First Look Analysis:
# Proposed House Map
House Democratic Caucus, October 29, 2021

**Fair Districts GA &**

**Princeton Gerrymandering Project**

FairDistrictsGA

## Respect voters' political preferences:

### PARTISAN BALANCE AND COMPETITION

*Comparison of the proposed state House map to fairness benchmarks:*

With 96 Republican-leaning and 84 Democratic-leaning districts, the proposed map aligns with the narrowing partisan gap, now close to a 50-50 split, seen in recent statewide elections.  The map is near the benchmark midpoint for partisan lean, indicating no significant bias.  The existing House delegation includes 103 Republicans and 76 Democrats with 1 vacancy.

Seventeen Republican and 20 Democratic districts,or 20.5% of the total 180 districts, show evidence of partisan gerrymandering by packing more Republican or Democratic voters into those districts than any of the 1 million simulated maps created for the benchmark analysis.  There are only 8 competitive districts that have a proportion of each party's voters in the 46.5%-53.5% range.  The expected range is 9-22 districts.

*Conclusions:*

Although the proposed map falls within the benchmark ranges shown below for partisan balance, it lacks sufficient competitive districts and may unduly advantage incumbents.  The Princeton Gerrymandering Project gave this map a grade of "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.
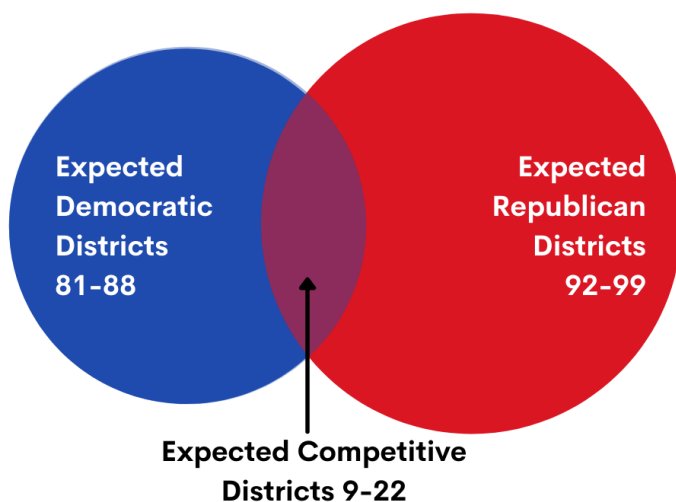
**Respect voters' political preferences**

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

- Allow for competition
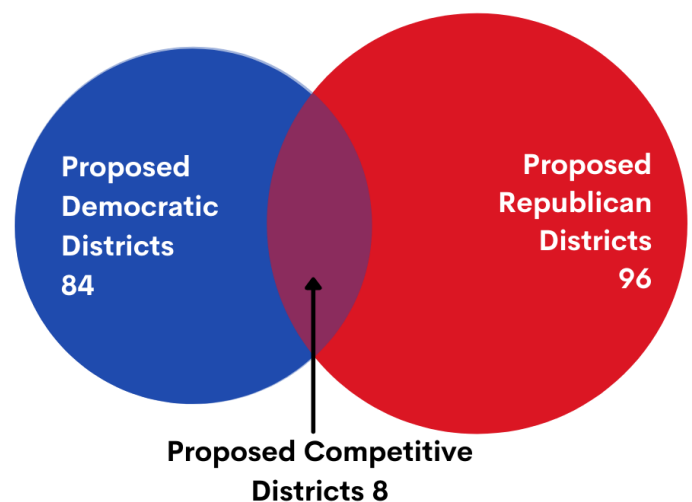
**Reflect Georgia's diversity**

