



LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS

Our organizations are nonpartisan, and we believe in reform that breaks down barriers to participation in the democratic process.

The way the district boundaries are drawn determines how your community is represented.

EXPECTATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY

We expect:

- our elections to be fair
- our votes to count equally
- voices to be heard

Our legislators should be :

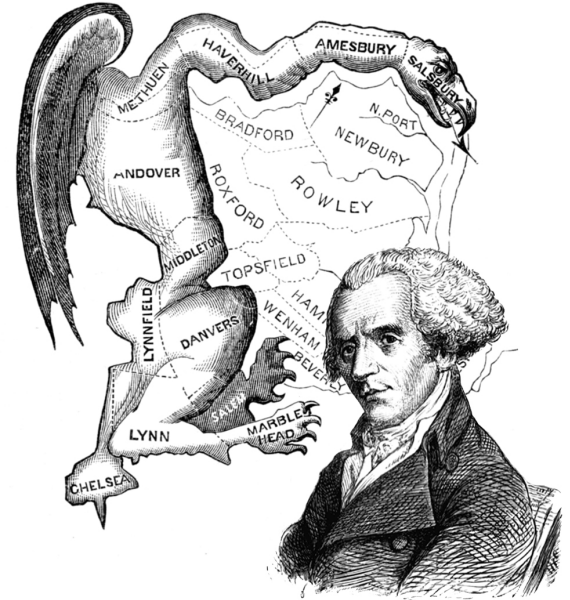
- **held accountable through the power of our vote**
- represent ALL constituents

GERRYMANDERING: REDISTRICTING GONE WRONG

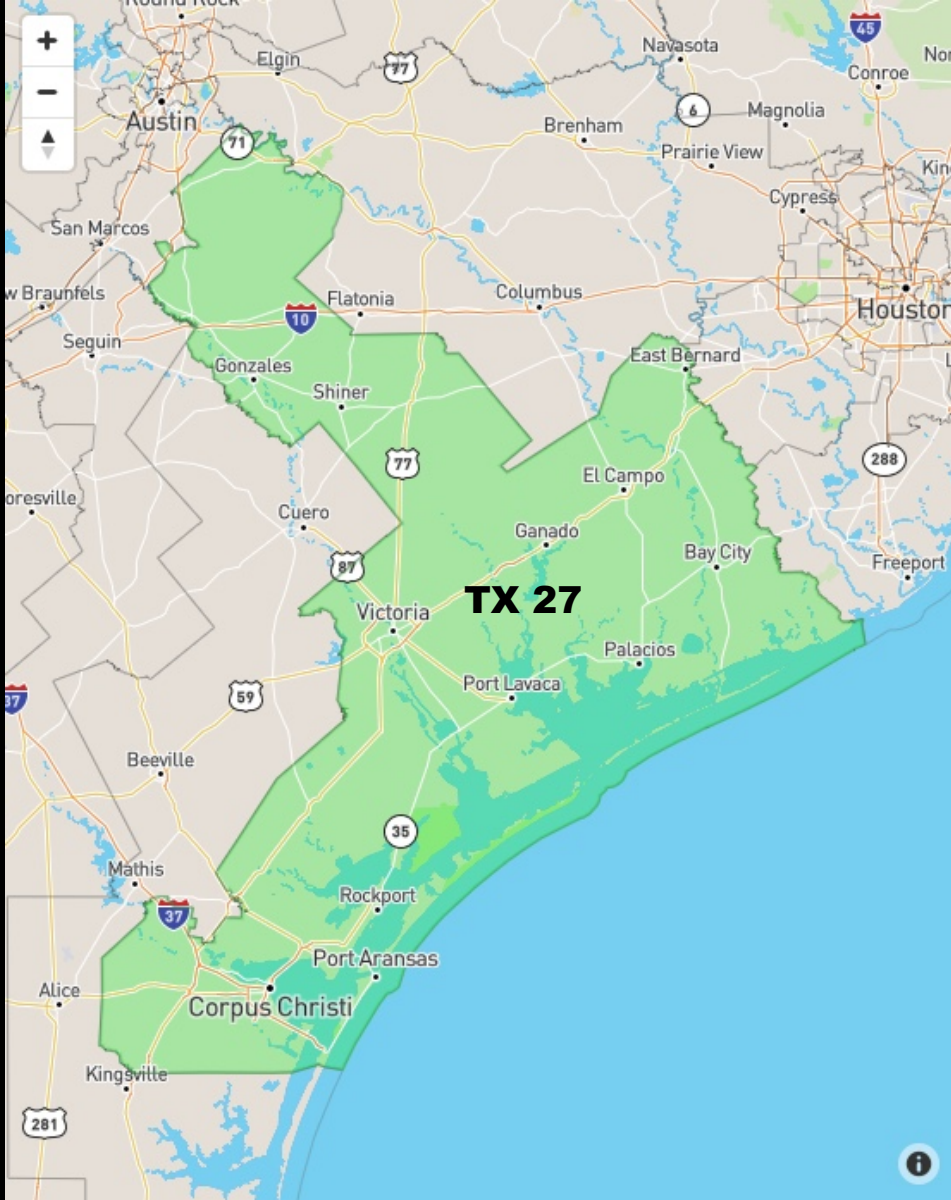
The practice of drawing district lines to favor one group of people over another.

