

## Understanding Proposition 40

Proposition 40 is actually a referendum, which means its purpose is to get rid of something. In this case, what the originators want to get rid of are the maps that were developed by the redistricting commission. The originators of prop 40 are worried that some of the legislators they like won't be elected with the new configuration.

As most Californians know, previous maps had much gerrymandering involved in setting boundaries, resulting in districts that almost guaranteed certain people being reelected. The California Citizens Redistricting commission worked hard to balance each district and to have each district be a logical shape with adjacent neighborhoods within it.

The sponsors who worked to put this referendum on the ballot are thus the opponents of the redistricting maps. If Prop 40 passes, the commission's map would be out and the state court would need to create a different map. The sponsors want people to vote "no" on this referendum. When many propositions are on the ballot, the inclination of voters is to vote "no" so the results for this proposition could be the reverse of what voters intended. Voters need to be informed so they can vote for what they actually do favor.

The writers of this referendum were motivated by their fear that there would be a gain of seats in the state legislature by Democrats. If that were to happen, state legislative Democrats might be able to overcome the 2/3 vote barrier and pass their budget proposals for better funding for schools and other social programs. That is why Proposition 40 matters to school

supporters.

**Remember: A "yes" vote on this referendum, Prop 40, is a vote to maintain intact the present maps created by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.**

**A "no" vote says I don't support the new districts of the redistricting commission's maps and I want the Supreme Court of California to be create new maps for the Senate districts.**