

Redistricting and Gerrymandering

What are redistricting and gerrymandering?

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the lines of voting districts. This happens every 10 years after the U.S. Census counts the population. The main goal is to make sure every district has the same number of people so that every person's vote has equal weight. The US Constitution stipulates that congressional representatives be apportioned to the states on the basis of population. US Supreme Court decisions have further defined how House districts must be as equal as possible and this stipulation has been strictly enforced.

Gerrymandering is the intentional manipulation of voting district boundaries based on partisanship or race to achieve an unfair advantage. This practice can distort electoral outcomes and undermine fair representation. Important aspects of gerrymandering include:

- Techniques:
 - Cracking: Splitting a group of voters across multiple districts to dilute their voting power.
 - Packing: Concentrating a group of voters into a few districts to minimize their influence elsewhere.
- Impact: Gerrymandering can lead to unrepresentative electoral outcomes, where a party can secure a majority of seats despite receiving a minority of votes

Why this matters

America's system of electoral redistricting has never been perfect for ensuring that maps are drawn to benefit voters, not politicians or parties.

Over the past year, conservatives have radically transformed the process. Last year, at President Donald Trump's urging, Texas, Missouri, and North Carolina pushed through pro-GOP congressional gerrymanders.

Since then, several Supreme Court rulings have given lawmakers freedom to redraw districts in order to maximize partisan advantage, including by targeting minority voters — destroying protections aimed at ensuring voters get fair maps. This is a disaster for elections. And the effects will stretch far beyond the partisan makeup of Congress after the November elections.

How urgent is the threat?

Gerrymandering is a very real and structural threat to fair representation. Its effects loom large for all local and federal governments. Recent Supreme Court decisions have effectively removed any checks on unfair redistricting for the midterms. The result is that the Republicans now have an advantage of three to 12 seats in the House. Even more red states will adjust their maps for 2028. Gerrymandering could shape future elections for years.

What can we do?

Keep On!

Keep in mind that gerrymandering can potentially skew every election. The Republican Party has manipulated the system to its advantage, has built it into the system so that it is always working in the background.

Keep current on this issue— the subject itself does not play dramatically for news commentary and the maps will keep changing

Keep fighting the good fight:

- Work to encourage voter turnout

- Call your representatives - ask how they will address it

- Support your party, your candidates and your reps

- Pass the word

- Demonstrate, make calls, write letters

- Vote

Sources

“On the Docket.” *Democracy Docket*, May 29, 2026, democracydocket.com/gops-relentless-gerrymander-push-hits-roadblocks

“Mapped: Where Redistricting Battles Are Unfolding Nationwide.” *Democracy Docket*, June 23, 2026, democracydocket.com/analysis/live-redistricting-tracker/

Rice, Jen. “Scorched earth: How Trump’s gerrymanders and the Supreme Court burned redistricting to the ground.” *Democracy Docket*, June 23, 2026,

democracydocket.com/news-alerts/scorched-earth-how-trumps-gerrymanders-and-the-supreme-court-burned-redistricting-to-the-ground/

“Your Questions Answered: What is Redistricting and Why Should We Care?” *ACLU*, May 26, 2026, aclu.org/news/voting-rights/what-is-redistricting-and-why-should-we-care

“How Can We Combat Gerrymandering?” *CampaignLegalCenter*, June 4, 2026
<https://campaignlegal.org/update/how-can-we-combat-gerrymandering>

Goldmacher, Shane & Balk, Tim. “10 Days That Shook the House Map and Democratic Confidence.” *New York Times*, May 9, 2026
nytimes.com/2026/05/09/us/politics/midterm-redistricting-house-map-republicans.html?searchResultPosition=5