

*We are nonpartisan, we never  
support or oppose parties or  
candidates. Our mission is to  
educate, inform and advocate.*

# MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK GRANT

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- ★ Increase Visibility of the League
- ★ Attract New Members
- ★ Forge New Partnerships
- ★ Increase Diversity
- ★ Democracy Reform



START



# REDISTRICTING

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- ★ 2021 Redistricting
- ★ Public Input Hearings
- ★ No longer under preclearance
- ★ Town Halls





# REDISTRICTING

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"There is a whole component of citizen education dealing with transparency and public engagement that is absolutely vital to any redistricting system. People need to understand what the current redistricting process is, why it's so bad, and what can be done about it in clear, simple terms. We need good material in all formats and good speakers to share that material. We need volunteers who represent our diversity to help us inform our communities.

We need to focus on creating a more transparent process. We need people to watch when the new maps are drawn to guard against gerrymandering. Sunlight disinfects. If the line drawers aren't doing anything 'funny' then there is no reason to go behind closed doors. The public needs to see and understand who is drawing the maps and how they are drawn."

*-Chris Carson  
President, League of Women Voters, US*



**JOIN US!**

**To Become a Member:**

**[my.lwv.org/texas](https://my.lwv.org/texas)**

# CENSUS 2020

The goal of the 2020 Census is to  
count everyone once, only once, and  
in the right place.



# WE WON! Together we did it!

**CENSUS  
COUNTS 2020**

**They tried to bury us.  
They didn't know we  
were seeds.**

— MEXICAN PROVERB

PLEDGE TO BE COUNTED  
IN THE 2020 CENSUS

# WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

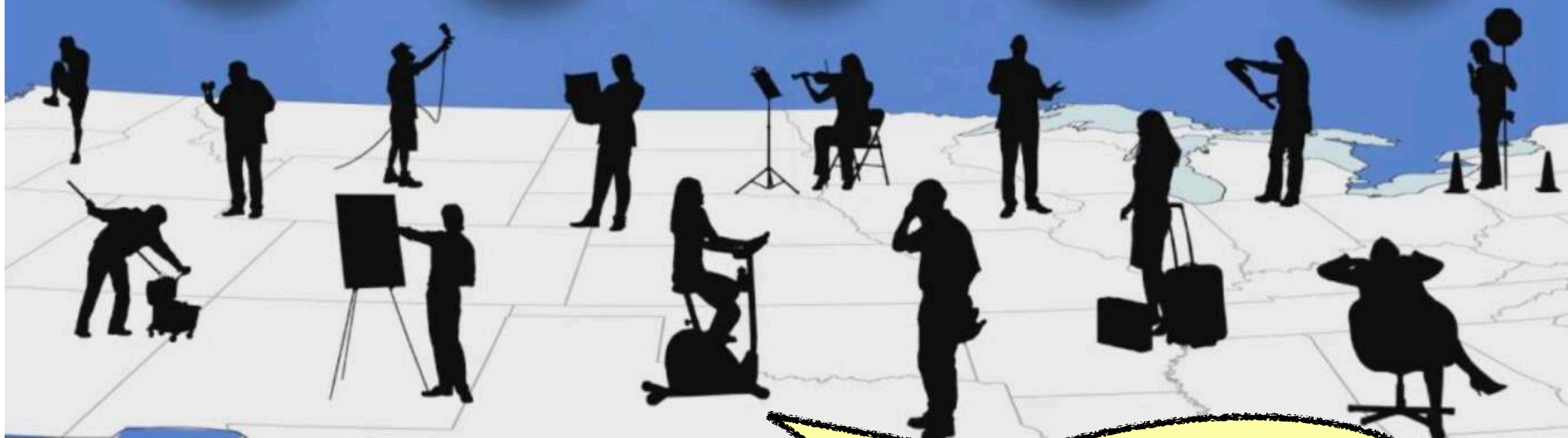
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The Census is a count of all persons living in the U.S. It is conducted every 10 years by the federal government, and it is mandated by the Constitution.





# United States<sup>™</sup> Census Bureau



**We need an accurate count  
of our population so that we can  
effectively govern our state.**

# WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT AN ACCURATE CENSUS?

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## Our Voice

- Districts: One Person, One Vote
- Number of Representatives TX has in Congress
- Number of Electoral Votes



## Our Businesses and Economy

- Market Predictions
- Expansion & Development

# COUNTING FOR DOLLARS - GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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**Our taxes come back to the state as federal services**

**\$43.3 Billion in federal funds**  
**\$1578 per person**

- Medicaid
- SNAP- (Nutrition Assistance)
- Medicare Part B
- Highway Planning and Construction
- School Lunch Program
- CHIP- Children's Health Insurance
- Section 8 Housing Vouchers
- Special Education Grants- IDEA
- Head Start
- Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Health Center Programs  
(Community, Migrant, Homeless, Public Housing)
- Child Care Development Fund
- Foster Care
- Low Income Energy Assistance



# WHEN AND HOW IS THE CENSUS TAKEN

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## When

- ★ Census Day **April 1, 2020**
- ★ Starts: **3/23/2020**
- ★ Ends: **08/2020**

**EVERY FAMILY MEMBER  
SHOULD BE COUNTED**

## How



Online



Over the Phone



Using Paper Form



Census Enumerator

Forms will be available  
in 13 languages

# QUESTIONS

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**11 Questions, 10 minutes per household**

- ★ Name
- ★ Phone Number
- ★ Age
- ★ Sex
- ★ Hispanic Origin
- ★ ~~Citizenship~~  
~~Question~~
- ★ Race
- ★ Relationship to Homeowner
- ★ Household tenure (own/rent)
- ★ Number of Persons in Household
- ★ Does a person stay or live somewhere else?

# HOW TO TALK ABOUT THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

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- ★ Records are confidential for 72 years by law. DATA CANNOT BE SHARED WITH ANY OTHER AGENCY
- ★ The federal government has been forever banned from adding the citizenship question to Census 2020
- ★ IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO BE COUNTED!





