

CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS

Newsom launches redistricting effort



Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks about California redistricting plans at a news conference at the Japanese American Museum's National Center for the Preservation of Democracy on Thursday in Los Angeles. MARIO TAMA — GETTY IMAGES

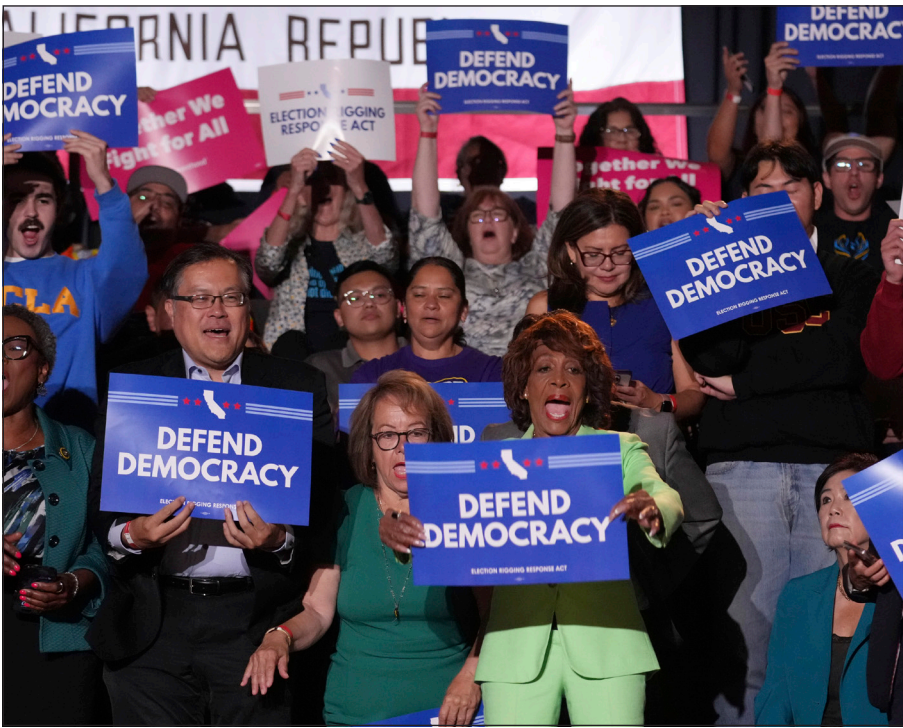
Maps would favor House Dems in response to GOP 'rigging'

By Linh Tat and Kaitlyn Schallhorn  
STAFF WRITERS

Gov. Gavin Newsom officially launched his campaign to redraw California's congressional districts — meant to favor Democrats in the state as a counter to similar, Republican-led efforts elsewhere in the country — with a rally that focused heavily on immigration and health care, besides the notion of preserving democracy.

Newsom, who was joined by more than a dozen of California's Democratic leaders at the Japanese American Museum's National Center for the Preservation of Democracy in downtown Los Angeles on Thursday, said California voters would be tasked with approving new congressional maps

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Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Hawthorne, center, yells with others before the news conference with Newsom. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Could redistricting cost Republican Rep. Calvert reelection?

By Jeff Horseman  
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“Hit Me With Your Best Shot” is a 1980s classic and an apt theme song for Ken Calvert's political career.

For 30 years, the Corona Republican has consistently won reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives despite Democrats' best efforts — and millions of dollars spent — to unseat him.

But redrawn congressional districts expected to be unveiled in the coming days might pose Calvert's biggest challenge yet.

The maps, offered by California Democrats in response to Texas' redistricting efforts to give the GOP more House seats, are expected to put Calvert in a bluer district, worsening his 2026 reelection odds when Democrats have a decent — if not strong — chance of winning control of Congress.

Not surprisingly, Calvert, the Inland Empire's longest-serving Congress member, isn't a fan of the new maps, blasting them as a partisan power grab that erases the 2021 work of an independent redistricting commission approved by voters.



Calvert

“I think once people understand ... what's being orchestrated behind closed doors in Sacramento to take power away from the people and replace it with gerrymandered maps that would benefit (Democrats) and their political allies, I don't think the voters in California are going to go along with it,” Calvert said Thursday.

California Democrats, who hold a legislative supermajority, all statewide elected offices and most of the Golden State's House seats, are seeking a November special election asking voters to sign off on the new maps.

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EATON BLAZE

SCE may sue agencies that could share liability for wildfire damage

By Tony Saavedra  
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Southern California Edison is considering suing nine public agencies the utility believes may be responsible for some of the damage caused by the monstrous Eaton fire that leveled much of

Altadena.

While investigations are ongoing by SCE and the state into the cause of the January blaze, Edison notified the nine agencies that it may file cross-complaints against them in court. Edison is being sued by dozens of victims claiming electrical equipment

triggered the fire that destroyed more than 9,000 structures and killed 19 people.

SCE spokesman David Eisenhauer said the company is attempting to preserve its legal options by declaring it might sue

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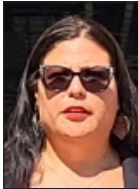
A Long Beach firefighter uses water from a pumper truck on Santa Rosa Avenue in Altadena to stop a fire from going to a neighboring house Jan. 8 during the Eaton fire. SARAH REINGEWITZ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SAN BERNARDINO

Panel backs police chief accused of blackmail

Councilmember says officer attempted to silence her by sharing information with others

By Beau Yarbrough  
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A day after one of their own publicly accused the city's police chief of attempting to blackmail her into silence, the rest of the San Bernardino City Council is standing firm behind him.

“The city of San Bernardino rejects Councilmember Treasure Ortiz's recent allegation against Police Chief Darren Goodman,” Mayor Helen Tran said Wednesday after the council — minus Ortiz — spent 1 hour and 40 minutes behind closed doors in a special meeting. “These statements are false, inflammatory and without evidence. The mayor and council unanimously stand firm with our Police Department.”

On March 25, Ortiz filed a \$2 million legal claim, the first step in a process that can lead to a lawsuit. She alleged a former San Bernardino police officer had looked her up in a law enforcement database known as California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System in an attempt to find information to discredit her during a previous run for council. The San Bernardino City Council denied her claim in May, calling it an attempted “swindle” and warned that Ortiz might have committed perjury.

Ortiz had recused herself from Wednesday's meeting, which was called to discuss her legal case, on the advice of City Attorney Sonia R. Carvalho.

“The CLETS access in question was lawful and compliant with (California Department of Justice) policy,” Tran's statement after the meeting concluded. “We will defend against frivolous claims

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Transit agency delays key vote on funding for A Line extension

Committee expects to take up issues on project design costs next month

By Madison Hart  
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San Bernardino County transit officials have delayed a decision on whether to fund a proposed extension of the A Line light-rail line to Montclair.

The project would bring the county its first light-rail line, carrying riders to and from Los Angeles County. But at a meeting Thursday morning, the transit committee of the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority voted unanimously to delay a planned vote to commit funding that would extend the A Line from Pomona to Montclair.

The SBCTA committee expects to take up the funding issue in September.

Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority is requesting \$15.2 million for project design, but SBCTA officials expressed concern over other costs associated with the A Line work.

“My city has been heavily impacted by this,” SBCTA Chairperson and Montclair Mayor John

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