

**PEOPLE'S  
ADVOCATE, INC.**

*Paul Gann, Founder*

*Your Voice in Government*



SA 2004 RF0020

May 13, 2004

**RECEIVED**

MAY 13 2004

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

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

1 of 7  
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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 13 day of MAY, 2004

**RECEIVED**

MAY 13 2004

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

2 of 7  
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# REDISTRICTING REFORM: THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT

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, and not the self-interest of individual legislators or the partisan interests of political parties.

(b) Self-interest and partisan gerrymandering have resulted in uncompetitive districts, ideological polarization in our institutions of representative democracy, and a disconnect between the interests of the People of California and their elected representatives.

(c) The redistricting plans adopted by the California Legislature in 2001 are repugnant to the People, self-serving, and in direct opposition to the People's interest in fair and competitive elections. They should not be used again.

(d) 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 power from the consent of the governed. Therefore, the People of the State of California hereby adopt the "Redistricting Reform: The Voter Empowerment Act."

## SECTION 2. Fair Redistricting

Article XXI of the California Constitution is amended to read (added language shown in underline text, deleted language shown in strike-out text):

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, a panel of Special Masters composed of retired judges shall adjust the boundary lines of the Senatorial, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization districts in accordance with the standards and provisions of this Article.

(b) Within 45 days following the adoption of this amendment, the Legislature shall appoint pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (c)(2) a panel of Special Masters to adopt a

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plan of redistricting adjusting the boundary lines of the Senatorial, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization districts for use in the next statewide primary and general elections and until the next adjustment of boundary lines is required pursuant to subdivision (a). The panel shall establish a schedule and deadlines to ensure timely adoption of the plan. Except for subdivision (c)(1), all provisions of this Article shall apply to the adoption of the plan required by this subdivision.

(c)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (b), on or before January 1 of the year following the year in which the national census is taken, the Legislature shall appoint pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (c)(2) a panel of Special Masters composed of retired judges to adopt a plan of redistricting adjusting the boundary lines of the Senatorial, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization districts pursuant to this Article.

(2) The Judicial Council shall nominate sixteen retired judges willing to serve as Special Masters. 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, since their initial appointment or election to judicial office, are qualified to serve as a Special Master. A retired judge selected to serve as a Special Master shall also pledge, in writing, that he or she will not accept state public employment or public office, other than judicial employment or judicial office or a teaching position, for at least 5 years if appointed as a Special Master. Not more than eight of the sixteen retired judges may be of a single party affiliation. From the pool of retired judges nominated by the Judicial Council, 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 shall each nominate three retired judges, who are not registered members of the same political party as that of the legislator making the nomination. Each legislator authorized to nominate a retired judge shall also be entitled to exercise a single peremptory challenge striking the name of any nominee of any other legislator. From the list of remaining nominees selected by said legislative leadership, the Chief Clerk of the Assembly 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 fails to produce at least one Special Master from each of the two largest political parties, the drawing shall be conducted again. If for any reason said legislative leadership fails to nominate the retired judges within the period specified for appointment of the Special Masters, the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall draw, by lot, three persons to serve as Special Masters and three alternates from the larger pool of retired judges nominated by the Judicial Council. In the event of a vacancy in the panel of Special Masters, the Chief Clerk shall draw, by lot, a replacement from the pool of alternates immediately following the vacancy, consistent with the requirements of this subdivision.

(d) Each Special Master shall be compensated at the same rate and in the same manner as a member of the California Citizens Compensation Commission pursuant to Section 8(j) of Article III and shall receive their actual and necessary expenses, including travel expenses.

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