

# Mid-decade redistricting has plagued Georgia since it was first allowed in 2006.

**Since 2006, 71 districts have been altered in 4 major waves of mid-decade redistricting, always for partisan gain.**

Date	Circumstance	Districts changed	Motivation	Next election result
2006	2004 election used court-drawn maps for General Assembly after court overturned 2001 Democratic gerrymander. Congressional map was ruled fair by court.	All Congressional (13) 11 Assembly Party line vote <sup>1</sup>	"We're fixing the Democratic gerrymander."	2006: Republicans gained 10 State House seats despite virtually no increase in statewide vote share.
2012	Redistricting for 2010 census was completed in 2011.	23 Assembly Party line vote	Produce super-majority in 2012 election	2012: Created super-majority in Senate, 1 seat shy in House, despite 2.4% decline in statewide vote share
2015	More mid-decade adjustments	17 Assembly Both parties supporting	"Make districts better for incumbents to get re-elected." <sup>2</sup>	2016: Sustained unfair partisan advantage
2023	Federal Court orders new districts for Black voters in Congress and GGA maps. Legislature evens the score through changes in unrelated districts, taking back other seats.	1 Congressional 6 Assembly Party line vote	"We're maintaining the existing partisan balance." <sup>3</sup>	All districts altered unnecessarily as partisan take-backs were won as expected.
From 2006-2019, an additional 9 bills altering 33 districts were proposed by both parties. Some of these were proposed trades of voters to make each of their seats safer and reassure their election chances. These bills did not pass.				

Source: FDGA analysis of redistricting bills, 2000-2023.

Notes:

1) Action was challenged in court, allowed by GA Supreme Court in *Blum v. Schrader*, 2006

2) Admitted in court deposition of Gina Wright, LCRO, in *GA NAACP v. Georgia*, 2017

3) Senator Bill Cowser, Senate Committee Hearing, 2023

## Why is mid-decade redistricting harmful?

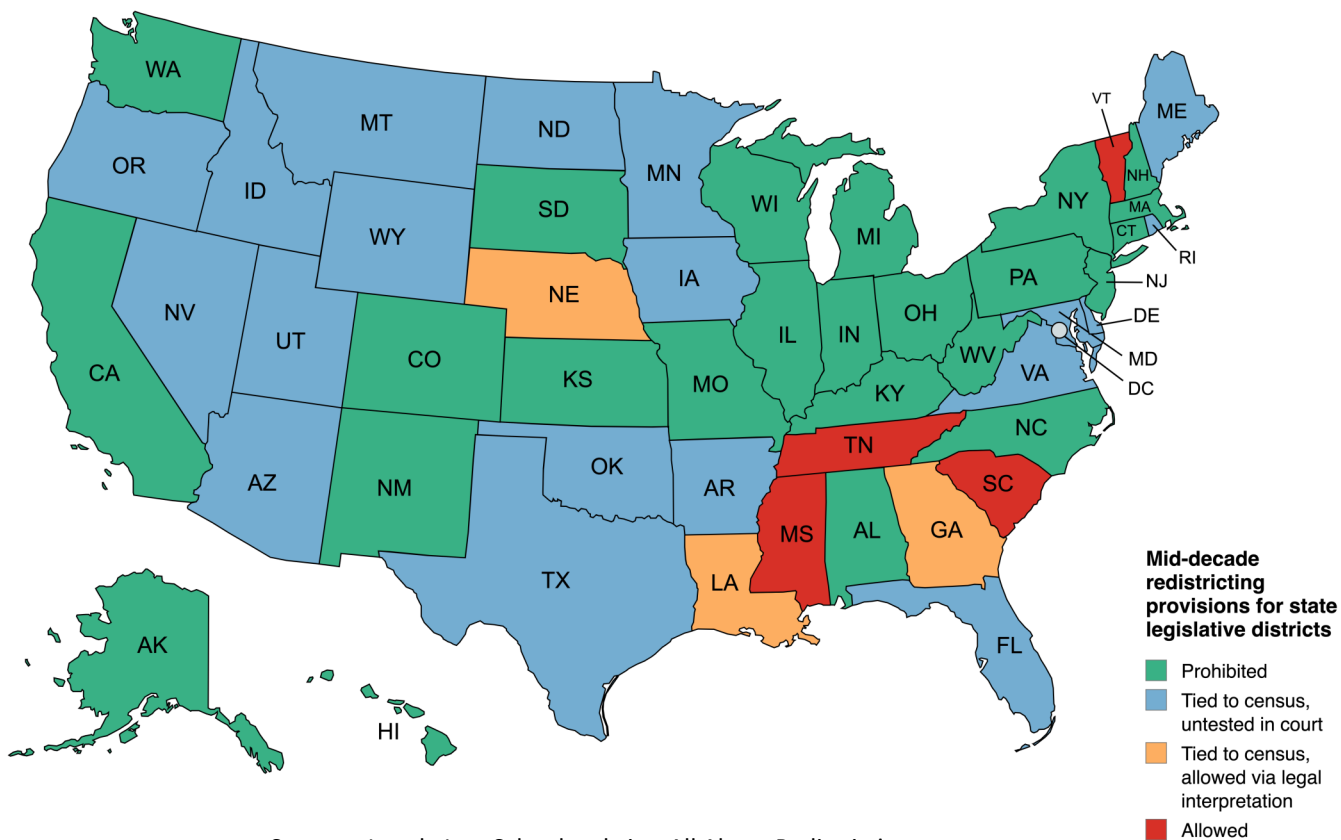
- Another form of gerrymandering, less visible than once-per-decade process
- Allows politicians to continue choosing their voters instead of giving voters the choice
- Perpetuates unfair partisan majorities
- Discourages competition; leads to uncontested seats
- Confuses voters about what district they live in and who their representatives are
- Discourages voters from participating in elections
- Aggravates political polarization



Fair Districts Georgia Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to encourage a fair and transparent redistricting process in Georgia. @FairDistrictsGA FairDistrictsGA.org

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**Georgia is in the minority of states that allow mid-decade redistricting for state legislature, enabled by a GA Supreme Court decision.<sup>1</sup>**



Sources: Loyola Law School website: All About Redistricting ([redistricting.lls.edu](http://redistricting.lls.edu)); "Taking the Re out of Redistricting", Georgetown Law Journal, 2007

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1) Georgia law ties redistricting to the census and does not expressly permit mid-decade redistricting, but it's permitted as of 2006 by GA Supreme Court case *Blum v. Schrader*.

## How can we stop this practice?

## Change the law to:

- ◆ Prohibit redistricting more than once following the decennial census.
- ◆ Prohibit unnecessary changes for partisan gain during a court-ordered redistricting

## Be alert for mid-decade redistricting proposals and speak up!