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

- Preserve minority influence districts

**Honor communities of interest**

## House Fairness Benchmarks:



Expected Democratic Districts 81-88

Expected Republican Districts 92-99

Expected Competitive Districts 9-22

## Proposed Democratic Caucus House Map:



Proposed Democratic Districts 84

Proposed Republican Districts 96

Proposed Competitive Districts 8

# Reflect Georgia's diversity:

## MAJORITY-MINORITY AND MINORITY INFLUENCE DISTRICTS

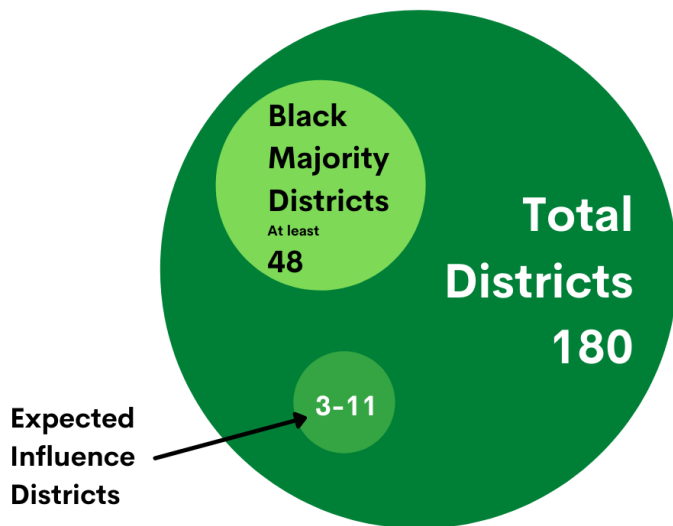*Comparison of the proposed state House map to fairness benchmarks:*

The proposed map provides 41 Black-majority districts, which are protected by the Voting Rights Act if specific criteria are met. The existing map includes 47 districts; our analysis indicates that 48 are possible. There are 16 Black influence districts, many more than the 3-11 benchmark range, with a Black Voting Age Population between 37% and 50%. Studies have shown that at these population levels, Black voters can elect candidates of their choice by forming coalitions with other groups.

As shown in the 2020 census, the diversity of Georgia's population has increased significantly to include multiple minority groups. The proposed map includes 73 majority-minority districts, more than the expected 66 districts, and 37 minority influence districts, which include Black and other minority voters.
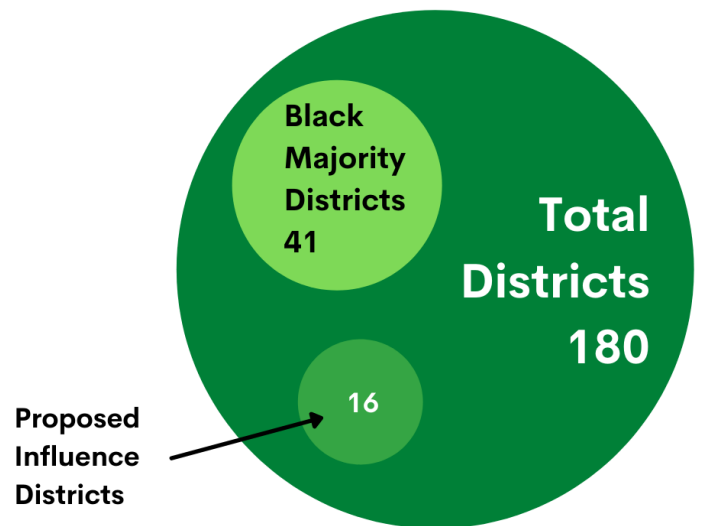
*Conclusions:*

The proposed map provides a total of 110 districts that give Black and other minority voters the opportunity to elect the candidates of their choice. Although this is 1 fewer district than the current map, the proposed map provides 1 Hispanic-majority and 2 Hispanic influence districts for the first time.

## House Fairness Benchmarks:

Black Majority Districts
At least
48

Total Districts
180

Expected Influence Districts

3-11

## Proposed Democratic Caucus House Map:

Black Majority Districts
41

Total Districts
180

Proposed Influence Districts

16

# Honor communities of interest:

## CITY SPLITS

The current map unnecessarily splits 64% of Georgia cities that have a 2020 census population that could fit into a single district. The proposed map reduces the percentage of split cities to 62% .

**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**
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