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INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

To: The Attorney General of California, Xavier Becerra

Please accept this as a Request to circulate the following Proposed Title and Summary for an Initiative to Amend the California Constitution in preparation for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

TITLE: AMENDS THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION TO REPLACE THE BICAMERAL ASSEMBLY AND SENATE WITH A UNICAMERAL NON-PARTISAN LEGISLATURE AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS SERVING IN THE LEGISLATURE.

SUMMARY: The 1849 California Constitution established this state as a Republic with two Houses (Bicameral) and capped the Assembly at 80 and the Senate at 40, with an estimated population of 90,000. The population of California has grown to 40,000,000 with the same number of legislators as in the 19th century even though it's a Representative form of government. Today the ratio of Assembly member to population is 1 per 500,000 and 1 per 1,000,000 in the Senate. In a 1964 ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States, the Senate was changed from county to population elected. This ruling effectively made the Senate different from the Assembly in name and term only. This Amendment is set forth to (1) Change the Legislature from Bicameral to Unicameral. In other words, ONE HOUSE; as exemplified by Nebraska since 1935. (2) Increase the membership of the ONE HOUSE (Legislature) to a Ratio of 1 per 80,000 population; doing so using the 2020 National Census to determine the exact population of California, followed by elections held in 2022 and 2024 to bring the Legislature to a more consistent ratio to the rest of the United States, as exemplified by New Hampshire which has a population of almost 2,000,000 with 400 lower house Legislators for a ratio of 1 per 5,000. The size of California's Unicameral Non-Partisan Legislature shall be determined every National Decennial Census after, to a ratio of No Less than 1 per 80,000 and No More than 1 per 100,000 with elections held every 2 years for a term of 4 years.

The fiscal impact should be lessened by the need for less overhead expense such as; staffing, fewer miles traveled within a District, and lower salaries. The one-time costs to increase accommodations in Sacramento are offset by an improved, more accountable government and service to the People. This Amendment will also help to self-correct the issue of Gerrymandering by forming smaller, more local Districts for each Legislator. This Amendment, which creates a Unicameral Non-Partisan Legislature and restores the Legislative Districts to a more local and manageable size will go a long way to improve the governance of California by bringing it into the 21st Century.

The following pages are the suggested Revisions to be made to the California Constitution, Articles 1V and XXI.

PROPOSED REVISIONS to the 1879 CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE IV:

Making a Revision of this nature requires language and circumstance change in some related SECTIONS. Most revisions are only to change the wording(s) from bicameral to unicameral houses of the legislature. Revisions to SECTIONS 2 and 6 are the Implementation(s) of the Revisions.

SEC. 1. Strike out, “which consists of the Senate and Assembly”, remainder stands as written.

SEC. 1.5. Stands as written.

SEC. 2. Strike out All, (a)(1), Replace with:

(a)(1) Starting in the year 2022, noon on the first Monday in December following the 2020 national census, the first seating of the Unicameral Legislature consisting of 250 Members shall convene having a membership in ratio with the population of the State of California of one Legislator to a population of 160,000 (plus or minus 5% each District) as drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. These maps are to be in effect through the 2024 Legislative elections to elect the remaining body of the Legislature to make the final ratio for the remaining 2020 decade to be one Legislator to a population of 80,000 (plus or minus 5% each District) and being no more than 100,000 in succeeding elections

(b) Existing members of the Assembly and the Senate will Legislate for the District in which they reside unless their term is up with the 2022 or 2024 elections.

(c) Each decade after the 2020 national census, the Legislature shall be reallocated by the national census as drawn up by the Citizens Redistricting Commission to no less than 80,000 nor no more than 100,000 constituents per Legislator with favor to the LESS. There shall be a leeway of no more or no less to each enumeration per District of 5% and each District must be as equal in number to all other Districts as possible.

