

Gerrymandered duo

The term “gerrymander” refers to Elbridge Gerry, signer of the Declaration of Independence and fifth vice-president of the United States. As Massachusetts governor, he signed an 1812 law with squiggly senate boundaries that looked like a salamander--thus the term “gerrymander.”

For 206 years, that term has meant political boundaries drawn to favor one party. In America, Republicans and Democrats both do it. In 2018, legislators backed issues Y and Z 100-to-ZERO. (Senator Lundberg just “switched” and now opposes Y&Z.) Democrats tricked gullible Republicans into hoping the next plan is fair. Hah. It is the same scam we have endured since 1876, but with new promises, like Charlie Brown’s annual football pratfall.

Y&Z are on the November ballot, though redistricting won’t occur until 2021, after the next federal census. Why? If Democrats can’t con both the GOP and voters this year, they want a second chance in 2020.

“Y” rigs congressional seats, and “Z” rigs state legislative districts. Each is much longer than current state constitutional law. Today’s texts totals 1313 words. Their “new and improved” language is **12,390 words**. You read that right--almost TEN TIMES longer than current law. It increases our 71,000-word state constitution by 16% (one sixth). It is cynically pushed by those who fooled us in 2016 to cripple our right to petition by saying the state constitution was already too long (!)

Y&Z offer a stacked commission of 12 members—four Dem, four GOP, and four unaffiliated. It flatly bans civic involvement by minor party members; why?

Y&Z schemers turn over selection of unaffiliated commissioners to a panel of retired state judges. Rather than a random drawing of applicants, judges will pick whom they want. Why? Democrat governors have named judges 36 of the last 44 years; one GOP governor had eight years. The pool of judges for this task is highly liberal. Liberals will pick liberals; big surprise.

Instead of ignoring party registration, the commission will create districts they call “competitive,” a word left undefined. They will bunch “the enemy” together, then fill other districts with just enough Dems to win--the heart of gerrymandering.

Why does this matter? One party can pass and reject laws for partisan goals, and to hell with the will of the voters. It is unAmerican and undemocratic. Instead of citizens picking their leaders, the leaders pick their citizens.

To solidify political power, Y&Z use another term—“communities of interest.” That slogan lets improper considerations of race, ethnicity, sex, and other factors

override neutral principles. What party uses identity politics? Ask Hillary.

Districts should 1) have equal populations, 2) have areas as compact as possible (to avoid those salamanders), and 3) minimize splitting county and city boundaries. Maps created to protect “communities of interest” (of interest to whom?) will be approved by the supreme court, already 6-to-1 Democrat.

Commission members are stooges because legislative staff draws the maps. Staff, called non-partisan because not elected, is chosen by partisan legislators. Politicians still decide who decides.

In case you need another smoking gun of bias, the campaign committee to pass this scam has raised \$5+ MILLION so far, with no opposition. Did you wonder why the media blitz began in August? Radio, TV, and brochure ads tell us Y & Z “end” gerrymandering. Josef Goebbels, Adolf Hitler’s minister of propaganda, called that the Big Lie technique. Lie long enough and loud enough, and people will believe it.

Who is really backing Y&Z? Remember the Gang of Four, multi-millionaires who hijacked the state legislature for Democrats 14 years ago? Members included Jared Polis, now running for governor, and Patricia Stryker, a billionaire heiress. Stryker gave ONE MILLION to the campaign for Y&Z. Why? She still yearns to rig electoral districts to favor Democrats.

Who else donated? A second billionaire, Kent Thiry, also gave A MILLION. A third, former New York mayor Bloomberg, gave \$500,000. The Colorado Economic Leadership Fund (who?) gave \$300,000. MDC Holdings (who?) gave \$100,000. Education Reform Advocacy gave \$10,000, Fund for Children and Public Education gave \$5,000, the NEA gave \$200,000, and the CEA (CO teachers’ unions) gave \$5,000. Do the last four sound like Democratic Party/union backers? They are not grassroots citizens or naive idealists, but back room liberal schemers.

Action Now in TEXAS gave \$262,000 and Amalgamated Bank in NEW YORK gave \$50,000; why?

Your “NO” vote will not prevent “reform.” The legislature can draft two FAIR ballot issues in 2020, ahead of 2021 redistricting. “When in doubt, vote NO.”

Be suspicious of love fests ALL politicians support. This game has lasted OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS. Republicans are plain gullible. Did Democrats really get religion and decide to play fair? If you think so, they have a bridge to sell you.

Who is urging change in the corrupt system run by politicians? The politicians!

VOTE NO on Y&Z. For a complete analysis, visit 13issues.com.