

Redistricting 2021: How to Map a Changing Georgia

**Briefing for General Assembly Legislators
September 22, 2021**



**Princeton
Gerrymandering
Project**





2020 Georgia Census: Shift from Rural to Urban



Total population grew from 9.7M to 10.7M, +10.6%

Metro Atlanta growth

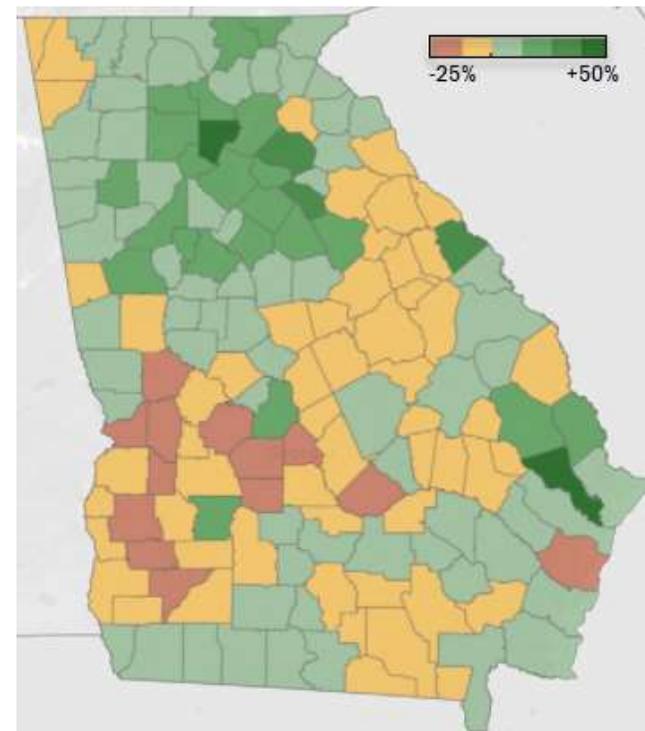
- 56.9% of total population (up from 54.6%)
- 78% of growth

Fastest growing counties:

- Forsyth--48% (Metro Atlanta)
- Bryan--43% (Metro Savannah)

Many rural counties shrinking by ~23-24% or stagnated

- Dooly
- Telfair
- McIntosh



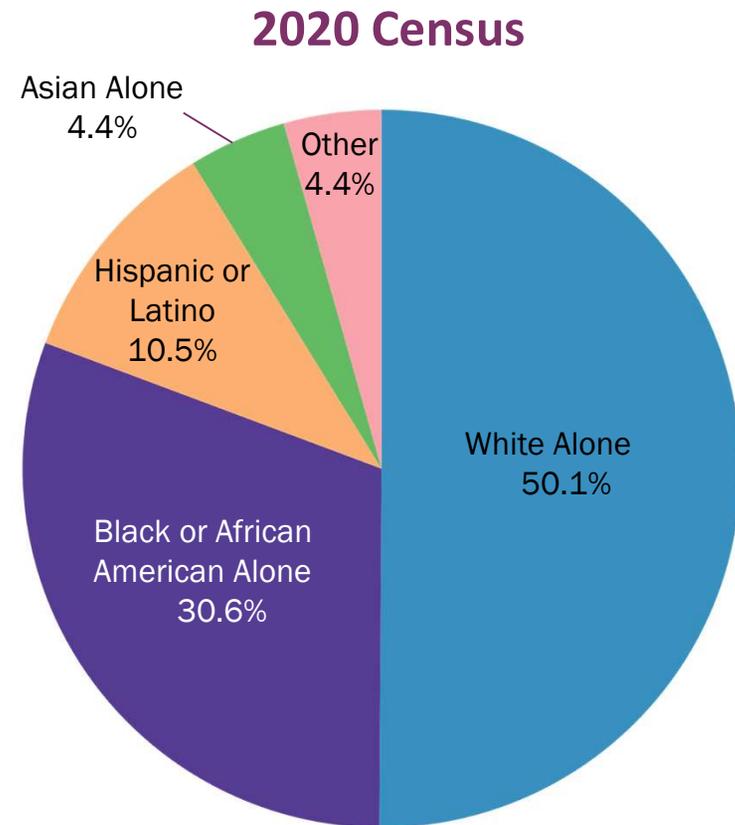
Percentage Population change from 2010

2020 Georgia Census: Georgia Grows More Diverse



Changes in Georgia population mirrors nationwide trends

- **White: -1%**
- **Black: +15%**
- **Hispanic: +32%**
- **Asian: +53%**
- **Multiracial: +139%**



