First Look Analysis:
Proposed Congressional Map
House & Senate Democratic Caucuses, Oct. 21, 2021

Fair Districts GA &

Princeton Gerrymandering Project

Respect voters' political preferences:

PARTISAN BALANCE AND COMPETITION

Comparison of the Congressional map to fairness benchmarks:

The partisan gap between Republican and Democratic voters has narrowed in recent elections and is now close to a 50-50 split. Benchmarks from Princeton Gerrymandering Project indicate that the best choice for partisan balance is 8 Republican and 6 Democratic districts. With 7 districts each for Democrats and Republicans, the proposed map attempts to reflect a nearly equal swing state. However, this map does not reflect the natural distribution of voters in Georgia, where Democrats are more concentrated than Republicans in urban areas.

Five districts—4 Republican and 1 Democratic — show evidence of partisan gerrymandering by packing more Republican or Democratic voters into the district than any of the 1 million simulated maps created for the benchmark analysis. As anticipated by the benchmarks, there is 1 competitive district, defined as having a proportion of each party's voters in the 46.5%-53.5% range.

Conclusions:

The proposed map confers a slight Democratic advantage. The Princeton Gerrymandering Project Report Card grades the map as a "B."

What is a Fair Map?

Working with Fair Districts GA, the Princeton Gerrymandering Project conducted a state-of-the art analysis using 2020 census data to create benchmarks/fairness tests that can be used to evaluate proposed maps drawn by the Georgia General Assembly. To be considered fair, proposed district maps for the State Senate should comply with the following criteria.

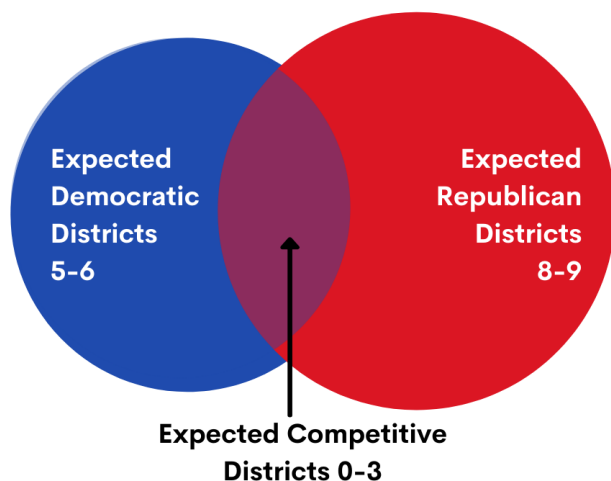**Respect voters' political preferences**

- Reflect the natural political preferences of voters distributed across the state

- Allow for competition

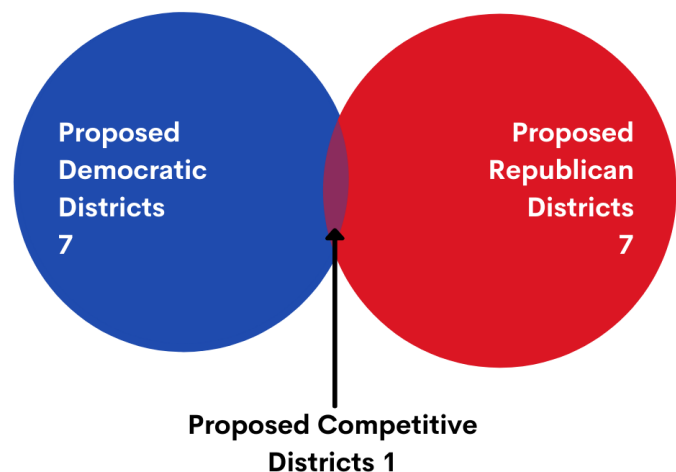**Reflect Georgia's diversity**

- Provide sufficient majority-minority opportunity districts and comply with the Voting Rights Act

- Preserve minority influence districts

Honor communities of interest

Congressional Fairness Benchmarks:

