

# Redistricting Opportunities

## New Maps Open Avenues to Recruit/Elect Business-Friendly Candidates

For the second time in the state's history, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission completed their constitutional duty by finalizing the political boundaries for 80 Assembly, 40 Senate, 52 congressional and four Board of Equalization districts — 176 new maps in total. The challenging task was completed on a truncated schedule due to a six-month delay in the arrival of the U.S. Census data.

In addition to the compressed timeline, the commission faced the added and unprecedented challenge of California losing one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The shrinking of the delegation came about because California did not grow as fast as other sunbelt states like Arizona, Texas and Florida, which all gained at least one congressional representative.

### **CALCHAMBER, LOCAL CHAMBER INVOLVEMENT**

The commission's work is now complete, and office holders and candidates are quite literally mapping out their futures and the California Chamber of Commerce is monitoring these developments closely.

CalChamber was accorded the opportunity to testify before the commission and submitted comments on technical topics as well as worked with our local chamber network to have their voices heard as part of the three-month process.

### **VOTING RIGHTS ACT REQUIREMENTS**

In drawing the maps, the law required commissioners to adhere to the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA), which ensures that ethnic voters' rights are protected by, where possible, creating minority majority districts to increase the possibility of more candidates of color holding office. Increases in the population of California's Latino and Asian American residents plus declines in the number of white voters led the commission to create more VRA districts in the Central Valley and Inland Empire for Latinos and in the Bay Area for Asian Americans.

It is projected that 16 of the 52 congressional districts have a Latino voting age population of at least 50%. Similarly, of the 80 Assembly seats, 22 have a majority Latino population, as do 11 of the 40 Senate seats. The new maps include two majority Asian American districts, plus 16 districts where Asian Americans make up more than 30% of eligible voters or so-called influence districts.

Beyond the VRA, commissioners were tasked with considering Communities of Interest, a loosely defined term that includes city and county boundaries, transportation corridors and business clusters — think entertainment, tech, or aerospace. And, the new districts had to have a consistent number of voters, with the target for the Assembly of 500,000, for the Senate 1 million and 760,000 for the U.S. House of Representatives.

### **INCUMBENT 'MUSICAL CHAIRS'**

What the commission was not to regard is an incumbent's residency or party affiliation. The result has created what CalMatters columnist Dan Walters called "a game of musical chairs" as some members were drawn out of their current districts. It should be noted that congressional representatives are not required to live in their district, but members of the state Senate and Assembly do have a residency requirement, which has forced several to move into newly drawn adjacent seats.

Those members unable to find a friendly place to land will be forced into matchups against colleagues from their own party or choosing not to run for reelection. Several retirements have already been announced and more are expected in the coming days.

# Agenda for California Recovery

## 2022 Business Issues and Legislative Guide

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### TRACK RECORD

The redrawn lines present CalChamber with several new opportunities to recruit and elect business-friendly candidates from both political parties. It is through the political process that we can best affect policy outcomes by selecting and electing business-friendly candidates willing to stand with the employer community to defeat job killing legislative proposals. CalChamber consistently has maintained a better than 90% kill rate on bills given the Job Killer tag.

Our success is attributable to our track record of electing legislators willing to stand up to the public unions and other liberal interests, and defeat bills that will be harmful to the California economy.

### CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

Although not a political action committee, the Candidate Recruitment and Development Program provides the resources necessary to build a bench of electable, pro-jobs candidates for state legislative and local office. CalChamber partners with our local chamber network, as well as state and local member businesses, to ensure the recruitment efforts are bipartisan and locally driven.

The primary component of this program is to identify potential candidates and put them on the path to elective office. The secondary component is training and developing candidates for their positions. The program has successfully recruited numerous local candidates who have won election to state legislative seats.

### POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PACS)

The CalChamber's Political Action Network includes three political entities:

- **ChamberPAC** is a bipartisan political action committee that makes direct contributions to incumbent office holders and select candidates who promote and vote for an agenda of private sector job creation. Contributions to this committee are limited to \$8,100 per year, person, organization or political action committee.

- **JobsPAC** is an independent expenditure committee, meaning it speaks directly to voters on behalf of the business community to elect pro-jobs candidates. Co-chaired by CalChamber and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association, JobsPAC may accept contributions in unlimited amounts.

- **CalBusPAC** is a CalChamber committee that is formed to primarily support or oppose ballot measures having an impact on the state's business climate. CalBusPAC may accept contributions in unlimited amounts.

### CALCHAMBER POSITION

California's business community is under constant pressure due to the disproportionate influence that special interest and government employee organizations have on the legislative and regulatory process. CalChamber is committed to standing up for and speaking out on behalf of the state's employer community through political action, our advocacy network, and constant and direct contact with elected officials.



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