

# California's Independent Redistricting Commission



ROSE INSTITUTE  
OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

# Presenters

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- Margarita Fernández, CPA
  - Chief of Public Affairs and Quality Assurance  
California State Auditor
  
- Douglas Johnson, PhD
  - Fellow  
Rose Institute of State and Local Government  
Claremont McKenna College

# Review of Timelines

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<b>Census</b>	
Complete Count Organization and Outreach	Now
Census Day	April 1, 2020
Data Released	March 2021

<b>Redistricting</b>	
Commission Application	June 10 – August 9, 2019
Commission Selection Initial Review	August – October, 2019
Commission Selection Final Review and Selection	November 2019 – Fall 2020
Redistricting Data Received	March 2021
Redistricting	April – August 2021



# SHAPE CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

## 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission

Margarita Fernández, CPA  
Chief of Public Affairs and Quality Assurance  
May 2, 2019

California State Auditor

## Today's Agenda

- What is redistricting?
- What is California's redistricting process and who does what?
- What is the application and selection process for the 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission?
- What are the timelines?
- What is currently underway?
- What can you do?



What is redistricting?

- Why is it important?

## How did Californians change the redistricting process?

- Voters approved initiatives that gave a Citizens Redistricting Commission the responsibility of redrawing district lines for:
  - Congressional,
  - State Senate,
  - State Assembly, and
  - State Board of Equalization districts.
- A new Citizens Redistricting Commission is created every ten years.

# What is the California State Auditor's role in the redistricting process?

The California State Auditor is an independent and non-partisan entity and every ten years must:

- Conduct outreach
- Develop regulations
- Facilitate the formation of the Commission
- Provide administrative support to the new commissioners until functional





# What is the Citizens Redistricting Commission and what is their role?

## SHAPE CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

- A 14-member Commission made up of:
  - Five who are Democrats
  - Five who are Republicans
  - Four who are either registered without or "independent" of any political party (no party preference) or with another party.
- Responsible for redrawing Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization district maps
- Must be established by August 2020

# What is the criteria for drawing the lines?

- Be nonpartisan
- Develop reasonably equal populations
- Comply with Federal Voting Rights Act
- Maintain communities of interest & neighborhoods
- Minimize splitting counties and cities
- Develop geographically compact districts
- Create districts adjacent to others as specified



# Who can apply to become a commissioner?

Any registered voter who has:

- Voted in two of the last three statewide general elections
- Not changed party affiliation in the past five years
- Satisfied conflict of interest requirements that apply to applicants and bona fide family members



# What is the criteria for qualified applicants?



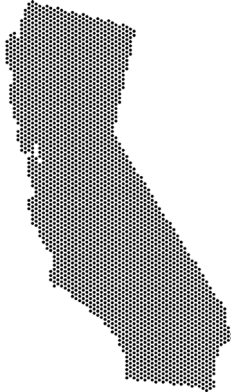
1

Analytical skills



2

Ability to be impartial



3

Appreciation for California's diversity

# Interested in shaping California's future? What is the process?

Step 1: Sign-up to receive e-mail notifications!  
[shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov](https://shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov)

Step 2: Apply during our initial application period:  
June 10, 2019 - August 9, 2019

Step 3: Continue in the process! Complete the  
supplemental application package:  
August 12, 2019 - September 11, 2019

Step 4: Stay connected!

## What happens next?

The Applicant Review Panel (ARP) begins their work.

- Comprised of three California State Auditor employees—equally distributed between party affiliation.
- Each must have ten years of independent auditing experience.