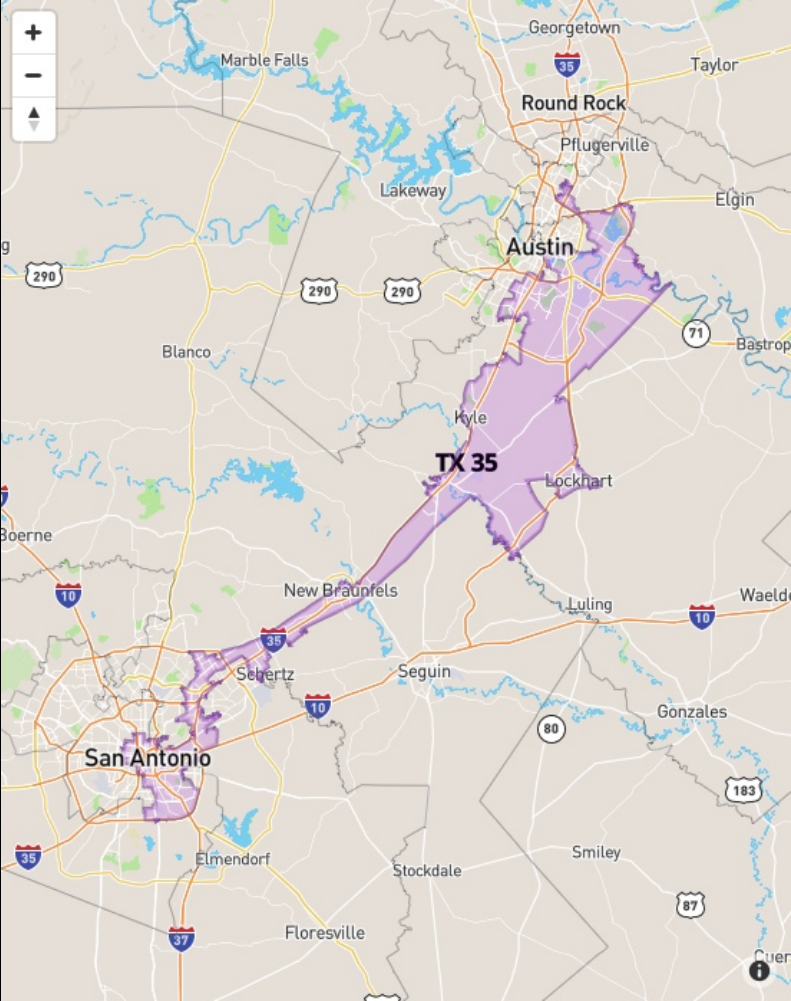
- Partisan
- Racial

★ Redistricting v. Gerrymandering



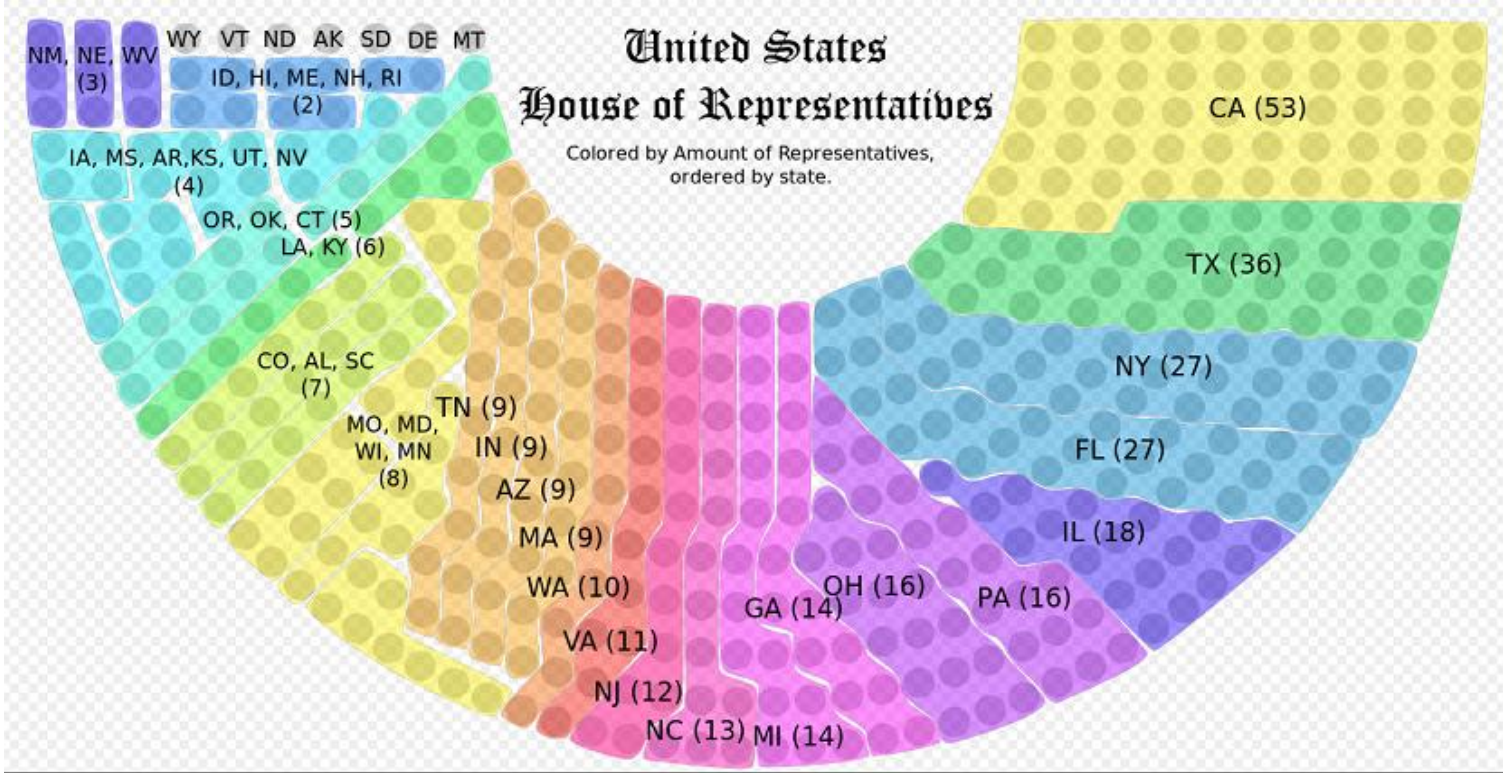
Why do we
need districts
anyways?





How are the maps drawn?

REAPPORTIONMENT



- 435 House Seats must be split up amongst the states

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR REDISTRICTING?

Federal Guidelines

- ★ Equal populations: one person, one vote
- ★ VRA requirements: cannot dilute the power of minority representation (racial gerrymandering)
 - Helps ensure that the people elected reflect the people that they represent.

State Guidelines

- ★ State House districts: County Line Rule
- ★ TX Senate districts: must be single member and contiguous, but no requirement for compactness

