

The “Election Rigging Response Act” (Prop. 50)

Background

In June 2025, President Trump urged TX to redraw its Congressional maps to try and save TX’s “endangered majority.”¹ In July 2025, Texas Republicans unveiled a proposal for new congressional maps as a redistricting battle heated up across the country.² The maps are expected to create five (5) new House seats in areas President Trump won by double digits in November 2024.³ Texas Republicans are quite open about how they have launched a rare mid-decade redistricting effort simply to maximize their partisan gain. Although people of color are driving Texas’s population growth, the new maps put the vast majority of electoral power in the hands of white Texans.⁴

In early August 2025, President Donald Trump publicly asked TX to gerrymander its Congressional maps saying he was “entitled” to five more Republican seats in Congress.⁵ When TX Gov. Greg Abbott called a Special Session for redistricting, TX Democrats left the state or “broke quorum” to thwart the redistricting effort.⁶ In response to TX’s actions, CA Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that if TX went through with its redistricting, CA would respond in kind and redistrict to create five (5) Democratic seats, but *only* if TX proceeded.⁷

After waiting out the Special Session, TX Dems returned to their state only to find Gov. Abbott had called a second Special Session, again to carve up Congressional districts to ensure they were Republican. The TX House passed its redistricting measure August 21, 2025, it was then passed by the TX Senate and signed by Gov. Abbott August 29, 2025.⁸

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/09/us/politics/trump-texas-redistricting.html>

² <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5427604-congressional-maps-texas-gop/>

³ <https://dvr.capitol.texas.gov/Congress/0/PLANC2308>

⁴ <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/august-21-2025>; <https://time.com/7310875/texas-map-racial-division/>. This was true even before the current redistricting effort. See, <https://www.npr.org/2021/10/19/1047400801/most-of-texas-new-districts-are-majority-white-diluting-power-of-voters-of-color>

⁵ <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5436521-donald-trump-texas-redistricting-house-seats/>. This was similar to Trump’s 2020 call to GA’s Secretary of State Brad Raffensberger asking him to find “just 11,000 votes.” <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c5020714/fellas-11000-votes-give-break>

⁶ <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5436521-donald-trump-texas-redistricting-house-seats/>. The Special Session Abbott called was ostensibly to address needed disaster relief after the devastating Guadalupe River flooding earlier in the year. <https://www.kut.org/politics/2025-09-04/texas-flood-special-session-youth-camp-mystic>.

⁷ <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/07/30/texas-redistricting-california-newsom-retaliatory-congressional-maps/>, <https://www.democracydocket.com/news-alerts/firing-back-at-texas-redistricting-newsom-calls-special-election-to-authorize-california-countermove/>

⁸ <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/august-21-2025> and <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/08/29/greg-abbott-signs-texas-congressional-map-redistricting/>

On August 21, 2025, CA's Legislature "passed two measures [ACA 8 and AB 604] to send to voters the question of whether to redistrict the state temporarily to offset the new Texas map. The urgent measures received the required two-thirds majority to pass, and Governor Gavin Newsom signed them into law this evening. He also declared that the state will hold a special election on November 4 for voters to weigh in on whether to adopt the new maps temporarily to neutralize the Texas Republicans' power grab." ⁹ ACA 8 urged the U.S. Congress to "use fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide." CA would temporarily use single-member districts until after the next federal census and "new congressional boundary lines are drawn by the commission in 2031."¹⁰

Why The Election Rigging Response Act? ¹¹

Emergency for Democracy. This isn't politics as usual. Republican leaders in Texas, and elsewhere, are attempting an unprecedented power grab to tilt the 2026 elections before a single vote is cast. Californians can't sit it out.

California's Duty. We won't unilaterally disarm. The Election Rigging Response Act (ERRA) is a legal, people-powered response that draws fair maps representing California's diverse communities and protects our voice against partisan gerrymandering in other states.

