



Gerrymandering Framework

The endless hyperpartisan gerrymandering wars of our time are destructive to our democracy and destructive to the institution of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Citizens are increasingly disillusioned with a system in which politicians choose their voters rather than voters choosing their representatives.

Congressional districts are increasingly drawn and, in some states, redrawn to maximize partisan advantage.

The frequency of Congressional redistricting undermines knowledgeable and consistent representation of individual districts over time.

These recurring redistricting battles have resulted in markedly fewer competitive districts, worsening political polarization, reduced incentives for candidates to appeal to broad constituencies, increased fragmentation of community representation, and declining public confidence in the electoral process—all of which create far higher hurdles to practical problem solving.

The Problem Solvers Caucus is committed to practical bipartisan reforms that promote fair and consistent representation in the U.S. House of Representatives for all Americans, strengthen public confidence in the electoral process, and create better incentives for effective governance rather than endless partisan warfare.

To those ends, the Caucus believes redistricting reform should be guided by several core principles:

- Stability and predictability in representation;
- Transparency and public confidence in the map-drawing process;
- Fair and consistent application of standards across states;
- Respect for communities and political subdivisions; and
- Reduction of incentives for partisan manipulation.

Consistent with these principles, the Caucus supports consideration of the following reforms for congressional redistricting nationwide:

1. Redistricting should occur only once per decade. Congressional redistricting should be restricted to once a decade immediately following the decennial Census and on a standard timeline that applies equally to all states. This will eliminate biennial redistricting wars, promote stability and consistency in representation over time, and strengthen public confidence in the electoral process.
2. Redistricting standards should be nationwide, objective and transparent. Congressional districts should be drawn according to neutral and objective criteria, including equal population, contiguity, compactness where practicable, and preservation of political subdivisions. This will apply the same standards to all states, reject partisan gain and incumbent protection as acceptable goals, and provide greater citizen transparency as to goals, methods, and results.
3. Partisan influence in the redistricting process should be minimized. The Caucus supports approaches that reduce partisan influence in congressional redistricting. These approaches may include independent redistricting commissions, algorithmic mapping approaches, or other mechanisms that promote public confidence while respecting constitutional principles and federalism. This will increase transparency, distance the process from influence for political gain, facilitate the application of clear, neutral, objective nationwide standards, and foster increased citizen confidence.
4. Redistricting challenges should be resolved exclusively in federal court. Because congressional elections are federal in nature, the Caucus supports consideration of a uniform federal framework for resolving congressional redistricting disputes. Exclusive federal jurisdiction will apply a timely and consistent resolution of redistricting challenges, eliminate conflicting interpretations among state courts, and discourage the manipulation of state judiciaries for partisan purposes.

The Problem Solvers Caucus remains committed to pursuing bipartisan reforms that strengthen public confidence in congressional representation and reduce incentives for partisan conflict in the redistricting process.