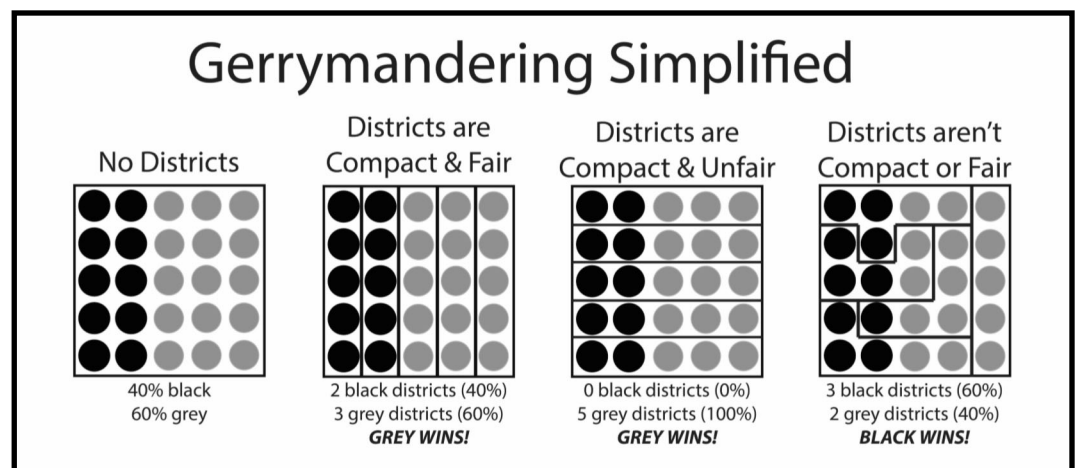


Voters should be choosing their legislators, not the other way around.

Redistricting is the process of redrawing district maps after the census to equalize the populations of congressional and legislative districts. **Gerrymandering** is the act of rigging the districts to sway the outcome of the election toward the party in power.

How has gerrymandering impacted Indiana?

- Indiana is one of the 44 states that put the state legislature in charge of redistricting. **Since legislators draw the district maps, politicians gerrymander districts to choose voters they already know will vote for them and exclude those who will vote against them.**



- Communities of interest, including cities, counties, school districts, and neighborhoods are often divided by district lines, making it difficult for those citizens to be heard. **This can lead to a community's interests being ignored or underserved.**
- **When districts are lopsided from a partisan perspective it creates polarization**, with candidates appealing to the fringes instead of the middle. Compromise becomes a dirty word; there is no reward for consensus building.
- In 2014, 54 of the 125 candidates for the Indiana House and Senate had no opponents. As a result, **Indiana's voter turnout rate was the lowest in the country at 28%.**
- In 2016, 35 of the 125 candidates for the Indiana House and Senate had no opponents. In 2018, 37 out of 125 seats were unchallenged.
- **On average from 2010 to 2014, about 42% of Indiana's state legislative candidates ran unchallenged by the opposite party.** When politicians don't have competition at the ballot box, Hoosiers cannot be fairly represented.

Sadly, the 2020 Indiana General Assembly turned their back on Hoosiers by refusing to act on redistricting reform legislation.

After the 2020 census is conducted, new districts for Congress and the Indiana state legislature will be drawn during the 2021 legislative session. Since fair redistricting standards will not be in place to govern the map-drawing in 2021, Hoosiers will be stuck with gerrymandered districts for another decade.

What is happening in other states:

In states that utilize ballot initiatives redistricting reform has become extremely popular. Last year, voters in Ohio approved redistricting reform. This year, redistricting reform ballot initiatives passed in Michigan, Missouri, Colorado and Utah. Here in Indiana, if reform is going to happen it must be passed by the Indiana General Assembly.

What Indiana's redistricting reform should look like:

- The Indiana General Assembly should create a **nine member citizen redistricting commission composed of Republicans, Democrats, and voters who are neither Republican nor Democrat.**
- **Any qualified Hoosier should be able submit an application** to serve via a public selection process conducted by public universities in the state.
- Legislative leaders should choose finalists from the public submissions, but **a random draw would determine the commission membership.**
- Commission members must be **ethnically, geographically, and gender diverse.**
- Map-drawing criteria should include equal population, respect for the Voting Rights Act, compactness, contiguity, and political competition.
- Special consideration should be given to **identifying communities of interest** and care should be taken to ensure that district lines do not divide communities or inhibit their ability to make their voices heard.
- The redistricting process must be **open and transparent, with opportunities for citizens to impact the map-drawing throughout.**
- **The public should have access to map-drawing software** and all tools available to the official map drafters so they submit their own redistricting proposals.



***Representation is a crucial element of a strong democracy.
Redistricting reform is critical for real representation.***

Take Action!

Your State Senator and State Representative need to hear from you!

Tell them that you want a redistricting process that is **open and transparent, with opportunities for citizens to participate.**

To look up and/or
e-mail your legislators, visit:
<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>

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