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Three local elected seats could be affected if Proposition 77 passes in November, but as for changing the partisan atmosphere of state politics -- experts say more needs to be done. According to a study released last week by the **Rose Institute** at Claremont McKenna College, 25 seats -- seven in the Assembly, eight in the state Senate, and 10 congressional seats -- could be in play if the redistricting ballot initiative slated for the Nov. 8 special election is approved. The local seats that could be affected are held by Rep. David Dreier, R-Glendora, state Sen. Bob Margett, R-Glendora, and Assemblyman Bill Emmerson, R-Rancho Cucamonga.

Proposition 77 would place the authority for redistricting with a panel of retired judges rather than state legislators.

"I fully support redistricting," Margett said. "I think from a standpoint of good government, I want it to be more competitive."

One reason that only 25 seats could be affected is the federal Voting Rights Act, which protects minority representation and limits the authority of potential district line drawers.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and others on the ballot that he considers part of his reform agenda, supports the initiatives, which include a spending cap, restrictions on public employee political contributions and a longer waiting period before teachers obtain tenure.

"The governor is committed to reforming the way business is done in Sacramento," spokesman Darrel Ng said. "This year, redistricting and budget reform are the two things on his agenda in terms of governmental reform."

Dreier and Emmerson also have come out in favor of the redistricting initiative.

While supporters claim that passage will make it easier for moderate candidates to win state offices, experts say that Proposition 77 won't curtail partisanship without other reforms taking place.

"It won't cure everything but districts will be less polarized," the study's author, Douglas Johnson, said. "It would go a long way to solving problems in Sacramento."

Ralph Rossum, director of the **Rose Institute** of State and Local Government, said in addition to redistricting and spending caps, other reforms such as altering term limits and changing how the legislature works also need to be revised.

"First of all, the term-limit issue is an important concern because we are increasingly hearing of special interests who provide financial backing to potential candidates years before [already elected] officials are termed out," he said.

Rossum said altering term limits --such as allowing an elected official to hold office for 16 years in either legislative house, rather than no more than six years in the Assembly and eight years in the Senate -- would ease the stranglehold of special-interests groups.

The Legislature also should draft a two-year budget rather than slugging it out every year, Rossum said. That would give them the opportunity to review policy decisions every other year without the divisiveness of the budgetary process interfering, he said.

Bruce Cain, director of the Institute of Government Studies at UC Berkeley, said while he backs redistricting, he believes Proposition 77 is a poorly written initiative and will not change the way state government currently works.

"Instead of getting the best negotiated plan on the ballot, we get a measure concocted by initiative entrepreneurs and using judges who are notoriously political instead of citizen commissions and transparency," he said.

Cain believes the governor fumbled a perfect opportunity to move beyond partisanship and start real legislative reform.

"It just makes me sick," he said. "The so-called dysfunction of the system is much broader and deeper than how the lines are drawn."

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