



# League of Women Voters of California Redistricting Implementation September 2009

## Why Apply to Become a Citizens Redistricting Commissioner?

### Background: What Is Redistricting?

Every 10 years, after the federal census, new districts must be drawn for governmental legislative bodies. Under Proposition 11, the Voters First Act, California state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts will be drawn by a "citizens' commission" rather than by the legislature, thereby removing direct political interests from the process. This will be a vitally important improvement to our election systems in California.

**The Commission.** There will be a 14-person citizens redistricting commission, politically balanced (5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 others). Commissioners will be chosen for their impartiality, analytical and personal skills, and to reflect our state's demographic and geographic diversity. In addition, Proposition 11 lists certain conflicts of interest that would make a person ineligible to serve on the commission. Applications (online) to become commissioners will be accepted from December 15, 2009 to February 12, 2010. The final selection process will be completed by December 31, 2010.

**The Work of the Commission.** The commission's work will begin in January 2011, and the district maps must be completed by September 15, 2011. After organizing itself, the commission will engage staff, both management and technical (demographic), and possibly consultants. Following receipt of the census data from the federal government, the commission will hold meetings at various locations around the state to hear public input about how their communities should be represented. Then the staff under the guidance of the commission will prepare preliminary electoral district maps, based on the mapping criteria established by Proposition 11.

These preliminary maps will be published for public review and comment, and further hearings will be held to hear such comment directly. Emphasis is placed on making the redistricting process open and transparent to the public.

After considering all comments, the electoral district maps will be revised as necessary, and then approved by the commission. Approval will require at least three votes each from the Democratic, Republican and other commissioners to assure its nonpartisan nature.

### Why Should You Want to Become a Commissioner?

- Make history by participating in a redistricting process unique in our country.
- Make a significant contribution in achieving much-needed change in our state's electoral process through a nonpartisan redistricting process.
- Obtain a vitalizing first-hand education about our state, its communities and its people.
- Have fun while doing something incredibly valuable for the people of California.

Find more information on redistricting at [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org) and on the commission at [www.bsa.ca.gov](http://www.bsa.ca.gov)