

REDISTRICTING
REFORM

PEOPLE
POWERED.
FAIR MAPS™



THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS STARTS WITH THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The U.S. Constitution:

- Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State...
- The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.



It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

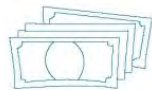


It's in the constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.



It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.



It's about redistricting.

After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



At the 1787 Constitutional Convention, our Founders spoke extensively about creating representative government.

One concept that came up was the assertion that elected officials be equally impacted by laws they approve.

For instance, if an elected official votes for a tax, then the official should be equally burdened by that tax.

In sum, elected officials should have deep connections with their constituents.

THE FIRST PARTISAN REDISTRICTING: 1812

Gerrymandering Distortions

- Representatives
 - Represent the views & sentiments of a political party
 - Accountable to party loyalists
- Inverted Process & Purpose
 - Politicians pick their voters
 - Politicians decide legislative priorities
 - Politicians become entrenched
 - Partisanship becomes extreme



In 1812, Jeffersonian Republicans forced through the Massachusetts legislature a bill rearranging district lines to assure them an advantage in the upcoming senatorial elections. Although Governor Elbridge Gerry had only reluctantly signed the law, a Federalist editor is said to have exclaimed upon seeing the new district lines, "Salamander! Call it a Gerry-mander." This cartoon-map first appeared in the Boston Gazette for March 26, 1812.

FEDERAL LITIGATION

- Up to June 2019 gerrymandering solutions entailed both political and legal solutions
- In June 2019, Supreme Court blocked the federal court solution

Published on Friday, June 28, 2019 by Brennan Center for Justice

Supreme Court Refuses to Stop Partisan Gerrymandering

With the Supreme Court shirking its responsibility, other strategies for getting fair maps are more important than ever

by Yurij Rudensky, Annie Lo



2 Comments



By barring the federal courts' oversight of partisan gerrymandering, the Supreme Court has made it harder to fight for fair maps. (Image: Circle Creative Studio)

The Supreme Court has brought an unfortunate end to the years-long fight to end extreme partisan gerrymandering. On Thursday, the court ruled that federal courts have no role to play in disputes over maps that were drawn on a purely partisan basis.

The *Rucho v. Common Cause* ruling:

In states with no prohibition against partisan gerrymandering in their constitution and/or state laws, the party in power may engage in:

Unlimited & Unchecked Partisan Gerrymandering

Voters will have NO way to overturn partisan gerrymandered maps

How SCOTUS' gerrymandering decision could put Pennsylvania's own ruling in the spotlight

By Sarah Anne Hughes - June 27, 2019



Pennsylvania's old congressional map was ruled an unconstitutional gerrymander by the state Supreme Court last year. (US Government)

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that federal courts have **no role to play** in adjudicating accusations that political boundaries were drawn for partisan purposes.

A SETBACK NOT A DEFEAT

- League of Women Voters US:
- How do we achieve the same results, but through a different process?
- In 2017, LWV sued to overturn Pennsylvania's partisan gerrymandered districts under their state constitution's free and equal elections clause and won.
- In 2019, League of Women Voters US launched its Fair Maps strategy based on state-focused solution

PLAN B

**PEOPLE
POWERED.**
FAIR MAPS™

People Powered Fair Maps(TM)

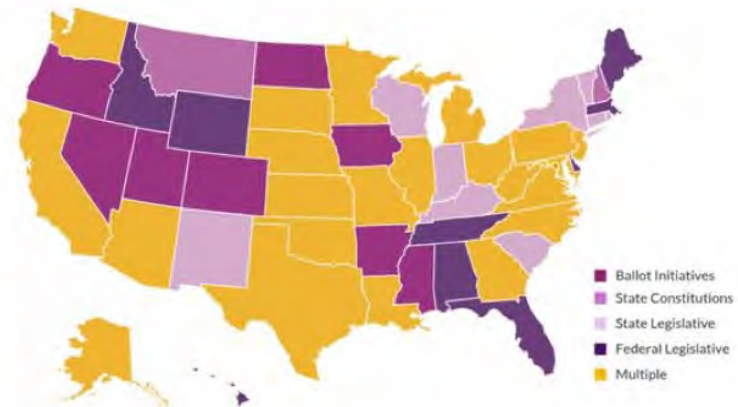
People Powered Fair Maps™ is a national redistricting campaign of the League of Women Voters focused on creating fair political maps nationwide. The program includes actions in all 50 states + D.C.