# HARD TO COUNT AREAS

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Every time there is a Census, it can be logistically challenging to count everyone.

## Hard To Count Populations

- ★ Very young children
- ★ Immigrants
- ★ People without a permanent address
- ★ Rural areas
- ★ People of color
- ★ Frequent movers
- ★ Language Barriers
- ★ No internet Access

# HARD TO COUNT AREAS

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Redistrict Network

[redistrictnetwork.org/Mapping-Hard//](http://redistrictnetwork.org/Mapping-Hard//)

# WHAT ANYONE CAN YOU DO IN THEIR COMMUNITY

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- ★ Identify trusted sources and share resources with them
  - ★ School leaders, church officials, other public services
- ★ Arrange for access to computers at schools, churches
- ★ Encourage corporations to become official sponsors of your census activities. Have them sponsor:
  - ★ Census booth at county fairs, carnivals, rallies,
  - ★ School contest to design artwork or poster promoting the 2020 census
- ★ Launch a community education forum- elected officials welcome!



## WHAT LEAGUE MEMBERS CAN DO

- ★ Join a Complete Count Committee: map to your community
- ★ Have Census info available at voter registration drives
- ★ Partner with Local Food Bank- host voter registration drive and pass out cards on census
- ★ LWV TX will be partnering with United Ways and Center for Public Policy Priorities on TX Counts Campaign- outreach to children under 5
- ★ Outreach to black Fraternities and Sororities

## RESOURCES

- ★ [www.lwv.org/league-management/voting-rights-tools/census-action-kit](http://www.lwv.org/league-management/voting-rights-tools/census-action-kit)
- ★ [civilrights.org/value/2020-census/](http://civilrights.org/value/2020-census/)

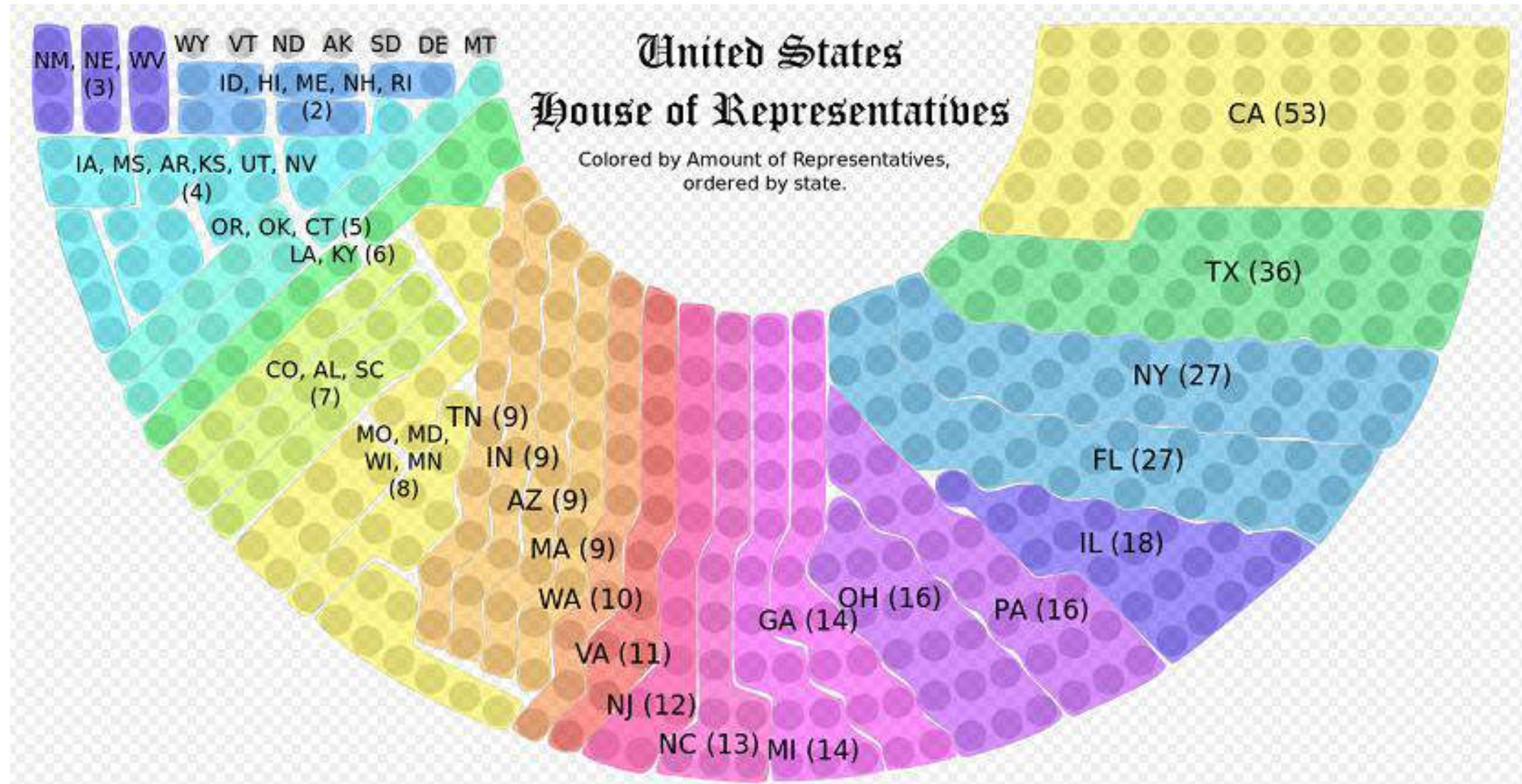
# REDISTRICTING

Is one of the most important processes in our democracy, because it determines the power of your vote.



Why do we need  
districts anyways?

# REAPPORTIONMENT



435 House Seats must be split  
up amongst the states

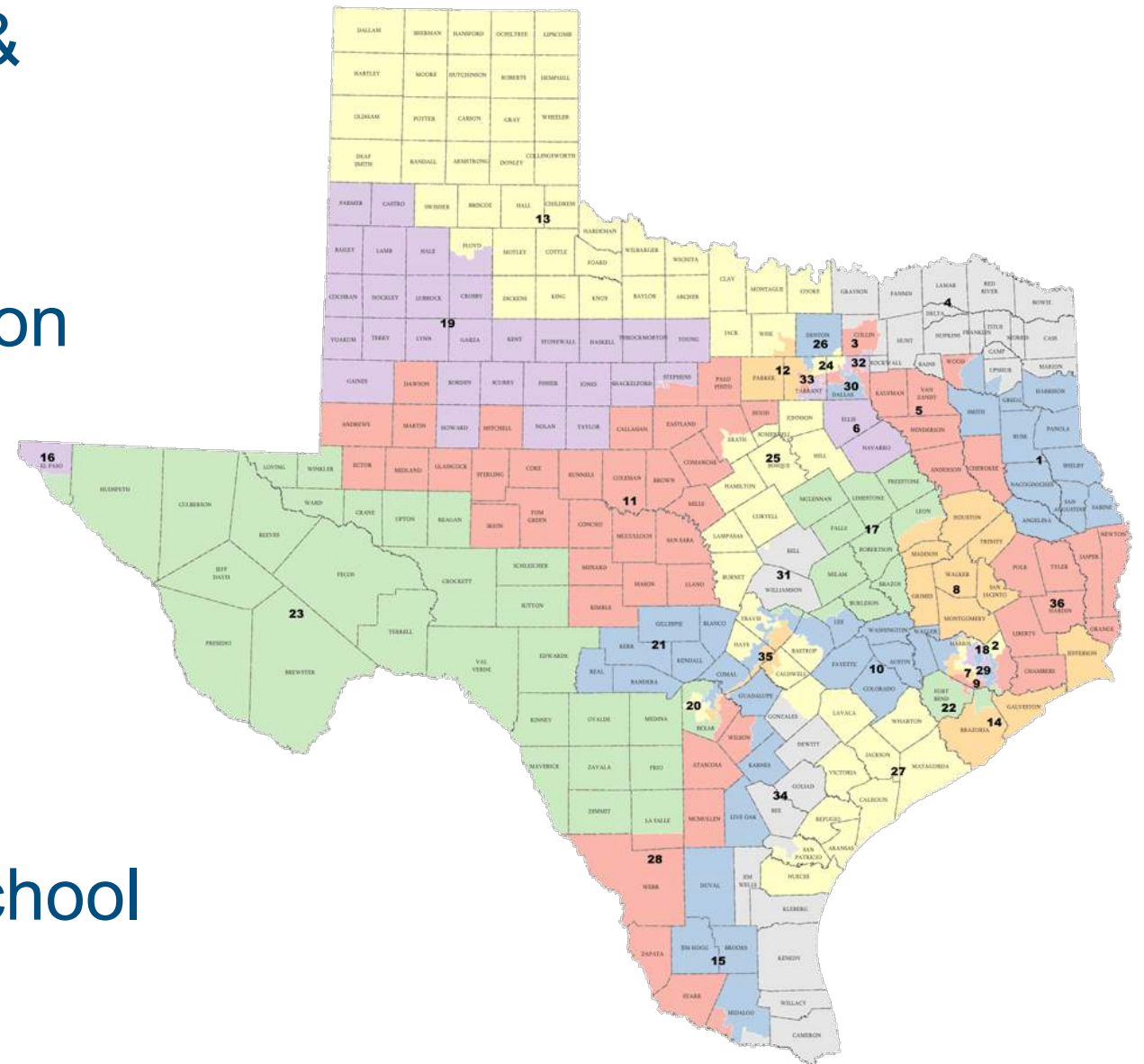
# HOW REDISTRICTING WORKS

## Who is responsible for Redistricting?

- House Redistricting Committee & Senate Committee
- Public Input Hearings
- Maps passed as regular legislation
- Gridlock: Backup Commission

## What districts get re-drawn?

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





# WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR REDISTRICTING?

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## Federal Guidelines

- ★ Equal populations: one person, one vote
- ★ VRA requirements: cannot dilute the power of minority representation (racial gerrymandering)

## State Guidelines

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

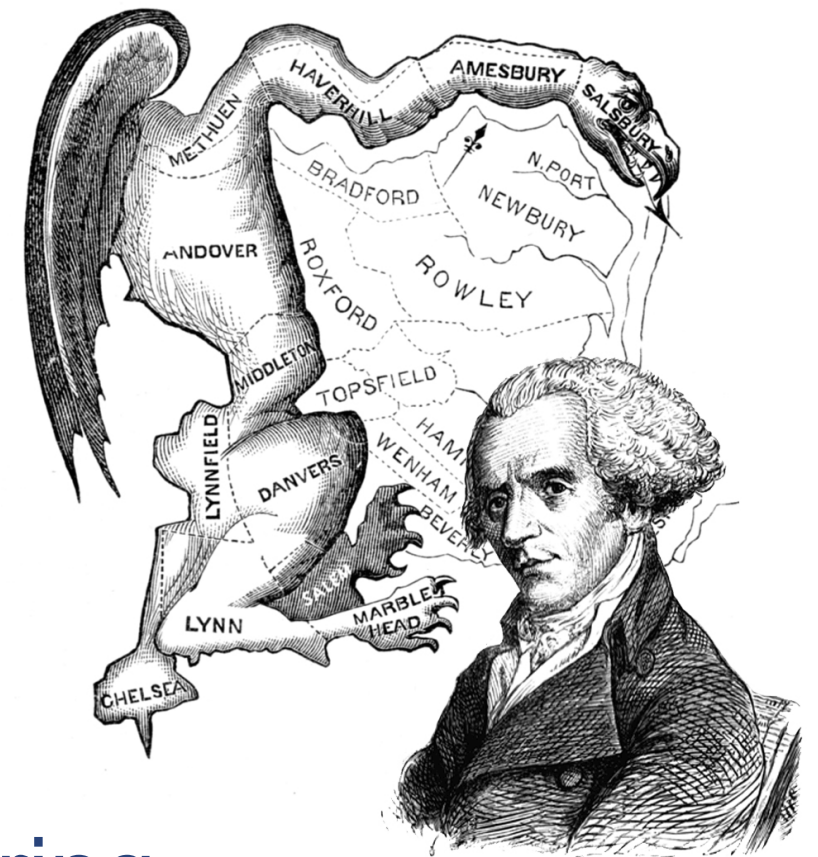
How is the current  
process so bad?