# What is the selection process?

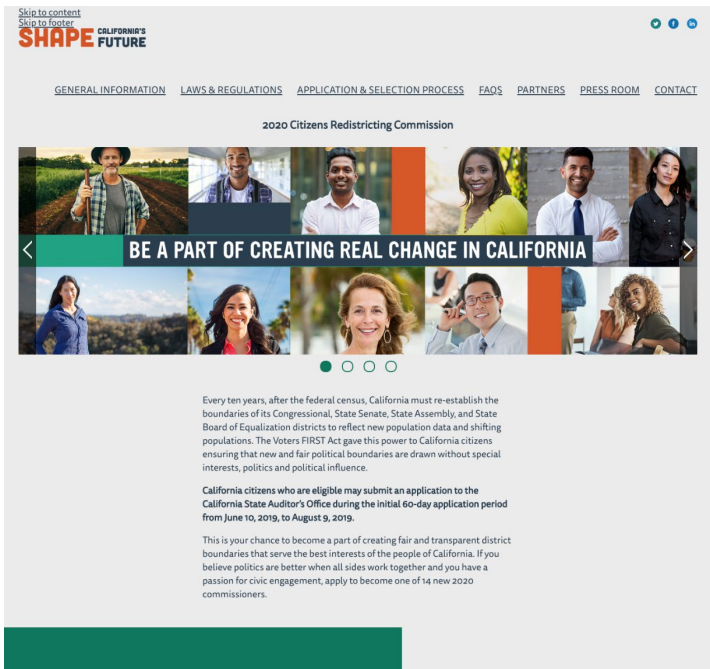
- The ARP reviews application packages to identify 120 of the most qualified applicants—40 from each of the sub-pools.
- The ARP makes all decisions about applicants during public meetings.
  - ✓ All meetings are live-streamed.
  - ✓ The public is encouraged to provide public comments throughout the process.
- The ARP will interview 120 of the most qualified to ultimately select a final pool of 60 of the most qualified applicants—20 from each of the sub-pools.
  - ✓ All interviews are live-streamed.
  - ✓ The public is encouraged to provide public comments throughout the process.

# What is the selection process?

- The ARP submits the list of 60 of the most qualified applicants to the Legislature.
- The four Legislative leaders may strike up to eight names from each of the three sub-pools for a total of 24 applicants in each sub-pool.
- The California State Auditor randomly draws the first eight commissioners.
- The eight commissioners select the remaining six to establish the new 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission.



# What outreach efforts are underway?



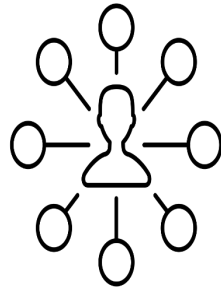
- Electronic and social media channels —
  - [ShapeCaliforniasFuture@auditor.ca.gov](mailto:ShapeCaliforniasFuture@auditor.ca.gov)
  - On social media @ShapeCAFuture
- Earned media
- Grassroots outreach —
  - Universities, libraries, cities, counties, officials, and many state and community based organizations (like you!)
- Speaker opportunities
- Email outreach — sign up for weekly emails!

# What can you do to help?



## Visit Our Website

Download our free informational materials online!



## Share Your Network

Your ideas will amplify our outreach efforts. Connect us to your networks.



## Speak Up

Invite us to speak at your upcoming meeting or event.



## Spread the Word

Tell your friends, family, and colleagues through emails, newsletters, and online channels.

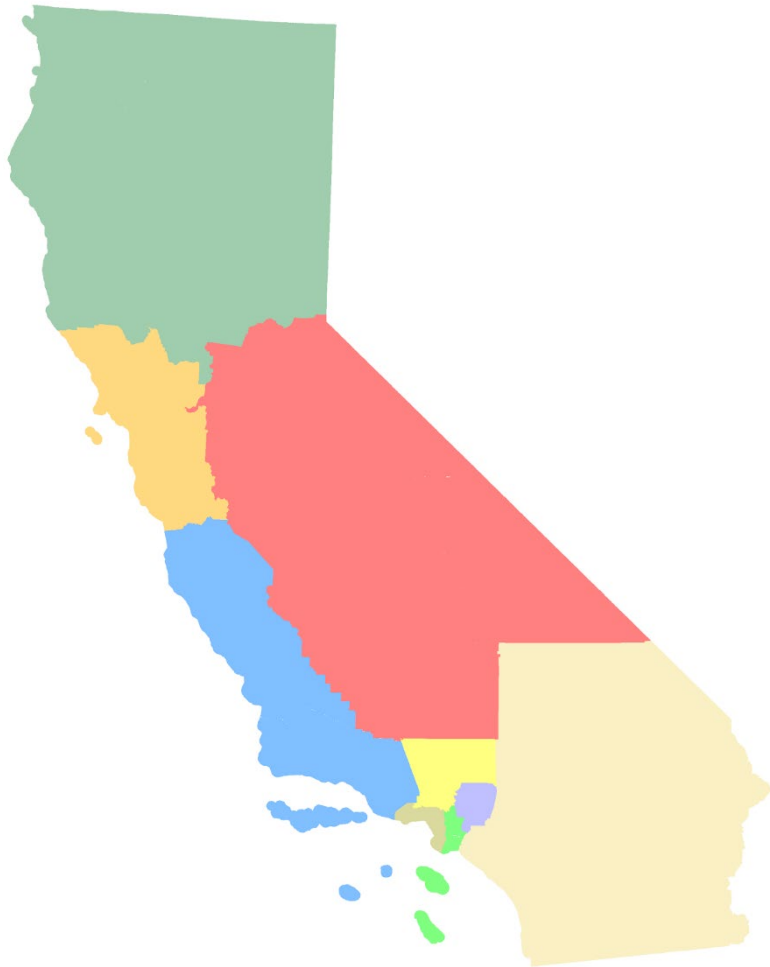
# Why Should Local Governments Care?