The work will look different in each state, but the program is comprised of five major focus areas:

1. Ballot Initiatives or Referendums
2. State Constitutional Options
3. State Legislative Fixes
4. Federal Legislative Fixes
5. Civic Engagement & Education

Each state will engage in at least one of the four focus areas through advocacy, education, organizing and mobilization, partnerships, litigation, and/or protection/defensive action.

League of Women Voters Redistricting Opportunities by State



WHY WE NEED REDISTRICTING REFORM NOW

■ Partisan Gerrymandering

- First appeared in the 1812 election
- Both political parties have engaged in partisan gerrymandering
- Prioritizes a political party's interests over voter interests
- Subverts representative governance

■ Historic Solutions to Partisan Gerrymandering

- Litigation through the courts
- State laws and/or state constitutional amendments

■ “Beyond the reach of the federal courts.”

- June 2019 U.S. Supreme Court:
 - Partisan gerrymandering is a political problem not a legal problem, so
 - Federal courts can no longer take partisan gerrymandering cases
 - But state constitution and laws can address partisan gerrymandering
- League of Women Voters US
 - September 2019: People Powered Fair Maps Initiative
 - 50 state strategy for eliminating partisan gerrymandering

Nonpartisan or bipartisan commissions as of 2010 [\[edit \]](#)

Currently, 21 U.S. states have some form of non-partisan or bipartisan redistricting commission.^[1] Of these 21 states, 13 use redistricting commissions to exclusively draw electoral district boundaries (see below).^[1] A 14th state, Iowa, uses a special redistricting process that uses neither the state legislature nor an independent redistricting commission to draw electoral district boundaries (see below).

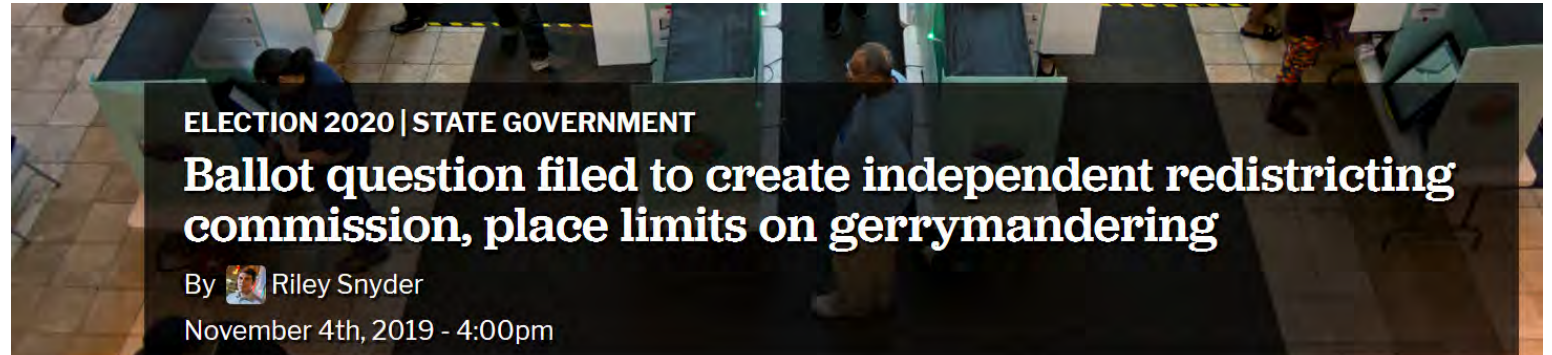
In 2015, the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) ruled in [Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission](#) that redistricting commissions such as Arizona's, whose redistricting commission process is independent of the state legislature, were constitutional.^[2]

WE HAVE THE
POWER

- Nevada will not be the first to adopt an alternative redistricting process
- The process is constitutional via *Arizona Legislature v. Arizona Independent Restricting Commission* (2015)