# GERRYMANDERING: REDISTRICTING GONE WRONG

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

- Partisan
- Racial



## ★ Redistricting v. Gerrymandering

Is the purpose of redistricting to facilitate a representative democracy or to improve a partisan advantage?

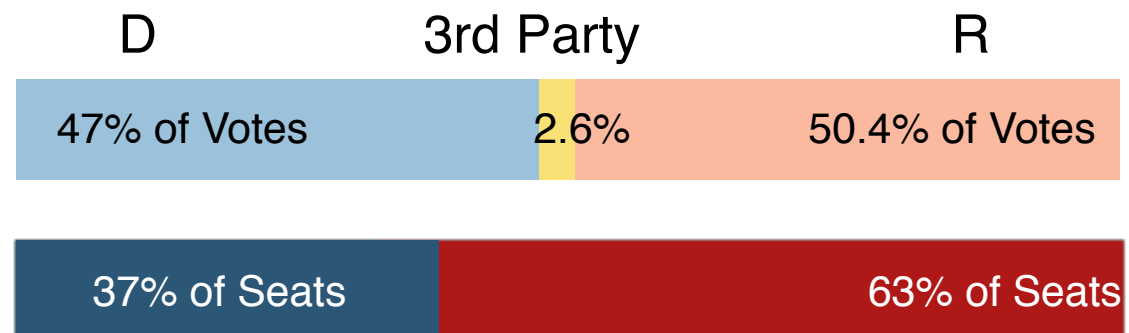
# TRANSLATE INTO AN ADVANTAGE

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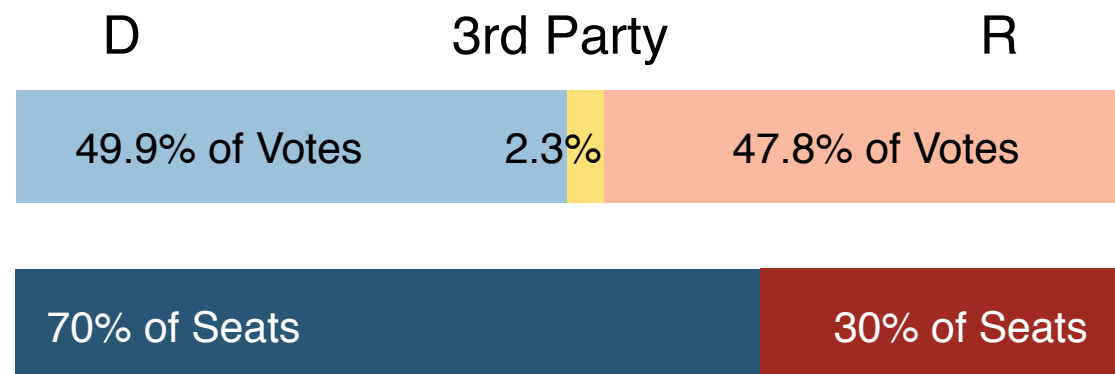
## TEXAS U.S. Congressional Districts

