
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**
Senator Scott Wiener, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 2785 **Hearing Date:** 6/16/26
Author: Committee on Elections
Version: 4/16/26
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Rida Shaikh

Subject: Elections: redistricting information

DIGEST

This bill requires the Legislature or an appropriate designee of the Legislature, in conjunction with the Secretary of State (SOS), to establish a secure electronic process for county election officials to submit required data and information for redistricting. The bill also clarifies what data and information needs to be submitted.

ANALYSIS

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the Legislature to take all steps necessary to ensure a complete and accurate computerized database is available for redistricting, and procedures are in place to provide the public ready access to redistricting data and computer software for drawing maps.
- 2) Requires county election officials in each county to compile and make available to the Legislature or any appropriate committee of the Legislature any information and statistics that may be necessary for the use in connection with the reapportionment of legislative districts, including precinct maps and other districts as specified, lists showing the election returns for each precinct, and election returns for each precinct reflecting the vote total for all ballots cast including vote by mail ballots and ballots cast at polling places.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the Legislature or any appropriate designee of the Legislature, with the SOS, to establish a secure electronic process that allows county election officials to submit information and data required for redistricting purposes. The process must include safeguards to protect the security and integrity of the submitted information.
- 2) Requires precinct maps to be submitted in geographic information system format, and election returns should be submitted in comma-separated values files. Any other information must be submitted in an open format that is machine readable.

- 3) Clarifies what information and data county election officials must compile and make available to the Legislature or any appropriate designee of the Legislature for the purposes of redistricting and for the computerized database for redistricting. The data and information shall include:
 - a) Precinct maps for registration and election precincts indicating boundaries of incorporated cities, wards or city council districts, school districts, judicial districts, Assembly districts, senatorial districts, congressional districts, State Board of Equalization (BOE) districts, and county supervisorial districts.
 - b) Complete unredacted election returns for each election precinct, and election returns for each registration and election precinct that reflects the number of registered voters and vote total for all ballots casts, including the number of votes cast by mail and at polling places.
 - c) A master street index file that may be used to identify the associated precinct for a given street address in the county.
- 4) Requires the complete unredacted election returns to be received and maintained on a confidential basis and be protected from public disclosure.
- 5) Prohibits election returns from being publicly posted or disclosed for any contest in precincts in which fewer than 10 voters cast a ballot at an election. In precincts where fewer than 10 voters cast a ballot, information about the total number of people who voted at the precinct and a breakdown of the number of people who voted by political party preference may be publicly disclosed.

BACKGROUND

The Statewide Database. The Statewide Database (SWDB) is the official redistricting database for California and publishes electoral and demographic datasets continuously.

The database was originally created in 1981 for the California State Assembly. In 1993, the California Legislature voted to house the database in a nonpartisan environment and moved its location to the University of California (UC). It is now housed in the UC Berkeley School of Law and the data is available to the public free of charge.

The SWDB provides data used for state legislative, congressional, BOE, and local redistrictings. County election officials provide the SWDB with precinct level data about voter registration and voting results, which becomes the electoral dataset. The U.S Census Bureau annually publishes the Citizen Voting Age Populations report, which is a breakdown of the race and ethnicity of citizens and voting aged citizens. The U.S Census Bureau also conducts the decennial census and releases the Redistricting Data Summary Files. The electoral dataset, the Citizens Voting Age Populations report, and the decennial census dataset are compiled into California's official redistricting database. Although state legislative, congressional, and BOE redistricting is done through the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC), the CRC still uses the data when redistricting. The Legislature helps ensure the SWDB remains complete and accurate.

COMMENTS

- 1) Author’s Statement. Although Propositions 11 (2008) and 20 (2010) transferred responsibility for drawing legislative, congressional, and BOE district boundaries to the CRC, Proposition 11 expressly preserved the Legislature’s longstanding role in preparing and maintaining the state’s official redistricting database. Maintaining that database involves ongoing data collection and processing, including the collection of precinct maps and precinct-level election returns from every county for each statewide election. This bill streamlines that data collection process. It also takes steps to protect voter privacy and to codify the categories of information counties have been required to provide for redistricting purposes in recent statewide elections.

- 2) Current Collection of Data. County election officials are required to provide relevant information to the Legislature and its designee for the use of redistricting. The SOS, and legislative staff if needed, work with the SWDB staff to collect necessary data and information from county election officials. Data collection from county election officials can be time and labor exhaustive for SWDB staff. The SOS, before each statewide election, sends a memo to county election officials outlining the necessary data and information the SWDB needs to receive. The memo also includes instructions on how to send the data. A memo sent to county election officials on February 25, 2026, provided election officials deadlines to submit the information and options to provide the data electronically through a link, an email, or through mail delivery. County election officials rarely submit data through mail delivery. This bill codifies the secure electronic process for data submission the SOS provides and many counties already use, as well as, the information that county election officials have been regularly asked to submit.

Additionally, county election officials have raised concerns regarding the release of precinct level election results that could compromise the ballot secrecy in precincts with few voters. This bill would codify a practice the SWDB implemented to protect voter privacy in precincts with fewer than 10 voters.

- 3) Double referral. Should this bill pass this committee, it will next be heard in the Committee on Judiciary.

RELATED/PRIOR LEGISLATION

AB 1734 (Elections & Redistricting Committee), Chapter 515, Statutes of 2007, required elections officials to send election results to the SOS in an electronic format, in part to assist the SWDB in its work to build the state’s official redistricting database.

PRIOR ACTION

Assembly Floor:	78 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	15 - 0
Assembly Elections Committee:	8 - 0

POSITIONS

Sponsor: Author

Support: None received

Oppose: None received

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