The Election Rigging Response Act

- **Levels the playing field for 2026.** No unfair advantage for rigged maps elsewhere.
- **Reaffirms independent redistricting** as California's default and calls on all states to adopt fair, impartial maps.
- **Puts voters in charge:** emergency maps require voter approval.
- **Triggered, not automatic:** emergency maps take effect only if the partisan power grab in Texas proceeds.
- **Temporary by design:** expires in 2030 and returns authority to the Citizens Redistricting Commission after the next census.

⁹ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/08/18/governor-newsom-on-introduction-of-election-rigging-response-act-legislative-package/> and Heather Cox Richardson interviews Gov. Newsom, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INu6CC-rKXA>. See also, <https://lao.ca.gov/ballotanalysis/propositions#:~:text=Proposition%2050&text=A%20YES%20vote%20on%20this,following%20the%202030%20U.S.%20Census>. See also, <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/august-21-2025>.

¹⁰ See, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260ACA8 and <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/public-display/prop-50-text.pdf>

¹¹ <https://stopelectionrigging.com>; the California Democratic Party.

Governor Newsom says. . .

“California and Californians have been uniquely targeted by the Trump Administration, and **we are not going to sit idle while they command Texas and other states to rig the next election to keep power** — pursuing more extreme and unpopular policies. **This proposal would give Californians a choice to fight back** — and bring much needed accountability and oversight to the Trump Administration.”¹²

“**California will hold a special election on November 4 for voters to consider redistricting their state temporarily if Texas redistricts, so that California can neutralize Trump’s rigging of the state of Texas.** The plan would only go into effect if Texas — or any of the other states pressured by Trump to redistrict to get more votes — launches its mid-decade redistricting that is transparently designed to help resurrect the Republicans’ prospects for 2026 and 2028.”¹³

Indivisible says . . .

“**We’re not watching politics. We’re watching a power grab.** In the span of a week, Donald Trump and the Republican Party have launched a multi-state campaign to rig congressional maps, erase voters from the census, and weaponize law enforcement against elected officials — all in service of one goal: **permanent GOP control of the House.** This isn’t theory. It’s not a warning about what *might* happen. It’s happening **right now** — in Texas, DC, and Indiana, and in every room where power can be manipulated and lines can be redrawn.

“**Cementing minority rule doesn’t always look like tanks and mobs. Sometimes it looks just like this: illegal censuses, rigged maps, and corrupted institutions.**”¹⁴

What Opponents Say. . .¹⁵

“**Right Path California**” flyers say “Gerrymandering is Wrong – NO MATTER WHO DOES IT.”¹⁶

¹² <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/08/18/governor-newsom-on-introduction-of-election-rigging-response-act-legislative-package/>

¹³ Interview with historian Heather Cox Richardson.
<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/august-14-2025>

¹⁴ https://indivisible.org/resource/redistricting-coup-underway?akid=120065.456065.Xsish6&rd=1&t=24&utm_medium=20250825&utm_source=email

¹⁵ <https://laist.com/news/politics/redistricting-election-california-newsom-mailers-prop-50>

¹⁶ <https://www.rightpathca.com/>. Led by former California GOP chair Jessica Millan Patterson.

“Protect Fair Elections” says “It’s time to stand up to Sacramento politicians scheming to destroy California’s independent redistricting process, ignoring the will of the voters and stripping constitutional protections to ensure voters choose their elected officials, not the other way around.” ¹⁷

The “Protect Voters First” Coalition sponsored by “Hold Politicians Accountable,” mailed a flyer funded by Charles T. Munger, Jr. stating CA will hold “A Special Election to Turn Back the Clock on Fair Elections” and “Weakening Our Democratic Process.” ¹⁸ On September 2, 2025, only days after the Legislature set up Prop. 50, Munger was published in the New York Times opposing it ¹⁹ and asserting:

“Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California State Legislature have placed Proposition 50 on a Nov. 4 special election ballot. If passed, it would replace the current U.S. House districts drawn by the independent commission and used in 2022 and 2024 with districts drawn by party insiders behind closed doors. The new map would be in place for the rest of this decade.”