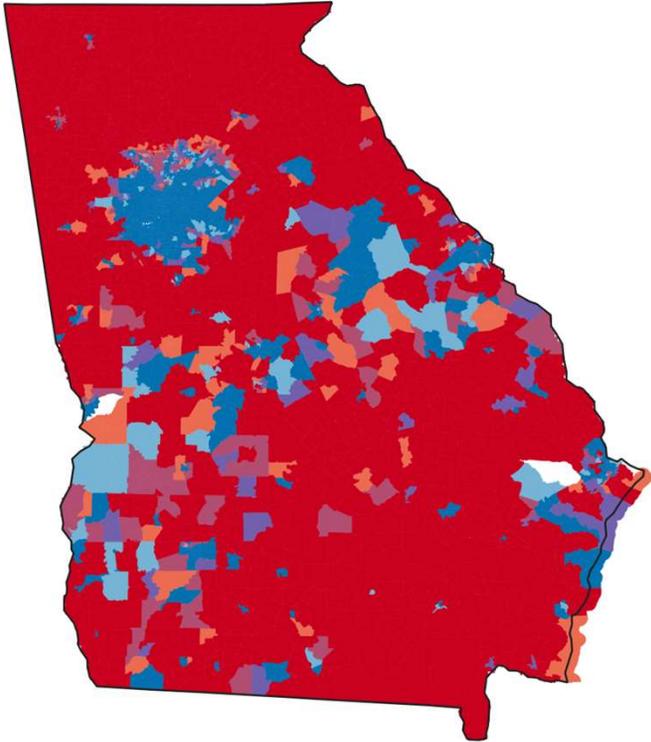
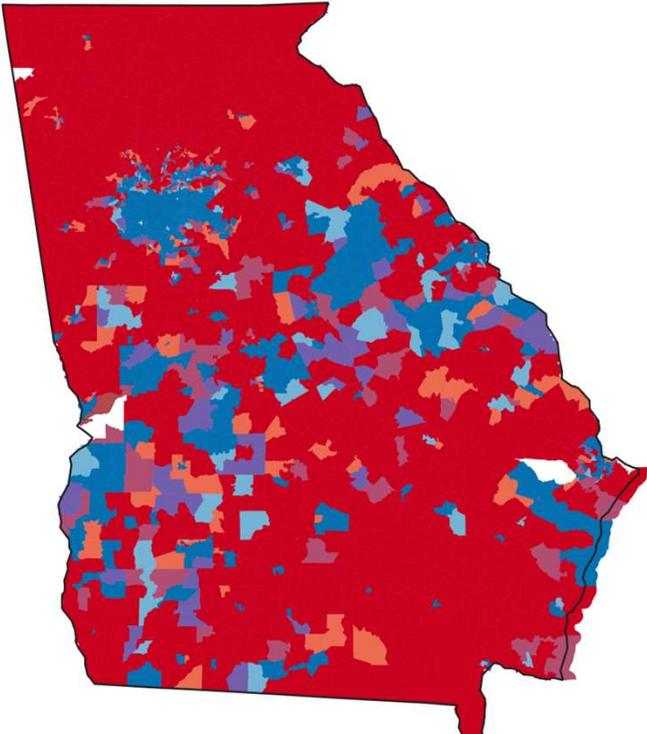
Georgia 2011 vs. 2020: Still Polarized, But Now a Swing State



FairDistrictsGA

2012 Presidential Election (R+3.3%)

2020 Presidential Election (D+0.2%)



Source: Princeton
Gerrymandering Project

What Do We Mean By Fair Maps?



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 districts / comply with the Voting Rights Act
- Preserve minority opportunity / influence districts

Honor communities of interest

Fair Districts GA / Princeton Gerrymandering Project Partnership



Provide independent, non-partisan benchmarks / fairness tests to show what to expect in a fair map

Previously: Phase 1 – 20-year history

- Last 2 redistricting cycles
- Mid-cycle redistricting

Today: Phase 2 Benchmarks / fairness tests

- Based on 2020 census
- This fall: Evaluation of proposed maps

	Partisan balance	Competitive districts	Minority representation
State House	?	?	?
State Senate	?	?	?
Congress	?	?	?

Fairness Benchmarks Using Statistical Simulations



Princeton Gerrymandering Project Analysis

Create 1 million simulated maps for each chamber--state House, state Senate and Congress

- Use 2020 Census redistricting data
- Comply with state law and the federal Voting Rights Act
- Incorporate Georgia General Assembly redistricting guidelines



Fairness Benchmarks Using PGP Statistical Simulations



For each district in each simulated map, measure minority and partisan representation

Partisan representation:

What is the *partisan lean* using the average of three recent statewide elections?

How many districts are considered competitive?

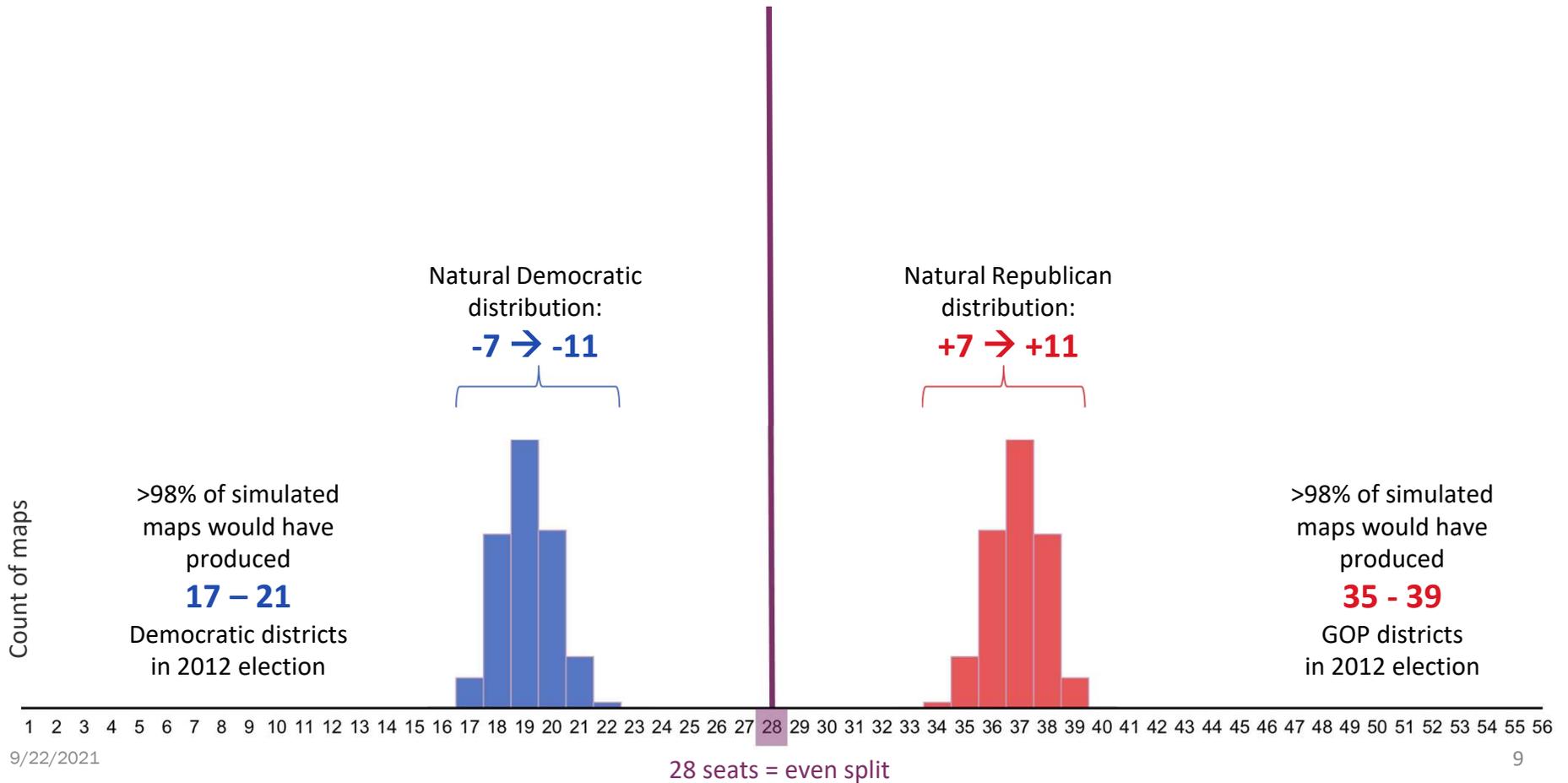
Minority representation:

