

Redistricting Reform

#OurMapsMN



EVERY VOICE MATTERS, EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Every voice in Minnesota should be heard, and every vote should count equally. We must empower everyday Minnesotans and prevent maps from being drawn unfairly and stripping voters of their vote. Every Minnesotan deserves the opportunity to participate in the redistricting process.



EMPOWER VOTERS TO CHOOSE

Elections should be determined by voters, not politicians who draw maps. Voters should pick their elected officials, not the other way around. In our current system, politicians can draw their own district lines to pick their voters and protect themselves. A special redistricting commission empowers voters instead.



CHEATERS SHOULDN'T WIN

Relying on politicians to fix the redistricting system is like putting the fox in charge of the henhouse. We need clear and impartial rules. By making the process open and honest, we can protect our fundamental right to vote. We have the opportunity to prevent gerrymandering, create rules that apply evenly to both parties, and send a message that voters come first, not self-interested politicians.

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING? WHAT IS GERRYMANDERING?

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of legislative and congressional districts. This process happens every 10 years to adjust for population changes. Currently, legislators must draw new maps like they pass any other legislation. In other states, politicians have engaged in gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is the manipulation of district boundaries to draw a map that is not representative of the community. Sometimes this is done by unfairly favoring a political party or diluting the vote of racial or ethnic minorities.

WHY NOT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT?

An amendment would not be ratified until the fall of 2020, long after the application process for a redistricting commission needs to open. Therefore, we need a commission created by statute for the upcoming cycle.

WHY NOT A JUDGES-ONLY MODEL?

A panel of retired judges would not necessarily be as open to the public as a panel that included citizens. Retired judges in Minnesota also are almost exclusively white and male. We want to ensure that the redistricting commission has an opportunity to be at least somewhat representative and reflective of Minnesota's voters. There should also be the opportunity for voters to directly participate in the process by applying to be part of the special commission.

BUT THE MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THE LEGISLATURE TO DRAW THE MAPS, DOESN'T IT?

Yes, the Minnesota constitution requires that the legislature provide the final approval of the maps. However, we can and should create a special commission to provide draft maps to the legislature. The legislature retains the final authority to approve or vote down a map.

How It Would Work

Minnesota Special Redistricting Commission

