








WHY WE NEED REDISTRICTING REFORM IN PENNSYLVANIA

Our current redistricting process allows party leaders to determine district lines, a conflict of interest that undermines the integrity of our elections.

- Mapmakers work behind the scenes using sophisticated mapping technology and big data to profile voters to pick who party leaders want in or out of a voting district.
- They draw boundaries to maximize influence for those in leadership, to minimize their accountability and keep their seats secure.

Competitive elections keep politicians accountable. But in the 2016 general election, incumbents ran unopposed in almost half of PA House and Senate races. Many voters feel the important problems we face simply can't be fixed. Understandably frustrated, they disengage—which adds to the vicious cycle of unaccountable government. In each ten-year cycle, the problem grows worse.

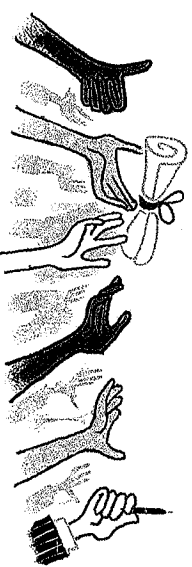
THE EVOLUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA'S SEVENTH DISTRICT

1952	1962	1972	1982
			
1992	2002	2013	
			

Source: Shapefiles maintained by Jeffery B. Lewis, Brandon DeVine, Lincoln Pritcher, and Kenneth C. Martis, UCLA. Drawn to scale. Graphic: The Washington Post, May 20, 2014)

THE GOOD NEWS! WE CAN FIX THIS

Redistricting will happen after the 2020 Census—but it will only be fair if we change the state constitution first. Fair Districts PA is a nonpartisan, citizen-led group working to do just that.



WHAT WE WANT

No other major democracy allows legislators to draw the lines that govern their own elections, and PA's process is among the most partisan in the country. We want a process that is:

Impartial: An independent citizens commission leads redistricting efforts.

Transparent: Citizens participate in the process and “closed-door” deal-making ends.

Accountable: Clear standards for equality, fairness, and integrity guide the process.

CHANGING OUR REDISTRICTING
PROCESS WILL REQUIRE AN
AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION.