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## Study: Prop. 77 Will Boost Competition in Elections

Proposition 77, the redistricting reform measure on the November special election ballot, will result in a significant increase in competition in California elections, according to a newly released report.

The report from the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College concluded that if voters approve Proposition 77, it likely will lead to the creation of 10 competitive congressional districts, four new competitive Assembly districts and seven new competitive state Senate districts.

In contrast, during the last election, not one of 153 congressional, state Senate and Assembly seats changed party hands. Legislators drew the boundaries for the current districts with a goal of building safe seats for incumbents of their parties.

### Proposition 77 Reforms

Proposition 77, the Voter Empowerment Act, is part of the Governor's reform package and is **strongly supported** by the California Chamber of Commerce. The initiative turns over to a bipartisan panel of retired judges the task of redrawing after each census the district boundaries for the state Senate, Assembly, Congress and the Board of Equalization.

The reform removes the conflict of interest inherent in current law, under which legislators design their own districts.

"The Rose Institute study demonstrates that the reforms in Proposition 77 will help restore fairness and competition to the election process," said Chamber President Allan Zaremborg. "That competition will be a start toward making legislators accountable to the voters, their constituents."

### Report Findings

The Rose Institute report also concludes that Proposition 77 will:

- evenly reduce the number of safe Democratic and Republican seats: by five each in Congress and the Assembly, and by four Democratic and three Republican seats in the state Senate;

- create two new districts with a majority of Latinos of voting age;
- significantly reduce the division of counties, in comparison to current districts; and
- increase the compactness of districts.

In addition, the report compared the competitiveness of districts drawn by panels of retired judges and those drawn by legislators. It found that the panels of retired judges created 40 competitive districts in 1973 and 48 competitive districts in 1991.

The redistricting done by legislators created 19 competitive districts in 1982 and five in 2001 (now in effect).

The report is available on the Rose Institute's website at <http://rose.claremontmckenna.edu>.

For more information on Proposition 77 or any of the Governor's reform measures, visit [www.joinarnold.com](http://www.joinarnold.com).

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One example of a gerrymandered district: The area shaded in black at left is Congressional District 23 as redrawn by legislators after the 2000 census. At right, shaded in blue, is the same district redrawn by the retired judges after the 1990 census.