What are the demographics of the voting-age population?

How many districts are considered majority-minority?

Since the collection of **1 million simulated maps per chamber** was created using Georgia's redistricting criteria, fairly-drawn maps should fall within the range of these measurements

State Senate 2011: Partisan Representation, Expected Range



State Senate 2011 vs. 2021: Partisan Representation, Expected Range



FairDistrictsGA

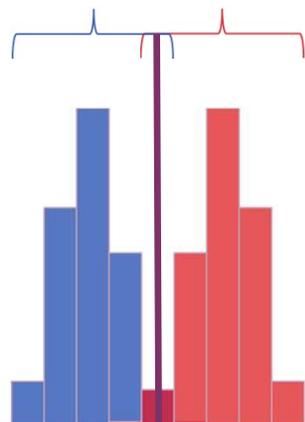
2021

Natural Democratic
distribution:
0 → -4

Natural Republican
distribution:
0 → +4

>98% of simulated
maps would have
produced
24 - 28
Democratic districts
in 2018-21 elections

>98% of simulated
maps would have
produced
28 - 32
GOP districts
in 2018-21 elections



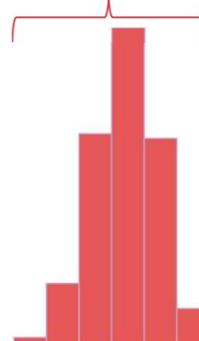
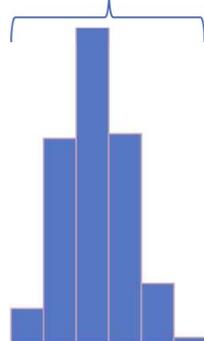
2011

Natural Democratic distribution:
-7 → -11

Natural Republican distribution:
+7 → +11

>98% of simulated
maps would have
produced
17 - 21
Democratic districts
in 2012 election

>98% of simulated
maps would have
produced
35 - 39
GOP districts
in 2012 election



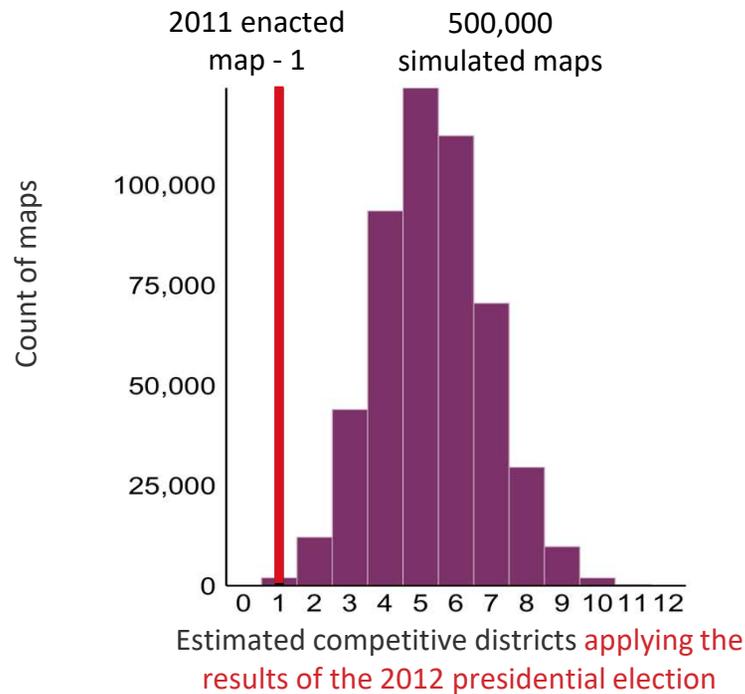
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

28 seats = even split

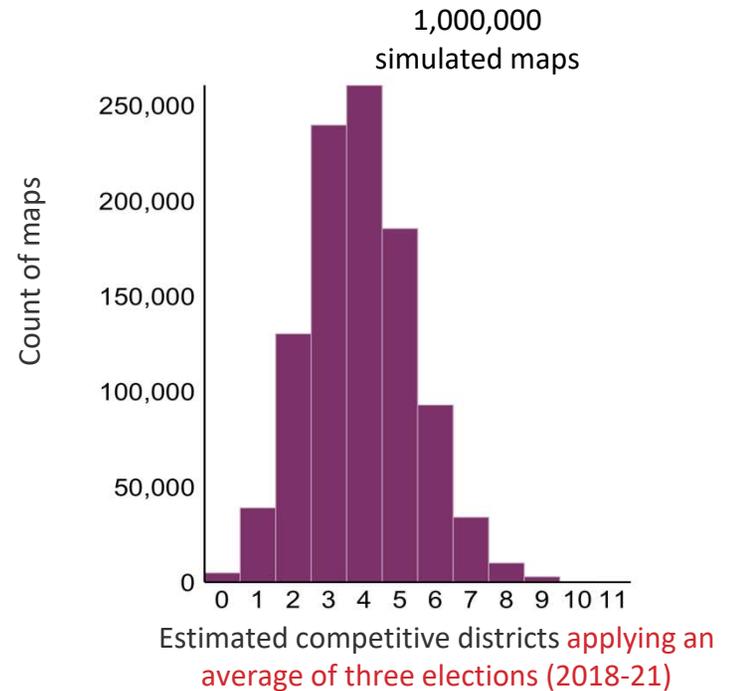
State Senate: Competitive Districts, Expected Results



