

# California State Senate

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September 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 849 (Bonta)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of AB 849, which revises and recasts local redistricting criteria and procedures required for cities and counties, including the imposition of prescriptive criteria, notice, hearing and public participation mandates. It also prohibits incarcerated individuals from being counted in the surrounding jurisdiction's population.

Under the current redistricting process, local elected officials are responsible for redrawing electoral districts after each census. These officials have a deep understanding of their local communities, putting them in a good position to understand how drawing district lines will affect their constituents. Moreover, the Legislature recently allowed local governments to adopt redistricting commissions on their own to provide greater independence and to minimize any concerns that local officials might draw districts to benefit themselves. In authorizing these commissions, the Legislature provided local governments the flexibility to structure and operate these commissions in the manner that best reflects local priorities and values.

This measure goes in the opposite direction and foists from on high a one-size-fits-all, prescriptive, onerous and expensive local redistricting process. In doing so, it tosses aside all local control over the redistricting process.

Additionally, the plethora of prescriptive mandates in the bill requires a new investment of financial and human resources to be ultimately paid for by local taxpayers. Given the likelihood of no state reimbursement, this will mean even less local taxpayer money available to provide vital services, including police, fire, road, infrastructure and education.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Grove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'G'.

Shannon Grove  
Senate Republican Leader