(d) Any disputes over jurisdiction of a District by a Legislator shall be settled by the Senate with a two-thirds vote until the taking of office of the Unicameral Legislature in 2022, thereafter any jurisdictional disputes shall be settled by the Unicameral Non-Partisan Legislature with a two-thirds vote.

(e) Upon the convening of the first Unicameral Legislature at 12:00 noon, December 5, 2022 the Assembly and the Senate shall cease to exist as the legislative bodies for the State of California.

(2) Replace All with: The Members of the Legislature shall be elected to 4 year terms. 250 to begin every even numbered 2 years starting in 2022. Balance of Legislature to be elected starting in 2024. Elections to be held every even numbered 2 years following.

(3) Strike out, "s" in terms, "Senator or a Member of the Assembly". Replace with: "Legislator"

(4) Strike out All. Replace with: (a) During her or his lifetime a person may serve no more than 12 years in the Legislature. In the transition from a Bicameral to a Unicameral Legislature, any previously elected legislator who may have their term of 12 years shortened due to the transition, may be allowed a one-time extension of no more than 2 years.

(b) Sentence 1, Strike out, "Assembly". Replace with: "Legislature". Strike out All of Sentence 2.

(c) Stands as written.

(d) Stands as written.

SEC. 3. (a) Sentence 1, Strike out, "each house".

(b) Stands as written.

(3) Stands as written.

(A) Stands as written.

(B) Stands as written.

(C) Stands as written.

(4) Strike out, "of the Members of the Senate, the Members of the Assembly, or the Members of both houses".

(5) Sentence 1, Strike out, "of each house".

(d) Strike out All. Replace with: "The Legislature may not recess for more than 10 days or to any other place without a two-thirds-majority vote."

SEC. 4.

(a) Stands as written.

(b) Sentence 1, Strike out, "of each house".

Sentence 2, Strike out, "house of which he or she is a member". Replace with: "Legislature".

(c) Stands as written.

SEC. 4.5. Stands as written.

SEC. 5.

(a)(1) Strike out, "Each house of".

(2)(A) Strike out, Sentence 1 "Each house". Sentence 3, Strike, "house". Replace with: "Legislature".

(B) Stands as written.

(C) Strike out, "house". Replace with: "Legislature".

(b) Stands as written.

(c) Stands as written.

(d) Stands as written.

(e) Stands as written.

(f) Stands as written.

SEC. 6. (a). Strick out All. Replace with:

(a) For the purpose of choosing members of the Legislature, the State shall be divided into Legislative Districts. Starting after the 2020 census and growing or declining with each decennial census, each Legislative District shall be comprised of a Ratio of Legislator to Constituent of no less than 80,000 citizens and to cap at no more than 100,000 citizens per Legislator (plus or minus 5% per District) in perpetuity.

(b) The California Redistricting Commission shall redraw the Legislative Districts after each decennial census as per Article XXI, Section 2, (6), (g), (1).

(c) After the 2020 census and before the 2021 deadline, The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall draw the Legislative Districts into one (1) Legislative District for each population of 160,000 citizens for the 2022 election. The Districts shall then be divided in Half for the 2024 election cycle. In the year 2022 the election shall be for each District of 160,000 population. In the year 2024, the election shall be for the remaining seats for a population of each District to be no less than 80,000, plus or minus 5%.

(d) The Residence location of the Legislator elected in 2022 or of a current Assembly or Senate duly elected Legislator already in office whose term will not expire in 2022, shall determine which Half he or she shall Legislate. If there is concern regarding geographic integrity, The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall be re-commissioned to redraw the District as integral to each Legislator as possible, observing geographical integrity. Those Districts shall stand until the next decennial census and thereafter all Districts shall be determined by populations of no less than 80,000 and no more than 100,000 plus or minus 5% for each District and all candidates shall live in their District.

(e) It is impossible to adhere to the goal of perfect population numbers when considering geographic areas and population centers, therefore the Citizens Redistricting Commission shall have the flexibility to INCREASE or DECREASE the numbers of the population included in a District by no more than 5% to meet the statutes of Article XXI and still maintain fair Unicameral Non-Partisan Representation for the citizenry. Those Districts will stand until the next decennial census and thereafter all Districts shall be determined by no less than populations of 80,000 and no more than 100,000 with the favor going to the Less and plus or minus 5%.