Votes Cast  
VS  
Seats Won

2018



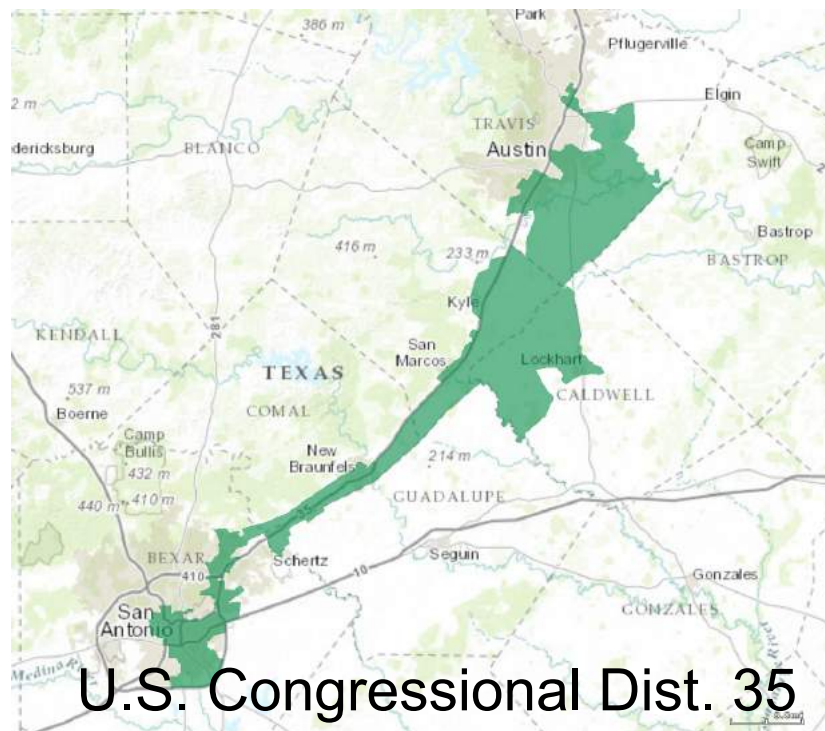
1992





# HOW ARE THESE MAPS DRAWN?

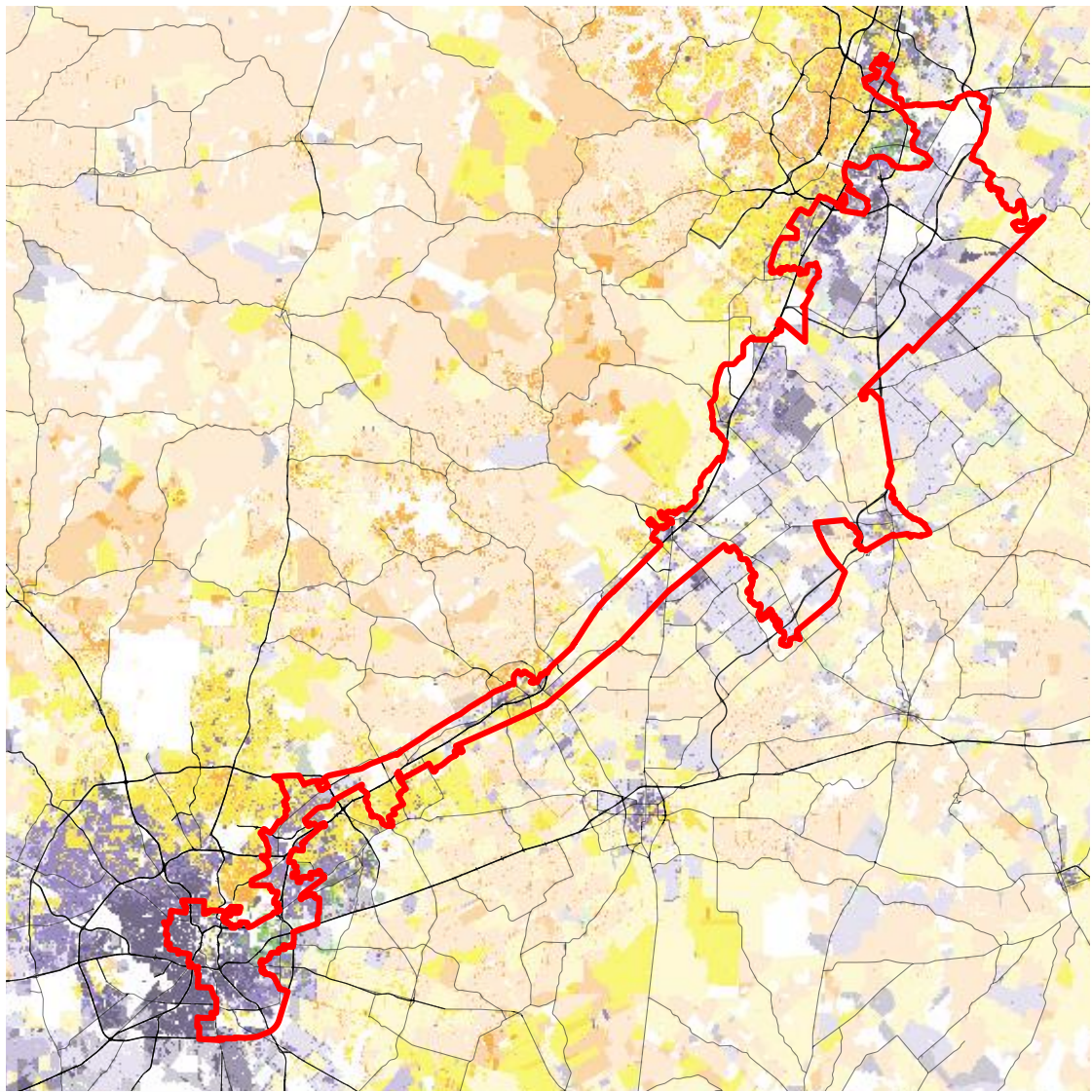
- ★ Legislators consult with data analysts, state party officials, and special interest groups
- ★ They meet **behind closed doors** and consider little public input
- ★ They use partisan and demographic data to go block by block and choose their voters



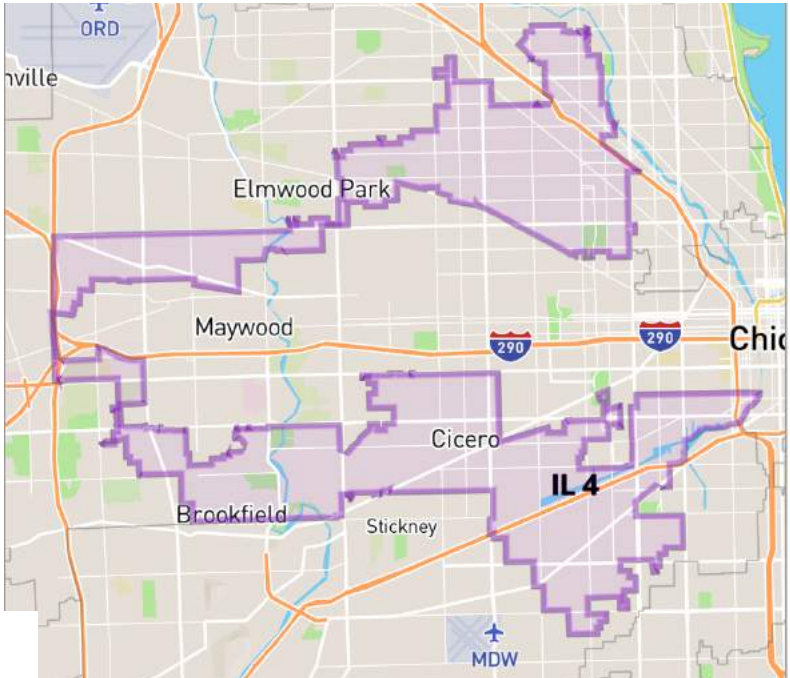
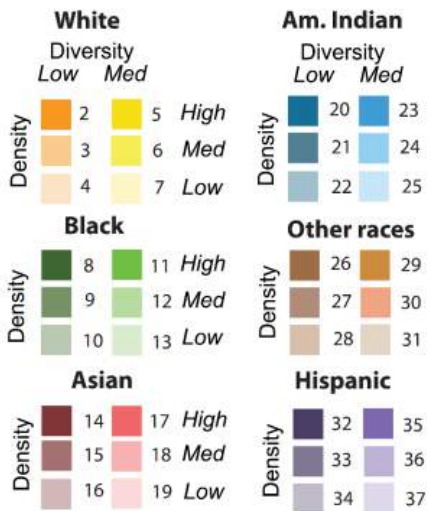


