UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1414
Author: Reyes (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 4/7/26
AYES: Wiener, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg
NOES: Choi

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 29-9, 5/27/26
AYES: 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
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-21, 8/25/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: County of San Bernardino Citizens Redistricting Commission

SOURCE: California Common Cause
Inland Empire United
League of Women Voters of California

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Citizens Redistricting Commission in the County of San Bernardino (CRCCSB) and tasks it with adjusting the supervisorial district boundaries following each federal decennial census.

Assembly Amendments included an applicant's occupation to the factors to be considered when selecting additional CRCCSB commissioners, prescribed that implementation of this bill is contingent upon a legislative appropriation, and made a technical change.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires the board of supervisors of each county, following each federal decennial census, to adopt boundaries for all the supervisorial districts of the county so that the supervisorial districts are substantially equal in population as required by the United States Constitution. These district boundaries need to comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

2) Authorizes a county, general law city, school district, community college district, or a special district to establish an independent redistricting commission, an advisory redistricting commission, or a hybrid redistricting commission by resolution, ordinance, or charter amendment, subject to certain conditions.

3) Establishes redistricting commissions in Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Luis Obispo counties, and tasks each commission with adjusting districts of supervisorial districts after each decennial federal census.

This bill:

1) Establishes a 14-member CRCCSB and tasks it with adjusting the boundary lines of the supervisorial districts in San Bernardino County following each federal decennial census.

2) Provides that the political party preferences of the CRCCSB members, as shown on the members' most recent affidavits of registration, must be as proportional as possible to the total number of voters who are registered with each political party in San Bernardino County, or who decline to state or do not indicate a party preference, as determined by registration at the most recent statewide election. The political party or no party preferences of the CRCCSB

members are not required to be exactly the same as the proportion of political party and no party preferences among the registered voters of the county. At least one CRCCSB member must reside in each of the five existing supervisorial districts.

3) Prescribes specific qualifications to serve on the CRCCSB, requirements while serving on the CRCCSB, and prohibitions following service on the CRCCSB.

4) Provides that interested individuals may submit an application to the county elections official to be considered for membership on the CRCCSB. The county elections official reviews the applications and eliminates applicants who do not meet the specific qualifications of commissioners.

5) Provides, from the pool of qualified applicants, the county elections official must select 60 qualified applicants. The county elections official is required to publicize the names of the applicants for at least 30 days. The county elections official may eliminate any of the selected applicants if the county elections official becomes aware that the applicant does not meet the qualifications to be a commissioner.

6) Provides that after the time period when the names of the qualified applicants are made public, the county elections official must create a subpool for each of the five existing supervisorial districts. The San Bernardino County Auditor-Controller is required to conduct a random drawing to select one commissioner from each of the five subpools established by the county elections official at a regularly scheduled meeting of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. Following this random drawing, the Auditor-Controller randomly selects three additional commissioners from all of the remaining applicants. The eight commissioners selected review the remaining applicants and appoint six additional members to the CRCCSB.

7) Provides that nine CRCCSB members constitute a quorum and at least nine affirmative votes are required for any official action.

8) Provides a process to remove a commissioner for substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office, causing the CRCCSB to be unable to discharge its duties with nine affirmative votes, or not meeting or no longer meeting the requirements to serve on the CRCCSB.

9) Requires various outreach and meeting requirements before the drafting of a map and following the creation of a draft map for the supervisorial districts.

10) Requires the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to take all steps necessary to ensure that a complete and accurate computerized database is available for redistricting, and that procedures are in place to provide to the public ready access to redistricting data and computer software equivalent to what is available to the CRCCSB members.

11) Requires the CRCCSB to adopt a redistricting plan adjusting the boundaries of the supervisorial districts and file the plan with the county elections official no later than 204 days before San Bernardino County's next regularly scheduled election occurring after January 1 in each year ending in the number two.

12) Subjects the plan to referendum in the same manner as ordinances.

13) Requires the CRCCSB to issue, with the final map, a report explaining the basis on which the CRCCSB made its decisions in achieving compliance with the criteria prescribed by this bill.

14) Provides that implementation of the CRCCSB is contingent upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute.

Background

Legislative Authority for County Redistricting Commissions. The Legislature has created independent redistricting commissions for nine counties: Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Luis Obispo.

The Legislature also authorized, but did not require, counties and general law cities to establish redistricting commissions. SB 1108 (Allen, Chapter 784, Statutes of 2016) authorized two different types of commissions: independent commissions and advisory commissions. An "independent redistricting commission" is a body, other than a legislative body, that is empowered to adopt the district boundaries of a legislative body and an "advisory redistricting commission" is a body that recommends to a legislative body placement of the district boundaries for that legislative body. SB 1108 generally provided cities and counties with the discretion to determine the structure and membership of an advisory or independent redistricting commission.

