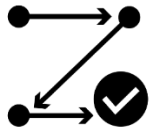


**How redistricting is done,  
what real implications it has on your community,  
and how you can help make it fair**

# Redistricting happens every 10 years following the census



At the beginning of each new decade the Department of Commerce conducts the U.S. Census to produce an accurate count of the nation's population.



At the conclusion of the Census, the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are reapportioned to reflect changes in state population.

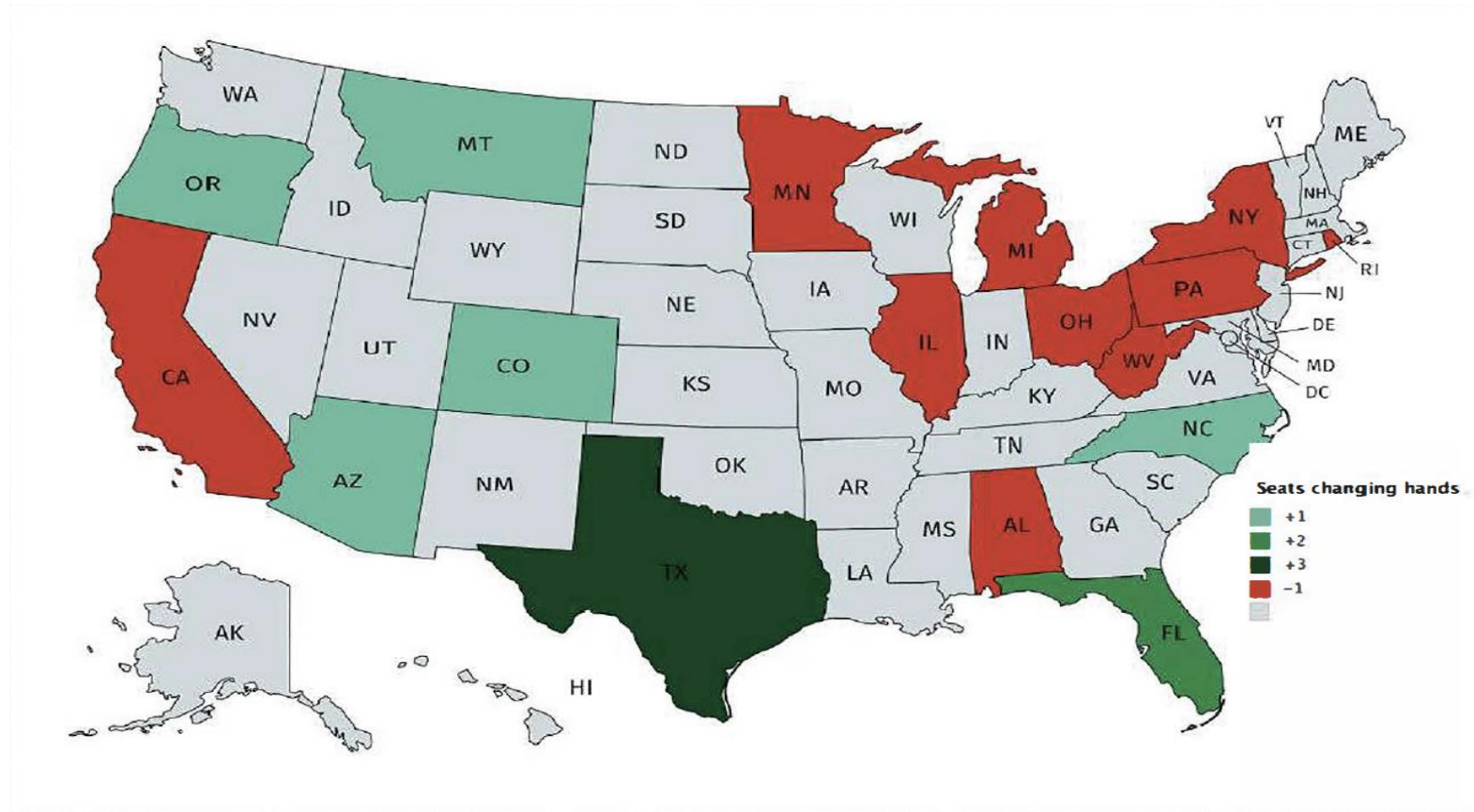


The U.S. has had 435 representatives since 1963. As populations of states increase or decrease, so can their number of Representatives in the House.



Each state is then required to go through the process of redrawing its electoral map. Every state has to follow certain federal redistricting requirements. The states themselves determine who has the authority to control this process

# Estimated changes to number of representative seats in 2022 (actual changes will be determined by 2020 census)



# Why it matters: Montana versus Rhode Island

## Montana

- Population 2010: 980,152
- Representatives: 1
- Federal funding: \$12.20 billion annually

## Rhode Island

- Population 2010: 1.057 million
- Representatives: 2
- Federal funding: \$12.6 billion annually

Rhode Island's extra seat leads to the state receiving \$400 million more annually in federal funding

- Funding for programs like Headstart, community development block grants, school breakfast programs, brownfields clean up, SNAP, rural electrification, fire assistance, and more.

# The redistricting process for congressional districts varies by state

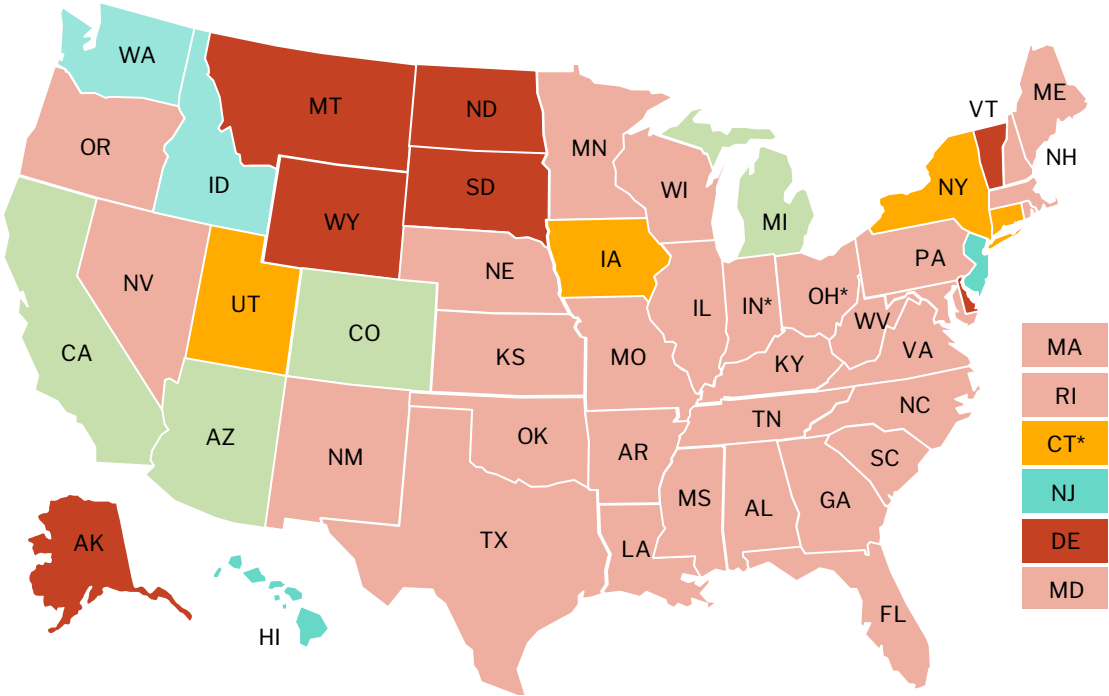
**Advisory commission** – An independent commission advises the legislature about where the new district lines should be drawn, but the legislature is not bound by these recommendations

**Backup commission** – A backup commission is similar to an advisory commission; however backup commissions only act if a plan is deadlocked by a set deadline or if the governor vetoes the proposal

**Politician commission** – These commissions allow elected officials to serve as members alongside other neutral commissioners

**Independent commission** – An independent commission is made up of neither legislators nor public officials

■ State legislature ■ Advisory commission ■ Single district states ■ Political commission ■ Independent commission



\*Also uses a backup commission

Sources: Brennan Center for Justice, "Who Draws the Maps? Legislative and Congressional Redistricting," January 30, 2019.

# All redistricting plans must meet 3 redistricting requirements and **comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965**

## Equal Representation

- Electoral districts must meet state and federal “one person, one vote” requirements, which means that the population between districts must be as equal as possible within a 10 percent deviation or less.

## Contiguous, compact districts

- A district must be composed of one geographic area and not two or more separate pieces, although reasonable exceptions are allowed. Legislative bodies have wide latitude in determining whether a district is considered compact, but irregularly shaped districts should be avoided.

