



The Travesty of Mid-cycle Redistricting

Fair Districts Georgia Town Hall
September 26, 2023. 7pm



Fair Districts GA

supports *stronger redistricting standards*
and a **nonpartisan, transparent, accountable,**
redistricting process.

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Special Guest:

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Elena@elenaParent.com





Democracy Requires Free And Fair Elections-

Two Sides Of A Coin-

Voting Rights and

Fair Maps

Mid-Cycle Gerrymandering

Three Questions We Will Be Answering In Today's Town Hall

1. What is the history of redistricting in Georgia?
2. How does mid-cycle redistricting exacerbate unfair maps?
3. What can we do to stop the travesty of mid-cycle gerrymandering?

Georgia Congressional Districts

Exact State
Plan - Congress of
Each Congress





1. What is The History of Redistricting in Georgia?

What is Redistricting?

After every US Census, lines are redrawn for:

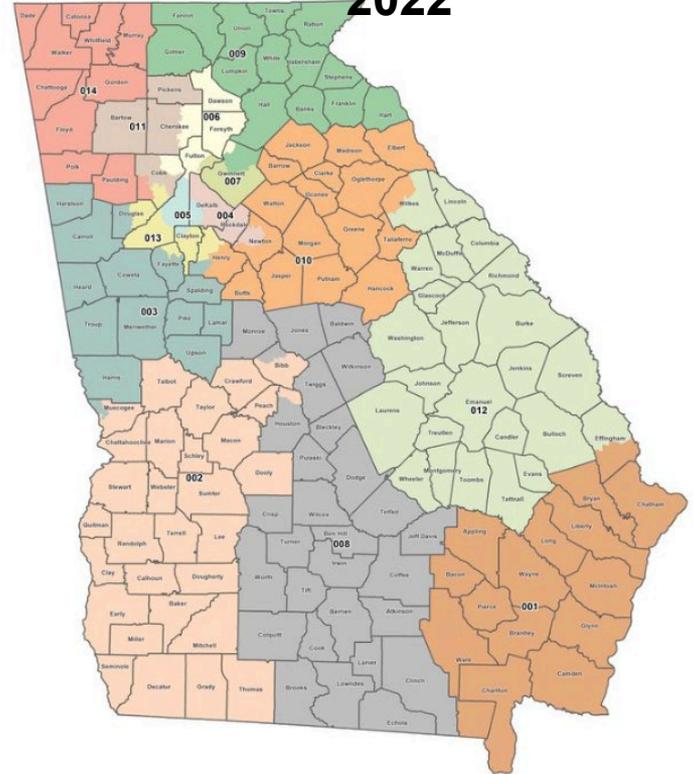
US House

GA House

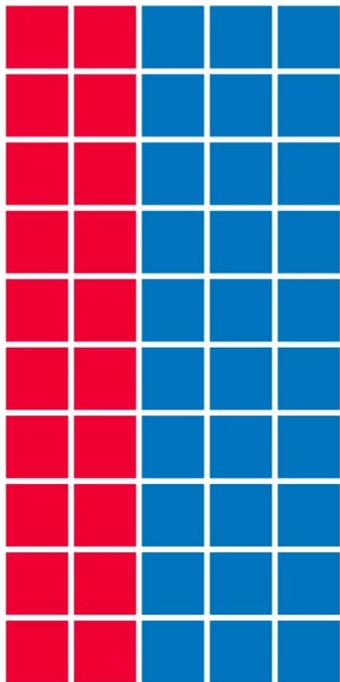
GA Senate

In Georgia, the legislature draws the lines; the majority party controls the process.

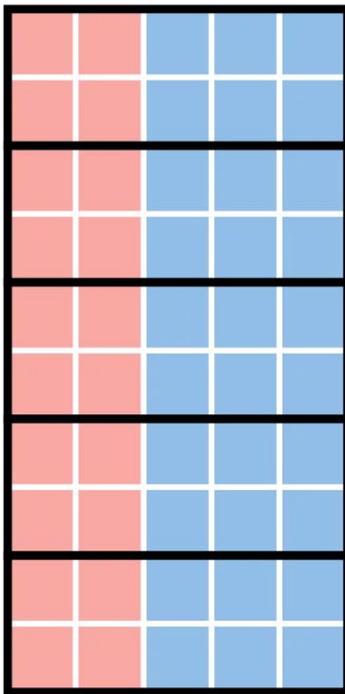
GA Congressional Districts 2022



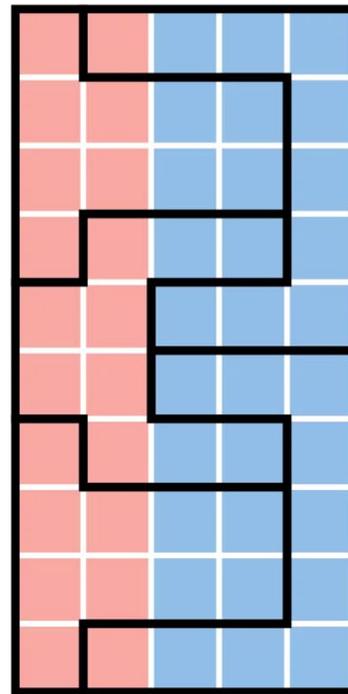
How Gerrymandering Works



50 PRECINCTS
60% BLUE
40% RED



5 DISTRICTS
5 BLUE
0 RED
BLUE WINS



5 DISTRICTS
3 RED
2 BLUE
RED WINS

What's at Stake in Gerrymandering?

