

Thursday December 12

Legislative Options for Redistricting Post-Conference

12 – 5 pm



Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto, New Mexico

Daniel Ivey-Soto was first elected to the New Mexico State Senate in 2013. He is a former State Elections Director, prosecutor and teacher. Senator Ivey-Soto serves as vice-chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is a member of the Senate Rules Committee. Outside of the legislature, he has started and grown two small businesses. In 2000, Senator Ivey-Soto was general counsel to his state political party when New Mexico’s electoral votes were decided by a 237-statewide vote margin. He is also a member of the NCSL Redistricting and Elections Standing Committee.



Aleks Kajstura, Prison Policy Initiative

Aleks Kajstura has worked with the Prison Policy Initiative in various capacities since 2003 and has been the legal director since 2009. Kajstura played a central role in building the Prison Policy Initiative’s campaign against prison gerrymandering, including her publication, “Prison Gerrymandering in Massachusetts: How the Census Bureau prison miscount invites phantom constituents to town meeting.” She has also led the organization’s work on its second major issue, sentencing enhancement zones, authoring “The Geography of Punishment: How Huge Sentencing Enhancement Zones Harm Communities, Fail to Protect Children and Reaching too far: How Connecticut’s large sentencing enhancement zones miss the mark.” She earned her law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.



Bob Heath, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

Bob Heath is an attorney in Austin, Texas where he practices complex governmental litigation and counseling, election law and voting rights, open government and ethics and many other areas of law. He has also written and presented extensively about the topic of electoral law. Heath earned his B.A. and law degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Previously, he served as the chair of the Opinion Committee in the Office of the Attorney General of Texas. He was also the former briefing attorney at the United States District Court, Western District of Texas.



Representative Tyler Vorpapel, Wisconsin

Representative Tyler Vorpapel was first elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 2014. Before running for office, he worked for Congressman Thomas Petri as a district director. He currently serves as the chair of the Committee on Federalism and Interstate Relations. He is also a member of several other committees including International Affairs and Commerce, State Affairs and Transportation. Representative Vorpapel earned his bachelor’s degree in public administration and political science from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay.



Jonathan Cervas

Jonathan Cervas is a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Irvine where he focuses on American politics, with a special emphasis on geographic constraints and spatial aspects of politics. He received a B.A. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2007. Cervas' publications include research on the Electoral College and on redistricting and gerrymandering. He has served as Assistant to the Special Master twice, preparing the Remedial maps in service to the U.S. District Court of Utah for the County Commission and School Board for San Juan County and for the US District

Court of Eastern Virginia.



Kathay Feng, Common Cause

Kathay Feng is the executive director of California Common Cause. She is also Common Cause's national redistricting director. She has led California Common Cause in championing elections and redistricting reforms, campaign finance reforms and the voting rights of traditionally disenfranchised communities. Feng has also led efforts to pass California laws instituting online voter registration and

same day registration to the state. She is a graduate of Cornell University and holds a law degree from UCLA School of Law. Feng has been an activist and civil rights attorney in California for more than 15 years.



Cynthia Dai, California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Cynthia Dai is a native Californian, second-generation Asian-American, and current commissioner on the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC). As an experienced entrepreneur and CEO of strategy firm Dainamic Consulting, Inc., Dai has advised growth organizations and social ventures for 20+ years and often serves as an interim executive of both early-stage and public ventures. She has an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science with honors from UC Berkeley. She has taught Leadership and Entrepreneurship courses at UC Berkeley's Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship and

Technology; launched the Tsinghua-Berkeley Global Technology Entrepreneurship Program in Beijing, China; and is a frequent guest speaker on social entrepreneurship at international conferences. She is active in the community as a volunteer and currently serves as a Board member of Santa Clara University's Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship.



Representative T.J. Shope, Arizona

T.J. Shope was first elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2013 and has served as Speaker Pro Tempore for two session. Before his time in the House, he was elected to the Coolidge Unified School District Governing in 2008. In his eight years on the board, he served as its vice-president and president. Outside of the legislature, Representative Shope co-owns his family business, Shope's IGA Supermarket. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Arizona State University.



Jeff Wice, New York Legislature

Jeff Wice has over 35 years of experience working in redistricting, voting rights and census law and serves as special counsel in the New York Assembly. Wice has been a contributor to the NCSL Redistricting Law Handbook for the 1990, 2000 and 2010 editions and is co-editor for the 2020 edition. During the 2000 census cycle, he served as counsel to President Clinton’s members of the U.S. Census Monitoring Board. He holds a B.A. from The George Washington University and a J.D. from the Antioch Law School. Wice is also a member of the District of Columbia Bar and had been admitted to practice in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia and the United States Supreme Court.



Rachel Weiss, Montana Legislative Services Division

Rachel Weiss is a research analyst with the Montana Legislative Services Division. She is responsible for staffing standing and interim committees, drafting legislation and amendments and assisting legislators with rule and policy questions in addition to research. Her issue areas include criminal justice and other law and justice-related topics, redistricting, elections and campaign finance, pensions and general state administration. Weiss graduated from Seattle University with a degree in International Studies/Politics and has a certificate in GIS from Carroll College in Helena.



Gary Bilotta, GIS Manager, Maricopa County Recorder Elections

Gary Bilotta has been the GIS Director for the Recorder and Elections Department in Maricopa County, Ariz. since 2006. In his role there, he manages the GIS team, develops and maintains the department’s custom GIS applications and oversees the development of the department’s spatial data. He received his bachelor’s degree in Geography from Northern Illinois University in 1999 with an emphasis in geographic information systems and has been working in the GIS field ever since. In January 2014, Bilotta received his GIS Professional Certification from the GIS Certification Institute.



Ben Williams, National Conference of State Legislatures

Ben Williams is a policy specialist in the NCSL Elections and Redistricting program. Along with the program director, he manages NCSL’s redistricting portfolio. Before coming to NCSL, Ben worked at Princeton University. He graduated from Tulane University with a double-major in International Relations and History and a minor in Latin American Studies. He has a J.D. from William & Mary Law School, where he was a member of the Election Law program and an editor of the *William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal*.