REDISTRICTING REFORM NEVADA STYLE

- **Establish & Remove**
 - Establish through a constitution amendment ballot question
 - Remove from legislative processes through a constitutional amendment
- **High Bar**
 - Constitutional amendments must pass in two election cycles
 - More expensive, but the outcome is removed from political processes
 - Can only be repealed through litigation or another amendment



Voters cast their ballots at the Galleria at Sunset voting center in Henderson on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018. (Daniel Clark/The Nevada Independent)



Nevada could become the latest state to combat partisan gerrymandering through creation of a bipartisan, independent redistricting commission under a proposed constitutional amendment backed by the League of Women Voters.

The proposed amendment, which was delivered to the secretary of state on Monday and is backed by the League of Women Voters of Nevada, the Brennan Center for Justice and RepresentUs (a national anti-corruption nonprofit), aims to strip the Legislature's power to draw congressional and legislative boundaries based on the decennial federal census.

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THE DETAILS

Who serves?

Average people as well as
Respected community members

Who appoints members?

Elected Leaders
Commission members

How are maps drawn?

Federal law and court ruling criteria

Map-drawing software that is publicly
available

Assistance from the Legislative
Counsel Bureau (LCB)

Public assistance through the Open
Meeting Law

EXPLANATION: Matter in *bolded italics* is new language to be added to the Nevada Constitution by this Amendment. Matter in strikethrough is existing language in the Nevada Constitution to be deleted by this Amendment.

The People of the State of Nevada do enact as follows:

Section 1: Article 4, Section 5 of the Nevada Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. Number of Senators and members of Assembly; ~~apportionment.~~ Senators and members of the Assembly shall be duly qualified electors in the respective counties and districts which they represent, and the number of Senators shall not be less than one-third nor more than one-half of that of the members of the Assembly.

It shall be the mandatory duty of the Legislature at its first session after the taking of the decennial census of the United States in the year 1950, and after each subsequent decennial census, to fix by law the number of Senators and Assemblymen, ~~and apportion them among the several counties of the State, or among legislative districts which may be established by law, according to the number of inhabitants in them, respectively.~~

Section 2: Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution is hereby amended by adding thereto new sections to be designated as Sections 5A, 5B and 5C, to read as follows:

Section 5A. Apportionment; Creation of Independent Redistricting Commission.

1. There is created within the legislative branch of state government the Independent Redistricting Commission. It shall be the duty of the Commission in the year 2023, and after each subsequent decennial census of the United States, to apportion the number of Senators and Assemblymen among legislative districts established by the Commission and to apportion the number of representatives in the United States House of Representatives among districts established by the Commission.

2. The Commission shall be composed of seven members who are registered and eligible to vote in Nevada, and who satisfy the qualification standards in subsection 3. The Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, Speaker of the Assembly, and Assembly Minority Leader shall each appoint one Commissioner. The four Commissioners appointed in this manner shall appoint three additional Commissioners, each of whom, for at least four years immediately preceding their appointment, has not been registered or affiliated with the largest political party or the second largest political party, according to voter registration data published by the Secretary of State as of the earliest day in January of the redistricting year, and none of whom, if registered or affiliated with a political party, is affiliated or registered with the same political party as another Commissioner.


THE NEW REDISTRICTING PROCESS WHICH RESTARTS EVERY TEN YEARS

- 1. The majority and minority leaders in each legislative house, from the two political parties with the most registered voters, will each pick one person to serve on the redistricting commission. There are disqualifying criteria for being a commissioner, such as being a current elected official or a registered lobbyist.**
- 2. These four commissioners will then select three commissioners who are either affiliated with one of the minor political parties or who have been consistently registered as a nonpartisan voter. Due to the single-subject rule, we could not include other branches of government in this selection process, such as having judges select the other three commissioners and we cannot include administrative details, such as an application process.**
- 3. We restrict who can be on the commission, yet, the redistricting commission will operate in public, all documents the commission produces will be public, and the public may submit redistricting maps for consideration.**
- 4. All required redistricting criteria align with Supreme Court rulings and federal law. An extra criteria asks that competitiveness also be considered. According to the legal challenge against our amendment, legislators do not use these criteria.**
- 5. The final maps must have a vote each from redistricting commissioners who come from the two majority political parties and one vote from the independent/nonpartisan commissioners.**