# RACIAL GERRYMANDERS: WHY ARE THEY SHAPED THIS WAY

## ★ VRA: majority-minority districts



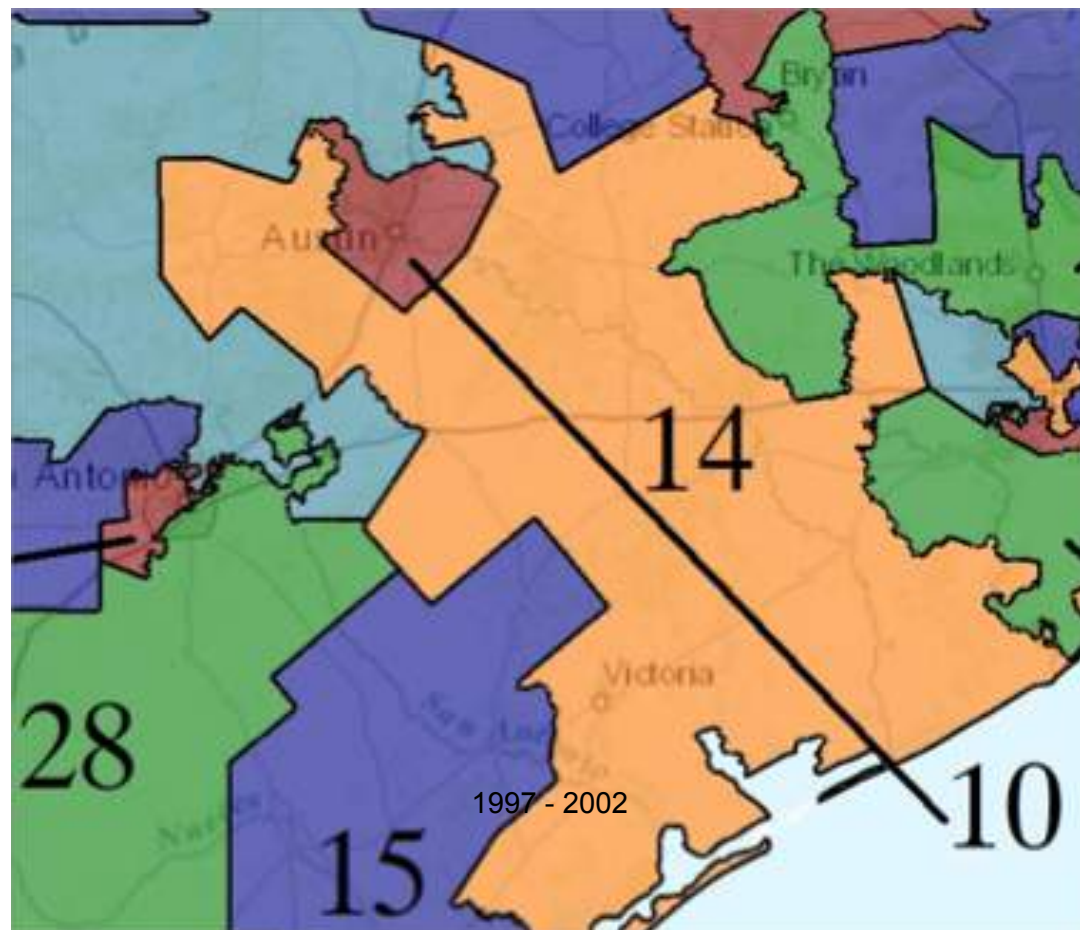
TX 35



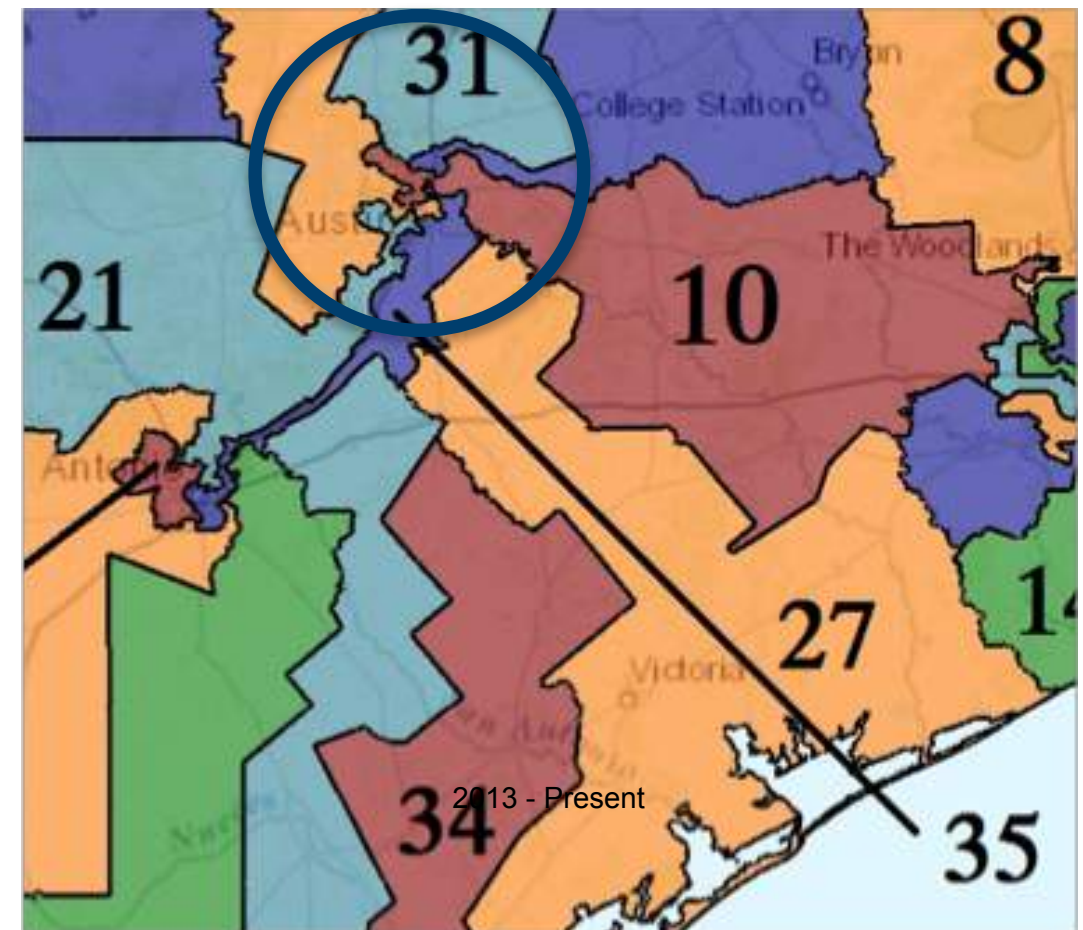
Illinois 4th



# CRACKING AND PACKING: DILUTING YOUR VOTE



1990s



2017

# LEGISLATURE IS LESS DIVERSE THAN TEXAS AS A WHOLE

## Democrats\* in both chambers



## Republicans in both chambers



## Entire Legislature

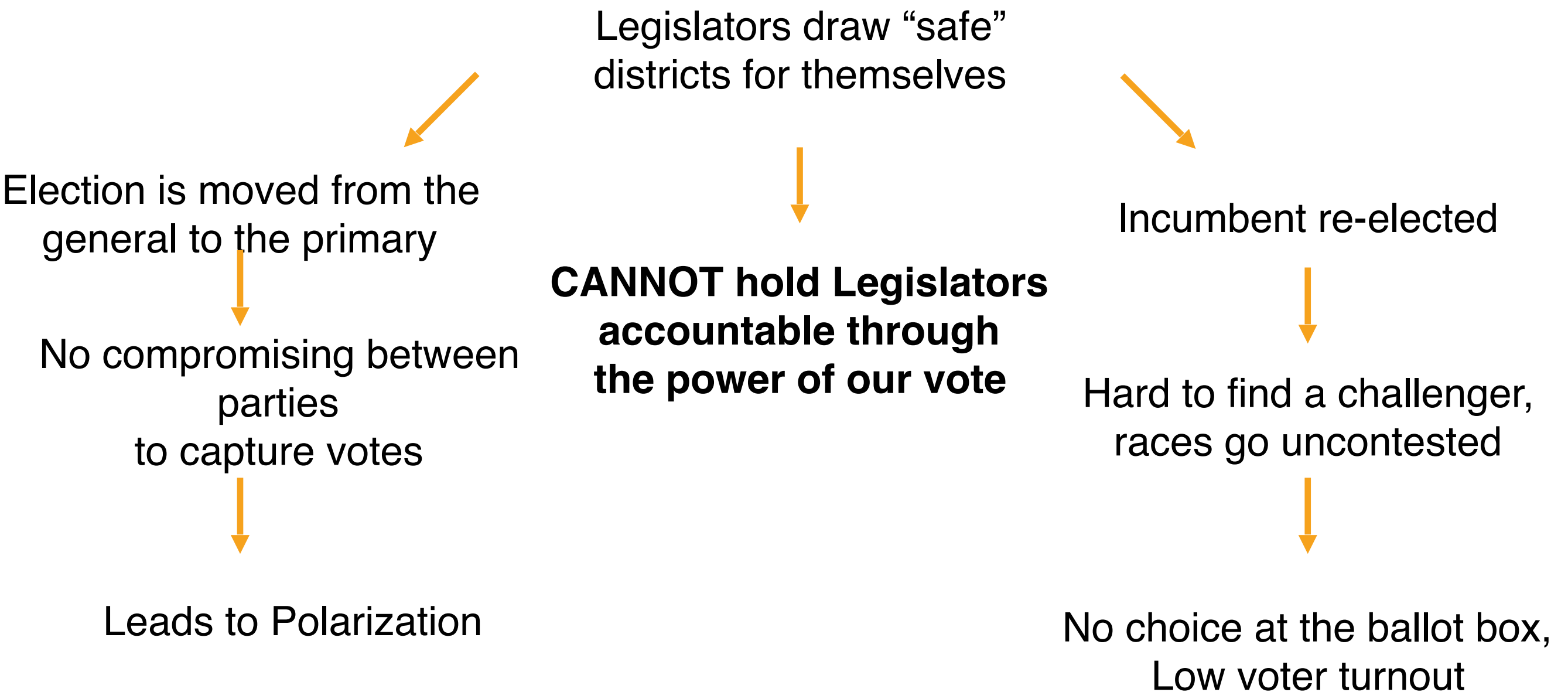


## All Texans



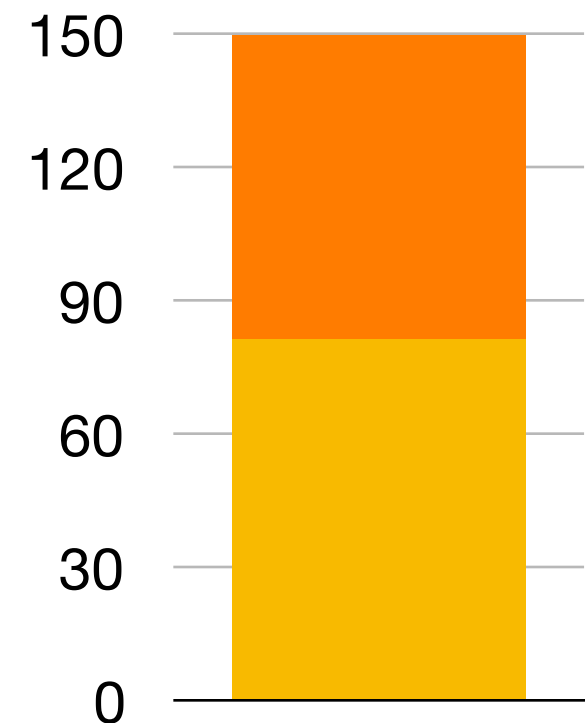


# PROBLEMS FOR EVERYONE



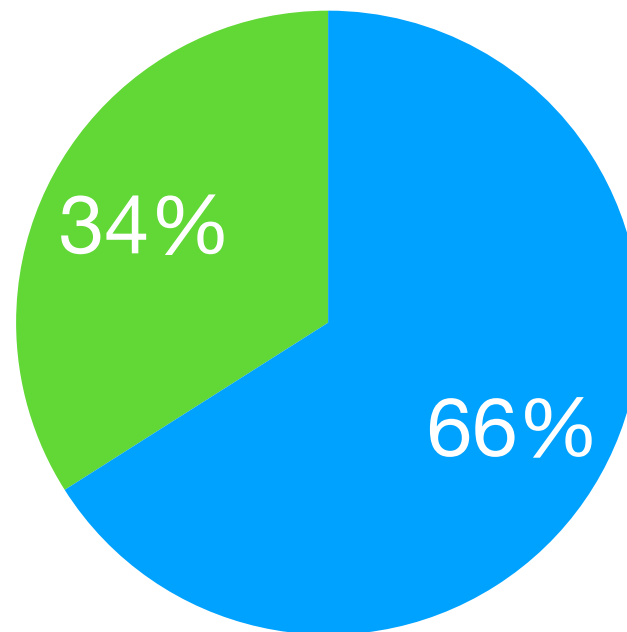
# HOW BAD IT IS IN TEXAS- 2016

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House Seats

81 / 150 of the Texas State House seats were completely uncontested.



66% of the state legislature was determined before a single vote was cast in the general election.

Voters could not hold most elected officials accountable at the ballot box.

- 72% of state legislative offices were considered to be heavily gerrymandered with an electoral margin >45% (virtually ensured victory.)
- 97% of incumbent politicians were reelected in the 2016 general election

# RUCHO V LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NC



# NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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- ★ Many states are moving to this system.
- ★ Some commissions are composed 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
- ★ IRCs ensure voters have a choice at the ballot box: In 2016, voters in all but 8% of the districts in states with commissions had two or more major party candidates on their congressional ballots.



## PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

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- ★ The House Redistricting Committee needs to hear from you on where your community is located and why it is important to keep it together.
