

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

ACA 8 (Rivas) – As Amended August 18, 2025

Policy Committee: Elections

Vote: 4-2

Urgency: State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This measure, if approved by voters, requires the state to temporarily use certain new congressional district maps for each congressional election if another state voluntarily conducts mid-decade congressional redistricting.

Specifically, this measure:

- 1) States the policy of the State of California to support the use of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide, and that the people of the State of California call on Congress to pass federal legislation and propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to require the use of such redistricting commissions nationwide.
- 2) Requires the temporary use of congressional district maps reflected in AB 604 (Aguilar-Curry), of the 2025-26 Legislative Session, for each congressional election until the certification of new boundary lines drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) in 2031.
- 3) Requires the new congressional districts become operative only if Texas, Florida, or another state adopts a new congressional district map that takes effect after August 1, 2025, and before January 1, 2031, and such redistricting is not required by a federal court order.
- 4) Provides that the Attorney General (AG) has the sole legal standing to defend an action regarding the new congressional district maps, and the California Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in all such proceedings.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time costs in the high hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Secretary of State (SOS) for printing and mailing expenses associated with including this measure in the Voter Information Guide for the November 4, 2025, special election (General Fund (GF)). The SOS estimates such expenses to be approximately \$123,000 per page. Actual costs related to this measure will depend on the length of the title and summary, analysis by the Legislative Analyst's Office, proponent and opponent arguments, and text of the proposal for publication in the Voter Information Guide. SB 280 (Cervantes), of the 2025-26 Legislative Session, appropriates funds to the SOS for the actual and reasonably necessary costs to administer the special election.

- 2) Possible cost pressures of an unknown amount to the AG to defend an action related to the maps, and to the California Supreme Court to hear such proceedings (GF or special fund).

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

President Trump and Republicans in Texas and other states are attempting to redraw congressional districts mid-decade in an effort to rig the upcoming election to keep their own party in power in Washington. Californians deserve better and demand a response to this undemocratic and un-American power grab. ACA 8 is that response.

ACA 8, also known as the Election Rigging Response Act, would allow for the temporary use of voter-approved congressional district boundaries through the 2030 congressional term if—and only if—Texas or another state chooses to partisanly gerrymander its congressional districts before the 2030 census. With the next census, ACA 8 would return all congressional district line drawing powers back to the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Importantly, ACA 8 would empower the voters to decide whether to use these temporary congressional district lines if another state decides to redraw its congressional map mid-decade. Additionally, through ACA 8, the voters would call on Congress to pass federal legislation and an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to require fair, nonpartisan, and independent redistricting nationwide.

- 2) **Redistricting and the CRC.** Redistricting is the process by which a governmental body's district boundaries are adjusted. Redistricting generally occurs at the beginning of each decade following the decennial federal census to ensure the population of each district remains roughly equal.

Proposition 11 (2008) created the CRC to draw district lines for the state Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization. Proposition 20 (2010) expanded the CRC's duties to include drawing congressional district lines. Under current law, the districts most recently drawn by the CRC after the 2020 census are scheduled to remain in place until the CRC adopts new maps following the 2030 census, with new district maps taking effect in 2032.

If this measure is approved by voters, California may use different districts for its congressional elections as soon as the 2026 statewide election. Those districts, outlined in AB 604, would go into effect only if another state voluntarily conducts mid-decade congressional redistricting.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry) specifies the boundaries for California's congressional districts that would take effect if voters approve this measure and if another state voluntarily conducts mid-decade congressional redistricting. AB 604 is pending hearing by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 280 (Cervantes) calls a statewide special election on November 4, 2025, appropriates funds for the administration of that election, and requires this measure be submitted to voters at that election. SB 280 is pending hearing by this committee.

Analysis Prepared by: Irene Ho / APPR. / (916) 319-2081