

The Bear Flag League Special Election Page

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September 28, 2005

Prop 77: If Both Extremes Hate It, It Must Be Good

Posted by Ben Hoskins at [Democracy Market](#)

Dan Weintraub properly [points out](#) that political operatives on both the right and left are opposed to the redistricting initiative and asks:

So John Doolittle thinks 77 is a Democrat power play, and Paul Hefner and his party bosses think 77 is a Republican power play. Is it possible that maybe it's neither, that it is in fact a fair redistricting proposal that is hated by partisans on both sides?

Amen. As a general rule and excluding things like genocide, I tend to believe if politicians on the far left and far right share a view on something, then just about everyone else in the world is well served to hold the opposite view. This is one of those cases.

If your into that sort of thing and have the, read the Rose Institutes just released [report](#) on redistricting. This report seems to have a lot to do with why Prop 77 is a hot topic again.

Especially popular seems to be the section on Rep. Howard Berman's San Fernando Valley congressional district. If not gerrymandered, it seems this district would be majority Latino. But it was gerrymandered. Did I mention it was gerrymandered by Howard's brother Michael to move Latinos out of the district.

This is an illustrative point for a couple of reasons. One, it shows the blatant politics and conflict of interest in the current process designed to protect incumbents. Two, it shows that one of the key purposes often stated in keeping the current system - ensuring minority districts - can actually be ill served by the current system. Which makes sense. If CA's % minority population is ever increasing but the current system protects (increasingly overrepresented white) incumbents - then it makes sense that the current system may actually work against minority candidates who are not already in office.

Posted by League Member at September 28, 2005 08:53 AM

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