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66% SUPPORT ASHBURN REDISTRICTING REFORM PROPOSAL

California Political Desk
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Roy Ashburn

SACRAMENTO – Senator Roy Ashburn (R-Bakersfield) today joined three public policy groups and legislative co-authors in announcing a

recent poll on Senate Constitutional Amendment 3. Flanked by the measure’s Joint Author Senator Alan Lowenthal (D- Long Beach), and representatives from Common Cause, The Rose Institute, and the League of Women Voters Ashburn shared upbeat news on his ambitious effort to change the way legislative boundaries are drawn in California.

The poll by Lake Research shows that 66% of California voters prefer having redistricting conducted by an independent commission instead of the state legislature. The poll of 800 registered voters was taken April 18-23 and has a margin of error of 3.5%.

Support for the concept of an independent commission crossed all partisan lines and regional demographics. Even opponents of the most recent redistricting measure, Proposition 77 on the November 2005 special election, support an independent commission by 53%.

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The full poll results are available at
<http://www.commoncause.org/california>

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“The present system has created a situation where instead of voters choosing their representatives, state legislators are choosing their voters, making competitive elections very rare,” said Senator Ashburn. “If we are to break the political gridlock in Sacramento, it must begin with redistricting reform. I am glad to see that the voters of California are in

agreement.”

SCA 3 is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Roy Ashburn represents the residents of the 18th Senate District, which includes Kern, Tulare, Inyo and San Bernardino Counties. The republican legislator, who was first elected to the Legislature's upper house in 2002, is currently serving his first four-year term. Ashburn brings a wealth of experience to the Capitol having previously worked as a State Assemblyman for six years and a Kern County Supervisor for 12 years.

Senator Ashburn currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Defense and Aerospace Industry. Ashburn, whose district includes a large number of military installations from Edwards Air Force Base to the China Lake Naval Weapons Center, is leading the fight to protect local communities against the devastating effects of base closures. Ashburn also serves as Vice Chair of Public Employees and Retirement, a key committee this year as Governor Schwarzenegger makes pension reform a key priority for his Administration. Additionally, Ashburn presides over the Rules, Appropriations, Government Modernization, Efficiency & Accountability, and Transportation & Housing committees.