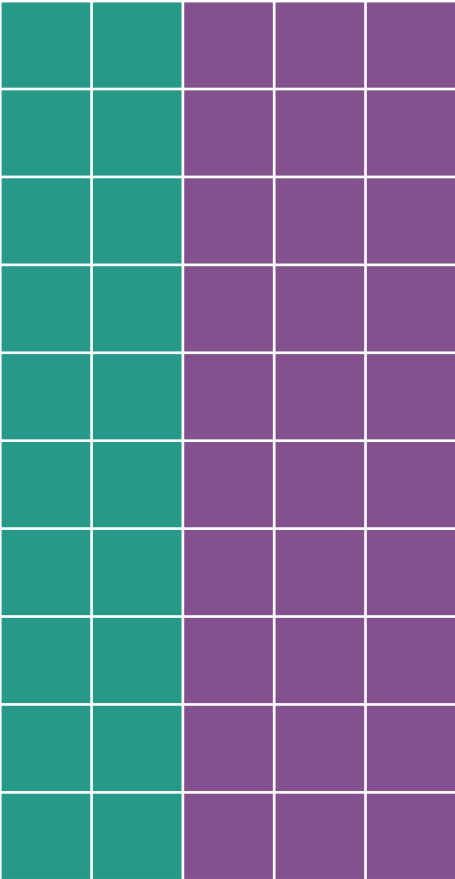
## Traditional redistricting principles

- Redistricting plans must make a good faith effort to follow these principles:
  - Preservation of communities of interest
  - Preservation of cores of prior districts
  - Protection of incumbents
  - Compactness
  - Contiguity
  - Preservation of political boundaries

## Voting Rights Act of 1965

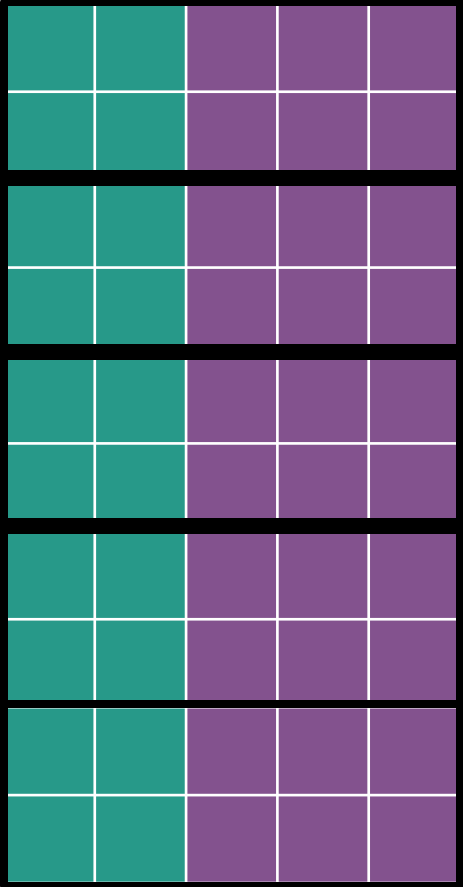
- This act prohibits discriminating against the voting rights of racial or linguistic minorities.

# In practice, redistricting can purposefully change election outcomes (often referred to as gerrymandering)



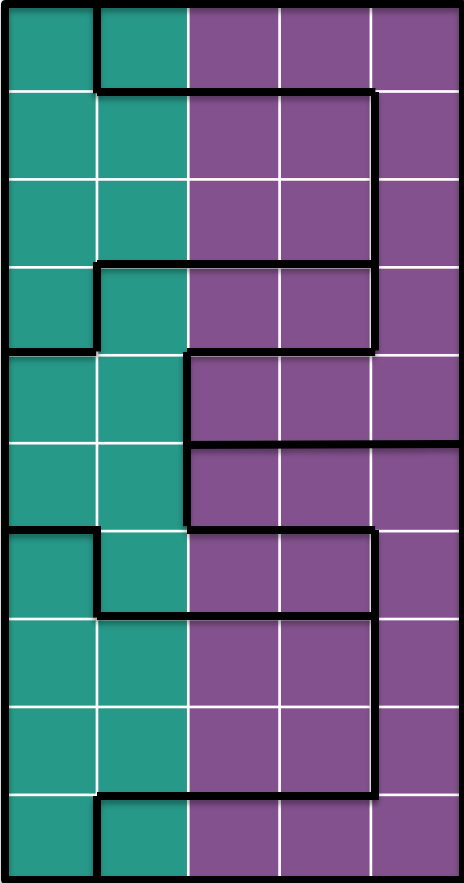
50 Districts  
60% Purple  
40% Green

Redistricting Option 1



5 Districts  
5 Purple & 0 Green  
Purple Wins

Redistricting Option 2



5 Districts  
3 Green & 2 Purple  
Green Wins

# What you can do to ensure fair representation



Take the census and encourage your friends and family to as well



Vote in all elections and down ballot (not just for President)