

72%

GERRYMANDERING IN WISCONSIN

72%

If 72% of Wisconsin people want something, and it would be a good thing and a doable thing- it should probably happen, right?

72%



Now, 72% of
Wisconsinites may
wish the winter
were shorter, but
that isn't doable!

72%

And 72% of us may want to keep partying and never come home from vacations, but that again isn't doable, and our livers probably would say it isn't a good thing!



72%

But some things are both doable *and* right.



72%

72% of Wisconsinites favor
nonpartisan redistricting
(NPR) according to a
Marquette Law School poll
conducted in 2019

(<https://law.marquette.edu/poll/?s=NONPARTISAN+REDISTRICTING>)

72%

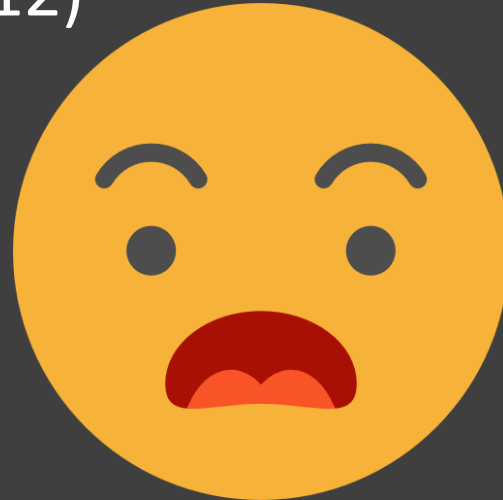
What is nonpartisan
redistricting?

Why should I care?



72%

Your individual vote for Wisconsin State Senate, Assembly races, and for Congressional House of Representative races has been relatively less meaningful, at times nearly meaningless, since 2012 (as compared with prior to 2012)



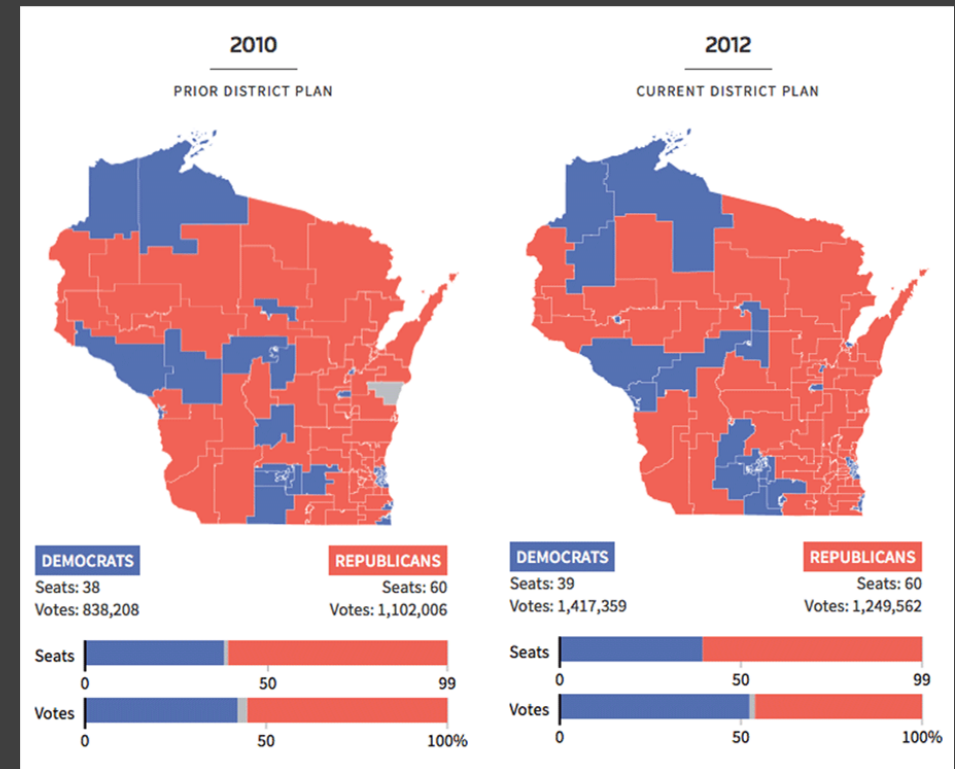
What? That can't be!