2011 competitive districts:
>98% of simulated maps have 2-9



2021 competitive districts:
98% of simulated maps have 1-7



State Senate: Black Representation



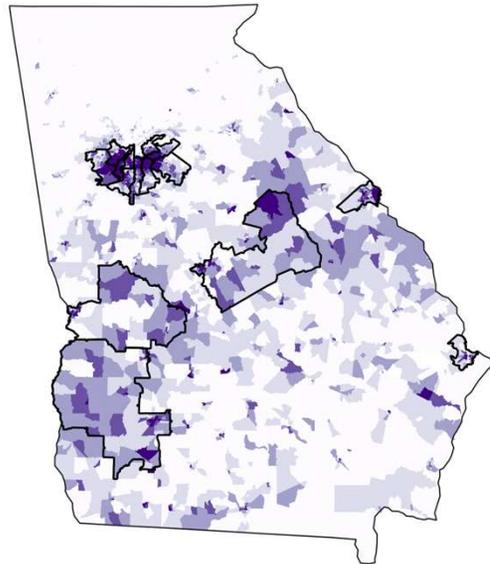
2011

VRA-Protected Opportunity Districts

- **15 Black-majority districts** (shown on map)

Influence Districts (37% – 50% BVAP)

- 0 Black influence districts
- >98% of simulated maps have 0 - 5



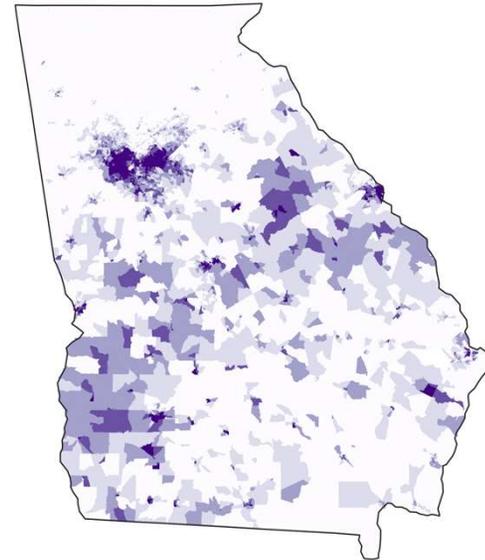
2021

VRA-Protected Opportunity Districts

- Simulations found maps with **16 Black-majority districts**, so at least 16 districts are indicated

Influence Districts (37% – 50% BVAP)

- >98% of simulated maps have 0 - 3

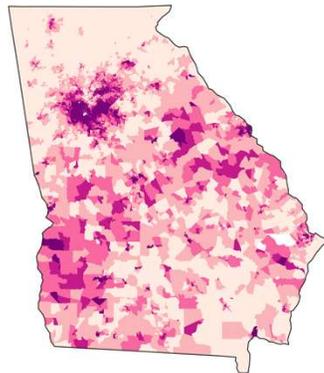


State Senate 2021: Minority Representation



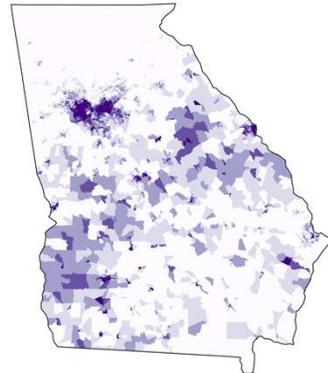
All Minorities

Coalition Districts



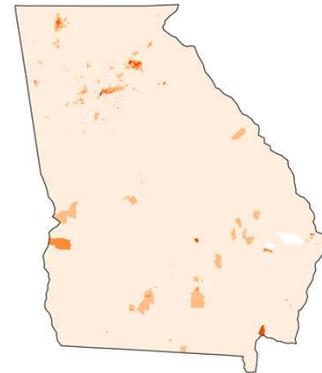
Black

Opportunity Districts
Influence Districts



Hispanic

Influence Districts



Asian



We may also see:

- Significant number of districts with minority coalitions
- Districts with 37-50% Hispanic voters

State Senate: Benchmark Comparison



State Senate	Benchmarks / Fairness tests (compared to simulated maps)		
	Partisan balance	Competitive districts	Minority representation
Expectations for fair 2021 maps: 2020 census and 2018-21 election results	28–32 Republican districts 24-28 Democratic districts (>98% of simulated maps)	1-7 competitive districts (>98% of simulated maps)	At least 16 Black-majority districts 0-3 Black-influence districts (>98% of simulated maps)
2011 Benchmarks: 2010 census and 2012 election results	35-39 Republican districts 17-21 Democratic districts (>98% of simulated maps)	2-9 competitive districts (>98% of simulated maps) 50% of districts show evidence of voter packing or cracking	15 Black majority districts 0-5 Black-influence districts (>98% of simulated maps)