- ★ IT WILL BE UP TO US TO GET OUR COMMUNITIES ORGANIZED!



# COMMUNITY FORUMS

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- ★ Bring community together to share about their communities of interest
- ★ Work on producing maps
- ★ Publicize maps in papers
- ★ Have public vote on maps
- ★ Convening event- work with County Judge or other elected officials
- ★ Change House Committee rules to make the process more transparent
- ★ TX Civil Rights Project working on tool to help develop testimony

# NONPARTISAN CRITERIA!!!!

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- ★ Equal population
- ★ Comply with Voting Rights Act: partner with civil rights group
- ★ Contiguous
- ★ State House- County Line Rule
- ★ Communities of Interest:
  - ★ Respect cities, counties, and neighborhoods
  - ★ A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.
- ★ Compactness: nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant population
- ★ Nesting: districts overlap

# EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

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- ★ Culture or history
- ★ Transportation
- ★ Weather
- ★ Watershed
- ★ Economical regions (industrial, agricultural, tech, army, etc)
- ★ Recreation
- ★ Income status
- ★ Housing
- ★ Language
- ★ Schools
- ★ Healthcare
- ★ Common Goal: reducing crime or increasing jobs





# EXAMPLE TESTIMONY

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*I live in a unique area of Farmers Branch called Oak Knoll Valley. It is also a certified neighborhood council. The neighborhood is bounded between Highway 9 on the west and Sunnyside River on the east side. There are approximately 8,000 residents in Oak Knoll Valley and it is primarily a residential area with some areas zoned for commercial and mixed use especially along the river.*