SEC. 7.

- (a) Strike out, "Each house". Replace with: "The Legislature".
- (b) Strike out, "Each house". Replace with: "The Legislature".
- (c) (1) Sentence 1, Strike out, "each house". Replace with: "the Legislature".

SEC. 7.5. Stands as written.

SEC. 8.

- (a) Strike out, "each". Replace with: "the".
- (b) Strike out, "each". Replace with: "the".
- (2) Stands as written.
- (3) Strike out, "each". Replace with: "the".
- (c) (1) Stands as written.
- (2) Stands as written.

SEC. 8.5. Stands as written, except for:

(c) Sentence 1, Strike out, "by the house of origin". Sentence 2, Strike out, "either house".
Replace with, "the Legislature".

SEC. 9. Stands as written.

SEC. 10. (a), Sentence 3, Strike out, "of origin". Sentence 4, Strike out, "each". Replace with:
"the".

(b)(1), Sentence 1, Strike out, "a joint".

(2), (3), and (4), Stand as written.

SEC. 11. Strike out, "or either house".

SEC. 12. All Stands as written. Except:

(2), Strikeout, "each house". Replace with: "the Legislature".

(d) Sentence 2 Strike out, "each house". Replace with: "the Legislature".

(e)(1) Sentence 1, Strike out, "each house". Replace with: "the Legislature".

SEC. 12.5. Stands as written.

SEC. 13. Stands as written.

SEC. 14. Stands as written.

SEC. 15. Stands as written.

SEC. 16. Stands as written

SEC 17. Stands as written.

SEC. 18. (a), Sentence 1, Strike out, "Assembly". Replace with: "Legislature".

Sentence 2, Strike out, "Senate". Replace with: "Legislature".

Sentence 3, Strike out, "Senate". Replace with: "Legislature".

(b) Stands as written.

SEC. 19. Stands as written.

SEC. 20. (a) Stands as written.

(b), Sentence 1, Strike out, "Senate". Replace with: "Legislature". Sentence 4, Strike out, "each". Replace with: "the".

SEC. 21. Stands as written. Except for: (a), Strike out, "either house". Replace with: "the Legislature".

SEC. 22. Sentence 2, Strike out, "Senate". Replace with: "Legislature".

Strike out, "Assembly". Replace with: "Legislature".

Strike out, "each". Replace with: "the".

No Sections 23 through 27.

SEC. 28. Stands as written. Except for: (a) Last sentence, add the word "formally" before the word "Senate".

PROPOSED REVISIONS CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, ARTICLE XXI

These revisions are to make the word change(s) from a bicameral to a unicameral legislature, and to implement the changes in Districts by the CRC.

SEC. 1. Strike out, "Senatorial, Assembly". Replace with: "Legislature".

SEC. 2. Stands as written to:

(6)

(d) Strike out, "Senate, Assembly". Replace with: "Legislature".

(1) Strike out, "Senatorial, Assembly". Replace with: "Legislature".

Reword (g)

(g) By August 15 in 2021, and in each year ending in the number one thereafter, the commission shall approve threefinal maps that separately set forth the district boundary lines for the Congressional, Legislative, and State Board of Equalization districts. Upon approval, the commission shall certify the threefinal maps to the Secretary of State.

(1) The onefinal map for the Legislature shall meet the requirements of Article IV Section 6 (c) (d) (e)

(h) Strikeout, "fourfinal". Replace with: "threefinal".

SEC. 3. Stands as written.

**PROPOSED CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO MAKE THE LEGISLATURE
UNICAMERAL AND ADD TO THE MEMBERSHIP THEREOF,**

Submitted by:

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Signed: _____

Sharon Durst

Dated: _____

August 19, 2019