



CALIFORNIA KNOW YOUR VOTE

VOTER RESOURCE

2025 California Statewide Special Election

November 4, 2025

Key Special Election Dates

The last day to register to vote:
October 20, 2025

For eligible citizens who miss the voter registration deadline, **Same Day Voter Registration** is available at county elections offices, polling places, or vote centers.

All California registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot from their county elections office starting **October 6, 2025**.

Returning your ballot

Return your vote-by-mail ballots by **mail**, at a **drop-off location**, or to your **county elections office**:

- Ballot drop-off locations open on **October 7, 2025**.
- Vote centers open for early in-person voting in Voter's Choice Act counties beginning on **October 25, 2025**.
- Mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by **November 12, 2025**, to be counted.

Learn more and access our voter tools:
[CourageCaliforniaInstitute.org](https://couragecaliforniainstitute.org)

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WHO WE ARE

Our mission is to defend and extend economic justice, human rights, and corporate and political accountability through public education, strategic research, and innovative leadership-development training.

Courage California Institute empowers Californians by providing the resources needed to courageously participate in the democratic process and create change for the betterment of their families and communities.

Exercising your right to vote shouldn't be confusing, intimidating, or inaccessible for any eligible voter. We believe that in order for California to have a truly equitable and representative democracy — everyone must have access to trusted, reliable, and unbiased information and tools to help voters better understand the elections, the various roles of our local and state elected officials, and how to confidently vote their values at the ballot box.

Democracy in the U.S. can represent and serve all residents when ALL communities have the power to use their voice and be heard by leadership.

Voter Tools

To access our voter tools, visit couragecaliforniainstitute.org/voter-tools.

We provide voter tools that help you:

- Register to vote
- Check your Voter Registration
- Request an Absentee Ballot
- Get election reminders



WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS FOR NOVEMBER 4

Your Vote, Your Voice, Your Values

Your vote matters every election because you have the power to choose leaders to represent your community and champion the issues you care most about. Your vote in this special election on Proposition 50 will help define how our state stands up for our communities, our values, and our nation, and determine the congressional districts we vote in for the 2026, 2028, and 2030 elections.

Our California

You can make sure the special election results truly represent the diversity of California voters. Election turnout tends to be higher among voters who are older, whiter, and wealthier than the whole population of eligible voters in California – especially in special elections – so results don't always represent all voters in the state.

Our Shared Future

This special election is ultimately about fighting back against cuts to healthcare, the rising costs of living under tariffs and corporate price gouging, the cruel overreach on immigration enforcement, and the other attacks on our communities, our cities, and our livelihoods. It's about California voters leading the nation as Trump and Republican leaders try to erase

the voting power of Black and Latino voters in Texas and other states that are also planning to redistrict their congressional maps without any input from voters. Once again, Californians have the power to set a different path for our shared future beyond any election or administration.



ABOUT PROPOSITION 50

Proposition 50 proposes new lines for many of California's 52 congressional districts. Under the proposed lines, Democrats could gain up to 5 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. If passed, the new California congressional districts would be in effect for the 2026, 2028, and 2030 elections, until redistricting is returned to the state's independent redistricting commission in 2030. Proposition 50 needs to be passed with a simple majority vote (50% of the vote +1 additional vote).

Prop 50 was put on the ballot by Governor Newsom and Democratic state legislators in direct response to the Trump administration and Texas Republican state leaders redrawing their congressional districts to gain up to 5 Republican House seats in the 2026 election. The Texas maps minimize the voting power of Black and Latino voters and people who voted for Kamala Harris in 2024. Several other Republican and Democratic-governed states are also exploring mid-decade redistricting, including Florida, Missouri, Ohio, New York, Illinois, and Indiana.

How does redistricting currently work in California?

