

# GERRYMANDERING

**PRESENTATION**

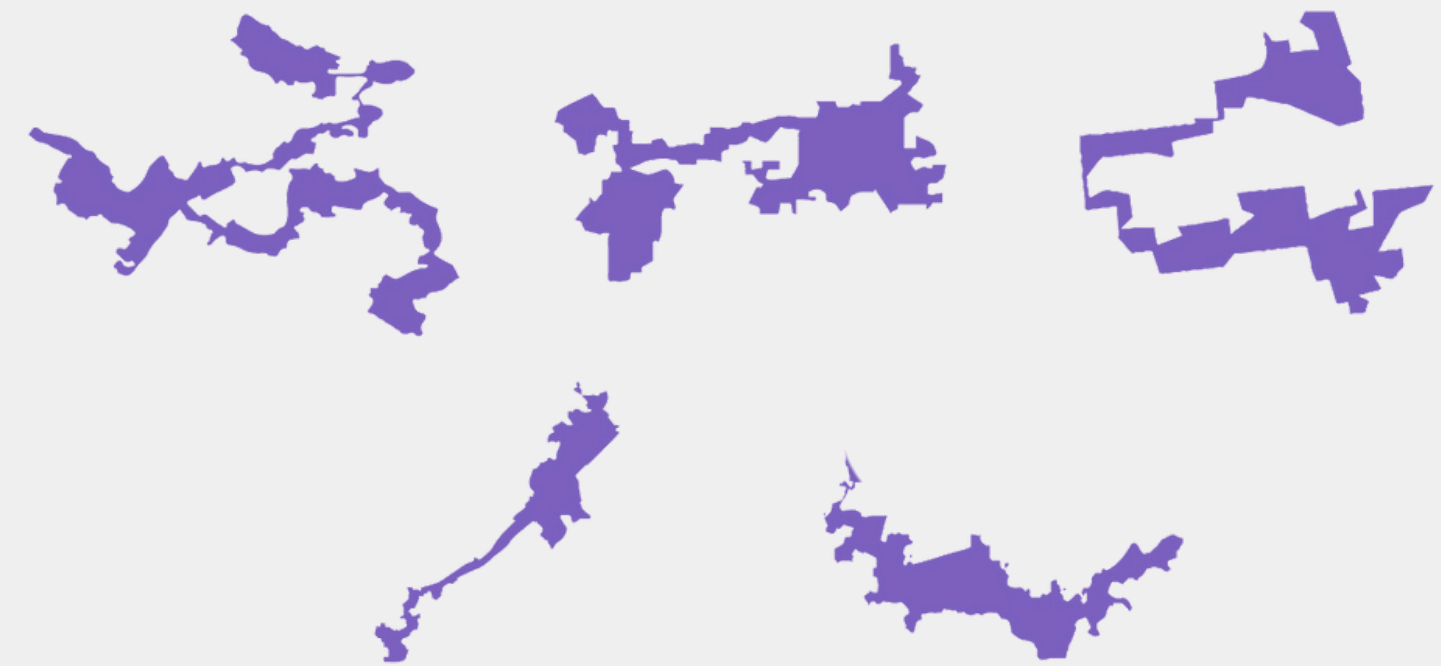


**DISCUSSION**



# WHAT IS IT?

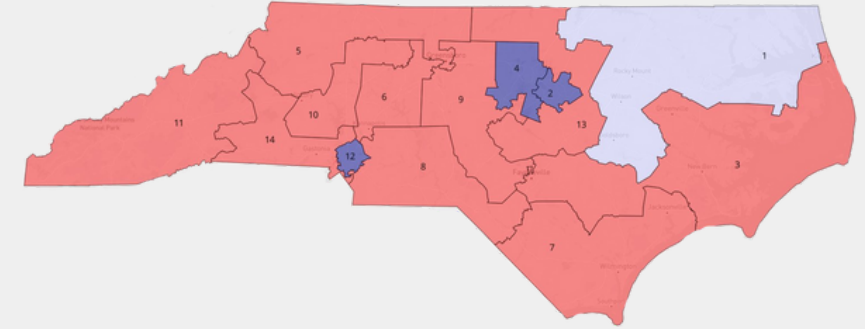
- Gerrymandering is the manipulation of an electoral constituency's boundaries to favor one party or class.
- Since the United States does not have a federal district-creating body, the congressional districts are usually decided by the state legislature, having the new maps passed as regular legislation. Some states have independent commissions that draw districts, but the final passage is up to the state legislature.
- Usually, new maps are passed every ten years, after the most recent census (that also occurs every ten years).
- Since the maps are decided by the legislatures, there is the possibility that the ruling party in that state can pass maps that favor their state over the other.