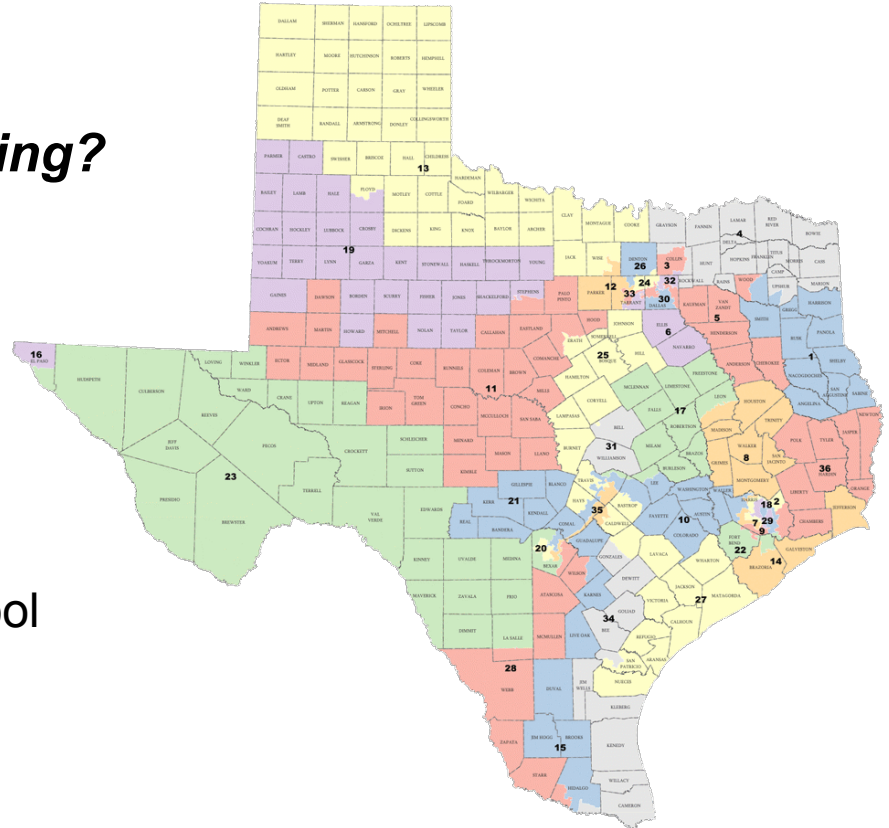
HOW REDISTRICTING WORKS

Who is responsible for Redistricting?

- Texas Legislature
- Backup Commission

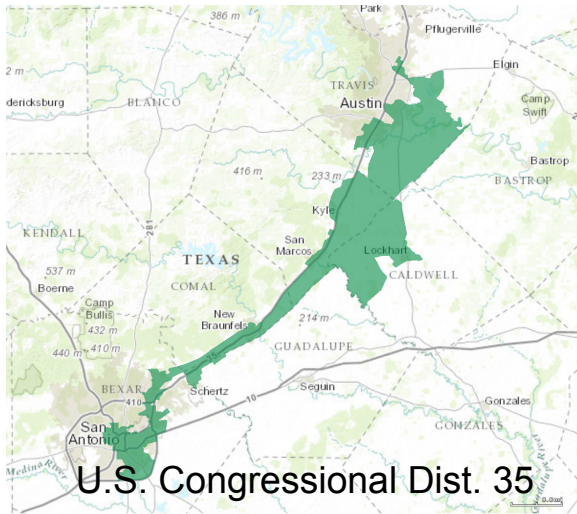
What districts get re-drawn?

- U.S. House of Representatives
- Texas Legislature: both houses
- Other: county commissioners, school boards, city councils

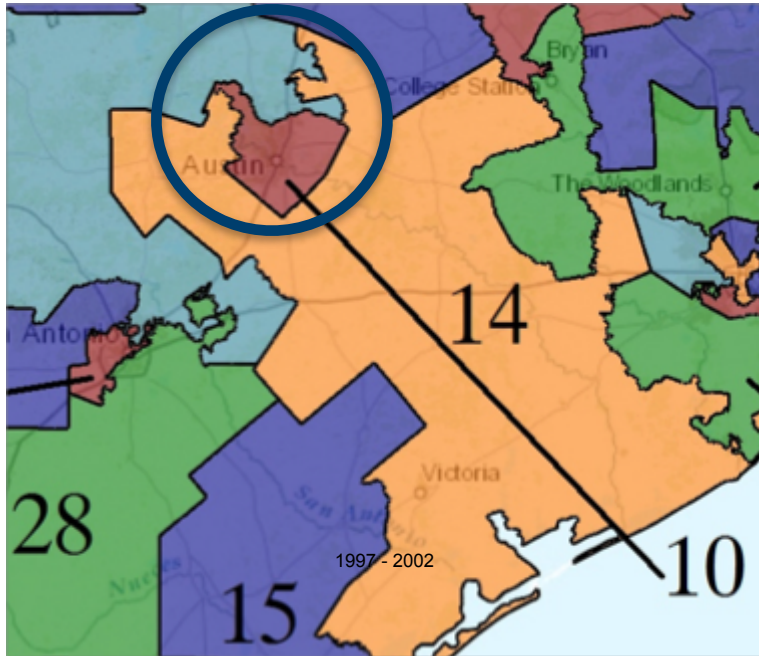


HOW ARE THESE MAPS DRAWN?