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- Change is coming in the 2021 redistricting
- Regions compete for representation
- Change can mean losing a long-time representative and the partnerships, expertise, and dedication that brings
- Those that show up get the benefits
  - Especially with a citizen commission

# Seat Gain / Loss by Region

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## WINNERS AND LOSERS: THE 2020 CENSUS AND CALIFORNIA'S 2021 REDISTRICTING

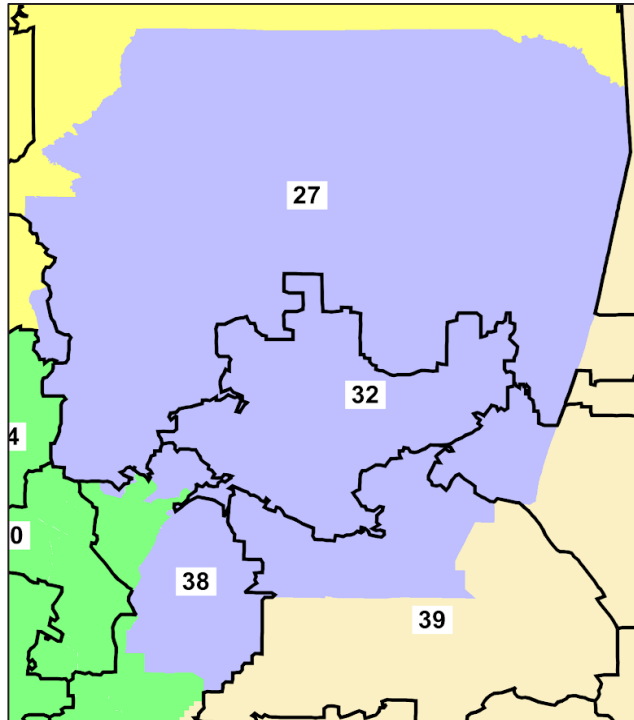


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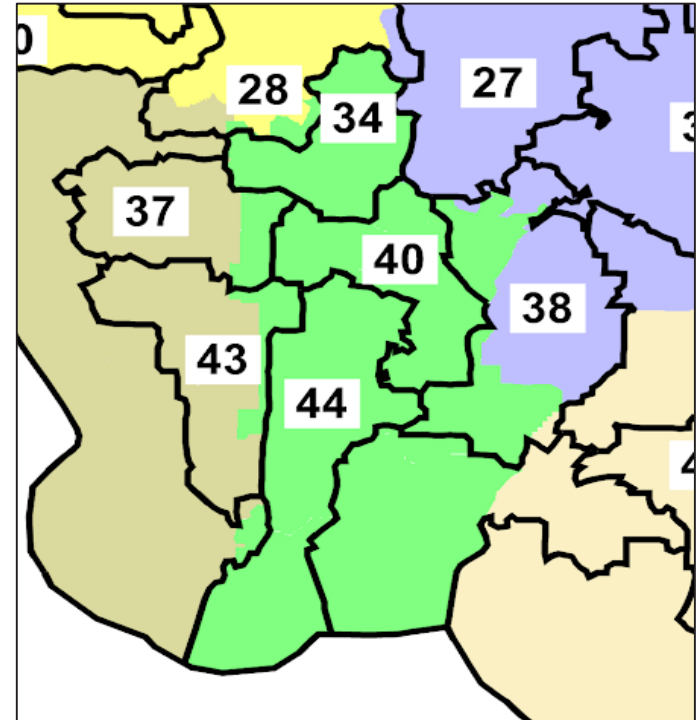
	Region	2020 Projection	Growth Rate	Change in CDs (53 to 52)	Change in ADs
1	Far North	1,862,884	5.4%	-0.1	-0.1
2	SF Bay Area	8,297,312	11.9%	0.1	0.5
3	Central Coast	2,123,147	6.8%	-0.1	-0.1
4	Central Valley	6,282,883	9.0%	-0.1	0.0
5	Southern	11,628,727	10.7%	0.0	0.4
6	LA West Side	1,969,960	4.8%	-0.1	-0.1
7	LA Gateway	3,387,783	3.9%	-0.3	-0.3
8	LA San Gabriel	2,166,733	4.6%	-0.2	-0.2
9	LA Valleys	2,786,844	6.9%	-0.1	-0.1
	California	40,506,274	8.7%	-1	0

