
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**
Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 604	Hearing Date:	8/19/25
Author:	Aguiar-Curry		
Version:	8/18/25		
Urgency:	Yes	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Carrie Cornwell		

Subject: Redistricting: congressional districts

DIGEST

This bill contains the legal descriptions of California congressional districts that would be adopted pursuant to ACA 8 (Rivas and McGuire).

ANALYSIS

Existing law contained in Article XXI of the California Constitution requires that in the year following the year in which a national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the start of a decade, the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) shall adjust the lines of congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts, pursuant to specified standards and procedures.

ACA 8 places on the ballot a measure, that if passed by the people, would amend the constitution to adopt the maps for congressional districts to be used for every congressional election for a term of office commencing on or after the date ACA 8 takes effect and prior to the operative date of new congressional boundary lines drawn by the CRC following the 2030 national census.

This bill:

- 1) Contains the legal descriptions of California congressional districts that would be adopted pursuant to ACA 8.
- 2) Specifies that in the event this bill does not list, lists more than once, or only partially accounts for a census tract or census block and, as a result, an ambiguity or dispute arises regarding the location of a boundary line, the Secretary of State and the elections official of each county shall rely on the detailed maps posted to the websites of the Legislature's two Elections Committees.
- 3) Remains in effect only until the CRC redistricts congressional districts following the 2030 national census.
- 4) Makes its provisions severable.
- 5) Is an urgency measure.

COMMENTS

- 1) Author's Statement. This bill will protect Californians' interests in the national democratic process by presenting the voters with a temporary congressional district map to use if Texas or other states decide to conduct mid-decade, partisan gerrymandering of their congressional district maps.

The temporary congressional district boundaries laid out in this bill follow the principles that California voters value most in establishing legislative districts. The proposed map maintains the geographic integrity of even more cities than the current map adopted by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Importantly, the temporary map in this bill will also ensure that communities of interest remain intact — a key principle of the constitutional amendment establishing the Citizens Redistricting Commission — to exercise their collective voice and vote to elect officials who truly represent them. This bill does all of this without diluting or favoring the voting power of any one voter over another. And, unlike any other congressional maps in use across the country today, the district map in this bill will go directly to California voters for their approval.

This bill not only appropriately responds to the mid-cycle redistricting attempts by President Trump and Republicans in Texas and other states, but also adheres to redistricting principles that Californians hold dear — from protecting the many types of communities of interest in our state, to maintaining the geographic integrity of neighborhoods. The temporary congressional district lines proposed in AB 604 provide an effective response to the partisan gerrymander attempted by Texas and other states without eroding fair representation for all California voters and communities.

- 2) Support and Opposition. Communications of support and opposition received relate to mid-decade redistricting in general, and not to a specific measure within this legislative package. Supporters in general assert that this legislation is a needed response to the actions others states, specifically Texas, are taking at the urging of President Trump. They also point out that this legislation asks the voters of the state to decide on whether to approve new congressional districts, rather than politicians making the decision. Supporters further note that the legislation reaffirms California's support of independent redistricting commissions both here and nationwide.

Opponents' concerns center on the financial burden of the special election, the short timeframe for public comment on this legislative package, and that California's congressional delegation already includes relatively few Republican members. The League of Women Voters of California (LWV) notes that it stands "entirely apart from political parties on mid-cycle redistricting and squarely in the fight against President Trump's authoritarian and dangerous policies that threaten the civil rights and liberties of all Americans." The LWV here and in other states, however, opposes all attempts to gerrymander congressional lines on a partisan basis.

RELATED/PRIOR LEGISLATION

ACA 8 (Rivas and Cervantes) proposes a constitutional amendment that would, if approved by the voters, implement new congressional districts described in this bill, which would only take effect if and when Texas or another state redistricts its congressional seats, as specified.

SB 280 (Cervantes and Pellerin) calls a special election for November 4, 2025, requires the Secretary of State to submit ACA 8 to the voters at that election as Proposition 50, and provides for the conduct of that election.

AB 632 (Cedillo), Chapter 348, Statutes of 2001, last adopted legal descriptions of congressional districts via legislative action.

POSITIONS

Please see comment #2 for more details about support and opposition.

Support: AAPI Equity Alliance
AFSCME California
Alliance for a Better Community
Altadena Chamber of Commerce
Arab Resource & Organizing Center Action
Asian American Drug Abuse Program
Battleground California
CA Church IMPACT
CAUSE Action Fund
California Donor Table
California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
California Professional Firefighters
California Teachers Association
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative
Climate Action Campaign
Democracy Strategy Partners
Democratic Party of Orange County
Democratic Party of San Fernando Valley
Indivisible California: StateStrong (CASS)
Little Manila Rising
Los Angeles County Young Democrats
Outdoor Outreach
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Reproductive Freedom for All California
San Francisco Democratic Party
SEIU California
TruEvolution
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930
United Way Santa Cruz County
The Unity Council
Voices for Progress
WDN Action

Women's March Foundation
Thousands of individuals

Oppose: California Business Roundtable
California Consumer Advocates for Affordability and Safety
California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
California Manufacturers and Technology Association
Govern for California
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
Independent Voter Education
Independent Voter Project
NFIB
Protect the Voters FIRST Act
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
The Two Hundred for Homeownership
United Latinos Action
Unity Party of California
Thousands of individuals

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