State House 2011 vs. 2021: Partisan Representation, Expected Range

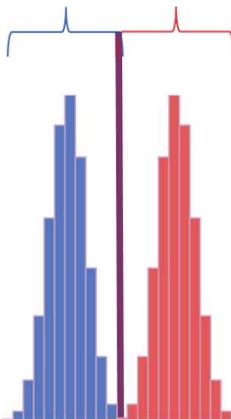


FairDistrictsGA

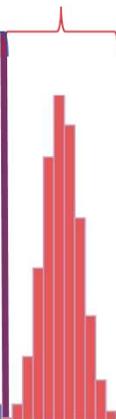
2021

>98% of simulated maps would have produced
81 - 88
Democratic districts
in 2018-21 elections

Natural Democratic distribution:
-2 → -9



Natural Republican distribution:
+2 → +9

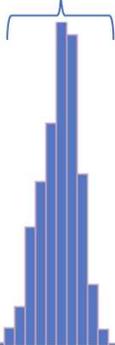


>98% of simulated maps would have produced
92 - 99
GOP districts
in 2018-21 elections

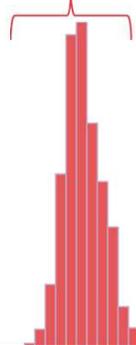
2011

>98% of simulated maps would have produced
61 - 70
Democratic districts
in 2012 election

Natural Democratic distribution:
-20 → -29



Natural Republican distribution:
+20 → +29



>98% of simulated maps would have produced
110 - 119
GOP districts
in 2012 election

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180

90 seats = even split

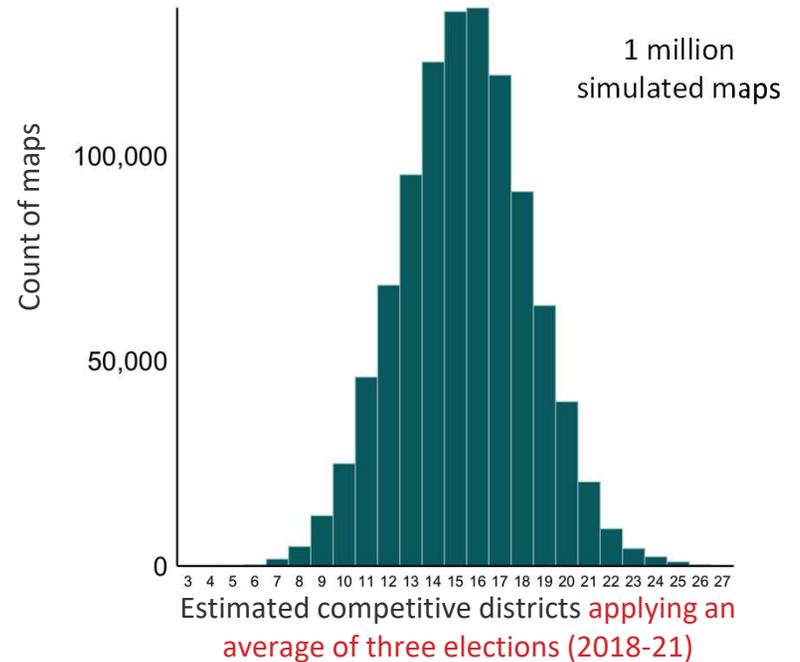
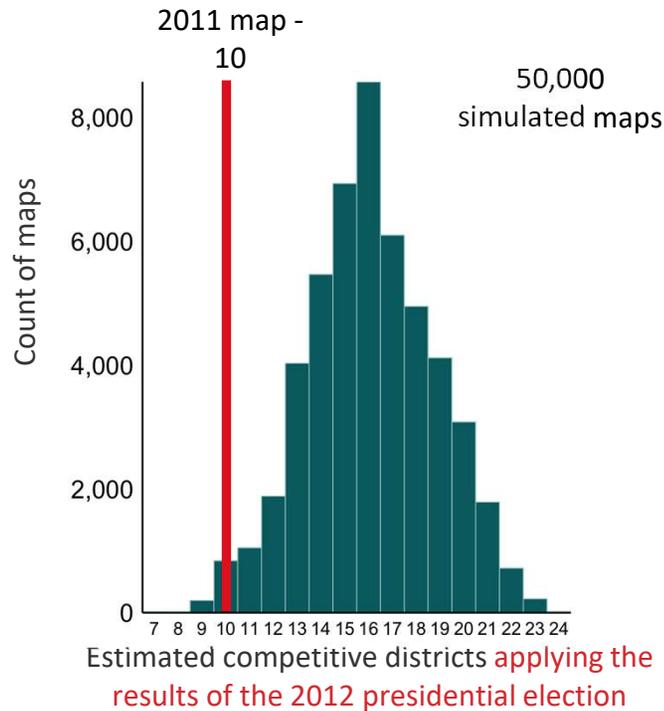


State House: Competitive Districts, Expected Results



2011 competitive districts:
>98% of simulated maps have 10-22

2021 competitive districts:
>98% of simulated maps have 9-22



State House 2021: Black Representation



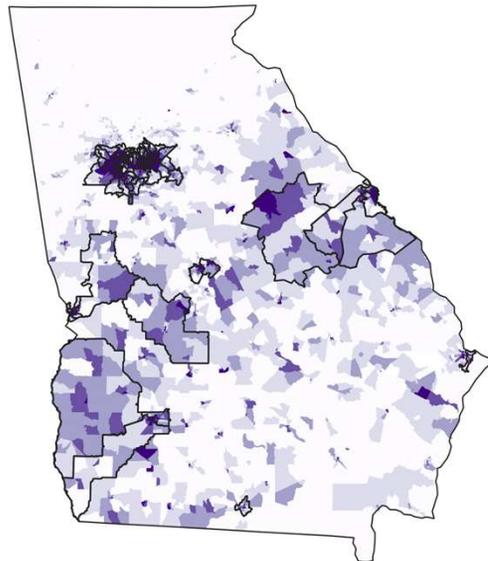
2011

VRA-Protected Opportunity Districts

- **47 Black-majority districts** (shown on map)

Influence Districts (37% – 50% BVAP)

