

Gerrymandering - Redistricting

Current Policy

- Every 10 years, following the Census, states redraw political maps to reflect the change in population.
- Some states use a bipartisan or nonpartisan board to divide up political districts to try to make them fair to all, and some, like Texas, let the state legislature decide.
- If one party controls the state legislature, they shut their opponents out of the process and redraw the maps to suit themselves. Democrats as well as Republicans have done this.

How does this affect me?

- If you live in a gerrymandered district, your vote may not count.
- Political districts can be designed (gerrymandered), for example, so that Democrats or African Americans or Latinos in that district are so outnumbered by white conservatives that they could never win.
- If a politician has rigged a district so they can't be defeated in a primary, then voters have no power to vote them out of office.

How does this affect the country?

- When politicians rig the system so they don't have to worry about getting voted out of office, they have no incentive to pay attention to voters.
- That leads to career politicians who are listening to lobbyists and big money instead of voters.
- Gerrymandering is cheating. We can't fix our broken political system if some of us are cheated out of the most basic part of democracy—voting.

What Democrats favor

- Democrats want non-partisan redistricting in every state, so the voice of the people can be fairly heard and people can regain confidence in their government.
- If we're going to secure fair maps—and fair elections—for the next decade, Democrats need to win critical battles so they can have a voice in 2021 redistricting—and for the next 10 years.