

PRESS RELEASE

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State Legislature Squanders Opportunity to Regain Public Trust; Coalition Explores How to Keep Redistricting Reform Alive

Sacramento – Despite repeated promises by legislative leaders to address the need for redistricting reform, they let the clock run out on SCA 3 (Lowenthal, Ashburn), the Citizens Redistricting Commission bill. As legislators rushed to fast track, gut and amend, and bend rules to allow other legislation to pass through, leaders ignored the public's and media's outcry, forcing the redistricting bill to languish.

Stated **Kathay Feng**, Executive Director of California Common Cause, "SCA 3 was tossed like a political hot potato between Assembly and Senate leaders. After two years of vetting this through the legislature, it is clear that the problem was a lack of will, not lack of time. We are ready to look at alternatives to working through the legislature."

"We believed in good faith the promises that Speaker Fabian Nunez, President pro Tem Don Perata, and the minority leaders made earlier that they would help craft strong redistricting reform legislation. The one silver lining is that we now have constitutional amendment language that has been fully examined and enjoys the support of a broad range of constituent groups and individuals," said **Jacqueline Jacobberger**, President of the League of Women Voters of California.

"It is time for us to pursue other avenues to instituting redistricting reform," added **Tom Porter**, State Director of AARP. "The need to restore public trust in our government is all too apparent to everyone but our lawmakers. We will continue to build on the overwhelming public support for redistricting reform that removes self-interested politicians from the process of drawing their own districts."

Coalition groups are currently exploring reform options, including gathering signatures to place redistricting reform on the 2008 ballot.

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