

California's Bicameral Legislature

When California became a state in 1850 the framers of the state's Constitution established a bicameral legislature by creating a lower house to represent the people and an upper house to represent the counties. The framers did this to prevent one political party from dominating the political landscape.

They understood that with a functional legislature the people in the urban counties could not pursue an agenda that benefitted themselves at the expense of the rural counties. A bicameral legislature created an important safeguard against a tyranny of the majority.

In 1964-65 as a result of the Supreme Court decision in Reynolds vs Sims California turned their bicameral legislature into a unicameral legislature with both houses representing the people and no house (the senate) representing the 58 counties in the state.

With this change, California created an opportunity for one political party to completely control the legislative branch of government. With the checks and balances it was impossible for the tyranny of the majority.

2018 SENATE DISTRICTS

County names in CAPITALS indicates the county is entirely within the district.

DISTRICT 1 ALPINE, EL DORADO, LASSEN, MODOC,
NEVADA, Placer, PLUMAS, Sacramento, SHASTA, SIERRA,
SISKIYOU

DISTRICT 2 DEL NORTE, HUMBOLDT, LAKE, MARIN,
MENDOCINO, Sonoma, TRINITY

DISTRICT 3 Contra Costa, NAPA, Sacramento, SOLANO,
Sonoma, Yolo

DISTRICT 4 BUTTE, COLUSA, GLENN, Placer, Sacramento,
SUTTER, TEHAMA, YUBA

DISTRICT 5 Sacramento, SAN JOAQUIN, Stanislaus

DISTRICT 6 Sacramento, Yolo

DISTRICT 7 Alameda, Contra Costa

DISTRICT 8 AMADOR, CALAVERAS, Fresno, INYO,
Madera, MARIPOSA, MONO, Sacramento, Stanislaus, Tulare,
TUOLUMNE

DISTRICT 9 Alameda, Contra Costa

DISTRICT 10 Alameda, Santa Clara

DISTRICT 11 SAN FRANCISCO, San Mateo

DISTRICT 12 Fresno, Madera, MERCED, Monterey, SAN
BENITO, Stanislaus

DISTRICT 13 San Mateo, Santa Clara

DISTRICT 14 Fresno, Kern, KINGS, Tulare

DISTRICT 15 Santa Clara

DISTRICT 16 Kern, San Bernardino, Tulare

DISTRICT 17 Monterey, SAN LUIS OBISPO, Santa Clara,
SANTA CRUZ

DISTRICT 18 Los Angeles

DISTRICT 19 SANTA BARBARA, Ventura

DISTRICT 20 Los Angeles, San Bernardino

DISTRICT 21 Los Angeles, San Bernardino

DISTRICT 22 Los Angeles

DISTRICT 23 Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino

DISTRICT 24 Los Angeles

DISTRICT 25 Los Angeles, San Bernardino

DISTRICT 26 Los Angeles

DISTRICT 27 Los Angeles, Ventura

DISTRICT 28 Riverside

DISTRICT 29 Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino

DISTRICT 30 Los Angeles

DISTRICT 31 Riverside

DISTRICT 32 Los Angeles, Orange

DISTRICT 33 Los Angeles

DISTRICT 34 Los Angeles, Orange

DISTRICT 35 Los Angeles

DISTRICT 36 Orange, San Diego

DISTRICT 37 Orange

DISTRICT 38 San Diego

DISTRICT 39 San Diego

DISTRICT 40 IMPERIAL, San Diego



NEW CALIFORNIA
