



Igor Tregub, Councilmember District 4

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Igor Tregub (Author), Cecilia Lunaparra (Co-Sponsor), Terry Taplin (Co-Sponsor), and Brent Blackaby (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Resolution supporting California Proposition 50, the Election Rigging Response Act; which would authorize California to adopt temporary congressional maps in response to these partisan actions while reaffirming the state's commitment to independent, non-partisan redistricting by preserving the Citizens Redistricting Commission for the decennial process after the 2030 census

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting Proposition 50, the Election Rigging Response Act, which would authorize California to adopt temporary congressional maps in response to partisan mid-decade redistricting efforts in other states while preserving the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission for the 2030 census process.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley has a long tradition of supporting democratic reforms and voter protections, including early adoption of ranked choice voting and local civil rights safeguards. In August 2025, President Donald Trump and Republican leaders in Texas enacted an unprecedented mid-decade congressional redistricting plan to secure additional partisan advantage. Similar mid-decade redraws are now being considered in Florida, Missouri, and other states.

These actions undermine the principle of representative democracy, threaten fair elections, and risk distorting the balance of power in Congress for years to come. The outcome of the 2026 U.S. House midterm elections will directly impact control of

Congress and critical national policies affecting California and Berkeley residents, including immigration, disaster relief, access to healthcare, and civil rights protections.

In response, the California Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom have placed Proposition 50, the Election Rigging Response Act, on the November 4, 2025, ballot. Proposition 50 consists of a legislative package: Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 (Rivas, McGuire), Senate Bill 280 (Cervantes, Pellerin), and Assembly Bill 604 (Aguiar-Curry, Gonzalez). Together, these measures establish a special election framework, authorize temporary congressional boundaries, and reaffirm California's long-term commitment to nonpartisan redistricting.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

If passed, Proposition 50 would:

- Provide California with a lawful and transparent mechanism to respond to partisan mid-decade gerrymanders in other states;
- Protect California's representation in Congress and ensure Berkeley residents' voices are not diluted by unfair districting practices nationwide;
- Reaffirm the state's independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as the sole body responsible for post-2030 census district maps; and
- Reaffirm both statewide and local commitment to free, fair, and representative elections

This resolution aligns with Berkeley's longstanding values of electoral fairness, transparency, and civic engagement. Supporting Proposition 50 reflects the City Council's commitment to protecting democracy both locally and nationally.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Limited staff time is required to communicate the City's position to State representatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Igor Tregub, Council District 4
510-981-7140

ltregub@berkeleyca.gov

Shamaila Ahmed, Legislative Aide, Council District 4

sahmed@berkeleyca.gov

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 50, THE ELECTION RIGGING RESPONSE ACT; WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE CALIFORNIA TO ADOPT TEMPORARY CONGRESSIONAL MAPS IN RESPONSE TO THESE PARTISAN ACTIONS WHILE REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO INDEPENDENT, NON-PARTISAN REDISTRICTING BY PRESERVING THE CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR THE DECENNIAL PROCESS AFTER THE 2030 CENSUS.

WHEREAS, Berkeley has a long history of advancing reforms that strengthen democracy, including ranked choice voting and protections for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, These democratic ideals are now under direct threat from partisan efforts across the country to manipulate congressional districts for political gain; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump and Republican leaders in Texas have enacted an unprecedented mid-decade redistricting plan, signed into law in August 2025, to gain additional congressional seats; and

WHEREAS, Leaders in other states, including Florida and Missouri, are considering similar mid-decade redraws, threatening to undermine representative democracy and distort the balance of power in Congress; and

WHEREAS, The outcome of the 2026 U.S. House midterm elections will determine control of congress and shape critical policies affecting California and the nation, including immigration, disaster relief, access to healthcare, and civil rights protections; and

WHEREAS, In response, the California Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom have called for a special election and placed Proposition 50, the Election Rigging Response Act, on the November 4, 2025, ballot; and

WHEREAS, This legislative package consists of Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 (Rivas, McGuire), Senate Bill 280 (Cervantes, Pellerin) establishing the special election framework, and Assembly Bill 604 (Aguiar-Curry, Gonzalez) detailing the temporary district boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 50 would authorize California to adopt temporary congressional maps in response to these partisan actions while reaffirming the state's commitment to independent, non-partisan redistricting by preserving the Citizens Redistricting Commission for the decennial process after the 2030 census; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 50 has earned the support of Governor Gavin Newsom, House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, and the California Congressional Delegation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City Council of Berkeley supports Proposition 50, the Election Rigging Response Act; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Berkeley condemns efforts to manipulate congressional district boundaries for partisan gain and reaffirms Berkeley's longstanding commitment to electoral fairness, transparency, and representative democracy.