- 8 Black influence districts
- >98% of simulated maps have 2 – 9



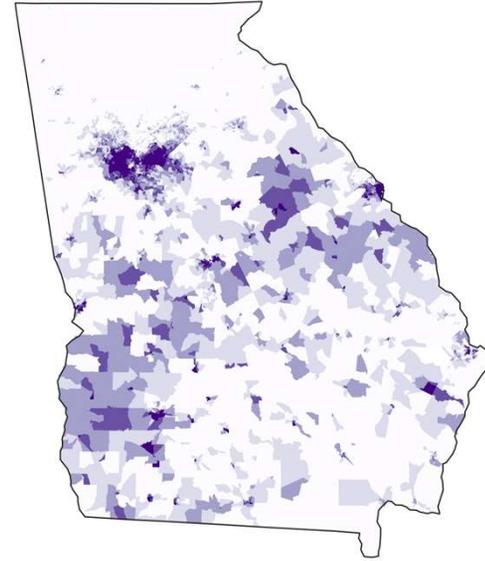
2021

VRA-Protected Opportunity Districts

- Simulations found maps with **48 Black-majority districts**, so at least 48 districts are indicated

Influence Districts (37% – 50% BVAP)

- >98% of simulated maps have 3 - 11

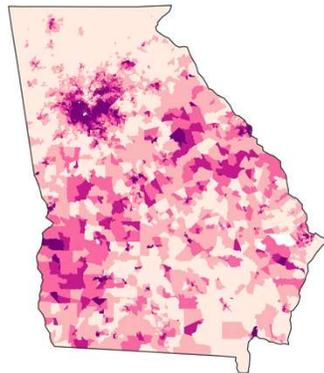


State House 2021: Minority Representation



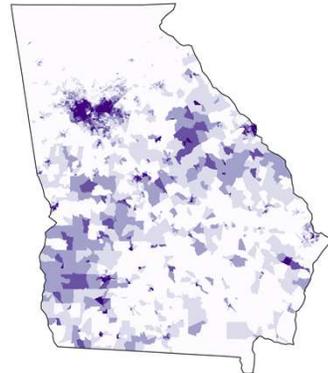
All Minorities

Coalition Districts



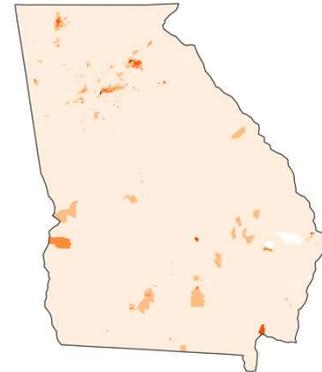
Black

Opportunity Districts
Influence Districts



Hispanic

Opportunity Districts
Influence Districts



Asian

Influence Districts



We may also see:

- Significant number of districts with minority coalitions
- For the first time, at least one majority-Hispanic district appears possible
- Districts with 37-50% Hispanic voters
- Districts with 37-50% Asian voters

State House: Benchmark Comparison



State House	Benchmarks / Fairness tests (compared to simulated maps)		
	Partisan balance	Competitive districts	Minority representation
Expectations for fair 2021 maps: 2020 census and 2018-21 election results	92-99 Republican districts 81-88 Democratic districts (>98% of simulated maps)	9-22 competitive districts (>98% of simulated maps)	At least 48 Black-majority districts 3-11 Black-influence districts (>98% of simulated maps)
2011 Benchmarks: 2010 census and 2012 election results	110-119 Republican districts 61-70 Democratic districts (>98% of simulated maps)	10-22 competitive districts (>98% of simulated maps) 45% of districts show evidence of evidence of voter packing or cracking	47 Black majority districts 2-9 Black-influence districts (>98% of simulated maps)

Congress 2011 vs. 2021:

Partisan Representation, Expected Range

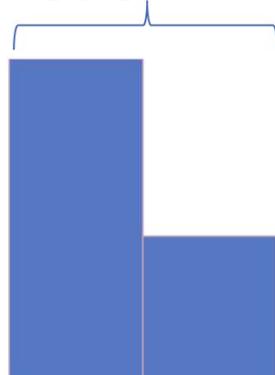


2021

>98% of simulated maps would have produced
5 - 6
Democratic districts
in 2018-21 elections

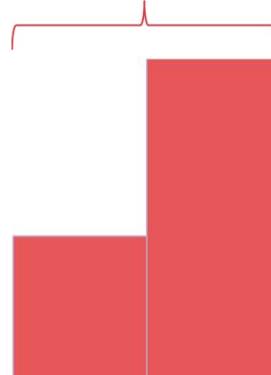
Natural Democratic distribution:

-1 → -2



Natural Republican distribution:

+1 → +2



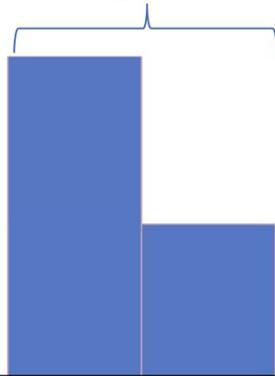
>98% of simulated maps would have produced
8 - 9
GOP districts
in 2018-21 elections

2011

>98% of simulated maps would have produced
4 - 5
Democratic districts
in 2012 election

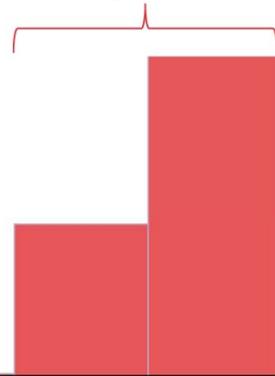
Natural Democratic distribution:

-2 → -3



Natural Republican distribution:

+2 → +3



>98% of simulated maps would have produced
9 - 10
GOP districts
in 2012 election

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

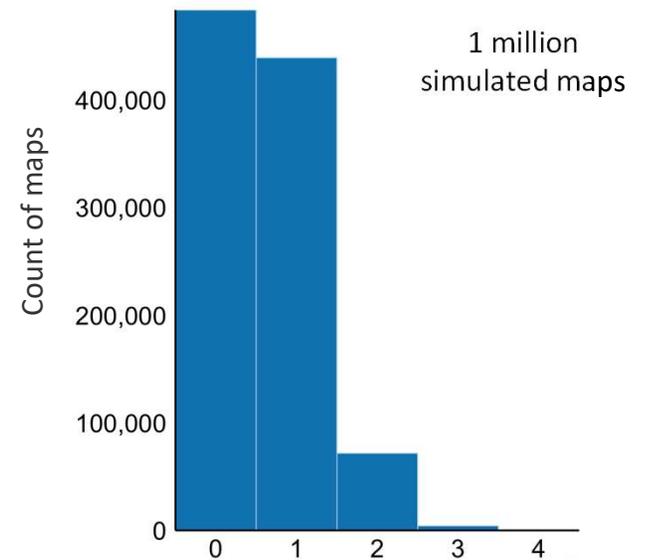
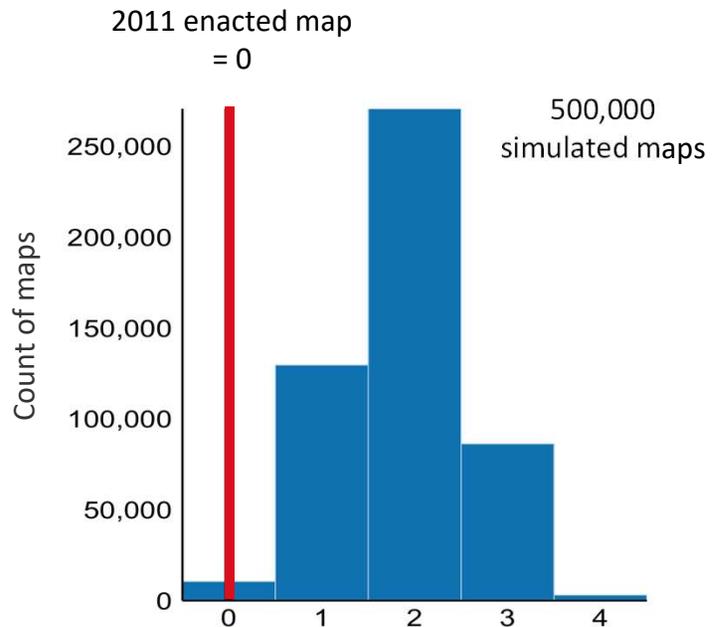
14

Congress Competitive Districts, Expected Results



2011 competitive districts:
>98% of simulated maps have 0-3

2012 competitive districts:
>98% of simulated maps have 0-3



Estimated competitive districts applying the results of the 2012 presidential election

Estimated competitive districts applying an average of three elections (2018-21)

Congress 2021: Black Representation



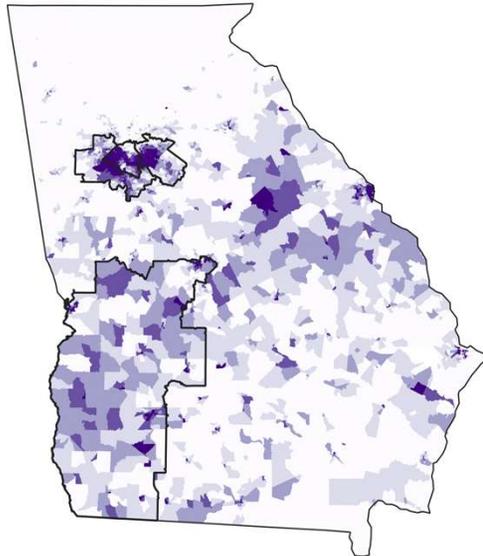
2011

VRA-Protected Opportunity Districts

- **4 Black-majority districts** (shown on map)

Influence Districts (37% - 50% BVAP)

- 1 Black influence district
- >98% of simulated maps have 0 - 1



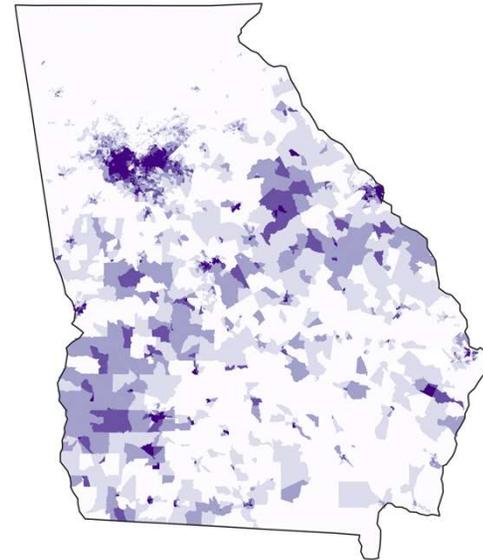
2021

VRA-Protected Opportunity Districts

- Simulations found maps with **4 Black-majority districts**, so at least 4 districts are indicated

Influence Districts (37% - 50% BVAP)