*The languages spoken in Oak Knoll Valley are primarily English and Spanish with some residents speaking Vietnamese and Mandarin. While most residents go outside our community for shopping and employment, they tend to stay here for their socializing, religious activities and recreation. The Oak Knoll Regional Center provides a variety of activities and is a real hub of the community.*

**Across the river from Oak Knoll Valley is the community of River Glen which is similar to our community as it is primarily residential. We are in the same school district and the high school which Oak Knoll students attend is in River Glen. It would make sense that we would be included in the same legislative or Congressional district.**

**On the other side of Highway 9 is Gold City which is primarily an industrial and commercial area. Most of the residents live in multi-family apartment buildings and many of them are new to the area. Gold City is part of a different school district than Oak Knoll. While Gold City is in close proximity to Oak Knoll we have less in common than we do with River Glen.**

# TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE

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District Viewer:

[dvr.capitol.texas.gov](http://dvr.capitol.texas.gov)

DistrictR - MGCGG:

[districtr.org](http://districtr.org)

Maptitude: Currently have 1 license that can be checked out

## WHAT I NEED HELP WITH RIGHT NOW

- ★ Looking for volunteers to become speakers
- ★ Looking for Volunteers to Join the Observer Corps
  - ★ Attend hearings
  - ★ Check to make sure your legislators are promoting the hearings- One Click coming soon