



**SB 314 – Sacramento County Fair & Independent Redistricting
Creates an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission for 2030**

SUMMARY

SB 314 will create an independent citizens redistricting commission to draw district boundaries for the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors beginning in 2030.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Constitution requires that a census be undertaken every ten years in order to count the number of people living in the United States and its territories. States and local governments must then use the data from a census to redraw district boundaries for elected officials, including members of the House of Representatives, members of state legislatures, and local officials.

In California, existing law allows counties to establish advisory or independent redistricting commissions. Existing law also details minimum eligibility requirements for these commissions, but otherwise allows the relevant local governments to have discretion in creating the structure and membership of such commissions.

Previous efforts to create independent citizens redistricting commissions for Los Angeles, San Diego, and Riverside counties were all successful, led by efforts from Senator Lara in 2016, Dr. Shirley Weber in 2017, and Assemblymember Cervantes in 2022, respectively.

THE PROBLEM

If a county does not use an independent citizens redistricting commission, the incumbent county supervisors draw their own district boundaries. In 2021, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors drew their own district lines. They held hearings and took public comment, but ultimately made the final decision themselves as to what their own areas of representation would be.

Sacramento County's process left several organized groups feeling unheard. For example, one vocal constituency that repeatedly pled to remain whole was the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Ultimately, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to adopt a

supervisory district map that fractured the AAPI communities of South Sacramento County, splitting them between supervisory districts.

THE SOLUTION

SB 314 would require that, after the completion of the 2030 Census, Sacramento County constitute a commission to draw its county supervisory districts for the 2030 round of redistricting. The commission would be reconstituted after every census to draw the County's supervisory districts in subsequent redistricting cycles.

This bill expands on the work done by Senator Ashby when she served on the Sacramento City Council. As Vice Mayor, she established the City's Independent Redistricting Commission to prevent elected officials from drawing their own district boundaries. The process of selecting commissioners is similar to that used by the statewide independent citizens redistricting commission.

The establishment of an Independent Redistricting Commission is a cornerstone to government ethics and transparency. SB 314 also sets out eligibility criteria and restrictions for members of the commission that mirror the criteria used by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, mostly based on an individual's current employment or employment history. Individuals who have been candidates for or elected to public office within the preceding ten years would be ineligible to serve as commissioners.

SUPPORT

AAPIs for Civic Empowerment-Education Fund
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Democratic Party of Sacramento County
Organize Sacramento
Queer Democrats of Sacramento

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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