72%

It's true!

In 2011, Wisconsin became very gerrymandered.

This means the election district maps were redrawn to heavily favor one party over the other (in other words, extremely partisan).



72%

Gerrymandering is named after Elbridge Gerry, governor of Massachusetts in 1812, who created a district in Boston in the shape of a salamander to favor his party.

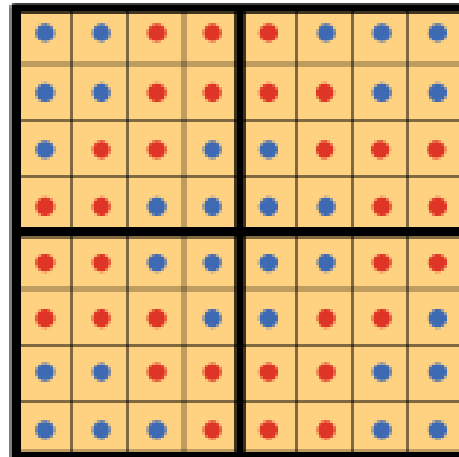
- Political parties have since used this tactic across the US



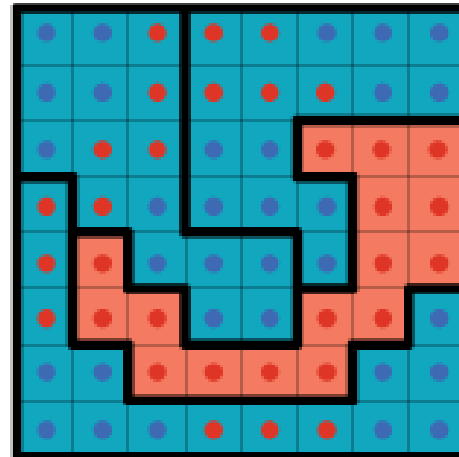
72%

Gerrymandering involves 2 main strategies:

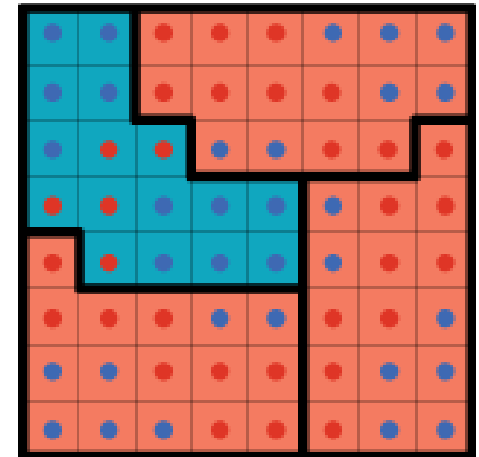
Cracking and *Packing*



COMPETITIVE



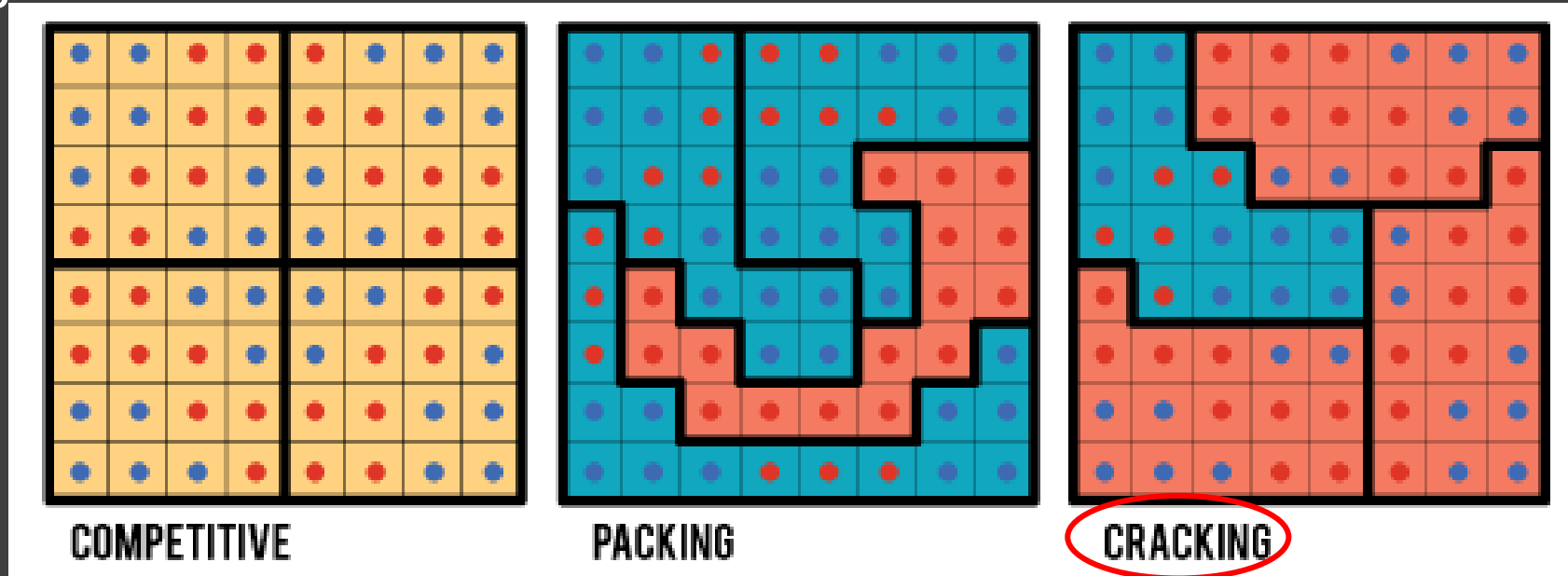
PACKING



CRACKING

72%

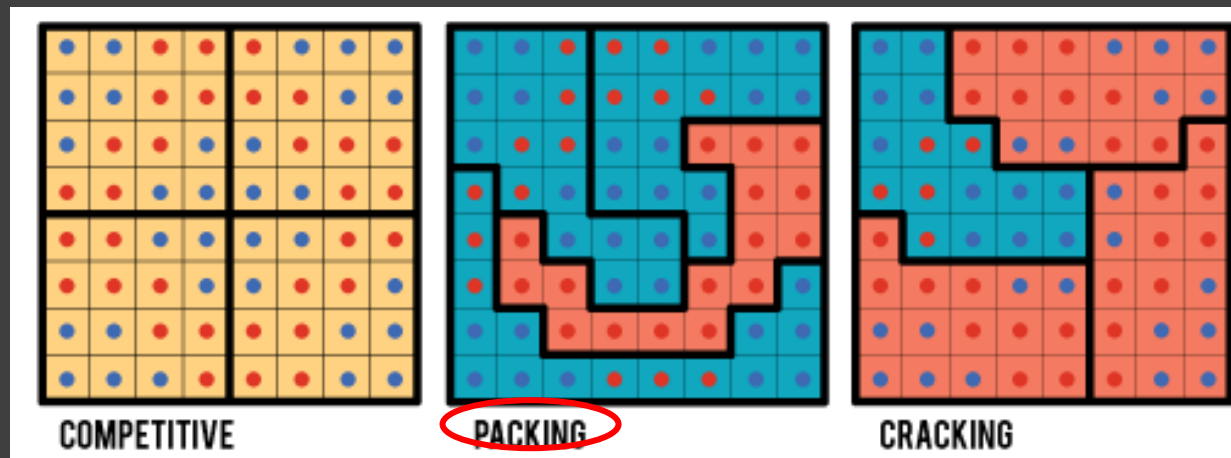
Cracking- Diluting the voting power of the opposing party's supporters across many election districts to help your party win those districts



