

For Immediate Release

***Princeton Gerrymandering Project and the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Bring Commissioner Speakers Corps Project Online
to Educate on Redistricting Process***

March 11, 2021 – The archives of the *Commissioner Speakers Corps Project* (CSCP), an initiative of the 2010 California Citizens Redistricting Commission, will soon be available online, due to its collaboration with the Princeton Gerrymandering Project. These records represent an important step in the preservation and historical understanding of the American redistricting process, and a step-by-step record of groundbreaking civic reform in the Golden State.

The CSCP was an outreach mission by members of the inaugural California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC). Over the course of two-and-a-half years, volunteers from the Commission traveled as [multi-partisan teams to a dozen states](#). Between January 2018 and February 2020, these volunteers toured the country, giving talks to advocates, providing legislative testimony, and educating business and civic leaders and the public on the topic of redistricting. This work has continued virtually since the pandemic.

Since 2010, every note and gathering of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission has been documented and recorded to comply with California open meetings laws. The 2010 CCRC has now passed all of their Commissioner Speakers Corps Project files to the Princeton Gerrymandering Project, and is working with the project to curate and present the data for use during the 2021 redistricting cycle.

The establishment of the new CSCP collection is due to a generous grant from the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. In 2017 the Ash Center selected the CRC as the winner of its prestigious Roy and Lila Ash Innovation Award for Public Engagement in Government for its work making government more representative, as well as its successful efforts to expand public participation and increase citizen involvement in government. As winner of the award, the 2010 CRC received a \$100,000 grant to help advance efforts to replicate and disseminate the important work of the Commission. The Ash Center's mission is to advance public discussion and public policy research on key issues of democratic governance worldwide, as well as recognize and promote innovations in government that are improving the lives of citizens.

According to its mission, the CSCP was designed to explain to the public that ordinary citizens can, and should, manage the redistricting process. Through the elimination of backroom agreements and self-dealing, voters can reassert their full right to select their own representatives. The curated version of these records will be useful for citizens, commissioners, and activists—whether it's as a model for creating an open redistricting mechanism, passing a new commission law, or successfully implementing an existing one.

“We are pleased to host and curate these documents. We believe the record of the Commissioner Speakers Corps Project will serve as a blueprint for redistricting reformers,” said Jason Rhode, national coordinator of the Princeton Gerrymandering Project. “This collection is especially relevant in the redistricting year of 2021, as the nation considers Congress’ For the People Act, which has passed the House and awaits consideration in the Senate.” If passed, the Act would require independent redistricting commissions nationwide.

“The Ash Center is pleased to see that this important collection will have a new home at Princeton, and that scholars, advocates, and public officials will be able to access the records of the Commissioner Speakers Corps Project,” said Tim Glynn-Burke, the executive director of programs at the Ash Center. “As states begin the process of redrawing legislative district boundaries this year, the work of the CRC should serve as an important example of how citizens can and should be involved in the redistricting process.”

The [Princeton Gerrymandering Project](#) provides cutting-edge data and research tools for partner organizations working nationwide, including state organizations, non-profit groups, and electoral commissions. Our work is focused on data analytics (dashboards and report cards), the intersection of data (OpenPrecincts) and citizen input (Representable.org), instant scoring of draft plans, helping generate and support local redistricting expertise, mitigating the effect of Census undercounts and optimizing electoral reforms. PGP bridges the gap between mathematics and the law to achieve fair representation through redistricting reform.

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