



## Missouri Gerrymandering: What's Really Going On

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This special session isn't about Missourians. It's about power. Politicians are trying to gerrymander our elections and end majority rule—silencing voters so they can't be held accountable.

### 1. What's Happening

- Governor Mike Kehoe, pushed by party leaders in Washington, are proposing **illegal gerrymandering to redraw congressional maps in the middle of the decade to achieve political advantage.**
  - Their plan would combine residents of metro Kansas City with farmers over 250 miles away on the Illinois/Iowa border - **making it harder for both communities to be fairly represented.**
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### 2. Why It's a Problem

- **Unconstitutional & Illegal:** Missouri's Constitution says congressional redistricting only happens **once every 10 years, after the census.** The Missouri Supreme Court has already confirmed this in past rulings, including [Pearson v. Koster](#) in 2012, citing [article III, section 45 Missouri constitution](#), which states "under the 1950 census and each census thereafter...districts shall be composed of contiguous territory as compact and as nearly equal in population as may be."
- **A Power Grab:** This proposal is about politicians choosing their voters, not voters choosing their representatives. It's an attempt to **rig the 2026 elections before a single vote is cast.**
- **Hurts Communities:** Splitting regions into multiple districts dilutes their voice and weakens their representation. That's why groups from Missouri Workers Center to the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City [in a joint statement](#), said they opposed any effort to divide the Kansas City region, including any map that "would

dismantle” the 5th Congressional District.

- **Deeply Unpopular:** A [YouGov poll](#) found that most Americans **believe gerrymandering is bad for democracy** — viewing it as unfair (76%), a major problem (76%), and something that should be illegal (69%). Most Americans prefer for the districts in their state not to give an advantage to either party (67%). The unpopularity is evidenced by Gov. Mike Kehoe waiting until the afternoon of a three-day weekend to announce his gerrymandering scheme—when it is likely to attract the least attention.
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### 3. The Bigger Picture

- This is part of a **pattern of Republican contempt to ignore public will** in Missouri:
    - Tried to make Missouri a right-to-work state (voters overturned it).
    - Overturned multiple citizen initiatives including, most recently, a paid sick leave requirement that passed with an over 16 percent margin of victory.
    - Governor Kehoe is asking the legislature to end majority rule on ballot initiatives and replace it with a process where 5% of the population can block progress on what 95% of Missourians agree on?
    - Now, they’re ignoring the Constitution and voters again.
  - **Governor Mike Kehoe is trying to make Missouri one of the most gerrymandered states in America.**
    - This mid-decade gerrymander would rig seven out of eight congressional districts for Republicans—even though Democrats consistently win about 40% of the statewide vote.
    - **This scheme has already been rejected by the very leaders now advancing it**
      - Just three years ago, GOP leaders backed off after Missourians rose up in protest – if every incumbent Senator who voted against a 7-1 map three years ago voted the same way, this scheme would fail.
    - This scheme silences hundreds of thousands of Missourians - **pitting people against one another instead of creating a system that works for everyone.**
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#### 4. What's at Stake

- **The Power of Your Vote:** Gerrymandering lets politicians lock in power and silence voters.
  - **Fair Representation:** Missouri communities risk losing their ability to elect leaders who truly represent them.
  - **Trust in Elections:** Mid-decade map-rigging undermines faith in the fairness of elections.
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#### 5. The Response

- **Legal Action:** A bipartisan group of allied Missourians are prepared to challenge this in court.
  - **Grassroots Mobilization:** [Thousands have already spoken out against it](#) and Community outreach, rallies, and voter engagement will only grow.
  - **Broad Coalition:** Democrats, Independents, and fair-minded Republicans will stand together to stop this unconstitutional power grab.
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#### Bottom Line:

**This is a double power grab: rig the maps and rig the rules.** Mid-cycle gerrymandering in Missouri is **illegal, unpopular, and harmful to communities**. It's a desperate move that undermines democracy, and Missourians will fight back to ensure politicians don't get to pick their voters.