



REQUEST A SPEAKER:

TXRedistrictingSpeakers@gmail.com

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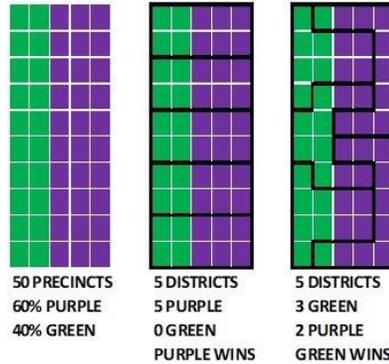
Why is this a problem?

Partisan Gerrymandering is the opposite of democracy. It is a system whereby elected officials choose their voters carefully in order to *guarantee* a particular partisan outcome. When it works properly, your vote in the general election literally does not matter.

You don't choose your representatives – your representatives choose you!

General Elections are determined not by your vote, but by how the maps have been drawn.

HOW TO STEAL AN ELECTION



What is Gerrymandering?

Drawing electoral district boundaries in order to engineer a particular outcome. *Partisan* Gerrymandering advantages a political party; *racial* Gerrymandering can either advantage or disadvantage a racial or ethnic group.

Why should I care?

A healthy democracy requires fair elections and faithful representation — partisan Gerrymandering destroys both. It creates a system where elections give only the *illusion* of choice and districts represent nothing but partisan power.

Partisan gerrymandering has entered a new era. Sophisticated software and powerful big-data analysis allow partisan mapmakers to engineer districts that produce predictable and *durable* results. When election outcomes are preordained, you are not free.

We will not restore our democracy to health until we, the people, regain control of our elections. We start that process by eliminating partisan gerrymandering once and for all.

Lone Star Gerrymandering

TX has a long history: both parties have engaged in partisan and racial gerrymandering.

Supreme Court ruling on TX Racial Gerrymandering in June 2018 was disappointing – only 1 district HD-90 was affirmed as a Racial Gerrymander. Map will not change until 2020.

TX Monster Maps reflect partisan power, not community interests.

How is it done?

Packing: concentrating opposition voters into a few districts as possible in order to limit the number of seats they can win.

Cracking: dividing opposition voters among many districts in order to dilute their voting power.

Highjacking: forcing two opposition party candidates into the same district.

Kidnapping: Putting an opposition candidate in an unfamiliar district without base support.

What is the answer?

States that have adopted **independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions** have more competitive elections, greatly reduced partisan and racial gerrymandering, and increased faith in the integrity of elections.

Isn't that what a robust democracy deserves?

What can I do?

- Learn more and join us!
- Talk it up with your friends, family, and neighbors.
- Tell your TX State Reps you oppose Gerrymandering.
- Make this a campaign issue.
- Demand an **Independent Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission!**



More to do!



- Vote in every election and for every seat on the ballot.
- Get friends and neighbors to vote.
- Vote for candidates that support redistricting reform.
- Write Letters to the Editor on gerrymandering.
- Stay informed!

SAVE TEXAS FROM MONSTER DISTRICTS!

END PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Interactive Redistricting Maps/Online Games

<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-maps/texas/#Compact>

<http://www.redistrictinggame.org/>

Basic Redistricting Information

<https://ballotpedia.org/Redistricting>

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-now/2017/07/06/a-primer-on-gerrymandering-and-political-polarization/?utm_campaign=Brookings+Brief&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=53969701

Redistricting Activity

[https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/redistrictingPartisan Gerrymandering/](https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/redistrictingPartisan%20Gerrymandering/)

Efficiency Gap

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legal-work/How_the_Efficiency_Gap_Standard_Works.pdf

State Redistricting Methods

<http://www.commoncause.org/issues/voting-and-elections/redistricting/redistricting-activist-guide.pdf>

Multi-Member Districts and Rank Choice Voting

http://inthesetimes.com/features/two_party_system_election_reform_proportional_representation.html

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3057/text>

Algorithms to End Gerrymandering

<https://priceconomics.com/algorithm-the-unfairness-of-gerrymandering/>

WANT TO GET ENGAGED?

Denton Vote Group

https://www.facebook.com/pg/DentonVoteGroup/about/?ref=page_internal

Independent TX Redistricting Email: TXRedistrictingSpeakers@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ITXRaction/?ref=bookmarks>

https://www.facebook.com/IndependentTXRedistricting/?ref=br_rs

FairMapsTexas.org

<https://www.fairmapstexas.org/>

Texans for Voter Choice.org

<https://www.texasvoterchoice.org/>



Engaging with your “Representatives” On Redistricting Reform

Know your state representatives! Know their positions.
Add them as contacts on your phone.
Call, email, write, and visit!

Effective Messaging:

- Lead with values (patriotism, democracy, engaging voters, restoring faith in democracy)
- Share personal stories (any impact of gerrymandering)
- Provide reasons why it matters (hyperpartisanship, gridlock, lack of debate & compromise)
- Offer that an Independent Redistricting Commission is the best solution (shrinks/eliminates partisan gerrymandering)

Questions to Ask (From League of Women Voters):

1. Do you support an independent nonpartisan redistricting commission to draw district maps? If not, why and what options for redistricting reform do you support?
2. How will you promote the development of district maps that are more transparent for voters? What opportunities will voters have to participate in the drawing of new district maps?
3. What role should elected officials have in drawing their own districts? Should there be disregard for political parties or incumbents?
4. How will you support district maps that comply with the federal Voting Rights Act?
5. How should computers and technology facilitate the creation of new maps, and how much information should be shared with voters?
6. How will you ensure that entire cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest are maintained in a single district?

http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/redistricting_action_kit_-_questions_for_elected_officials.pdf

Key Talking Points:

- Voters choose representatives. Representatives should not choose their voters.
- Gerrymandering is a form of election rigging.
- Favors incumbents and party over the will of the people.
- Partisan protected Incumbents favor party loyalty over the concerns of their constituents.
- Partisan Gerrymandering denies voters access to a representative democracy.
- Gerrymandering kills the value of the vote.
- Unfair Maps = Poor Representation.
- Gerrymandering is bad for business – extreme legislation causes businesses to leave.



Engaging with your “Representatives” On Redistricting Reform

Asks:

- Increase transparency and citizen engagement in the redistricting process.
- Ensure the Redistricting Committee meets regularly (not since 2013).
- Seriously consider Joint Resolutions on Redistricting Reform.
- Sponsor or co-sponsor bills to develop an Independent Redistricting Commission.
- Work to better engage citizens and increase voter turnout.
- Commit to sitting down with representatives from Fair Maps Texas and other groups promoting redistricting reform.

Independent Citizen-Led Redistricting Commission

- Citizens from both parties and independents – not politicians – designing maps!
- Commissioners should include major communities of interest including ethnic minorities
- No consideration of incumbent location
- No utilization of voting data
- Focus on Communities of Interest
- Standard and consistently applied rules to map development
- Keep maps compact
- Ensure development of Opportunity Districts
- Open and transparent process
- Hearings with citizens on proposed maps

BE COURTEOUS

so they listen

BE COURAGEOUS

so they appreciate your concern

BE RESILIENT

so they know that action is needed

**REMEMBER NEW MAPS WILL BE CREATED IN 2021.
*HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR DISTRICTS DRAWN***