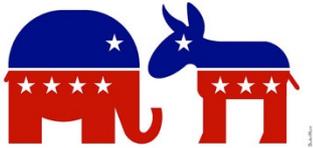
Legislators



Win reelection with minimal effort and expense

- Stay in office for as long as they choose
- Gain influence and power as a member of the majority party
- Build a political career that can lead to higher office
- Serve their constituents

Parties



Retain the majority, or even a supermajority in both GGA chambers

- Control what legislation is introduced and passed
- Control committee assignments and chairmanships
- Provide a career path for party legislators

Citizens



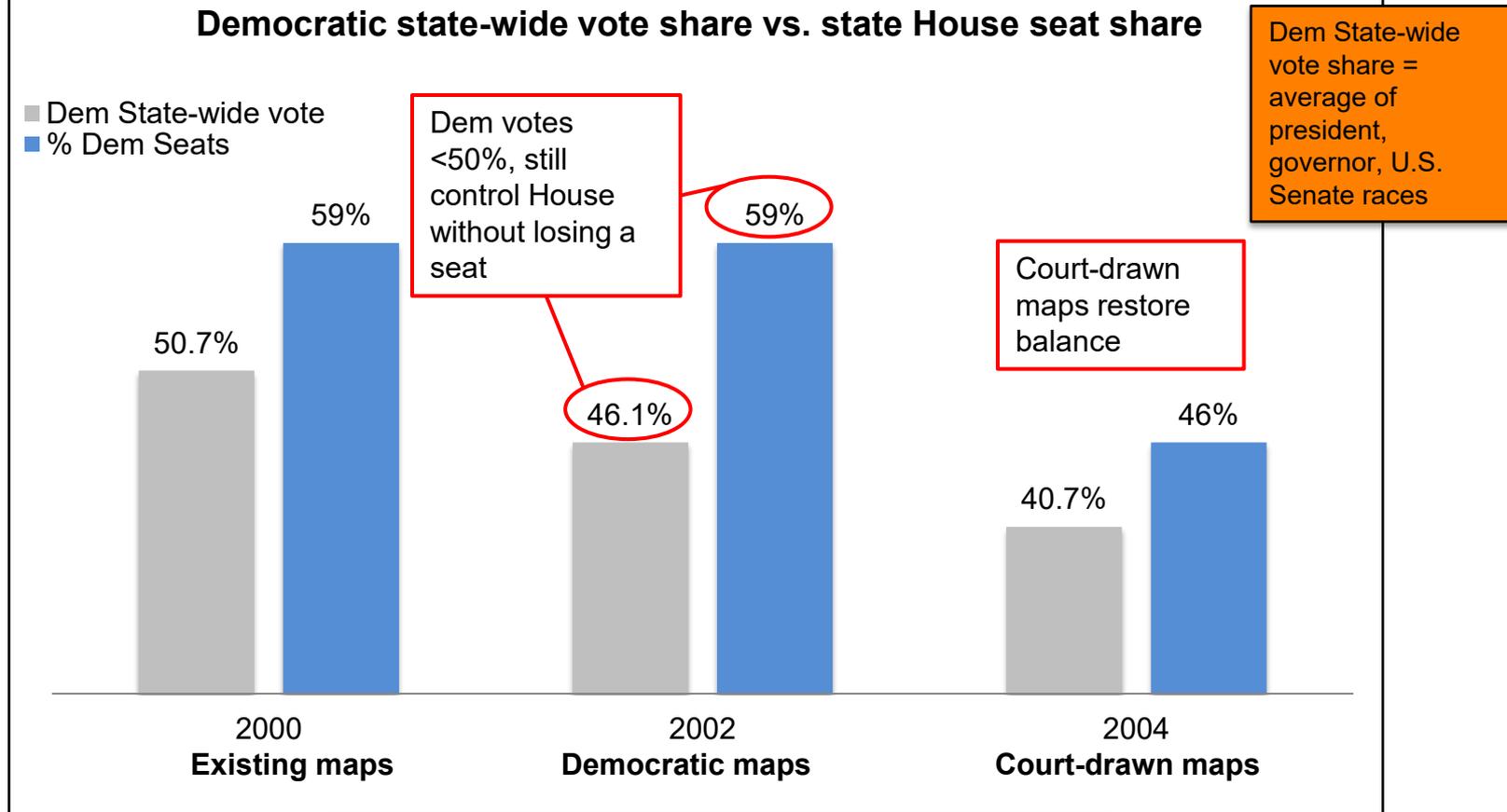
Legislature should accurately represent voters' choices

- Have a voice in state government and state law
- Be taken seriously by their legislator

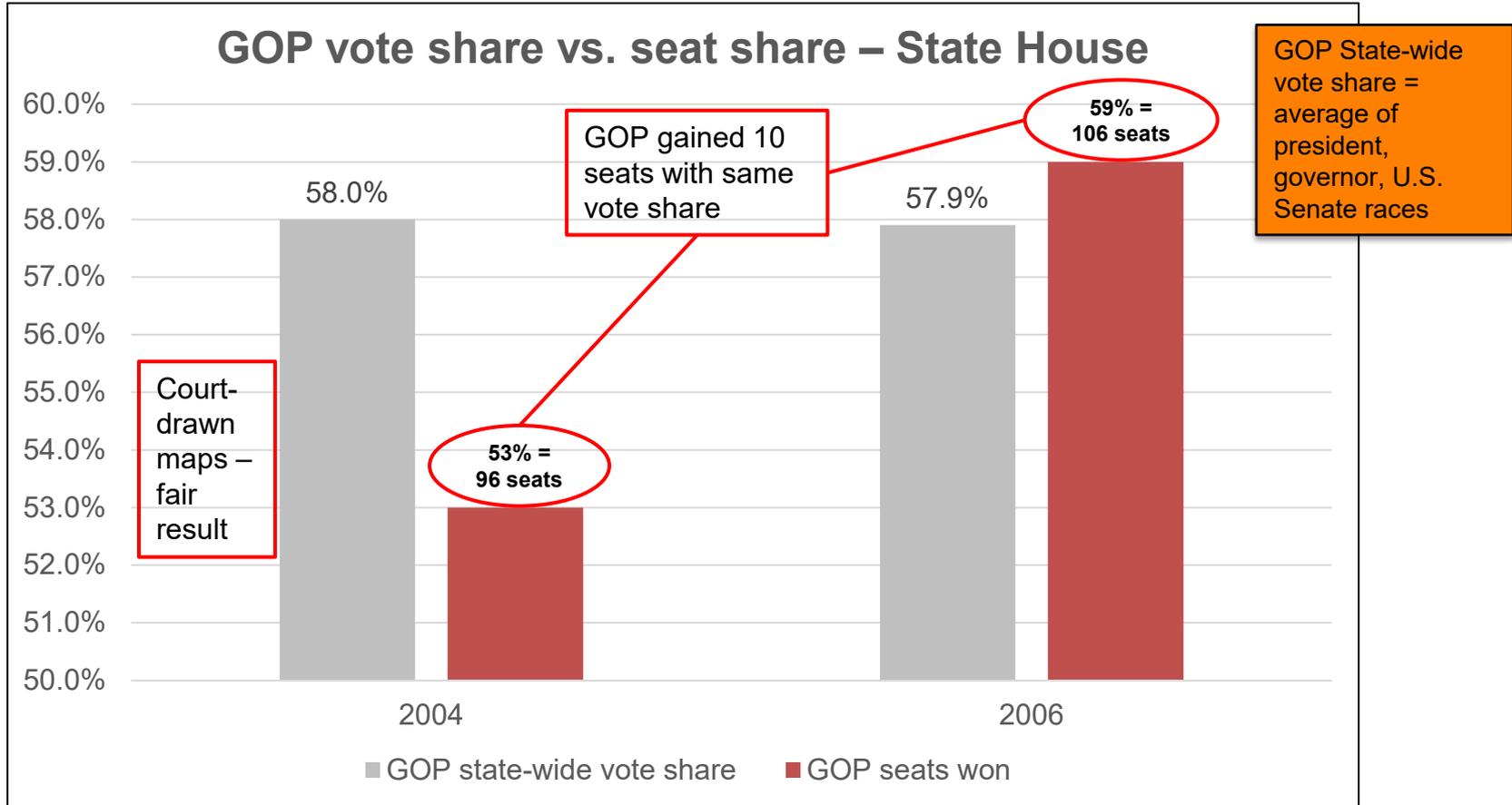


**2. How does mid-cycle
redistricting exacerbate
unfair maps?**

Court-drawn maps restored balance following Democratic gerrymander in 2001

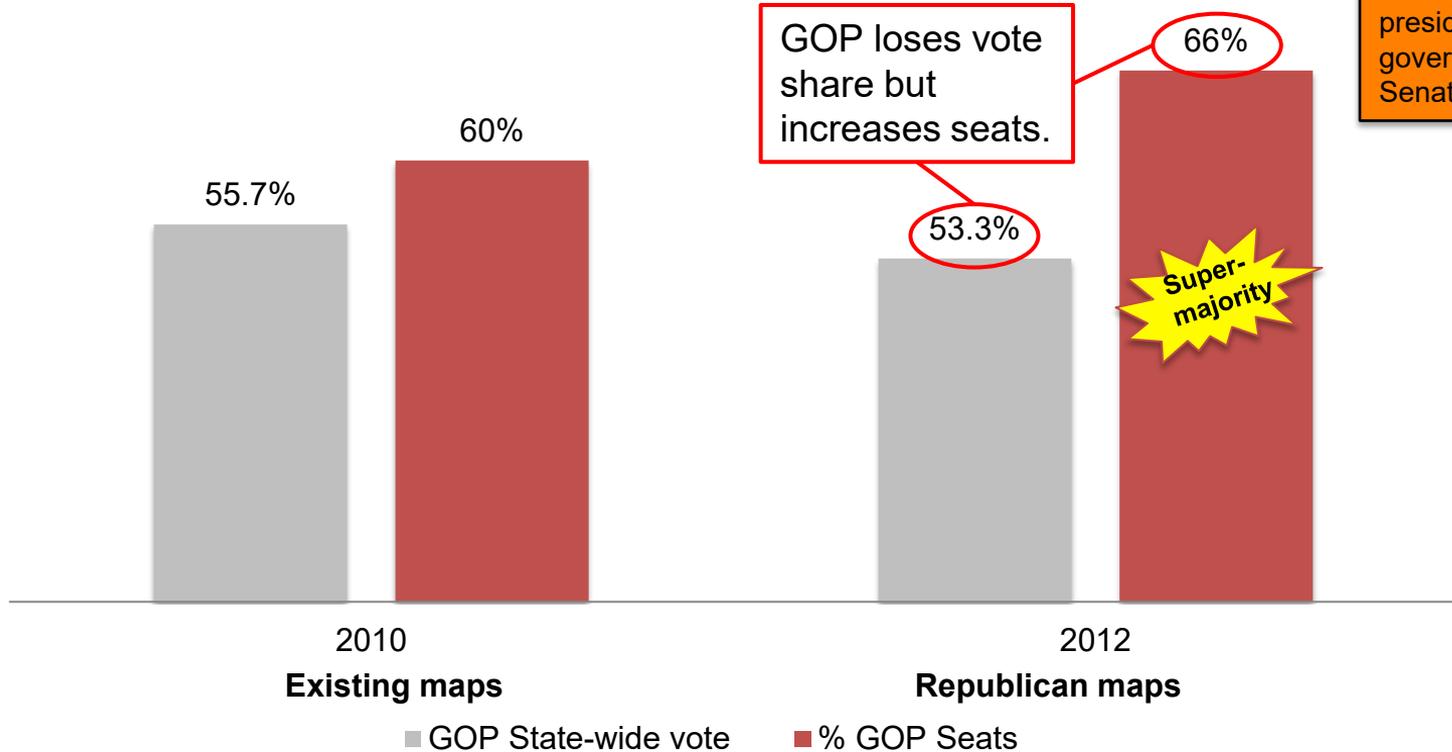


Republican gained 10 seats in 2006 by redrawing court-drawn maps

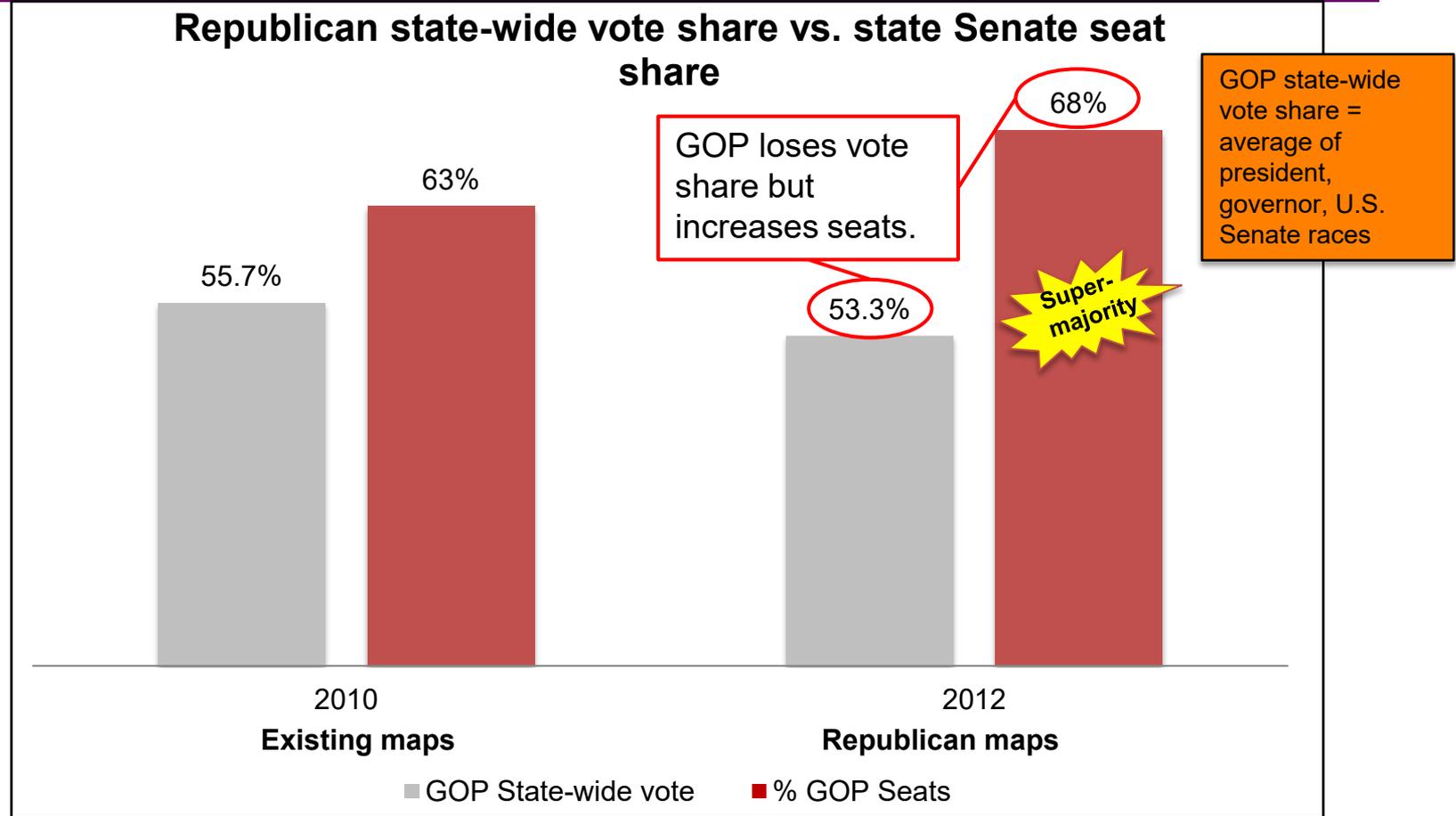


Republicans gerrymandered the GA House in 2012

Republican state-wide vote share vs. state House seat share

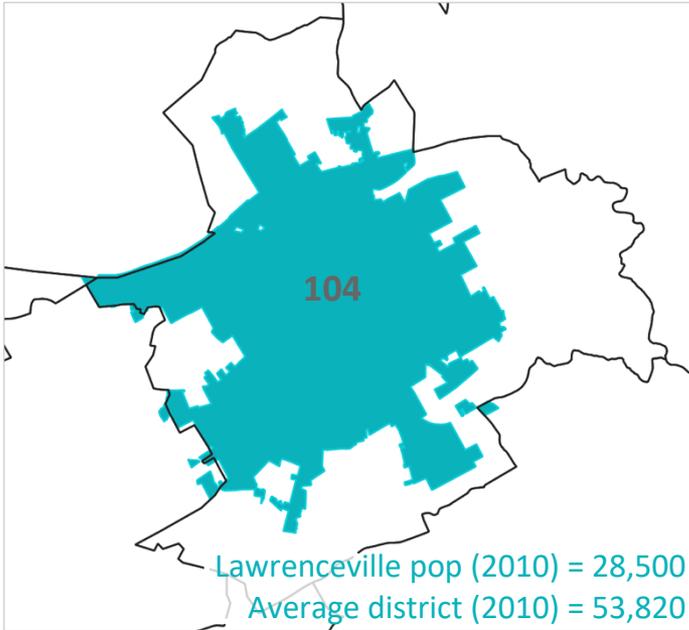


Republicans gerrymandered the GA Senate in 2011