THE BALLOT QUESTION PROCESS

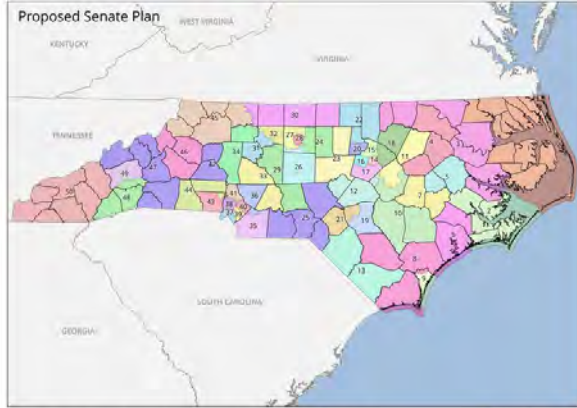
- 1. The ballot question was filed on Monday, November 4th at 4 p.m.**
- 2. A legal challenge was filed against the description of effect & resolved on January 3rd. The amended petition is on the Secretary of State's website. We are currently gathering signatures to qualify.**
- 3. To qualify for the ballot, petitioners must obtain the signatures of registered voters that equal at least ten percent (10%) of the voters who voted at the last preceding General Election. Only registered voters of the county and petition district where the petition is circulated may sign the petition.**
- 4. The last preceding general election for all petitions submitted in 2020 is the 2018 General Election. Therefore, 97,598 valid signatures are required to qualify a petition submitted in 2020. Of the 97,598 signatures, 24,400 must be collected in each of Petition Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4.**
- 5. The last day for petitioners to submit signatures to the counties for verification is June 16, 2020. Counties must certify petition sufficiency within 13 working days of submission.**
- 6. If voters approve the amendment during the 2020 election, the approved amendment will then be added to the 2022 election. The approved amendment must be passed by voters in two successive general elections before it can be added to the Nevada Constitution.**

Want to try do-it-yourself redistricting? Check out our huge new North Carolina data set

 **Stephen Wolf** for Daily Kos Elections
Daily Kos Staff

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 8:44 AM PDT

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North Carolina state Senate districts we proposed in court to fix the GOP's illegal gerrymander

If you enjoy drawing district maps or want to give it a try, you're in for a treat. Daily Kos Election has made [our newest data set](#), which we've used to analyze North Carolina's legislative districts, available to the public. In this post, we'll detail the data [we've made available in this folder](#) and how you can use it to analyze maps you or others have drawn, or to map election results.

We compiled this data to assess the new maps that Tarheel State Republicans recently drew to replace their illegal gerrymanders, which were struck down by a state court for violating the rights of voters. Our conclusion: They're still gerrymanders. That's why we've also [proposed a much fairer set of nonpartisan maps](#), which we submitted to the court in an amicus brief.