# Congressional Seat Loss

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San Gabriel congressional districts



Downtown/Gateway congressional districts

- Congressional districts 27, 32, 38, and 40 most at risk
- Likely a Democratic seat will be lost

# California Redistricting Factors

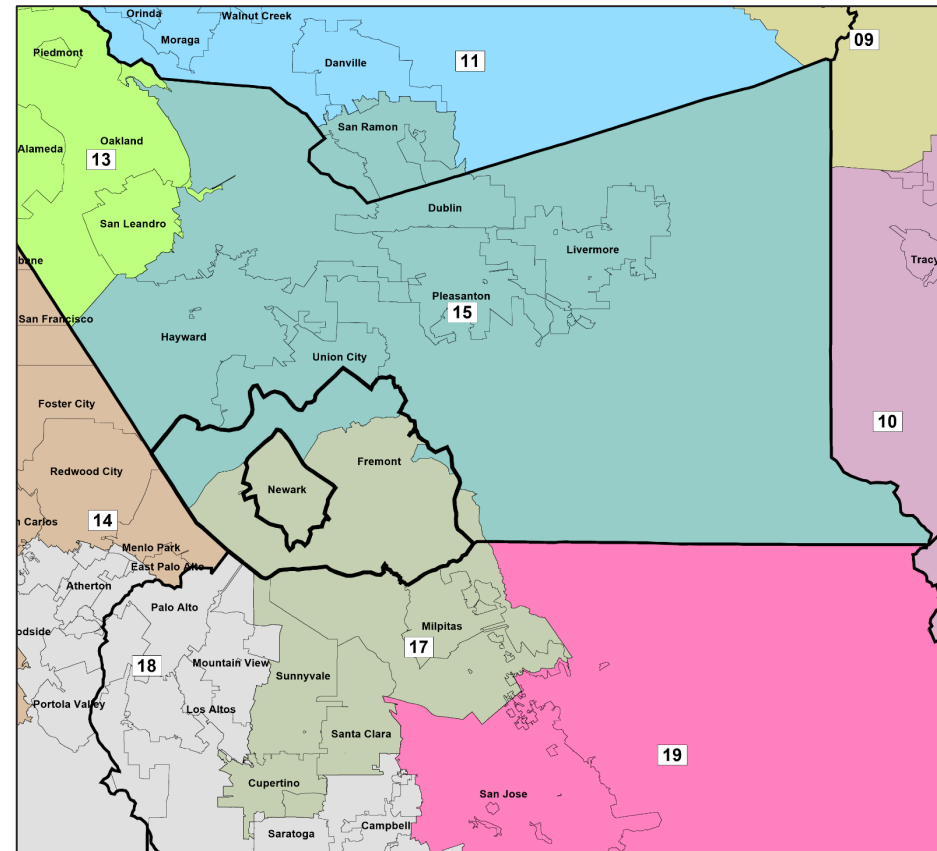
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- Independent Redistricting Commission is in control
- No consideration of incumbents, candidates, or parties is allowed
- Focus is on the Voting Rights Act and “communities of interest”
- Push for representation must change to succeed in this new reality
  1. Locals / allies on the Commission
  2. Regional Alliances
  3. Effective presentations to the Commission
  4. Track Commission testimony and decisions

# Lessons from 2011: Why Do You Need a Local?

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- Fremont residents proposed a map that united Fremont and that united a then-split Richmond
- A Commissioner at that very meeting said “No one has come up with a way to avoid splitting Richmond”
- Commission eventually found a way to unite Richmond, but Fremont remained split.