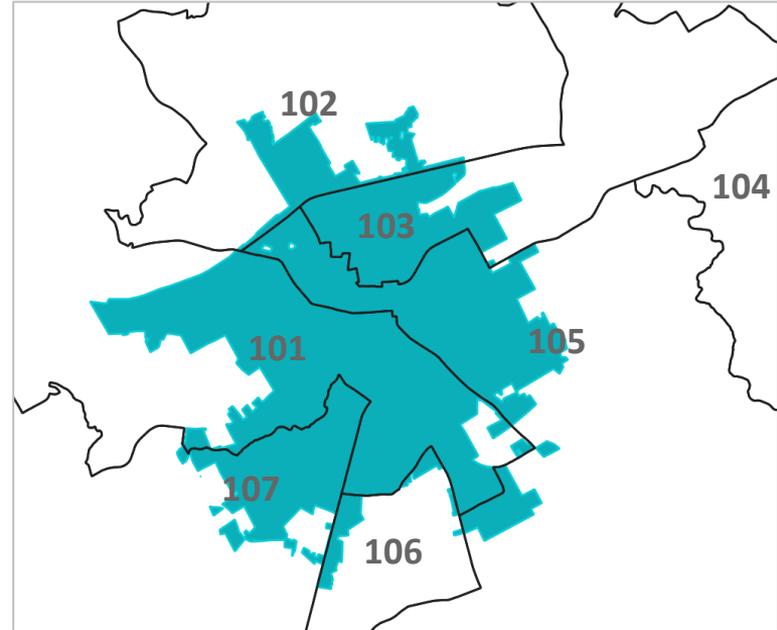


Lawrenceville Cracked into 6 House Districts

2010—before redistricting



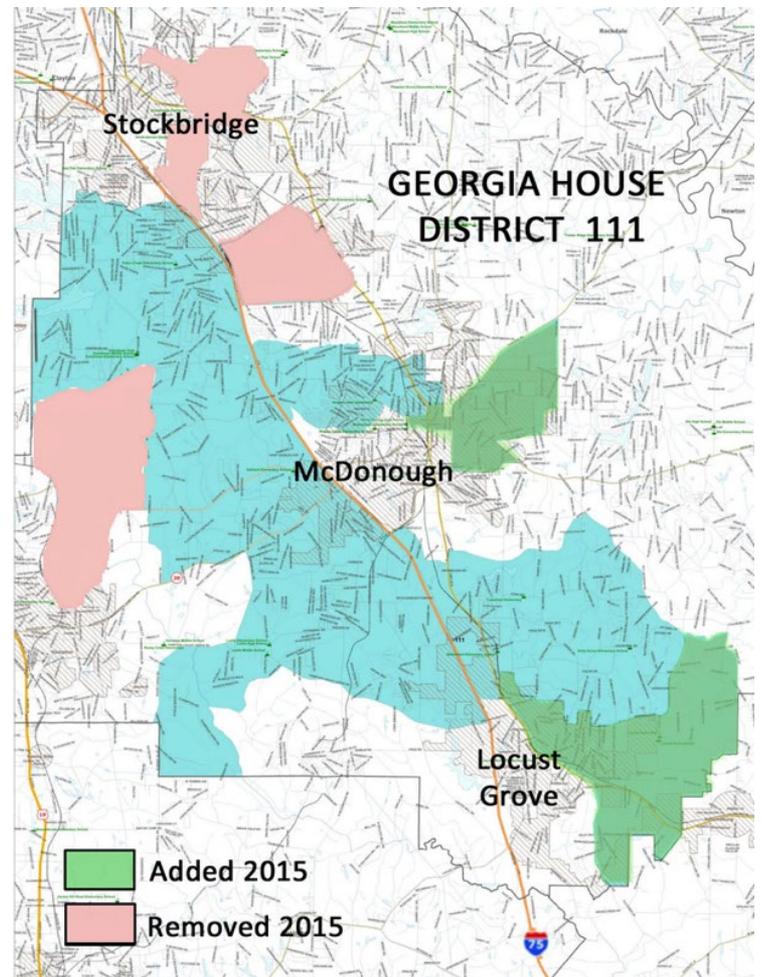
2011—after redistricting



**Example of Extreme
Gerrymandering**

Source: FDGA
analysis

General Assembly Gerrymander Drawn by Republicans in 2015



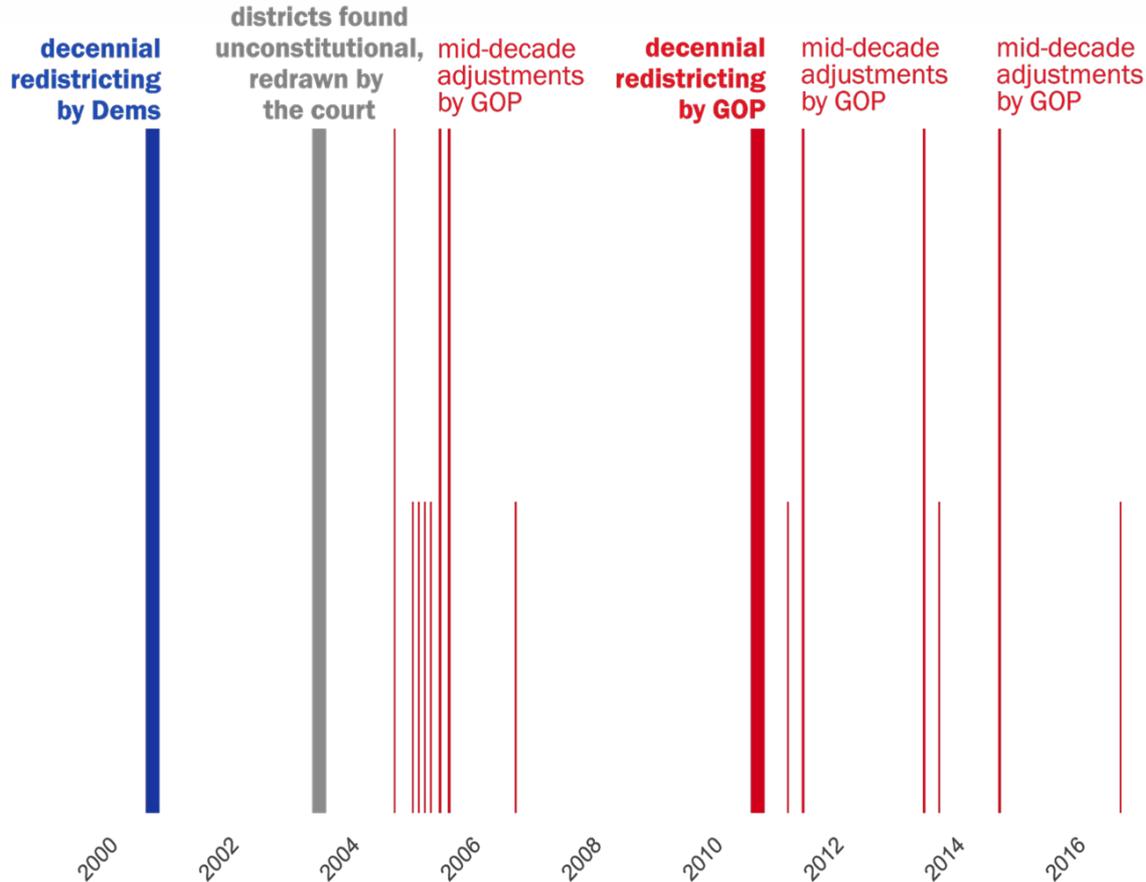
Mid-cycle redistricting is done to gain political advantage

Deposition of Gina Wright, Exec. Director Georgia LCRO, in Georgia State Conference of NAACP v. State of Georgia, case no. 1:17-cv-01427-TCB-WSD-BBM, U.S. District Court

“When I work on a plan, I use the pending changes box, which is a feature in Maptitude that shows you how your numbers change as you select that geography you’re selecting. . . . And you can set and move which fields you want to have in that change box as you go. So for me I usually keep a combination. I like to have the political data there as well as other data, racial data, population data, all of those other things.”