RESPONSE: Munger’s mailings characterize Gov. Newsom and CA’s Legislature as “scheming,” while his article admits CA *only responded to* the scheme by TX politicians to “balance TX’s efforts.” He also acknowledges the democratic nature of CA’s Legislature *enacting a Constitutional amendment and bill* that will have CA’s voters weigh in on the November 4 ballot, ²⁰ thus ensuring CA voters will be heard this November - and in November 2026 - *while TX voters have no say and TX Democrats are silenced in the process.*

“Democrats and independents nationally are right to be outraged at the mid-decade partisan gerrymander of Texas, but returning to the evils of partisan gerrymandering in California is not the solution.”

RESPONSE: Munger ignores the context in which Prop. 50 was enacted. For decades, Democrats have taken the high road, “trying to protect democracy by reinforcing democratic norms” only to see democracy undercut by Republican tricks. ²¹

¹⁷ <https://www.protectfairelections.org/>

¹⁸ None of the websites associated with this flyer appeared to have current information about these organizations and involvement with Prop. 50, however, see <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/fppc-v2/fppc-www/transparency/top-contributors/nov-25-spec.html> which shows the only opponent filed with CA’s FPPC is Charles Munger.

¹⁹ “Do Not Re-Gerrymander California.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/02/opinion/gerrymander-democrats-california.html>

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/august-21-2025>

RESPONSE: While Munger acknowledges rightful “outrage,” what steps has he taken to stop Republicans from engaging in these “evils”? Again, CA only took this path *because of TX gerrymandering*, and because of the Republican Party’s long history of bad faith efforts to undercut voting rights in America.

RESPONSE: CA is not “returning to the evils of partisan gerrymandering;” it is engaging in a temporary process to enable CA voters to balance the equities by taking a stand against such evils.

“True reform must withstand the temptations of political advantage and the pressures of the moment. California’s commission was created to rise above those temptations — and we must defend it now or watch the promise of fair representation collapse into just another broken pledge.”

RESPONSE: Munger is preaching to the choir! CA already voted to “rise above those temptations” and is one of only seven states to have truly independent redistricting.²² At the same time *Republicans, in CA and across the nation, have repeatedly voted against independent redistricting.*²³

RESPONSE: “Fair representation” has already collapsed because of what TX and other Republican majority states have done. The ONLY chance Americans have to challenge such unfair practices is to engage with democratic processes that at least call out and try to challenge such practices.

Other objections . . .

Two wrongs don’t make a right –

Republicans face quite a conundrum in making this claim for they are forced to acknowledge what President Trump and Governor Abbott have done is simply WRONG!²⁴

This also asserts a false equivalency, that CA’s defensive response attempting to level the playing field is as bad as TX’s rigging the game. Republicans want to be able to continue to break the rules at the same time insisting that Democrats uphold them. Nonsense! TX is WRONG and *CA is righteously responding to a state trying to cheat by rigging the political system.*

²² <https://www.commoncause.org/work/independent-and-advisory-citizen-redistricting-commissions/#:~:text=The%20key%20component%20of%20these,Michigan%2C%20Montana%2C%20and%20Washington.>

²³ See, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan - <https://www.msnbc.com/all-in/watch/-when-they-go-low-we-squabble-up-california-punches-back-after-texas-rigs-maps-245538885780> re: efforts in CA; Katie Porter re: efforts in the U.S. Congress - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocNIUPjv9V0>

²⁴ <https://calmatters.org/politics/2025/08/california-republicans-newsom-redistricting-texas/>

Democrats are tired of playing by the rules while Republicans routinely cheat with impunity and unfairly curtail democratic/Democratic representation. Taking the high road may get you to the top of the mountain, but it doesn't guarantee democracy will be left when you get there. CA is engaging in self-aware self-defense, a healthy sign of democratic self-preservation. By seeking to redress the unfair efforts in TX and other Red states, CA hopes to neutralize these efforts and bring about fairer representation in Congress for Americans across the nation.

