primary and general election, and if adopted by initiative pursuant to subdivision (f), for succeeding elections until the adjustment of new boundaries is required pursuant to this Article.

(f) The Secretary of State shall submit such plan at the next general election following its adoption under subdivision (e) for approval or rejection by the voters as if it were proposed as a initiative statute under Section 8 of Article II.

(g) If the plan is approved by the voters pursuant to subdivision (f) hereof, it shall be used in succeeding elections until the adjustment of new boundaries is required. If the plan is rejected by the voters, a new panel of Special Masters shall be appointed within 90 days for the purpose of proposing a new plan for adoption pursuant to this Article.

(h) The Legislature shall make such appropriations from the Legislature's operating budget, as limited by section 7.5 of Article IV, as necessary to provide the panel of Special Masters with equipment, office space, and necessary personnel, including counsel and independent experts in the field of redistricting and computer technology, to assist them in their work. The Legislative Analyst shall determine the maximum amount of the appropriation, based on one-half the amount expended by the Legislature in creating plans in 2001, adjusted by the California Consumer Price Index. Until the appropriations are made, the Fair Political Practices Commission, or any successor agency, shall furnish, from existing resources, staff and services to the panel as needed for the performance of its duties.

Section 2. (a) Each member of the Senate, Assembly, Congress, and the Board of Equalization shall be elected from a single-member district. Districts of each type shall be numbered consecutively commencing at the northern boundary of the state and ending at the southern boundary.

(b) The population of all districts of a particular type shall be as nearly equal as practicable. For congressional districts, the maximum population deviation between districts shall not exceed federal constitutional standards. For state legislative and Board of Equalization

3 5 of 7 9/8 E

districts, the maximum population deviation between districts of the same type shall not exceed one percent or any stricter standard required by federal law.

(c) Districts shall comply with any applicable federal statute, including the federal Voting Rights Act.

(d) Each Board of Equalization district shall be comprised of ten adjacent Senate districts and each Senate district shall be comprised of two adjacent Assembly districts.

(e) Every district shall be contiguous.

(f) District boundaries shall conform to existing geographic boundaries of a county, city, or city and county to the greatest extent practicable. In this regard, a redistricting plan shall comply with these criteria in the following order of importance: (1) create the most whole counties possible, (2) create the fewest county fragments possible, (3) create the most whole cities possible, and (4) create the fewest city fragments possible, except as necessary to comply with the requirements of the preceding subdivisions of this section.

(g) Every district shall be as compact as practicable except to the extent necessary to comply with the requirements of the preceding subdivisions of this section. With regard to compactness, to the extent practicable, a contiguous area of population shall not be bypassed to incorporate an area of population more distant.

(h) No consideration shall be given as to the potential effects on incumbents or political parties. No data regarding the residence of an incumbent or the party affiliation or voting history of electors may be used in the preparation of plans, except as required by federal law.

Section 3. Any action or proceeding alleging that a plan adopted by the Special Masters does not conform with the requirements of this Article must be filed within 45 days of the filing of the plan with the Secretary of State or such action or proceeding is forever barred. Judicial review of the conformity of any plan with the requirements of this Article may be pursuant to a petition for extraordinary relief. If any court finds a plan to be in violation of this Article, it may order that a new plan be adopted by a panel of Special Masters pursuant to this Article.

~~Section 1. 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 in conformance with the following standards:~~

~~(a) Each member of the Senate, Assembly, Congress, and the Board of Equalization shall be elected from a single member district.~~

~~(b) The population of all districts of a particular type shall be reasonably equal.~~

4 6 4 7  
9/10

~~(c) Every district shall be contiguous.~~

~~(d) Districts of each type shall be numbered consecutively commencing at the northern boundary of the state and ending at the southern boundary.~~

~~(e) The geographical integrity of any city, county, or city and county, or of any geographical region shall be respected to the extent possible without violating the requirements of any other subdivision of this section.~~

### SECTION 3. Severability

If any part of the measure or the application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications which can reasonably be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

5 7 of 7 GNC