72%

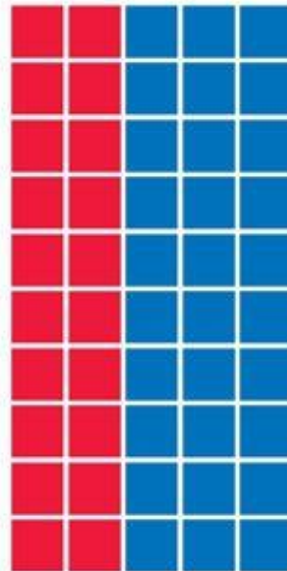
Packing- Concentrating the opposing party's voting power in one or a relative few districts to reduce their voting power in other districts

- i.e., pack all the opposing party voters into just a few districts that they may win, while your party wins all the other districts

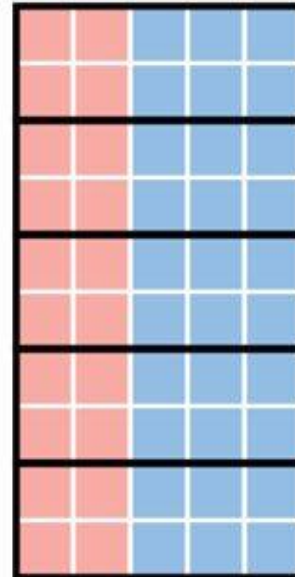


72%

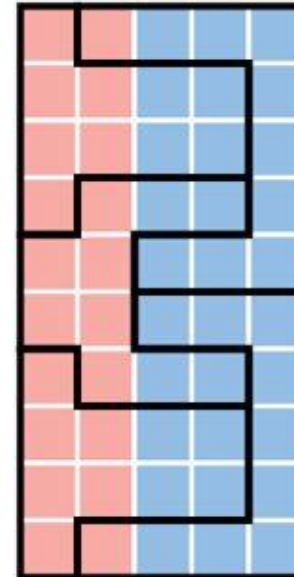
HOW TO STEAL AN ELECTION



50 PRECINCTS
60% BLUE
40% RED



5 DISTRICTS
5 BLUE
0 RED
BLUE WINS



5 DISTRICTS
3 RED
2 BLUE
RED WINS

72%

How does this make my vote less meaningful?

- If you are a Democrat in a Republican gerrymandered district, your Democrat candidate is not likely to win, so **your vote is relatively worthless.**
- If you are a Republican in a Democratic gerrymandered district, same thing, **your vote is relatively worthless.**

72%



Can gerrymandering really be happening in our great state of Wisconsin?

- Yes, absolutely

Example

- In 2018, voters in the state Assembly races picked Democrats 54% of the time, versus 46% for Republicans.
- The result? 63 Republicans in the Assembly, versus 36 Democrats.

72%

I'm starting to get it,
gerrymandering
sucks!!

**Individual votes will
mean less in the
November
elections**



72%

Right! BUT, the effects of gerrymandering in Wisconsin are even worse than your vote counting less in November!

Time to concentrate, this can be a bit wonky!



<https://imgflip.com/memetemplate/96149579/smart-black-guy>

72%

The worst effect is what happens at the level of the primary elections in August.

Politicians in either party must win that party's primary election in August to go to the general election in November.

- i.e., if there are two State Senate candidates from the same political party for a district, they will have a primary runoff election in August to see which candidate will run in the general election in November

Only about 20% of citizens vote in the August primaries

- these tend to be the most ardent voters, typically holding the most extreme views to the right (Republican) or left (Democrat)



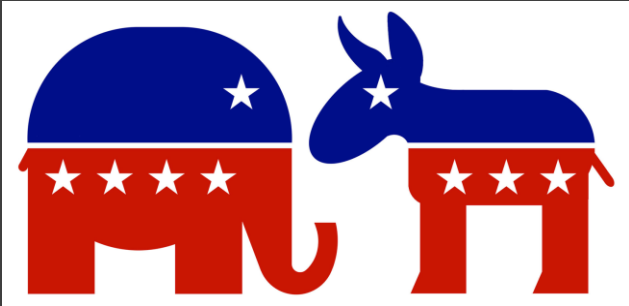
72%

If you are a Republican in a Republican gerrymandered district, you don't have to worry about the November general election- you will likely win, because of gerrymandering.