What CA is doing is not fair –

“Fair” is defined as “marked by impartiality and honesty: free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism,” “conforming with the established rules.”²⁵ What CA is doing IS fair. CA has had an impartial redistricting commission that was free from self-interest. Also, it IS following the rules and didn't start this fight. But this time around CA refuses to turn the other cheek. Instead, it is challenging Red states seeking *an unfair advantage* through blatant gerrymandering of Congressional seats favoring Republicans, and a president who tried to overturn the 2020 election (“Fellas, I need 11,000 votes. Give me a break.”),²⁶ and is emboldened by Republicans who fail to hold him accountable.

What CA is doing is “undemocratic” -

By ensuring Prop. 50 is on CA's November ballot, CA is attempting to neutralize what TX is doing using the most democratic means possible. While admittedly both parties have gerrymandered in the past, a Brennan Center for Justice analysis shows maps drawn after the 2020 U.S. Census created a significant pro-Republican bias.²⁷ Today, Democrats in the nation are not fairly represented in Congress at a time it is controlled by a Republican majority whose failure to assert its Article 1 authority has brought America to the brink of authoritarianism.

CA's actions should also be viewed in the context of, and as a defense against, Trump's March 25, 2025 Executive Order²⁸ which seeks to “seize the power to set voter registration rules from Congress and the states,” and which “would violate federal law and the Constitution if carried out by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).”²⁹ The

²⁵ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fair>

²⁶ <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c5020714/fellas-11000-votes-give-break>

²⁷ <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-gerrymandering-tilts-2024-race-house>. TX maps drawn in 2021 made matters worse. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/anatomy-texas-gerrymander>

²⁸ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/preserving-and-protecting-the-integrity-of-american-elections/>

²⁹ <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/voting-rights-groups-challenge-trumps-recent-executive-order#:~:text=League%20of%20Women%20Voters%20Education%20Fund%20v.,-Trump&text=On%20March%2025%2C%202025%2C%20in,as%20an%20unconstitutional%20power%20gr>

League of Women Voters, NAACP, et al. filed legal challenges, asserting the EO “could disenfranchise millions of eligible voters, particularly voters of color, women voters, naturalized citizens, voters with disabilities, voters with low incomes, and first-time voters.”³⁰ Trump’s request to TX is part of his strategy that needs to be called out and challenged at every step.

Indivisible.org says that TX is “surgically cracking apart communities of color and jamming Democratic voters into a handful of districts, leaving the rest safely Republican. . . a blatant racial and partisan gerrymander. And it’s part of a larger strategy to make the House unwinnable for Democrats – no matter how the public votes.”³¹ CA, on the other hand, is presenting voters with a chance to undo TX’s efforts and a fighting chance come November 2026.³² As the saying goes, “*This is what democracy looks like!*”

Californians - all Americans for that matter - can no longer ignore the warning signs of threats to democracy and freedom which Trump’s *undemocratic* actions planned for the November 2026 elections represent. Beyond the blatant efforts to gerrymander Congressional seats, the Trump Administration’s arguments in *Newsom v. Trump*, documented by Judge Charles Breyer in his recent ruling in favor of California, provide insight into what may be coming.³³ The troublesome possibilities were highlighted in a recent analysis of Judge Breyer’s decision by Richard Bernstein for the Society for the Rule of Law:³⁴

“In the Los Angeles case, in addition to the Trump administration’s expansive interpretation of 10 U.S.C. § 12406(3), the administration raised three arguments that, if adopted by the Ninth Circuit or the Supreme Court, would disable federal court

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League%20Of%20Women%20Voters%20Education%20Fund%20V.,Washington%2C%20D.C.
https://www.aclu.org/documents/complaint-league-of-women-voters-education-fund-v-trump](https://www.aclu.org/documents/complaint-league-of-women-voters-education-fund-v-trump)

³⁰ *Ibid.* See also <https://www.aclu.org/documents/complaint-league-of-women-voters-education-fund-v-trump>

³¹ https://indivisible.org/resource/redistricting-coup-underway?akid=120065.456065.Xsish6&rd=1&t=24&utm_medium=20250825&utm_source=email.

³² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260ACA8

³³ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/26080338-breyer-ruling-on-national-guard/>,
<https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/02/politics/national-guard-california-trump-posse-comitatus-act-breyer>

³⁴ <https://societyfortheruleoflaw.org/trump-national-guard-threatens-elections/> Richard Bernstein is a Charter Member of the Society for the Rule of Law Institute, and a former partner at Willkie Farr & Gallagher and at Sidley Austin. He clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia (1987-88) and Judge Amalya Kearse (1986-87).

enforcement of Sections 592 and 593 and *thus encourage using the military to interfere in the 2026 elections. . . .*³⁵

“If an appellate court adopts any of these three arguments of the Trump administration, *such a decision would neuter the federal criminal prohibitions on the use of the military, including National Guard units in federal service, to interfere with elections.* These arguments are thus a dagger pointed at elections – the heart of our Republic.

“This danger to federal elections is not far-fetched. In December 2020, private counsel working in support of President Trump drafted executive orders that would have deployed National Guard units in federal service *to seize voting machines and records.* See *Brief Amici Curiae of Danforth, et al.*, at 29–31, filed April 4, 2024, in *Trump v. United States*, No. 23-939 (U.S. Sup. Ct.). Thankfully, President Trump did not issue those executive orders. *If any court adopts any of the three Trump administration arguments described above, however, next time our Republic might not be so lucky.*”³⁶

Heather Cox Richardson’s August 22, 2025 podcast put it into context, describing how on Monday, August 18th Marc Elias had warned Trump is “stationing the military and other federal law enforcement in blue areas so – when the time comes – he can pivot their mission to suppressing voting rights and undermining free and fair elections.” Then, on Tuesday August 19th Trump ally Steve Bannon said on his webcast *War Room*: “They’re petrified over at MSNBC and CNN that, hey, since we’re taking control of the cities, there’s going to be ICE officers near polling places. You damn right.”³⁷

³⁵ <https://societyfortheruleoflaw.org/trump-national-guard-threatens-elections/> “*The first such Trump Administration argument* is that the President has an inherent power to use the military to protect federal property, federal personnel, and federal functions and that this inherent protective power is not subject to federal statutory limitations;... *The second Trump Administration argument* is that it does not matter if deploying the military violates a criminal statute, because federal courts lack the equitable power to enjoin violations of criminal statutes. . . ; *The third Trump Administration argument* suffers from a similar deficiency. The Plaintiffs in the Los Angeles case sought *ultra vires* relief as the vehicle to stop violations of the Posse Comitatus Act. *Ultra vires* relief is a remedy for official actions that lack constitutional or statutory authority. The Trump Administration argued that *ultra vires* relief should be unavailable for violation of a federal criminal statute. That would mean that the only remedy would be the possibility that the same executive branch that violated the criminal statute would bring a prosecution.”

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/august-22-2025;>
<https://newsletters.democracymatters.com/trumps-militarization-of-u.s.-cities-grows-more-dangerous;>
<https://www.mediamatters.org/steve-bannon/steve-bannon-says-ice-agents-will-be-near-polling-places-if-you-dont-have-id-if-youre>

Not a week later, on August 25, 2025, President Trump announced on social media he would sign an Executive Order ahead of the 2026 elections to end mail in voting and voting machines, stating without evidence “they lead to voter fraud.”³⁸ Trump also said “Remember, *the States are merely an 'agent' for the Federal Government in counting and tabulating the votes. They must do what the Federal Government, as represented by the President of the United States, tells them, FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY, to do.*”³⁹