*“...objective was to make these districts, if at all possible, anyway, better for these incumbents to get reelected.”*l

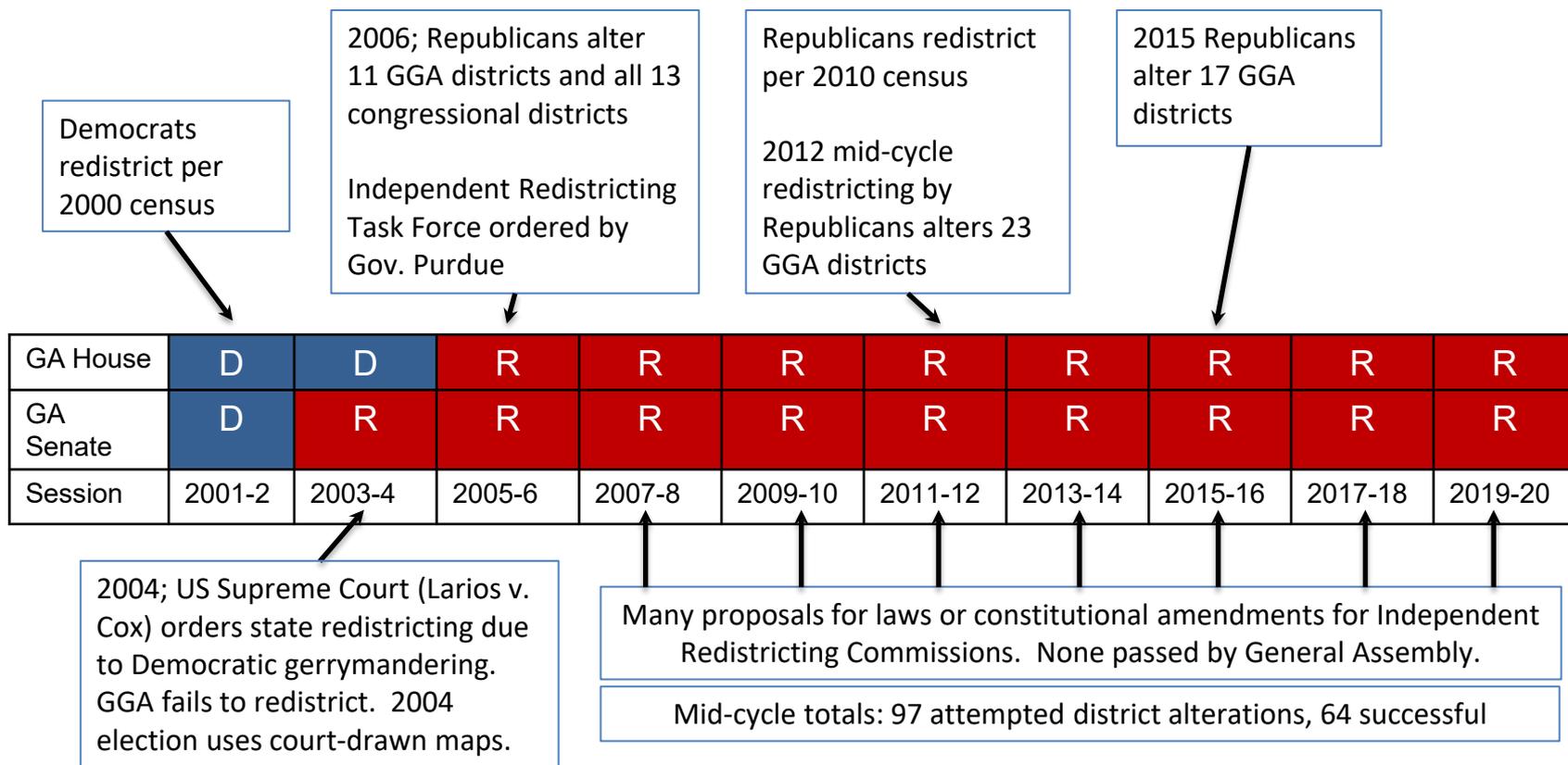
Twenty Years of Decennial and Mid-decade Redistricting



- 2 decennial redistricting cycles
- 1 court-ordered adjustment of maps
- 6 successful mid-decade adjustments (64 districts changed)
- 9 failed mid-decade adjustments (33 attempted changes)

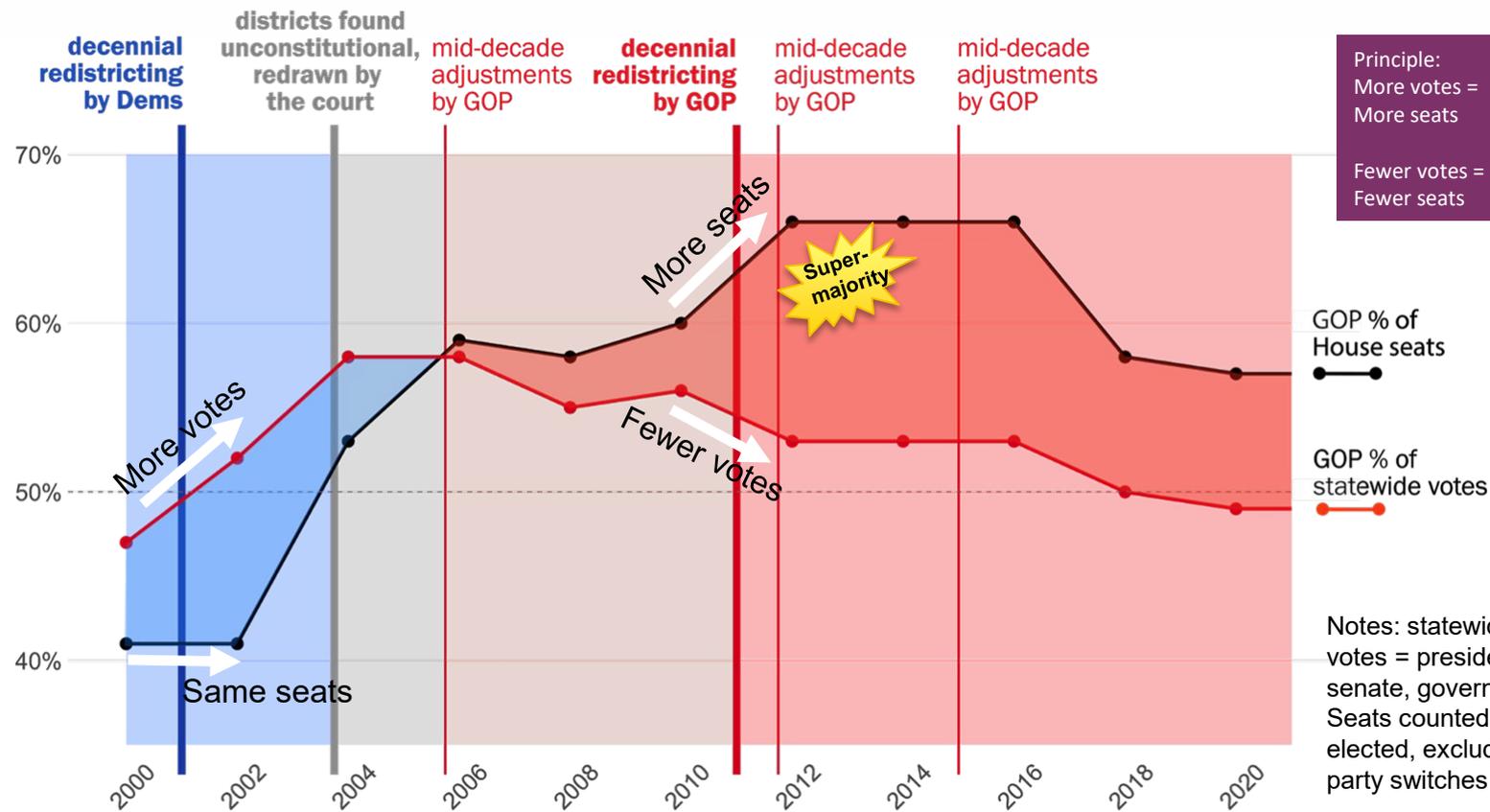
Source: FDGA analysis of GGA redistricting bills

Democrats and Republicans have a long history of partisan redistricting in Georgia



Sources: Text of various Georgia General Assembly bills

Mid-cycle Redistricting Sustains Partisan Advantage (GA House)



Source: FDGA analysis of GA Secy. of State election data



Since 2005, there have been
97 mid-cycle gerrymander
attempts in Georgia,
For 64 districts, they were successful

Mid-cycle Gerrymandering Accelerates Georgia's Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering leads to

- ***Uncontested seats***
- ***Underrepresentation***

For Voters,
Gerrymandering is

- ***Polarizing***
- ***Discouraging***





Senator Elena Parent





3. WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THE TRAVESTY OF MID-CYCLE GERRYMANDERING?



**a. Keep a Watchful Eye of
Legislative Actions and Respond**

Citizens Made a Difference on HB515 in 2017

Legislators proposed a mid-cycle gerrymander, HB515.

Citizens collaborated to:

Communicate with the Senate and House Committees.

Attend the Senate hearing on HB515 (over 200 citizens packed the hearing room).

As a result, the bill was dropped.



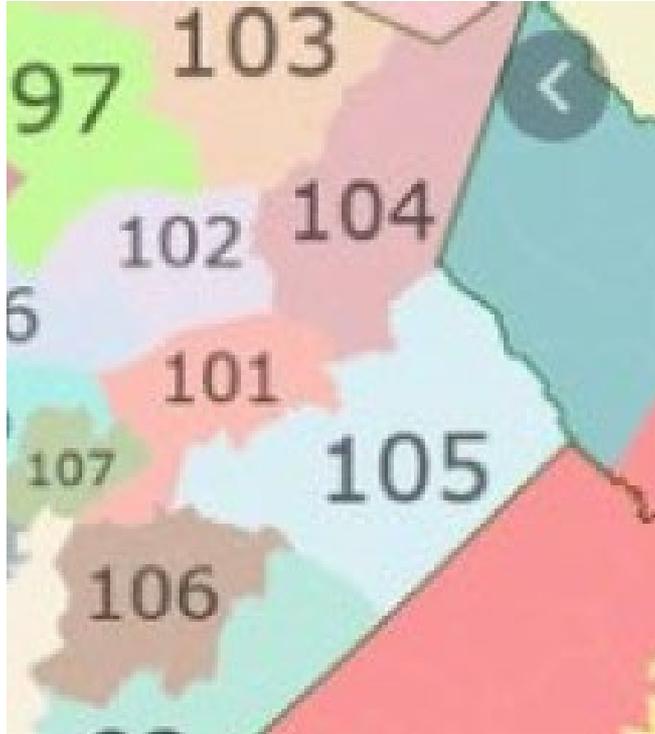
CITIZENS HAVE POWER!!!



2017 HB 515



2019 “Sweetheart” Gerrymandering Attempt: HB 1000



March 5, 2019: Republican and Democratic representatives sponsored a bill to redraw the lines between congressional districts, making each a “safer” district.

Public Outcry: Citizens contacted their representatives about the unfairness of the proposed gerrymander.

March 9, 2019: The Representatives withdrew their names from the bill and it was dropped.

CITIZENS HAVE POWER!



**b. Elect GA legislators
who sign the FDGA
anti-gerrymandering
pledge.**

I TAKE THE PLEDGE!

