

# How Gerrymandering is Erasing Your Vote

What You Need to Know

Q. What is gerrymandering?

A. Gerrymandering is the act of drawing the boundaries of a political district so that your party has a better chance to win. Such boundaries are drawn by legislative bodies and gerrymandering has been going on in the U.S since the republic was founded.

Q. Why is gerrymandering important now?

A. Although parties in power have always used subtle techniques to try and win more votes, after the 2010 census, Republican lawmakers took it to a whole new level. Using powerful mathematical algorithms, they drew the boundaries of both state legislative districts and the U.S congressional districts so that, even in states where the majority of voters are Democrats, Republicans still won the majority of seats. For example, in the state of Wisconsin, voters are evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, but Republicans hold 65 % of the seats in the state assembly. Many other purple states have similar situations. (the graphic above is of Pennsylvania's seventh Congressional District)

Q. Is this legal?

A. So far, the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to directly rule on gerrymandering, stating, in essence, that it is "just politics" and there is no better way to draw boundaries. They will rule on a case later this year from Wisconsin. However, while gerrymandering is legal, it is not fair and

citizens in numerous states have brought lawsuits challenging this extreme gerrymandering. In addition, mathematicians have designed algorithms they believe can draw much fairer boundaries. Recently the U.S. Supreme Court allowed to stand two state supreme court decisions ( NC and PA) requiring redrawing of gerrymandered districts.

Q. Is President Trump involved in this gerrymandering scheme?

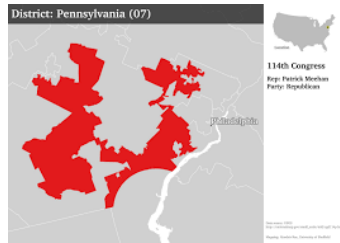
A. Congressional districts are based on population and those drawing the boundaries use census data to decide where boundaries go so that each district represents approximately the same number of people. President Trump has appointed Thomas Brunnell to head the 2020 census. Brunnell actually helped design the Republican's unfair gerrymandering process and is on record as stating that black people are "over counted" in the census.

Q. Are there other efforts to suppress the vote?

A. Yes. There are many, including requiring documentation of citizenship and/or other types of documentation, closing of polling places, shorter times in which to vote and voter registration purges. Most of these are aimed at minority voters.

Q. Are Kentucky's districts gerrymandered?

A. The Washington Post identifies Kentucky as one of the ten most gerrymandered states



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in the country. The seat held by Andy Barr is one of the most suspect. By taking large metropolitan areas and putting them in districts with sprawling rural populations, Republican are able to hold five of the six congressional seats even though 35% of Kentuckians vote Democratic.

Q. How can I learn more?

A. Here are a few sites, along with one excellent book, where you can learn more. .

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/03/01/this-is-the-best-explanation-of-gerrymandering-you-will-ever-see/?utm\\_term=.3218b41ea9b1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/03/01/this-is-the-best-explanation-of-gerrymandering-you-will-ever-see/?utm_term=.3218b41ea9b1)

<https://rantt.com/the-top-10-most-gerrymandered-states-in-america-bd962843ba1f>

[https://motherboard.vice.com/en\\_us/article/7xkmag/gerrymandering-algorithms](https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/7xkmag/gerrymandering-algorithms)

[Ratf\\*\\*\\*ed: Why Your Vote Doesn't Count](#)  
by David Daley