- >98% of simulated maps have 0 - 1

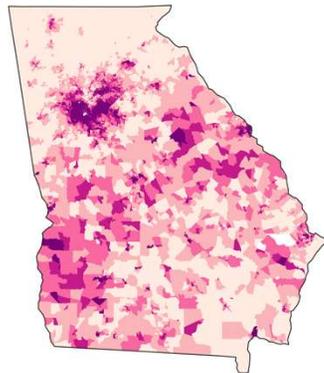


Congress 2021: Minority Representation



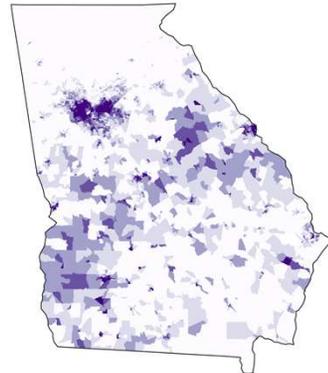
All Minorities

Coalition Districts

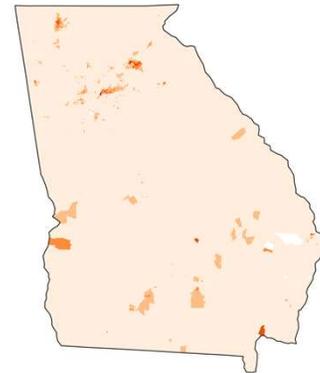


Black

Opportunity Districts
Influence Districts



Hispanic



Asian



We expect to see a significant number of districts with minority coalitions

- A majority of simulated maps show 5 majority-minority districts

Congressional Benchmark Comparison



U.S. Congress	Benchmarks / Fairness tests (compared to simulated maps)		
	Partisan balance	Competitive districts	Minority representation
Expectations for fair 2021 maps: 2020 census and 2018-21 election results	8-9 Republican districts 5-6 Democratic districts (>98% of simulated maps)	0-3 competitive districts (>98% of simulated maps)	4 Black-majority districts 0-1 influence districts (>98% of simulated maps)
2011 Benchmarks: 2010 census and 2012 election results	9-10 Republican districts 4-5 Democratic districts (>98% of simulated maps)	0-3 competitive districts; (>98% of simulated maps)	4 Black majority districts 0-1 influence districts (>98% of simulated maps)

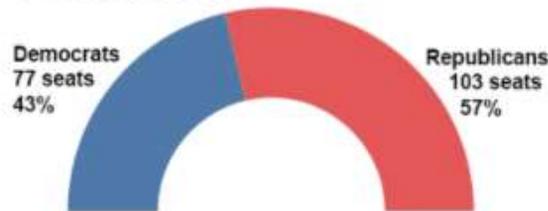
Summary of 2021 Benchmarks



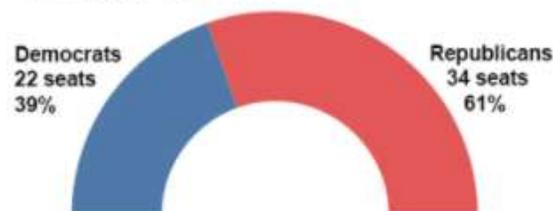
	Benchmarks / Fairness tests (range of values based on 2020 census data and average of major statewide elections 2018-21)		
	Partisan balance	Competitive districts	Minority representation
State House	92-99 Republican districts 81-88 Democratic districts	9 - 22 competitive districts	At least 48 Black-majority districts 3-11 Black-influence districts
State Senate	28-32 Republican districts 24-28 Democratic districts	1 - 7 competitive districts	At least 16 Black-majority districts 0-3 Black-influence districts
Congress	8-9 Republican districts 5-6 Democratic districts	0 - 3 competitive districts	4 Black-majority districts 0 - 1 Black-influence districts

Actual Seats Held

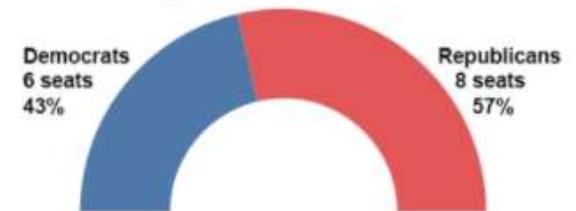
Georgia House



Georgia Senate



U.S. Congress



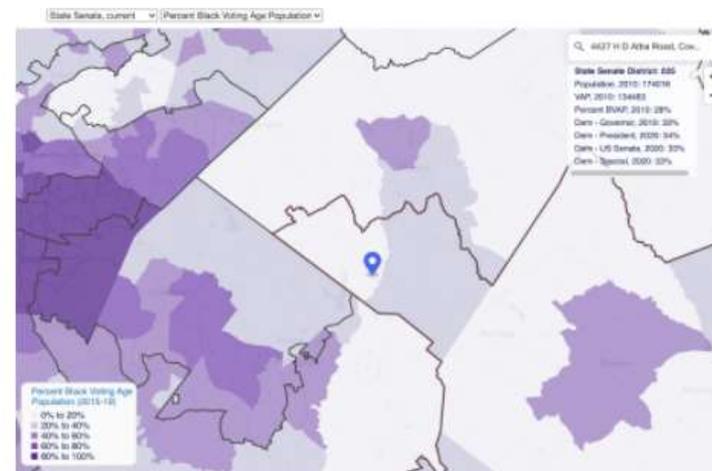
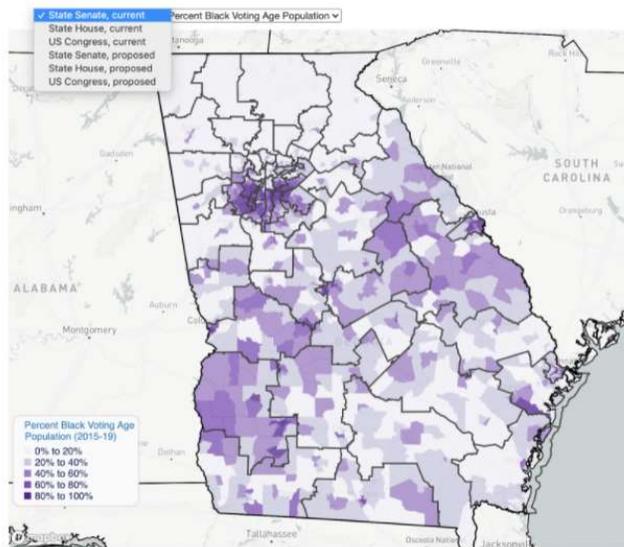


We Want To Be Your Redistricting Resource



Available to consult and review draft maps using benchmarks
Fair Districts GA legislator resource page on our website:
bit.ly/FDGAlegislatorResources

Coming Soon! Redistricting Interactive Map





Thank you



**Princeton
Gerrymandering Project**

