

2022 Enacted Senate Map

Senate Committee Chair, December 27, 2021



Respect voters' political preferences:

PARTISAN BALANCE AND COMPETITION

Comparison of the State Senate 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, but the enacted map favors Republicans by creating 33 Republican-leaning districts vs. 23 Democratic-leaning districts. In contrast, 99.7% of the 1 million simulated maps created for the benchmark analysis had 32 or fewer Republican and 24 or more Democratic districts.

Ten Republican and 9 Democratic districts, or 34% of the total 56 districts, show evidence of extreme partisan gerrymandering by packing more Republican or Democratic voters into those districts than any of the benchmark analysis simulated maps. There is only 1 competitive district that has a proportion of each party's voters in the 46.5%-53.5% range. The expected range is 1-7 competitive districts and 95.6% of simulated maps had 2 or more such districts.

Conclusions:

Partisan balance is outside the benchmark range, providing a significant Republican advantage with insufficient competitive districts. The Princeton Gerrymandering Project gave this map a grade of "F."

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 were used to evaluate proposed maps drawn by the Georgia General Assembly. To be considered fair, district maps should comply with the following criteria.

Respect voters' political preferences

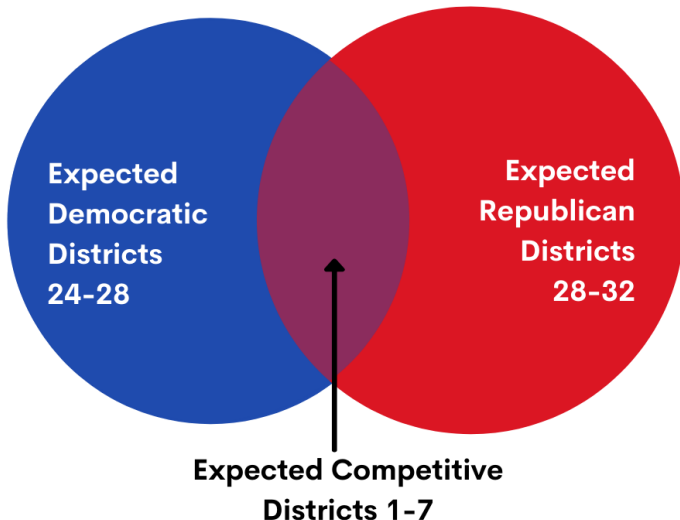
- Reflect the natural political preferences of voters distributed across the state
- Allow for competition

Reflect Georgia's diversity

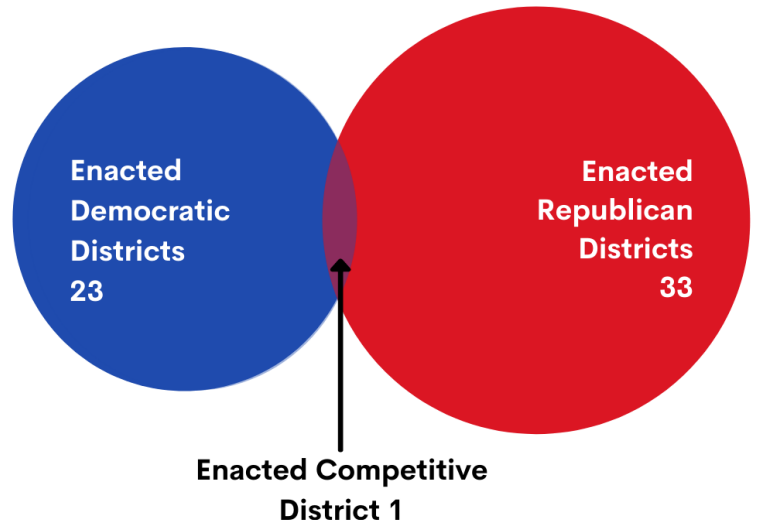
- Provide sufficient majority-minority opportunity districts and comply with the Voting Rights Act
- Preserve minority influence districts

Honor communities of interest

Senate Fairness Benchmarks:



Enacted Senate Map:



Reflect Georgia's diversity:

MAJORITY-MINORITY AND MINORITY INFLUENCE DISTRICTS

Comparison of the State Senate map to fairness benchmarks:

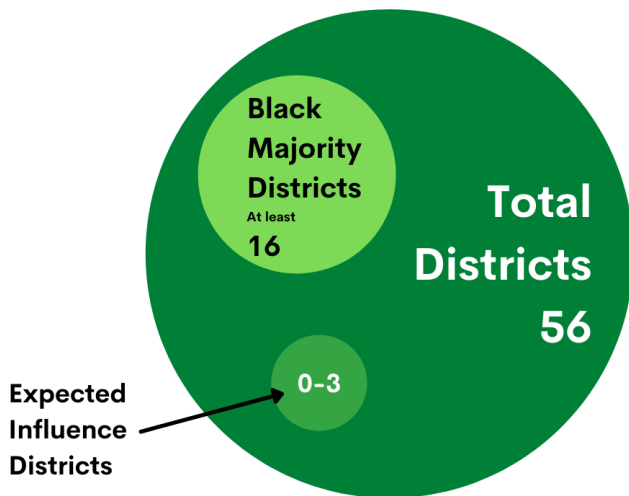
The enacted map provides 13 Black-majority districts, which are protected by the Voting Rights Act if specific criteria are met. The previous map included 15 districts and our analysis indicated that 16 were possible. The enacted map has 3 Black influence districts with a Black Voting Age Population between 37% and 50%. Studies have shown that at these population levels Black voters, defined as Black/African-Americans plus Black Hispanics, 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. As expected, the enacted map has 20 majority-minority districts, which include Black and other minority voters. The map also includes 13 minority influence districts, including 1 Hispanic influence district.

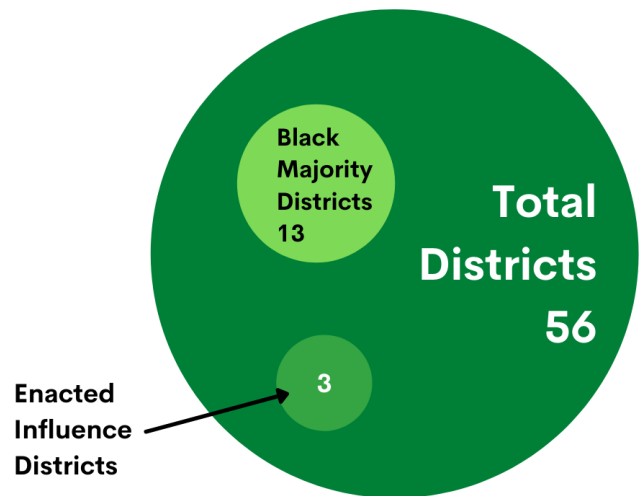
Conclusions:

The enacted map provides a total of 33 districts, including 20 majority-minority and 13 minority influence, that give Black and other minority voters the opportunity to elect the candidates of their choice. This is 1 fewer than the 34 such districts in the previous map.

Senate Fairness Benchmarks:



Enacted Senate Map:



Honor communities of interest:

CITY SPLITS

The previous map unnecessarily split 42% of Georgia cities that have a 2020 census population that could fit into a single district. The enacted map increases the percentage of split cities to 44% .