Expected Democratic Districts 5-6

Expected Republican Districts 8-9

Expected Competitive Districts 0-3

Proposed Democratic Caucus Congressional Map:

Proposed Democratic Districts 7

Proposed Republican Districts 7

Proposed Competitive Districts 1

Reflect Georgia's diversity:

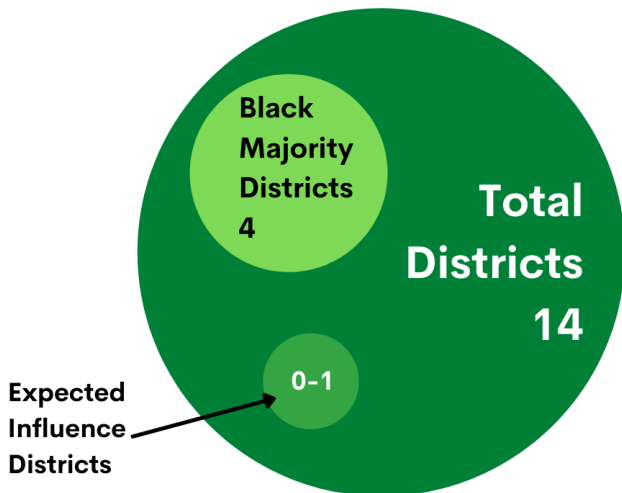## MAJORITY-MINORITY AND MINORITY INFLUENCE DISTRICTS

Comparison of the proposed Congressional map to fairness benchmarks:

The existing map includes 4 Black-majority districts, which are protected by the Voting Rights act if specific criteria are met. However, the proposed map provides only 2, due to changes in GA02 and GA05 to balance population. These become districts with a coalition of minorities as the majority. The 2020 census shows that the diversity of Georgia's population has increased significantly to include multiple minority groups. Studies have shown that at these population levels, Black voters can elect candidates of their choice by forming coalitions with other groups. The proposed map retains the 4 minority influence districts in the current map and increases minority coalition districts to 4, in line with benchmarks.
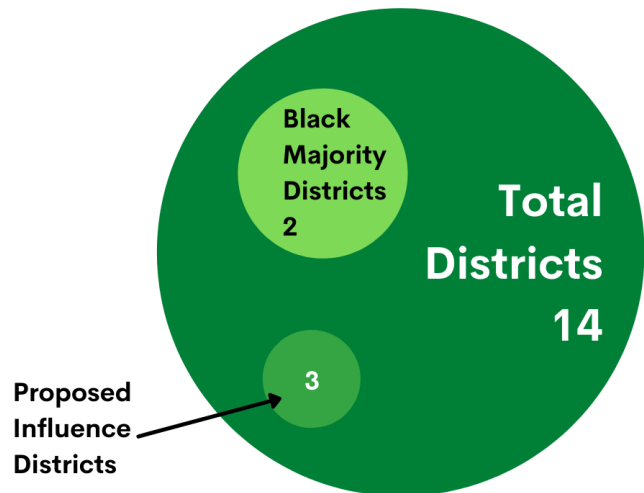
Conclusions:

The Democratic map provides more opportunities for minority representation, with 10 districts that are either Black majority, minority-coalition majority, or minority influence districts.

Congressional Fairness Benchmarks:

Black Majority Districts 4

Total Districts 14

Expected Influence Districts → 0-1

Proposed Democratic Caucus Congressional Map:

Black Majority Districts 2

Total Districts 14

Proposed Influence Districts → 3

Honor communities of interest:

CITY SPLITS

The current map unnecessarily splits 24% of Georgia cities that have a 2020 census population that could fit into one district. The proposed map reduces the percentage of split cities to 21%, uniting Athens; Columbus remains split.

Visit the Fair Districts GA website for the latest information and analysis.
Legislator Resource Page: bit.ly/FDGALegislatorResources
Georgia Explorer Interactive Map: bit.ly/FDGAExplorer

FairDistrictsGA.org
Gerrymander.Princeton.edu
11/03/2021