

SENATE THIRD READING
SB 1414 (Reyes)
As Amended August 13, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Creates an independent citizens redistricting commission (Commission) in San Bernardino County.

Major Provisions

- 1) Provides for the creation of the Commission, and tasks it with adjusting the boundary lines of the county's supervisorial districts in the year following the year in which the decennial federal census is taken. Requires the Commission to consist of 14 members, and to be created no later than December 31 in each year ending in the number zero.
- 2) Requires the political party preferences of commissioners to be as proportional as possible to the political party registrations of voters in the county, as specified. Requires at least one commissioner to reside in each of the existing supervisorial districts.
- 3) Outlines the selection process, terms, and conduct requirements for Commission members.
- 4) Makes the creation of the Commission contingent upon a budget appropriation.

COMMENTS

"Redistricting" is the process by which the boundaries of districts of a governmental body are adjusted. Redistricting generally occurs at the beginning of each decade following the decennial federal census, when new district lines are adopted based on the census data so that the populations of each district of a governmental body are roughly equal.

The authority to establish district boundaries for a local jurisdiction generally is held by the governing body. Prior to 2017, state law generally permitted a county or a city to create an *advisory* redistricting commission (described in state law at the time as a "committee" of residents of the jurisdiction), but did not expressly permit local jurisdictions to create commissions that had the authority to establish district boundaries. In 2016, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 1108 (Allen), Chapter 784, Statutes of 2016, which permits a county or a general law city to establish a redistricting commission, subject to certain conditions. SB 1018 (Allen), Chapter 462, Statutes of 2018, built upon SB 1108 by allowing all local governmental entities to establish redistricting commissions, and by modifying some of the rules governing local redistricting commissions.

Separately, the Legislature has enacted a number of bills to require specified counties to establish redistricting commissions. SB 958 (Lara), Chapter 781, Statutes of 2016, required the establishment of a Citizens Redistricting Commission in Los Angeles County. Similarly, AB 801 (Weber), Chapter 711, Statutes of 2017, required the establishment of a Citizens Redistricting Commission in San Diego County. These commissions were in place for redistricting following the 2020 federal decennial census, and drew the district lines for those counties' supervisorial districts.

Since the 2020 redistricting process, the Legislature has enacted bills to create redistricting commissions in Riverside County (AB 1307 (Cervantes), Chapter 403, Statutes of 2022), Fresno County (AB 2030 (Arambula), Chapter 407, Statutes of 2022), Kern County (AB 2494 (Salas), Chapter 411, Statutes of 2022), Orange County (AB 34 (Valencia), Chapter 315, Statutes of 2023), Sacramento County (SB 314 (Ashby), Chapter 389, Statutes of 2023), San Luis Obispo County (SB 977 (Laird), Chapter 450, Statutes of 2024), and Merced County (AB 1441 (Soria), Chapter 730, Statutes of 2025). All those commissions will be created for the next redistricting process following the 2030 census.

Please see the policy committee analysis for a full discussion of this bill.

According to the Author

"SB 1414 requires the establishment of an Independent Redistricting Commission in the County of San Bernardino. This will create fair and equitable supervisorial maps for our community. San Bernardino County is one of the most diverse and fastest-growing regions in California, and our communities deserve a redistricting process that is fair, transparent, and rooted in the voices of residents — not politics. This measure will help ensure that every neighborhood has an equitable opportunity to be represented, and that our district lines reflect the people who live here. An independent commission builds trust in our elections and strengthens our democracy for the long term. Under current law, county boards of supervisors adjust district boundaries following each census. Several large California counties have already adopted independent commissions to oversee this process. This bill would bring San Bernardino County in line with these best practices by shifting redistricting authority to an independent, community-focused body. SB 1414 will empower the over 2.2 million people of San Bernardino County to reclaim their voting rights and strengthen our democracy."

Arguments in Support

In a joint letter of support, the co-sponsors of this bill write, "California voters recognized long ago that redistricting should not be controlled by the very officials whose districts are at stake. In 2008, voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 11, creating the state Citizens Redistricting Commission, and in 2016 the Legislature passed SB 1108 (Allen), which allows counties to establish their own independent redistricting commissions. Those reforms reflect a basic principle: people should choose their representatives, not the other way around. When incumbent supervisors draw their own district lines, the risk of self-interest is built into the process... SB 1414 would bring those values to San Bernardino County. By requiring an independent citizens redistricting commission for supervisorial districts, the legislation will help promote fair maps, stronger transparency, and more meaningful public participation. Just as importantly, the bill uses a selection process designed to exclude people with likely conflicts of interest, mirroring safeguards adopted in recent FAIR Maps reform legislation to create a strong and credible county commission model. For a county of more than 2.2 million people, the stakes are too high to leave redistricting in the hands of those with a direct political interest in the outcome. SB 1414 will help ensure that supervisorial maps are drawn through a process the public can trust and that San Bernardino County residents have a fairer opportunity to be heard and represented."

Arguments in Opposition

In a joint letter of opposition, opponents write, "In November 2020, San Bernardino County voters approved Measure J, establishing the County's current advisory redistricting commission. The 2021 redistricting cycle included 16 public meetings held across 14 locations in the County, all livestreamed to maximize accessibility. Multiple draft maps were considered by the

commission, including those submitted by members of the public, and the County provided opportunities for public participation in person, virtually, and in writing, with engagement from stakeholders including labor organizations, business groups, nonprofit organizations, and community-based advocates. In fact, the County's process exceeded SB 1414's proposed minimum public meeting requirements. Notably, this process has not been subject to legal challenge, underscoring its defensibility and integrity. SB 1414 would override this locally adopted, transparent system and erode the voters' will. SB 1414 is an unfunded mandate that presents significant fiscal and operational challenges. State reimbursement is not guaranteed, and implementation costs are expected to exceed \$2 million...SB 1414's highly prescriptive structure, coupled with vague and open-ended requirements, creates significant uncertainty and potential costs for local governments, employers, workers, and taxpayers. These ambiguities increase administrative complexity and expose the County to ongoing operational and legal risks, while placing additional demands on public resources during a period of fiscal constraint."

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, cost pressures in the hundreds of thousands of dollars every 10 years to appropriate funds to San Bernardino County to create and operate the Commission, including specified duties for the county elections official and auditor-controller (General Fund (GF)).

For reference, the Commission on State Mandates adopted a statewide cost estimate of \$1.2 million one-time GF to reimburse Los Angeles County for costs related SB 958 (Lara), Chapter 781, Statutes of 2016, which established the Citizens Redistricting Commission for Los Angeles County.

VOTES

SENATE FLOOR: 29-9-2

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

NO: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares

ABS, ABST OR NV: Cabaldon, Dahle

ASM ELECTIONS: 6-1-0

YES: Pellerin, Bennett, Berman, Elhawary, Solache, Stefani

NO: Lackey

ASM LOCAL GOVERNMENT: 6-2-2

YES: Carrillo, Pacheco, Blanca Rubio, Stefani, Ward, Wilson

NO: Ta, Ramos

ABS, ABST OR NV: Johnson, Ransom

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 10-3-2

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Pacheco

UPDATED

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