Every ten years, after the nationwide Census, each state redraws the lines of its electoral districts to reflect the current population count to ensure that each district of the same type has the same number of constituents. In California, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission – a 14-member independent body composed of 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 people not affiliated with the two major parties – draws the boundaries of congressional, state legislative, and state Board of Equalization districts with public input and feedback. Voters authorized the Commission in 2008 (to draw state districts) and 2010 (congressional districts), taking redistricting from the state legislature. California is one of nine states that have a redistricting commission for congressional districts, while the majority of states (33) have their legislatures lead the redrawing of their maps.

California redistricting is governed by a set of rank-ordered criteria established in the state constitution to make sure that all districts have the same number of people, and that racial, geographic, and other similar communities are grouped together to have the power to elect a candidate of their choice.

The Proposition 50 congressional map was drawn mid-decade and without the commission. If voters pass Prop 50, the commission would resume redistricting in 2030.

What is at stake with Proposition 50?

Majority control of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate determines which federal policies are considered and passed, and if and how there will be checks and balances on the president and the U.S. Supreme Court. Republicans currently have a narrow 219-212 majority in the House (with 4 vacancies – 3 Democratic seats and 1 Republican) and a 51-49 majority in the Senate.

Trump and the Republican House and Senate majorities passed a federal budget that will cut healthcare coverage for 15 million people, cut housing support by more than half, raise the cost of student loans for nearly 43 million student loan borrowers, defund Planned Parenthood, and much more – all to pay for tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy and triple the budget for inhumane immigration enforcement. In contrast, House and Senate Democrats have authored bills to restore healthcare funding, expand Medicare to provide health insurance to all Americans, fund more affordable housing, make public colleges and universities tuition-free, protect abortion nationwide, and provide a pathway to citizenship.

California is currently represented by 43 Democrats and 9 Republicans in the House, and 2 Democrats in the Senate. If voters pass Proposition 50, California House representation could shift to 48 Democrats and 4 Republicans, and determine majority control of the House.

The debate about Proposition 50 is not just about politics– it's about how Californians can best protect voters and residents in the state, nationally, and internationally. Mid-decade redistricting is being led by political parties, but in California, voters will have the final say on the new map and on how we want our leaders to stand up for our state.

Who is supporting Proposition 50?

Many California and national Democrats and progressives, including former President Barack Obama, former attorney general and chair of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee Eric Holder, and U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders. U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. California groups and leaders, like Courage California, SEIU California, the California Labor Federation, California Teachers Association, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, California Working Families Party, Equality California, and organizations that worked on the Census and redistricting in 2020, like Inland Empire United and Communities for a New California Action Fund. Supporters agree that Proposition 50 is a temporary solution and that redistricting should return to the independent redistricting commission in 2030.

Who opposes Proposition 50?

California and national Republicans, some of whom helped establish the independent redistricting commission, like former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and megadonor Charles Munger Jr., have expressed opposition or doubt about Proposition 50, as well as concerns about how mid-decade redistricting would play out across the nation and in the long term.

Disinformation about Proposition 50

- Mid-decade redistricting in California is NOT the greatest threat to our democracy and fair elections – an authoritarian president attacking our cities and communities, dismantling the programs and services we all depend on, and instructing Republican state leaders to rig their elections without voter input to keep doing so is the real threat to all of us.
- Proposition 50 does NOT dismantle or attack the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. The ballot measure gives voters the choice on whether or not to adopt a new, temporary congressional map until the commission resumes redistricting on its usual timeline in 2030.
- The proposed maps have NOT been secret. The state legislature published interactive maps, held public hearings, and welcomed public comment on the maps before they voted to put Proposition 50 on the ballot in August. Voters will have the final say on our congressional map. None of the Republican-led states considering mid-decade redistricting has given its voters any opportunity to weigh in on new maps.
- Some No on Prop 50 flyers have included quotes from organizations that support election reforms and voter rights, like California Common Cause and the League of Women Voters California. Neither organization opposes Proposition 50. In fact, Common Cause has judged that California's redistricting ballot measure meets its fairness criteria, while Texas's does not.