# Lessons from 2011 Selection Process

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1. Community Engagement in the resume is key
2. Republicans have a harder time than Democrats showing 'strong' resumes
3. For the final selections, filling a diversity 'slot' (racial, geographic, or otherwise) is as important as having the best resume



# Original 2011 Commissioners

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## Initial eight

1. Former Census Director (R)
2. President of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce (D)
3. Norco Attorney (R)
4. Director, Center for Social Entrepreneurship
5. Yolo County lawyer/Bookstore owner (NPP)
6. Board Member, Funders Committee for Civic Participation (NPP)
7. Former senior research analyst at UCLA (D) (later resigned)
8. Claremont City Councilmember (R)

4 Asian-Americans, 1 African-American, 1 Latino, 2 White

## Final six

1. Santa Paula City Councilmember (D)
2. Executive Director of the University of California's Undocumented Legal Services Center (D)
3. Volunteer board member of Pacific American Academy Charter School and Neighborhood House Association (R)
4. Orange County Chiropractor, former Federal Agent (R)
5. Stockton consultant to non-profits and administrator for California Council for the Humanities (D)
6. Former Zoning Analyst with the Los Angeles Department of City Planning (D)

2 Latino, 1 Asian-American, 1 African-American, 2 White

# Skills Required

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1. Time. And More Time. And Lots More Time.
2. Patience and experience with public hearings.
3. Ability to work in a commission.
4. Experience working with legal counsel.
5. Experience working with topic-expert consultants.
6. Understanding of geography.
7. Understanding of California communities and demographics.

# The Big 2011 Selection Debate

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- Expertise vs Regional Diversity
  - Final selection came down to two applicants
  - One was the Redistricting Special Master appointed by the State Supreme Court to draw the Court-imposed Legislative and Congressional Districts in 1973 and in 1991
  - The other was from Stockton because there were no Central Valley residents among the first 13 selected
  - The 'original eight' making the selection chose the Stockton resident
    - Stated reason was the Commission could hire experts, while lacking a representative of the Central Valley on the Commission could not be overcome through hiring

# Why Engage in the Mapping Process?

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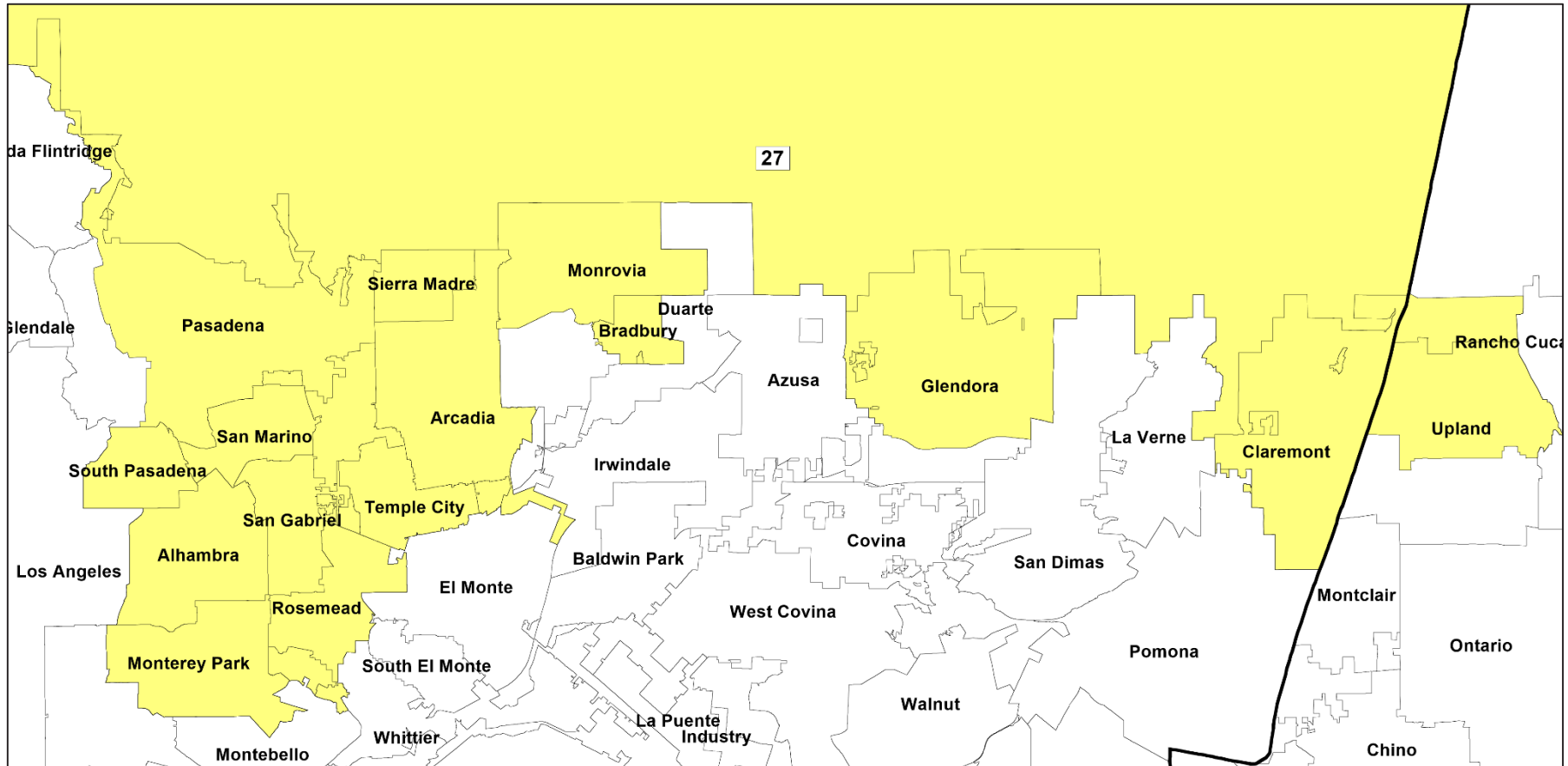
You cannot win if you do not show up