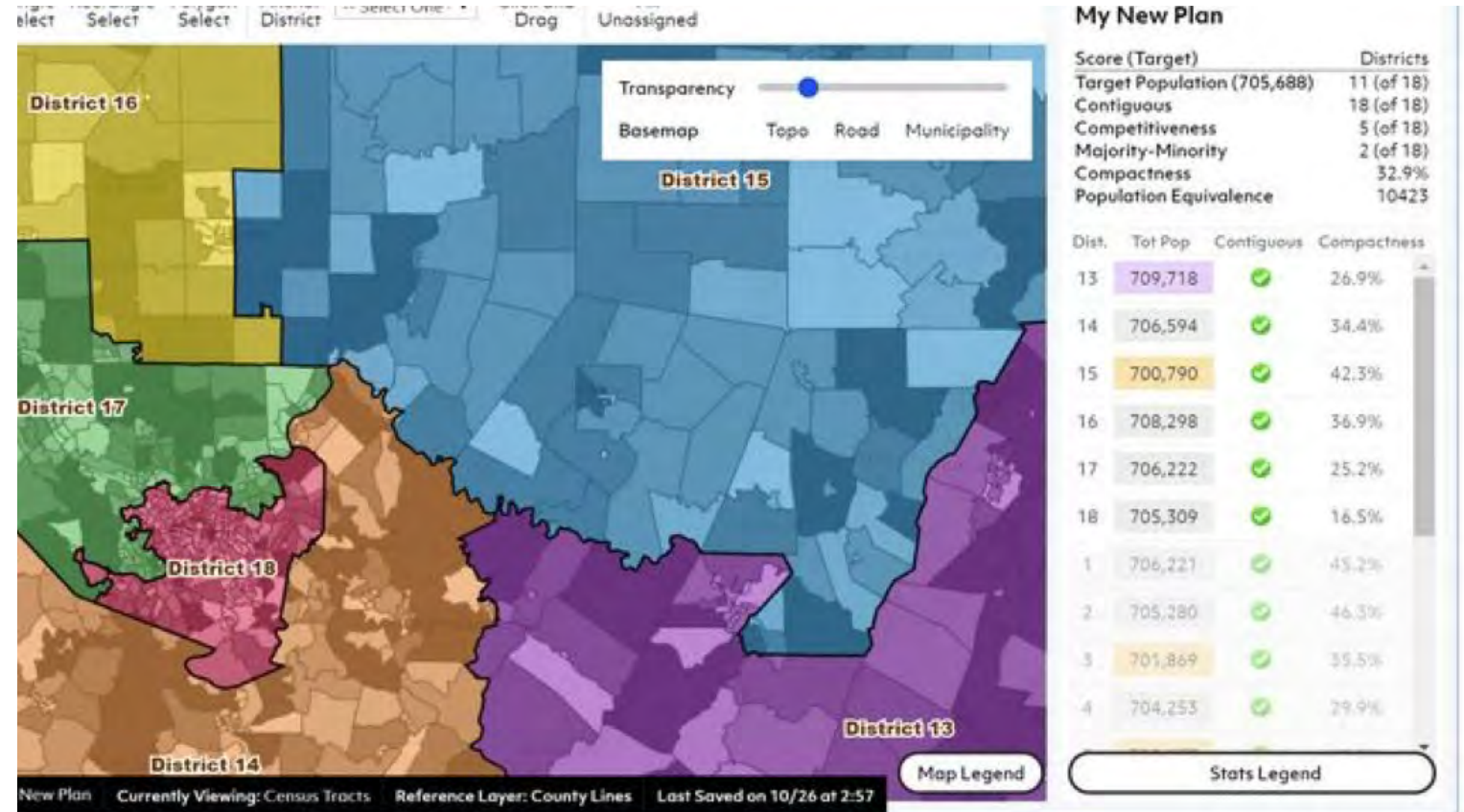
You can use our data to dig into the GOP's plans, our alternatives, or your own, with a very helpful piece of free software called [Dave's Redistricting App](#). DRA uses the voting tabulation districts (VTDs) that existed in 2010 as its building blocks for drawing districts in North Carolina, but voting precinct boundaries change over time as populations grow or shrink, making it difficult to calculate election results by district when they split precincts.

WHAT HAPPENS IN 2021

- The Nevada legislature will create Nevada's district maps based on the 2020 Census data.
- The public will be able to criteria-check these maps in real-time, based on how transparent the process is due to advances in freely available redistricting software and data-sets.

WHAT HAPPENS IN 2023?

- If the ballot question passes in 2020 and 2022, the redistricting commission will be constituted in 2023.
- The legislature will craft enabling language to guide this process
- The redistricting commission will approve a *redistricting plan*, which can consist of newly drawn maps, maps submitted by the public, or maps submitted by the public with changes added by the commission. Anyone may submit the 2021 legislative maps for consideration





WHERE ARE WE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19?

Signature Gathering Under the Stay-At-Home-Order

We have asked the Secretary of State's office to consider allowing us to gather signatures electronically.

Nevada allows electronic signatures for voter registration and for electronic notary, so we are asking to use a similar, already allowed process for gathering signatures online.

We are waiting for a response from the Secretary of State's Office.

If you have questions, please email: Sondra Cosgrove at sondra.Cosgrove@gmail.com