BUT the Republican in the Republican gerrymandered district does have to sweat out the *August* primary election

- there will be fewer voters, who tend to hold more extreme conservative views
- This means the Republican candidate with the more extreme conservative views will likely win the August primary

The same follows in the Democratic gerrymandered districts.



72%

Are we still awake? Yes? Good!



<https://dissolve.com/video/Happy-black-woman-showing-royalty-free-stock-video-footage/001-D1307-90-012>

72%

So far, we have learned that in Wisconsin, since 2012, to win elections for the State Senate, Assembly, and Congressional Districts:

- In general, the more important race is the **August primary**.
- In general, the August primary candidate with the more extreme views is going to win, because of who votes in the primaries.
- Voters in November are stuck with the August choices of candidates with the **most extreme views**.
- The outcome of the November election is predetermined because of gerrymandering, so the **November votes are less meaningful**.

72%

In other words:

- Democrats in Democratic GERRYMANDED districts, to be elected or reelected, only must be responsive to the relatively extreme 20% of voters who will vote in their August primaries.
- Republicans in Republican GERRYMANDED districts, to be elected or reelected, only must be responsive to the relatively extreme 20% of voters who will vote in their August primaries.

THIS IS NOT GOOD!



72%

Because of gerrymandering in Wisconsin, the elected officials do not need to care as much about what the great majority of us want, they only need to care about that 20% of their district constituents that will affect the primary election outcome.

This leads to

GRIDLOCK

HYPERPARTISANSHIP

**LACK OF
COOPERATION**

Basically, not much gets done. Little progress for the **OVERALL** good of the state is accomplished.

72%

Want real life examples of the dysfunctional effects of a gerrymandered state?
What other state had citizens waiting 3-4 hours, in the rain, to vote during a viral pandemic?

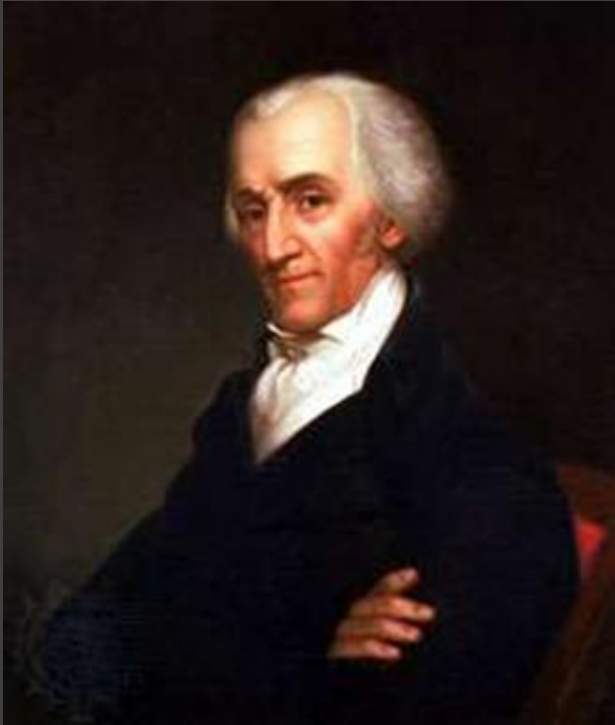


72%

What other state has so effectively confused the concept of absentee ballots?



72%



Elbridge Gerry, what have you
done to Wisconsin?

Wait, are you smirking?!

72%

Man, now I am angry! Can this gerrymandering be fixed?



72%

Yes, it can be fixed.

The election districts can be drawn in what is called a ***non-partisan redistricting method***

- the election districts are drawn in such a way as to not favor any certain party

Then, your vote in November will absolutely count more

- the candidates in the August primaries will have to appeal to not only the August voters, but also to the less extreme November voters
- in general the candidates will be less extreme in their views- and more likely to work with the other party on statewide issues.