Trump will misconstrue and misrepresent the role of the states, as well as their broad powers to set standards and guidelines for elections, despite clear and well-articulated laws whenever it suits his purpose. Joyce Vance recently discussed how *federal law actually protects elections*:

*“The Constitution creates a system where states, not the federal government, and assuredly not the president, run federal elections along with state and local ones. The Elections Clause, in Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, provides that “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of [choosing] Senators.” The federal government does have some authority over elections, including safeguarding the safety and integrity of congressional elections through provisions like the Voting Rights Act. But that can open the door, and Trump seems intent on cracking it wide open, with efforts to establish national identification rules or ones that end mail-in voting.”*⁴⁰

³⁸ https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-lead-movement-end-mail-voting/story?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=dhfacebook&utm_content=null&id=124737903

³⁹ *Ibid.* These actions followed Trump’s statements on August 7 that he “has instructed his administration to start work on a “new” census,” and according to a social media post made by Trump “that census would exclude millions of people living in the country without legal status — an unprecedented change to how the country has conducted population tallies since the first U.S. census in 1790.” <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/07/nx-s1-5265650/new-census-trump-immigrants-counted>. “The 14th Amendment requires the “*whole number of persons in each state*” to be included in a key set of census numbers used to determine how presidents and members of Congress are elected.”

⁴⁰ https://joycevance.substack.com/p/can-federal-troops-be-stationed-at?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Trump apparently also does not understand that contrary to what his Executive Orders claim about election integrity, the laws of this nation *actually make it a criminal act to interfere in elections in the manner he proposes*.⁴¹ Specifically, “18 U.S.C. §592 explicitly prohibits any U.S. civil, military, or naval officer from bringing, keeping, or having control of troops or armed men at any polling place during an election.”⁴²

“Whoever, being an officer of the Army or Navy, or other person in the civil, military, or naval service of the United States, orders, brings, keeps, or has under his authority or control any troops or armed men at any place where a general or special election is held, unless such force be necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both; *and be disqualified from holding any office of honor, profit, or trust under the United States.*”⁴³

Under the plain language of 18 U.S.C. § 592, should Trump follow through on his threats, not only would he be committing a criminal act, but he would also “be disqualified from holding any office of honor, profit, or trust under the United States.”⁴⁴

Ironically, over the past several months the Trump Administration has regularly violated the Constitution and democratic norms, using “crime” as justification:

- ICE removing undocumented immigrants who allegedly engaged in criminal acts and the “worst of the worst,” to CECOT, when at least one individual was removed through administrative error (Kilmar Abrego Garcia) and in the U.S. pursuant to a court order. The majority of others removed *had no criminal record*, were engaged in lawful immigration processes, including seeking asylum, at the same time the Trump Administration and ICE violated the law and their rights by ignoring basic due process.
- Invading cities, including Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. (and now Chicago and Boston) based on false assertions these jurisdictions could not “control crime,” when each city was experiencing historical drops in crime through positive community-based interventions, many of which were eliminated in Trump’s recent budget bill passed by Republicans in Congress.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/592>

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

- Last week Trump ordered the U.S. military to blow up a vessel in international waters off the coast of South America based on unverified and unproven claims of “drug cartels” and criminal activity. Essentially, the U.S. government engaged in extrajudicial killings, violating international law based on unfounded claims of “criminal activity” similar to those used in immigration raids.

The Trump Administration clearly *does not follow the rules of any sphere or jurisdiction*. Instead, it makes accusations so it can do whatever it wants, at the same time its accusations are routinely baseless, more often than not a projection of its own bad acts and simultaneously a telling confession.

This is true of Trump’s claims regarding “rigged” or “stolen” elections, which are nothing but cover for his antidemocratic efforts involving voting, gerrymandering and elections. “Trump knows he can’t win in 2026 fair and square so instead of appealing to voters with popular policies, he is calling for rigging our elections so that his party cannot lose. This appears to have been the plan all along. In July 2024, Trump told an audience of evangelical Christians that if they voted for him in November, *“in four years, you don't have to vote again. We'll have it fixed so good, you're not gonna have to vote.”*⁴⁵

Americans have known about the Republican Party’s history of election “dirty tricks” dating back to President Nixon and Watergate. “Republicans have put their thumb on the scales of the nation’s election machinery for years, suppressing Democratic voting and gerrymandering the states to make it harder to elect Democrats than to elect Republicans. Now Trump has come right out and admitted that leaders understand they cannot win without jiggering the system to create what political scientists Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way call “competitive authoritarianism,” in which elections are held because leaders want the legitimacy of an election, but the competition is so unfair the outcome is pretty much preordained.”⁴⁶

Prop. 50 is California finally standing up to this “jiggering the system” and fighting back, calling out what TX and Trump have done and challenging it head on. After decades of “trying to protect democracy by reinforcing democratic norms,” Democrats and their allies are no longer willing to just bring a knife to a gun fight and now (finally!) appear willing to “fight fire with fire.”⁴⁷

⁴⁵ <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/august-21-2025>
(<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-tells-christians-they-wont-have-vote-after-this-election-2024-07-27/>)

⁴⁶ <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/august-21-2025>

⁴⁷ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNISNz2xS2i/?hl=en>
<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/august-21-2025>

If you fear for our democracy – Vote YES on Prop. 50!

Prop. 50 not only gives California voters a chance to fight back, but it gives them a voice in challenging corrupt attempts to hijack the 2026 election and our democracy. If California and America don't act NOW, we may no longer have a democracy to defend!

What You Can Do . . .

Make sure you, your friends, family, co-workers, colleagues, fellow parishioners, etc., are all registered to vote and VOTE YES ON PROP. 50!

For those living in states outside CA, find out what actions your State Legislature is taking to ensure voters are fairly represented. *See*, Indivisible.org for more information on how to become involved.⁴⁸

For those still unsure about whether to support Prop. 50, I strongly encourage you to vote YES, for at its core Prop. 50 is the best possible democratic solution to challenge the most undemocratic efforts. Voting is a citizen's highest obligation and you will decide not only whether these maps should be used, but the future of democracy. The reality is that voters may decide against Prop. 50, so current maps would not change. However, if Prop. 50 passes and the maps go into effect, all CA voters will still have a voice in the November 2026 election, a far more democratic outcome than TX or any Red State has granted its citizens and at least you stood for democracy.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ https://indivisible.org/resource/redistricting-coup-underway?akid=120065.456065.Xsish6&rd=1&t=24&utm_medium=20250825&utm_source=email

⁴⁹ [Additional Resources](#) - The Election Rigging Response Act (ERRA) is a legal, people-powered response that draws fair maps representing California's diverse communities and protects our voice against partisan gerrymandering in other states. <https://stopelectionrigging.com/>

Indivisible – “The Redistricting Coup is Underway.” https://indivisible.org/resource/redistricting-coup-underway?akid=120065.456065.Xsish6&rd=1&t=24&utm_medium=20250825&utm_source=email

The California Legislation -

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260ACA8

Heather Cox Richardson's interview with Gov. Gavin Newsom – YouTube -

<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/live-with-heather-cox-richardson>

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/08/14/governor-newsom-launches-statewide-response-to-trump-rigging-texas-elections/>

<https://stateline.org/2025/08/22/as-democrats-fight-fire-with-fire-gerrymandering-opponents-seek-a-path-forward/>

<https://calmatters.org/politics/2025/08/california-redistricting-things-to-know/>

<https://calmatters.org/politics/2025/08/california-republicans-newsom-redistricting-texas/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8W9KbyWYbZM> – Press Conference regarding adoption of legislation for Prop. 50.