

Gerrymandering - Redistricting

Current	Look at maps of Congressional Districts over the past three decades and you will see that areas have been dramatically expanded or shrunk or stretched. Every 10 years, following the decennial Census, states redraw political districts to reflect the change in population. Currently, many states are set up so that Republican candidates carry an unfair advantage in elections by choosing voters in districts in a way to block Democrats from winning. Texas Republicans enjoy four additional seats in Congress that they would not have if the districts were set up in a non-partisan manner. Texas could get as many as four more Congressional seats due to the 2020 Census, and that could favor Democrats if they can get a majority in the legislature, which draws Texas' maps.
How does this affect me?	Instead of a voter choosing your representative, the Republicans are choosing their voters. Gerrymandering is one more reason you want to be sure you vote in 2020. In 2021, your newly elected state representatives will be responsible for redistricting, as they are every 10 years. One of the reasons that Republicans have ruled politics for the last 30 years is that when they control state legislatures, they shut Democrats out of the process and redraw the maps to suit themselves. Those maps stay for 10 years, until the next Census, which locks the Republicans into power for 10 years.
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—and acting on behalf of—lobbyists and big money instead of voters.
What Democrats favor	Democrats favor legislation that would ensure non-partisan redistricting in every state, so the voice of the people can be fairly heard and people can regain confidence in their voice in the government. If we're going to secure fair maps—and fair elections—for the next decade, Democrats need to win critical battles before 2021 redistricting.

--	--