FAIR DISTRICTS GA



Name:
Signature:
Senate/House District:

I PLEDGE TO SUPPORT FAIR REDISTRICTING AND REDISTRICTING REFORM ACROSS GEORGIA, TO INCLUDE:

A fully transparent redistricting process with robust citizen engagement;

Fair district maps, validated by independent experts, reflecting the diversity and communities of interest of Georgia which do not unnaturally favor any political party;

Competitive districts that give voters meaningful candidate choices;

An end to mid-cycle redistricting and prison gerrymandering.

Spread awareness and sign up by visiting
WWW.FAIRDISTRICTSGA.ORG





c. Encourage our GA legislators to draw lines that combine whole communities, which would mean we would vote for people in our community to solve problems in our community



d. Work to elect legislators on the State and Federal level who will pass legislation to promote fair redistricting.

The Democracy Act is a legislative solution to partisan gerrymandering in Georgia. It requires the election of legislators to the Georgia General Assembly who have made a commitment to legislative relief for partisan gerrymandering. The act provides for solutions to partisan gerrymandering in Georgia

U.S. Freedom To Vote Act – S.2344

For Congressional redistricting only

Bans partisan gerrymandering

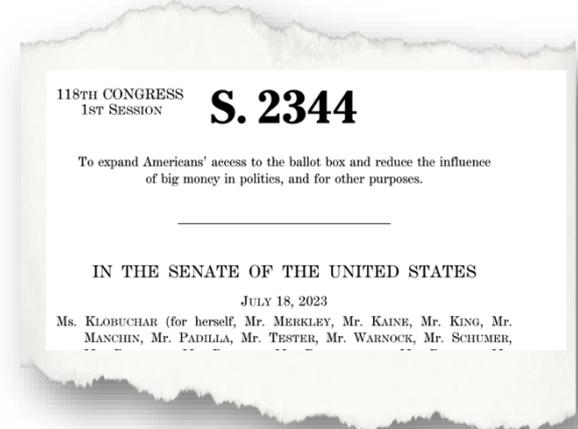
Bans mid-decade redistricting

Adds new protections for minority districts
(VRA+)

Codifies communities of interest

Allows lawsuits in Federal Court (overturns
Rucho)

Applies to Georgia's 2021 Congressional plan



Call/write/tweet your Senator and Representative!

John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Redistricting provisions

New pre-clearance criteria based on history of voting rights issues instead of specifically named states

Redistricting violations count towards pre-clearance criteria

Codifies into law redistricting criteria from Gingles case and the Senate factors

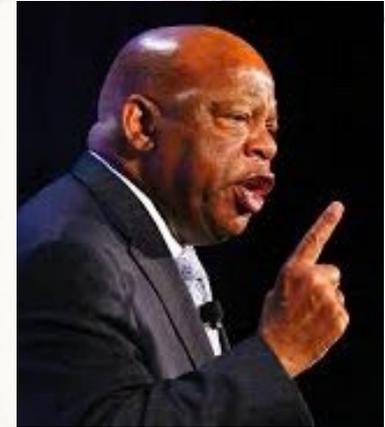
Requires pre-clearance for redistricting plan if minority population in a changed district increases by 20% or more

Requires public notice of redistricting changes

Limits ability to stall relief if election “too close”

HR14

Re-introduced September 19, 2023



Call/write/tweet your Senator and Representative!



e. Encourage our GA legislators to pass legislation that outlaws mid-cycle redistricting.

We need to be Action Ready!

Pending GA Redistricting Litigation - statewide

	Lawsuit	Map(s)	Complaint	Lead legal org
*	Pendergrass v. Raffensberger	Congressional	Federal VRA violation, requests new Black majority district in western Atlanta suburbs	Adam Sparks; Perkins Coie; Elias Law Group / Marc Elias
*	Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity v. Raffensberger	State House and Senate	Federal VRA violation. Lack of Black majority districts in many areas of state. Cites long history of discrimination	ACLU-GA / Rahul Garabadu; WilmerHale
*	GA NAACP, et. al. v. State of Georgia, Kemp, Raffensberger	Congressional, State House, State Senate	Federal VRA, 14 th & 15 th Amendment violations for minorities in general, cites many districts in each plan, very broad complaint	Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights
*	Common Cause & LWV v. Raffensberger	Congressional	Violates 14 th Amendment equal protection clause, not VRA. Challenges 6 th , 13 th , 14 th districts as racial gerrymanders	Southern Poverty Law Center
*	Grant, et. al. v. Raffensberger & State Election Board	State House and Senate	Federal VRA violation due to lack of Black majority districts in specific areas. Seeks 3 more Black majority seats in State Senate & 5 more in House.	Adam Sparks; Perkins Coie; Elias Law Group / Marc Elias

* Federal Court Trial with Judge Steve Jones September 5-14

* Federal 3 Judge Panel Trial (includes Judge Jones) scheduled to start November 13



Join the FDGA Observer Corp

Georgia's District Maps on Trial

- Watch justice in action
- Report observations to a larger community
- Provide feedback for future advocacy
- Trial starts September 5

For more info or to register:
bit.ly/FDGACourtCorp

FAIRDISTRICTSGA.ORG

- Recruited volunteers to attend, observe and report throughout the trial—17 volunteers participated
- Successfully covered all but one morning of the 8 day trial
- Observation reports shared with the America Votes table



But it's a long-term process

- We need to continue to push for changes in redistricting in GA. Changes that
 - End mid-cycle redistricting
 - Provide for transparency in drawing districts
 - Approve standards and protocols that promote fair districts in Georgia
- We need to watch the process very closely to make sure our legislators represent our best interests in drawing districts.



Questions and Discussion





If we want to restore real democracy in America, we must eliminate the deliberate unfairness of gerrymandering. The political parties have taken American hostage. It is time for us to gain our freedom from gerrymandering rule by both political parties.

Fixing American Government requires fixing gerrymandering.





- The [History of Redistricting Page](#)
- The [Past Presentations page](#)
- A Mid Cycle Assessment- Brennan Center For Justice-
<http://www.brennancenter.org>
- How Gerrymandering is Undermining American Democracy by Joe Bankpff- Ted Talks

FDGA Resources on This Topic