

Aug 20, 2025 - Politics & Policy

Exclusive: Newsom pollster sees big support for California redistricting



Alex Thompson

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California Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks about his "Election Rigging Response Act" last week in Los Angeles. Photo: Mario Tama/Getty Images

Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#)'s bid to redraw California's congressional seats to create more Democrat-friendly districts has a 22-point advantage in support among the state's voters, Newsom's longtime pollster writes in an internal memo obtained by Axios.

Why it matters: California's vote this November on what's known as

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The battle over Proposition 50, explained



In his defense of Prop. 50, Gov. Gavin Newsom has said California must "fight fire with fire" in the nationwide redistricting arms race. Photo: Mario Tama/Getty Images

California voters began receiving ballots in their mailboxes this week for a Nov. 4 special election that could reshape the balance of power in Congress.

Why it matters: This vote could ripple into the [2026 midterms](#) — and even the 2028 presidential race.

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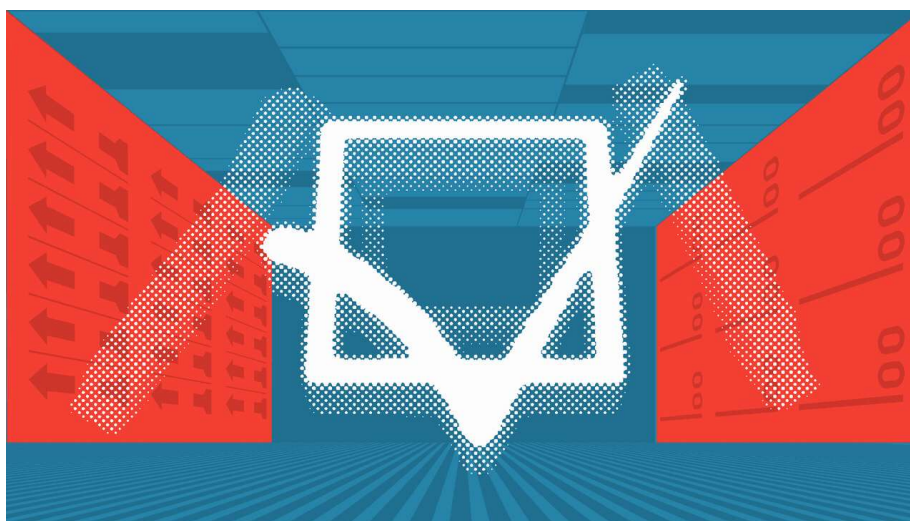


Illustration: Brendan Lynch/Axios

California Gov. Gavin Newsom says the state will advance a plan to [draw new congressional maps](#) — a move he claims will "end the Trump presidency" and flip the U.S. House to Democrats.

Why it matters: Newsom's gambit escalates a [red-versus-blue-state standoff](#) ahead of the 2026 midterms — a fight that could decide control of Congress.

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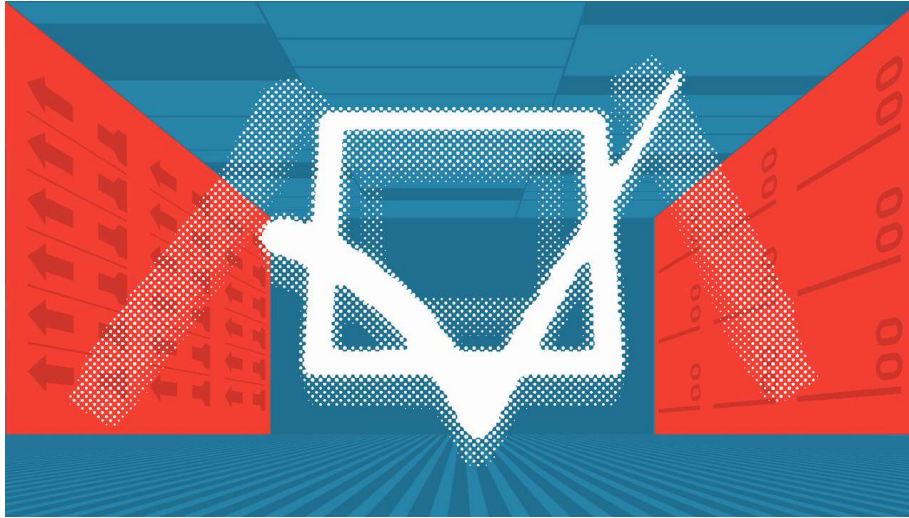


Illustration: Brendan Lynch/Axios

After last week outlining a plan to ask voters to [approve new congressional maps](#) across California this year, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday his plan would be triggered only if Texas executes its own redistricting effort first.

Why it matters: Newsom's gambit is part of an [escalating showdown between blue and red states](#) ahead of the 2026 midterm that could determine control of Congress.

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