- In this case, “winning” means get the representation your population count merits and your community needs.
- Regions short on population to maintain their current districts will try to ‘borrow’ population from adjoining districts to buttress their current representatives.

# “Borrowing Population” Example

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- In 2011, Pasadena/Rosemead “borrowed” Glendora and Claremont/Upland to preserve their Pasadena-focused district

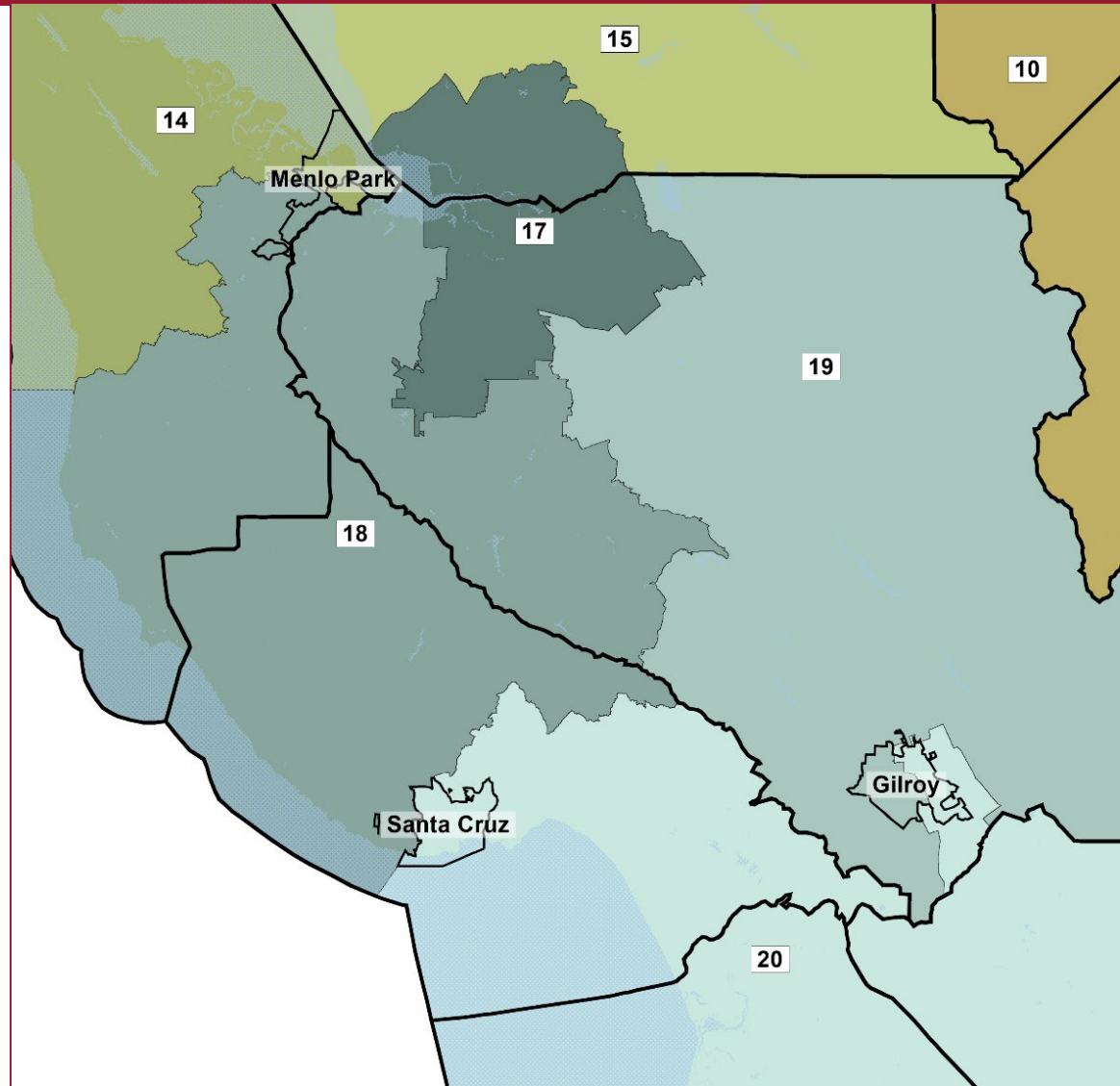


# Lessons from 2011 Mapping

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## Santa Cruz Split

1. Santa Cruz wanted to be united
2. Last-minute “fix” proposed and adopted
3. The fix meant splitting Gilroy and Menlo Park, neither of whom were represented at the meeting