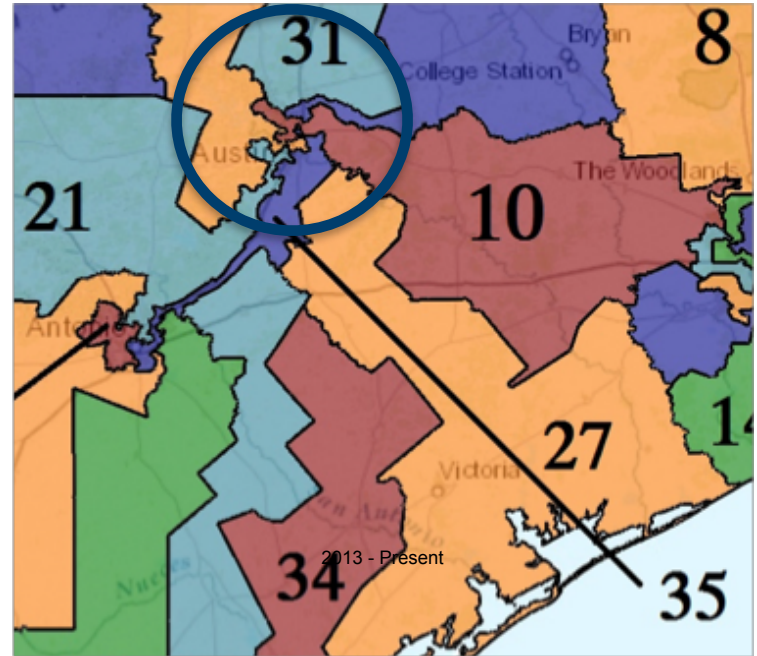
- **Legislators** consult with data analyst
- They ***meet behind closed doors*** with little public input.
- They **manipulate** voter data & use demographic mapping technology to carve out districts ***down to the street***.



CRACKING AND PACKING: DILUTING YOUR VOTE



1990s



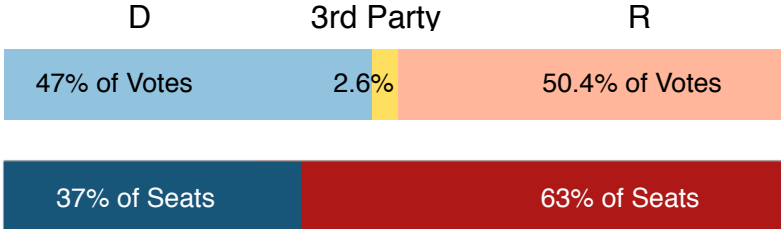
2017

TRANSLATE INTO AN ADVANTAGE

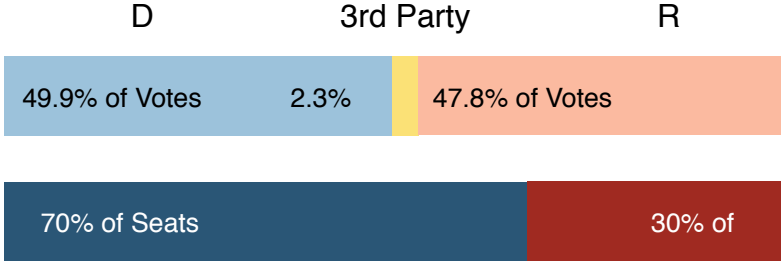
TEXAS U.S. Congressional Districts

Votes Cast
VS
Seats Won

2018



1992



PROBLEMS WITH SAFE DISTRICTS

Legislators draw “safe” districts for themselves

Election is moved from the general to the primary

CANNOT hold Legislators accountable through the power of our vote

Incumbent re-elected

No compromising between parties to capture votes

Hard to find a challenger, races go uncontested

Leads to Polarization

No choice at the ballot box, Low voter turnout

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

- ★ We draw the lines!
- ★ Commission created of citizens
- ★ Composition is balanced between Dems, Reps, Ind
- ★ Strict, nonpartisan criteria used to draw the districts
- ★ Public hearings, multiple review cycles with clearly defined timelines
- ★ Austin moved to a IRC in 2012
- ★ IRCs ensure voters have a choice at the ballot box: 8% of voters in states with commissions had 2+ choices on their ballot

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

www.FairMapsTexas.org

1. GOTV to get our legislation moving

- Petition
- Lobbying Team
- Local Resolutions
- Outreach Team- short talks, LTE's
- Need people to lead these local efforts, book keeping, etc

2. After this Legislative Session:

- House Resolution 1
- Work with the community to draw maps
- Census 2020

TAKE ACTION

- ★ Ask your legislator to co-sponsor legislation
- ★ Circulate our Petition and present to *your* elected officials
 - ★ www.FairMapsTexas.org/petition
- ★ Pass a local resolution
- ★ Become a Speaker