

## California Least Change Plan

October 17, 2021

This map attempts to recreate the previous California Congressional map with minimal deviations. While some changes from the previous map were necessary, this map aims to achieve quasi-population balance (deviations between districts are less than 15 people) and minimize splits of counties and communities of interest. As far as possible, excepting the last map's 25th district (which was eliminated) it tries to maintain the general form of the previous congressional districts. California uses an independent commission to draw congressional and state legislative districts. The state Constitution mandates that districts "be geographically contiguous"<sup>1</sup>, "encourage geographical compactness... to the extent practicable,"<sup>2</sup> and not violate either the Federal Constitution or the Voting Rights Act.

Overall, this plan maintains the same basic divisions of the Bay Area, of San Diego, and of other districts outside Los Angeles County. Due to losing a district in Northern LA county, districts there all had to expand slightly, with CA-28 and CA-26 now running up to the border with Kern County. CA-32 also runs further west in this map, expanding slightly into Ventura County.

This map largely keeps intact the three districts currently represented by black incumbents, and with substantial black populations. California-13, currently centered on Oakland and represented by Barbara Lee, has over a 21% Black CVAP, similar to its current form. The new CA-36 is substantially similar to the current CA-37 represented by Karen Bass and has a 26.2% Black CVAP. Finally, the new CA-42 is very close in shape to the current CA-43, represented by Maxine Waters, and has a 36.3% Black CVAP. With regard to VRA districts drawn for the Asian community, CA-17, centered on Fremont and Milpitas, becomes slightly less Asian as a percent CVAP but remains at 50.1%.

District 21, centered on the Southern Central Valley, remains a majority Hispanic seat, and has a 60.9% Hispanic CVAP. District 50 (the former CA-51) continues to consist of Imperial County and hug the Mexican Border into Chula Vista and becomes slightly less Hispanic as it moves north in San Diego, but still has at 59.1% Hispanic CVAP. In the LA area, CA-39, centered on East LA, remains the most Hispanic district in the county, and has a Hispanic CVAP of 80.2%. Of the four additional Hispanic-majority districts, two are also in East LA County (Districts 31 and 37). District 43, consisting of South LA down to San Pedro, is substantially similar to the current CA-44. District 34, centered on Pomona, and District 40, concentrated in west Riverside County, are also fairly similar to their predecessors in the 2011 map.

From a partisan perspective, this map will likely benefit Democrats. There was a relatively high degree of ticket splitting in the 2020 elections however, and so even some districts that voted for Joe Biden by upwards up 5 points in Orange County will be competitive in the next few cycles. I grew up in California and intend to watch the redistricting process very closely going forward.

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Const., art. XXI, § 2(d)(5).

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Const., art. XXI, § 2(d)(3).