72%



Remind me- why is every slide saying 72%? That is a large percent.

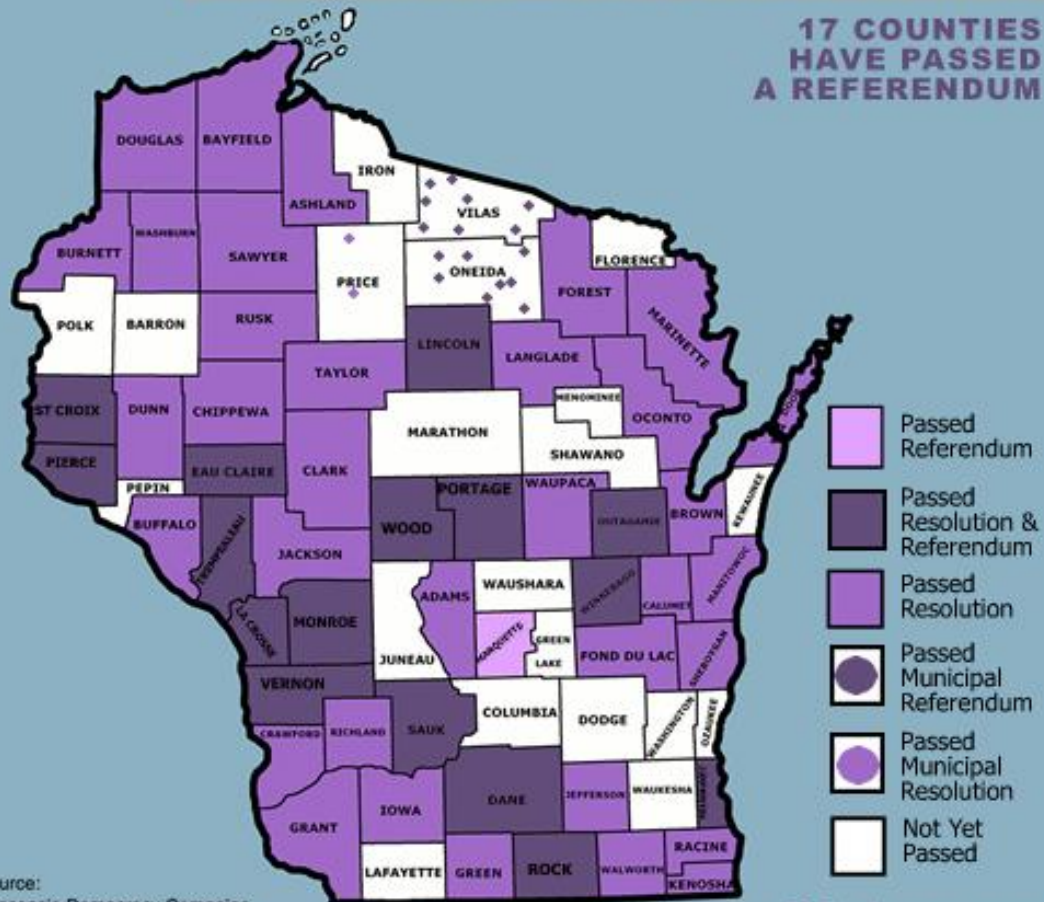
72% of Wisconsin voters favor non-partisan redistricting in a Marquette Law School poll in 2019

- they are becoming aware of the problems associated with gerrymandering

Also, many counties and cities are weighing in by resolutions and voter referendums.