While SB 1108 imposed few restrictions and requirements on advisory commissions, it did subject members of independent commissions to extensive eligibility requirements and post-service restrictions. Subsequently, SB 1018 (Allen, Chapter 462, Statutes of 2018) allowed for a third type of redistricting commission: hybrid redistricting commissions. A "hybrid redistricting

commission" is a body that recommends to a legislative body two or more maps for the placement of the district boundaries for that legislative body, where the legislative body must adopt one of those maps without modification, except as may be required to comply with state or federal law.

Redistricting in San Bernardino County. In 2021, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors redrew its supervisorial district lines using data from the 2020 federal decennial census. To assist with San Bernardino County's redistricting process, the county used an advisory redistricting commission. This commission conducted several public meetings in multiple locations throughout San Bernardino County. The commission publicly examined and discussed five proposed supervisorial district maps submitted by the public, one map created by a commission member, three maps created at the direction of the advisory commission, and an updated map from 2011 with the 2020 Census information. The commission referred three maps for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors made some modifications to the draft maps and adopted one of those maps at a meeting on December 14, 2021.

Comments

Author's Statement. This bill 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.

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.

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.

Political Party Preferences. If the December 30, 2025, Report of Registration is used to calculate the potential party preference composition of the CRCCSB, Democrats would have 5 or 6 members, Republicans would have 4 or 5 members, No Party Preference voters would have 3 or 4 members, and each of the remaining

party preferences (American Independent, Green, Libertarian, and Peace and Freedom) would have 0 or 1 member.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1441 (Soria, Chapter 730, Statutes of 2025) created a Citizens Redistricting Commission in Merced County. SB 977 (Laird, Chapter 450, Statutes of 2024) created a Citizens Redistricting Commission in San Luis Obispo County. SB 314 (Ashby, Chapter 389, Statutes of 2023) created a Citizens Redistricting Commission in Sacramento County. AB 34 (Valencia, Chapter 315, Statutes of 2023) created a Citizens Redistricting Commission in the Orange County. AB 1307 (Cervantes, Chapter 403, Statutes of 2022) created a Citizens Redistricting Commission in Riverside County. AB 2030 (Arambula, Chapter 407, Statutes of 2022) created a Citizens Redistricting Commission in Fresno County. AB 2494 (Salas, Chapter 411, Statutes of 2022) created a Citizens Redistricting Commission in Kern County. AB 801 (Weber, Chapter 711, Statutes of 2017) revised the membership of the County of San Diego's Citizens Redistricting Commission to a 14-member commission charged with adjusting the boundary lines of the districts of the Board of Supervisors. SB 958 (Lara, Chapter 781, Statutes of 2016) established a Citizens Redistricting Commission in Los Angeles County.

AB 1248 (Bryan) of 2023 would have required a county or city with more than 300,000 residents, or a school district or community college district with more than 500,000 residents, to establish an independent redistricting commission to adopt district boundaries after each federal decennial census. The bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom.

SB 52 (Durazo) of 2023 would have required an independent redistricting commission for charter cities with a population of at least 2.5 million people to adjust the district boundaries for the city council. The bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom.

SB 139 (Allen) of 2019 would have required a county with a population of 400,000 or more to establish an independent redistricting commission to adopt the county supervisorial districts after each federal decennial census. The bill was vetoed by the Governor who noted that the proposal be considered in the annual budget process.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

By requiring San Bernardino County to provide funding and staffing for the creation and operation of the Commission, including specified duties for the county elections official and auditor-controller, this bill likely creates a state-mandated local program. If the Commission on State Mandates (CSM) determines the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service for which the state must reimburse local costs, the county could claim reimbursement from the state. The magnitude of these costs is unknown, but at least in the hundreds of thousands of dollars every ten years (General Fund).

For reference, the CSM 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.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Common Cause (co-source)
Inland Empire United (co-source)
League of Women Voters of California (co-source)
Courage California
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Inland Equity Community Land Trust
Starting Over, Inc.
Starting Over Strong
Several individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

Acquanetta Warren, Mayor of City of Fontana
Building Industry Association of Southern California
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials
California Business Properties Association
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
City of Chino
City of Chino Hills
City of Fontana
City of Needles
City of Ontario
City of Upland
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce

Greater Ontario Business Council
Hospital Association of Southern California
Inland Empire Economic Partnership
Inland Valleys Association of Realtors
International Association of Fire Fighters Local 935
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Laborers' International Union of North America Local 783
National Association of Industrial and Office Properties
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association
Teamsters California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In a letter supporting this bill, the League of Women Voters of California, Inland Empire United, and California Common Cause states, in part, the following:

> 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.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: In a letter opposing this bill, the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) states, in part, the following:

> CACEO's primary concerns are that requiring the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters (Registrar) to evaluate the applicants for an independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to determine which applicants are the "most qualified," undermines the Registrar's ability to remain unbiased in the eyes of the public and significantly increases the workload of the Registrar during an active election period.

Assembly Floor 53 21 5 SB 1414 Reyes Senate Third Reading By Carrillo

Ayes: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González,

Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
Noes: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Pacheco, Patterson, Ramos, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
No Vote Recorded: McKinnor, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C. A. / (916) 651-4106
11/16/26 10:06:02

****** END ******