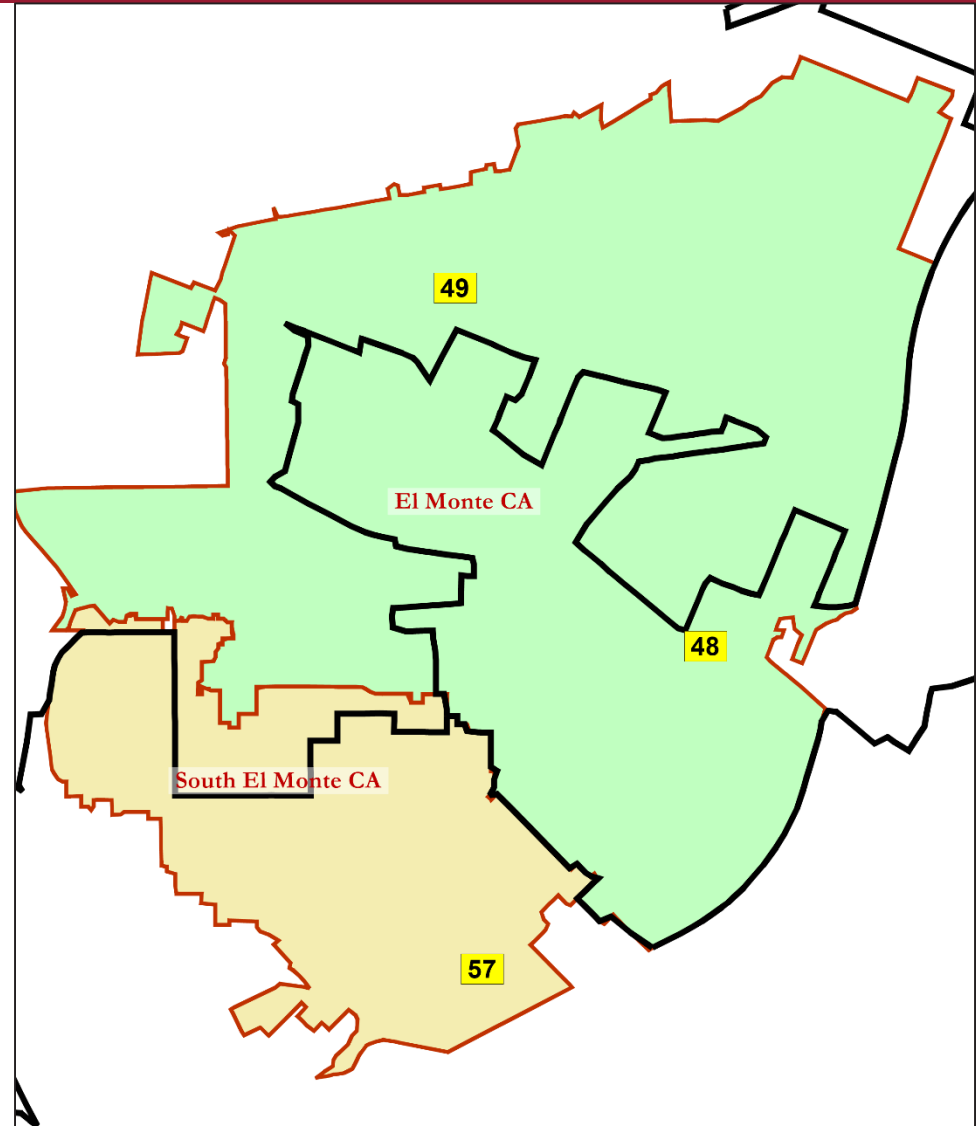


# Lessons from 2011 Mapping

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## El Monte and South El Monte Splits

1. Cities divided by Assembly District lines 'to hit the number'
2. Three-way split of two longtime successful Latino voting communities and sources of candidates



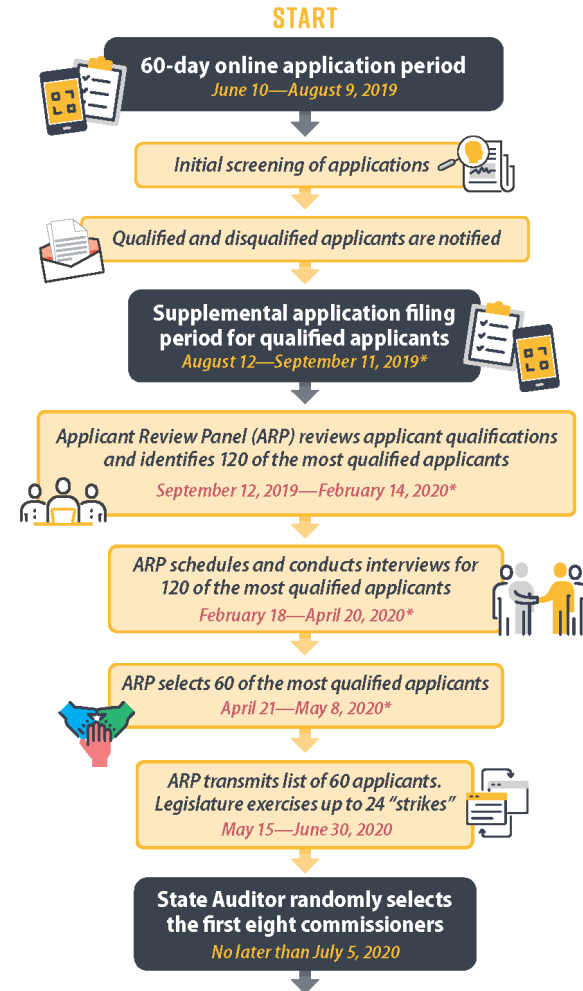
# Conclusion



## 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

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- Start Now!
- June 10 – August 9 application window is early and fast
- Identify redistricting goals for your community
- Establish regional alliances to advocate for those goals



*Following random selection of the first eight commissioners, the State Auditor's Office provides them with the names of remaining candidates. Those first eight commissioners select the remaining six to establish the 14-member commission.*





## Contact Us

Margarita Fernández, CPA

Chief of Public Affairs and Quality Assurance

California State Auditor

Phone: 1-833-421-7550

Email: [ShapeCaliforniasFuture@auditor.ca.gov](mailto:ShapeCaliforniasFuture@auditor.ca.gov)

Website: [ShapeCaliforniasFuture.auditor.ca.gov](https://ShapeCaliforniasFuture.auditor.ca.gov)

Social Handle: @ShapeCAFuture

# Rose Institute Webinars

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- Rose Institute Webinars
  - Census Overview and Projections, April 18
  - California Redistricting Commission, May 2
  - California Voting Rights Act, September 26
  - Local Redistricting, October 10
  
- Registration:
  - <http://roseinstitute.org/redistricting>

# Resources

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- Rose Institute
  - [RoseInstitute.org/Redistricting](https://RoseInstitute.org/Redistricting)
  
- State Auditor's Office
  - [ShapeCaliforniasFuture.auditor.ca.gov](https://ShapeCaliforniasFuture.auditor.ca.gov)
  
- California Citizen's Redistricting Commission
  - [www.WeDrawTheLines.gov](https://www.WeDrawTheLines.gov)