

Mapmaking in 2021: Let's Get Ready Chat
December 14, 2021

Email Catherine Turcer (cturcer@commoncause.org) with any further questions.

Re: the plan for congressional redistricting - seems the party in power could "slow roll" this to the conclusion of a map that would be in effect for 4 vs. 10 years. What safeguards are in place to ensure "stricter requirements that protect against drawing district lines to favor or disfavor political parties" if we get to a 4 year map?

From Lydia Sowles to All Panelists: 07:17 PM

I am in district 2 and my congressman's email bot does not recognize my zip code as being in his district. Not only do people not know who their rep is apparently this particular rep doesn't know who he represents

@Susan: SCOTUS found that gerrymandering was just part of the political process - it's been part of our politics for a very very long time and they said that there was nothing wrong with politicians trying to get more power for their party

From Christine Van Farowe to All Panelists: 07:24 PM

Pam- no the shifts/growth aren't reflected for 10 years because districts are drawn for 10 years. What Dr. N said is that in 10 years not one district flipped seats, of 16. Yet in ME, which has 2 seats, did flip a district.

From Jen Daniel to All Panelists: 07:25 PM

I was working with an Indivisible group to gather signatures for the petition in 2017 also, and some of the younger folks (twenties) knew the term because of John Oliver's comedy program. Many other people we talked to did not know what gerrymandering was.

From Kathie Gaige to All Panelists: 07:30 PM

Is there a time limit on each of these "attempts?"

<https://fairmandering.org/index.html>

is another provider of high quality maps

Why are not county lines used first to define voting districts? or creating voting maps?

From Cynthia Dunlevy to All Panelists: 07:47 PM

Don't we want to create maps that include diverse communities, neighbors, and neighborhoods so that more maps with homogeneous district are NOT created?

From James Crumpler to All Panelists: 07:47 PM

Is there a way to export the communities you make as a shape file or similar?

From Jen Miller to Everyone: 07:48 PM

@Arlene - county lines are definitely going to be used. But we will sometimes need to split counties (not as much as the current maps though)

@judy - the districts need to be equal population, and each county has a different population.
From Elliot Bendoly to All Panelists: 07:48 PM

It's wonderful to see DistrictR in use, and how versatile is, however, given that we have limits on splitting, and really are trying to avoid overly granular specifications, would it not be more useful to restrict community building to the precinct level rather than the census block level? or perhaps that is an option (to constrain to precinct based

Q & A

Anonymous Attendee 07:48 PM

The definition of community seems as arbitrary as the definition of predictable political party districts. One persons community is another persons gerrymandering. I am not against solving the ridiculous districts of Ohio, but this methodology seems to exchange political bias for other biases of the day. 10 years from now these might have little meaning or value.

Perhaps district drawing eliminates this fault, but it seems to me community mapping is just a variation of the current system,

Kathie Gaige 07:49 PM

When do we expect to receive the census data?

Peter Petto 07:50 PM

Does the mapping software show "broken" political units (county, city, township, school district...)? Does it have any measure of compactness?

David Guran 07:50 PM

Can the community determined areas be sent over to the district mapping?

State courts can still hear partisan gerrymandering cases.

From Cynthia Dunlevy to All Panelists: 07:55 PM

But doesn't political gerrymandering overlap into other areas of discrimination?

From Chris Glassburn to Everyone: 07:56 PM

Population variance..... Congressional redistricting - 0.79% maximum total variance IF preserving political subdivisions i.e. Counties (Tennant Decision) General Assembly reapportionment - up to 10% (+/-5%) but House districts must nest 3 per Senate district.

From Michael Ahern to All Panelists: 07:58 PM

Partisan gerrymandering, in effect, forces citizens into Parties if they want to drive who will represent them as a candidate through the Primary process. This is contrary to the Constitution

and harms registered voters with no Party affiliation. Competitive Districts at least provide some semblance of resulting in candidates that represent a more balanced representation of the issues in a given District.

From Dan Vicuña to Everyone: 07:59 PM

@James: Yes, you can export communities into shapefiles.

Question from audience: Will big money be able to influence the final map?
February? Aren't we slated to lose a district?

From Michael Baron to All Panelists: 08:15 PM

Question from audience: Using criteria of not breaking up counties, cities, communities, what would the balance likely be rather than 12-4?

From Michael Baron to All Panelists: 08:16 PM

question from audience: Are there reference sources to show clearly in Ohio what districts have severe representation issues such that we can keep them in mind when we submit a community map?

[Ohio Redistricting Transparency Report](#)

[Redistricting](#)

[Gerrymandering & Redistricting](#)

If a questions comes to you later, please send me an email-- cturcer@commoncause.org

Can you describe your community? If not, it's just a list of cities, towns.