Honorable Rob Bonta Attorney General of California 1300 I Street, 17th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Anabel Renteria, Initiative Coordinator

Re: Request for Title and Summary for Proposed Initiative Constitutional Amendment

Dear Mr. Bonta:

Pursuant to Article II, Section 10(d) of the California Constitution, I hereby submit the attached proposed Initiative Constitutional Amendment to your office and request preparation of a circulating title and summary of the chief points and purposes of the measure as provided by law.

Included with this submission are the proponent affidavit signed by the proponent of this measure as required by Sections 9001 and 9608 of the California Elections Code, along with a check for \$2,000.

All inquiries or correspondence relative to this initiative should be directed to Bradley W. Hertz, Esq. at <u>brad@bradleyhertzlaw.com</u> or (818) 593-2949.

Sincerely,

James V. Lacy

Enclosures

This amendment expressly amends Article XXI, Section 4 of the California Constitution. (New provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic* type, and current provisions proposed to be deleted are printed in strikethrough type.)

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XXI

First—This measure shall be known, and may be cited, as "The Fair, Independent, and Nonpartisan Redistricting Act of 2026."

Second—The people of the State of California find and declare all of the following:

- (a) California has long stood as a national leader for fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting.
- (b) In 2008, California's voters codified these principles by adopting the Voters FIRST Act (Proposition 11), which took the responsibility for redistricting away from the Legislature and Governor and entrusted it to a newly established California Citizens Redistricting Commission (the "Commission").
- (c) The Voters FIRST Act authorized the Commission to create district maps for statewide offices, and in 2010, the Congressional Voters FIRST Act (Proposition 20) authorized the Commission to create Congressional district maps.
- (d) The California State Legislature and Governor presented the voters of California with Proposition 50 at a November 4, 2025 special election, and the voters adopted the measure.
- (e) Proposition 50 created temporary congressional district maps drafted by the State Legislature and not enacted by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.
- (f) It is the intent of the people that the maps approved in Proposition 50 apply only to the 2026 Congressional elections and that the 2028 and 2030 Congressional elections be conducted pursuant to the principles of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting as embodied in the districts established by the Citizens Redistricting Commission in 2021.

Third—Section 4 of Article XXI shall be amended to read:

- SEC. 4. (a) It is the policy of the State of California to support the use of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide. The people of the State of California call on the Congress of the United States to pass federal legislation and propose an amendment of the United States Constitution to require the use of fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide.
- (b) In response to the congressional redistricting in Texas in 2025, and nNotwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or existing law, the single-member districts for Congress

reflected in Assembly Bill 604 of the 2025–26 Regular Session pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 21400) of Division 21 of the Elections Code as embodied in Proposition 50 (2025) shall temporarily be used for every congressional election for a term of office commencing on or after the date this subdivision becomes operative and before the certification of new congressional boundary lines drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission pursuant to subdivision (d). the 2026 Congressional elections. The districts established by the Citizens Redistricting Commission in 2021 shall be used for the 2028 and 2030 Congressional elections.

- (c) (1) The *California* Attorney General has the sole legal standing to defend any action regarding a congressional district map adopted pursuant to subdivision (b).
- (2) The California Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in all proceedings in which a congressional district map adopted pursuant to subdivision (b) is challenged.
- (d) The Citizens Redistricting Commission established pursuant to Section 1 shall continue to adjust the boundary lines of the congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts in conformance with the standards and process set forth in Section 2 in 2031, and every 10 years thereafter as provided in Section 1.

Fourth—The provisions of this measure are severable. If any portion, section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, sentence, phrase, word, or application of this measure is for any reason held to be invalid by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, that decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this measure. The Proponent hereby declares that he would have proposed, and the voters hereby declare that they would have adopted, this measure and every portion, section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, sentence, phrase, word, and application not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of this measure or application of this measure would be subsequently declared invalid.