



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Groups Urge Legislators to Act on Redistricting Reform NOW

Sacramento — *The Asian Pacific American Legal Center, California Common Cause, and the League of Women Voters of California issued the following statement today:*

The Legislature has had sufficient time to consider redistricting reform, given all of the work that has already been done on the issue and the number of bills introduced. Now is the time to pass a viable redistricting plan.

The Senate has passed two redistricting bills that await action in the Assembly, and we understand that the Assembly leadership is discussing the Speaker's latest proposal. There is no reason why the session should end early when serious issues such as redistricting have yet to be decided on. The Legislature needs to stay in session until they pass a redistricting bill.

We have reviewed Speaker Nuñez's proposal. We commend the Speaker for being committed to the issue and moving forward. However, important changes are needed in order to address our concerns with the proposal.

Specifically, the proposal's selection process gives the Legislature too much unfettered ability to cherry-pick the commissioners. Towards that end, we recommend that the legislative picks must come from a screened pool of applicants. We also believe that the current list of disqualifications is inadequate to ensure that commissioners are free of ties to elected officials.

We believe the Speaker's proposal is close to what we want in a redistricting reform proposal. We also note that the redistricting reform bill our organizations supported last year is substantially the basis of SCA 10 (Lowenthal) and the redistricting portion of SCA 9 (Ashburn). We look forward to continuing work with the Speaker and other legislators so that the legislature puts a reform measure on the February 2008 ballot.

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