51 COUNTIES HAVE ENDORSED FAIR MAPS

17 COUNTIES
HAVE PASSED
A REFERENDUM



#fairmaps

72%

51 county boards have passed
advisory resolutions

And **voters in 17 counties and 18
municipalities** have passed
advisory referendums

asking the *Wisconsin State
Legislature to create a nonpartisan
procedure for preparation of
legislative and congressional plans
and maps.*

72%

Wisconsin counties that have passed a Fair Maps referendum

- Dane County: 4/1/14, 82%
- Eau Claire County: 11/6/18, 74%
- La Crosse County: 4/2/19, 77%
- Lincoln County: 11/6/18, 65%
- Marquette County: 4/7/20, 72.4%
- Milwaukee County: 4/7/20, 79.5%
- Monroe County: 4/7/20, 74.5%
- Outagamie County: 4/3/18, 72%
- Pierce County: 4/7/20, 76.2%
- Portage County: 4/7/20, 74.9%
- Rock County: 4/7/20, 80.6%
- St. Croix County: 4/7/20, 76.3%
- Sauk County: 11/6/18, 72%
- Trempealeau County: 4/7/20, 76.6%
- Vernon County: 4/2/19, 71%
- Winnebago County: 11/6/18, 69%
- Wood County: 4/7/20, 72.4%

72%

At the beginning, we asked- if 72% of Wisconsin people want something that is both good and is doable, it should probably happen, right?

Non-partisan redistricting in 2021 in Wisconsin would be both good and doable!



**WE
WANT
NON-PARTISAN
REDISTRICTING**



72%

How can it be done? This is where the problem lies

In some states, voters arranged statewide referendums demanding non-partisan redistricting

- Michigan did so in 2018 with over 60% in favor

But Wisconsin does not have binding statewide referendums

- So how is redistricting in Wisconsin going to be done in 2021?

72%

Every decade (next in early 2021) the State Legislature is tasked with redrawing the election district maps by using the prior year Census results (2020).

- The governor then approves or vetoes the maps.
- Currently, the Wisconsin Assembly has 63 Republicans and 36 Democrats
- And, the Senate has 19 Republicans and 14 Democrats
- The majority of the Assembly and Senate must agree on nonpartisan redistricting

At present, all Democratic members of the Senate and Assembly have co-sponsored nonpartisan redistricting legislation; however, only 5 Republican Assembly-members, and none of the Republican state senators, have signed on as co-sponsors.

Dang Republicans, right? But not so fast...

72%

Gerrymandering
in Wisconsin has a
BIPARTISAN
history-

there is room for
criticism to be
placed on all
sides.

The “Elbridged” history of redistricting in Wisconsin-

- 1981, 1991, 2001- Partisan gridlock, **BIPARTISAN** lack of cooperation resulted in the legislature being unable to do their redistricting job, and federal judges had to draw the maps.
- 2009- The Democrats controlled the legislature, and reviewed and could have passed nonpartisan redistricting, but did not.
- 2011- The Republicans gain control of the legislature and Governorship, so after a new census they logically draw the maps in their favor.
- 2020- Wisconsin takes a new census
- November 2020- All Assembly members, and half of state Senators face re-election.

72%

In 2009, the Democrats had their chance, and they had their say.
In 2011, the Republicans had their chance, and they had their say.
In 2021, the **great Wisconsin people will have their chance**, and they will have their say.

2021 is a year to finally get it right.

72%

Question: how do the 72% of us that favor nonpartisan redistricting in Wisconsin in 2021 make this happen?

- Answer: we must advocate with our state elected legislators and candidates for the legislature to let them hear the voice of 72%, to feel the power of 72%.
 - We need enough legislators to vote in favor of nonpartisan redistricting legislation or we need to **REPLACE** those legislators who do not.

This debate and vote and redistricting will happen in 2021, so we need to advocate throughout 2020 into early 2021.

72%

But what can little-old-me do to sway my legislators to do the right thing, and support **non-partisan redistricting legislation** in 2021?

- You can go to www.fairmapswi.com and learn more about this issue
- You can call or email the office of your local Assembly-members and state senators, telling them that 72% is a big number and they need to listen
- Use [this link](#) to join your local Fair Maps Team
- Become involved by placing a Fair Maps yard sign at your house or signing up for a 72% march in your area



72%

72% of us may want something that is right, and good, and is achievable, but this is only going to happen if-

WE ALL GET INVOLVED!!



<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/01/supreme-court-will-rule-gerrymandering-md-and-nc/579550/>