# TYPES

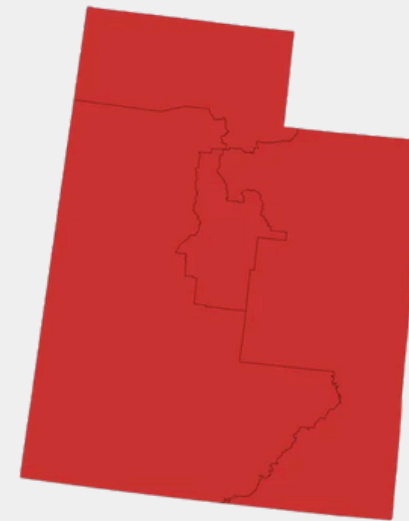
- Packing: Concentrating a disfavored group of voters into a small number of districts so their votes are overwhelming in those few areas, but their influence is minimal in surrounding districts.
- Cracking: Splitting a concentration of voters (like those favoring the opposition) across several districts, making them a minority in each and reducing their overall impact.
- Stacking: A form of racial gerrymandering that combines different minority groups with distinct voting patterns into single districts, diluting their combined power.

Packing in North Carolina:



Charlottesville, a democratic city that includes Hispanic and Black communities, is placed as one district, ensuring that the districts around it are safe for Republicans.

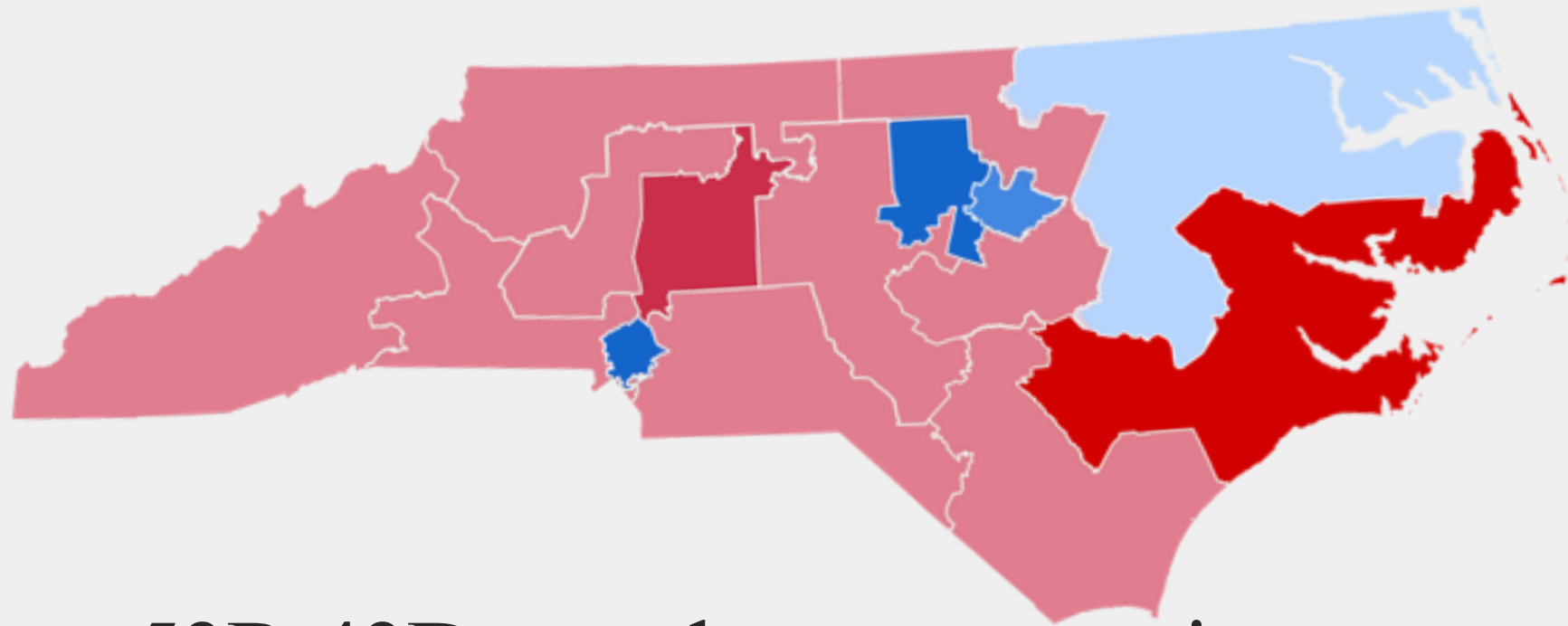
Cracking in Utah:



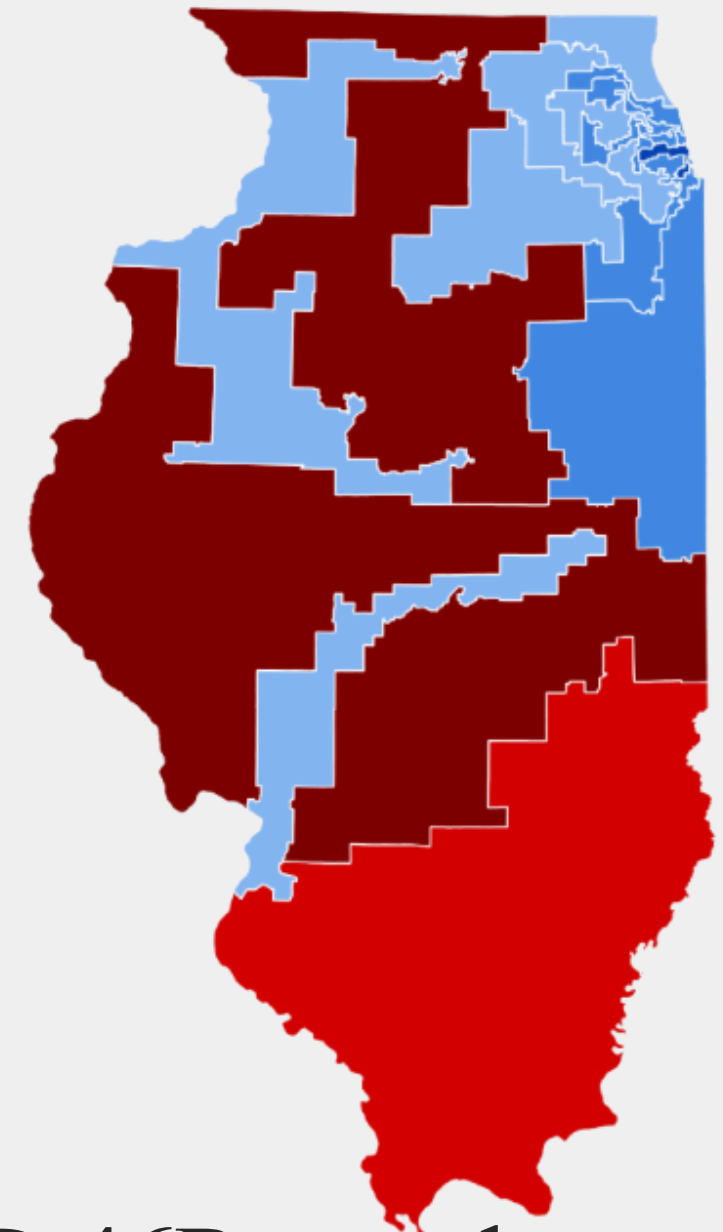
Salt Lake City, a dense urban area favoring Democrats, is split into four, making democratic voters a minority in each district.

(2)

# EXAMPLES



- 53R 43D popular vote margin
- 10R 4D seat results
- 71% of seats went red
- That is a 18 point gap



- 52D 46R popular vote margin
- 14D 4R seat results
- 82% of seats went blue
- That is a 30 point gap (3)



# THE LAW

- The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment prohibits the drawing of congressional maps based on race.
  - Courts have struck down maps where race was the primary factor.
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibits redistricting that dilutes minority voting power.
  - Ensures that maps can't pack or crack minority communities to reduce their electoral influence.
- The Supreme Court has found it difficult to adjudicate claims maps that favor one party over the other.
  - In *Rucho v. Common Cause*, the Supreme Court decided that federal courts have no role in policing partisan gerrymandering.
  - This means that you can not sue in federal court if a district map favors one party over the other.





# REDISTRICTING WARS PT. 1



## THE BEGINING:

OVER THE SUMMER TRUMP TOLD TEXAS LAWMAKERS TO REDRAW THEIR MAPS TO GAIN MORE REPUBLICAN SEATS.

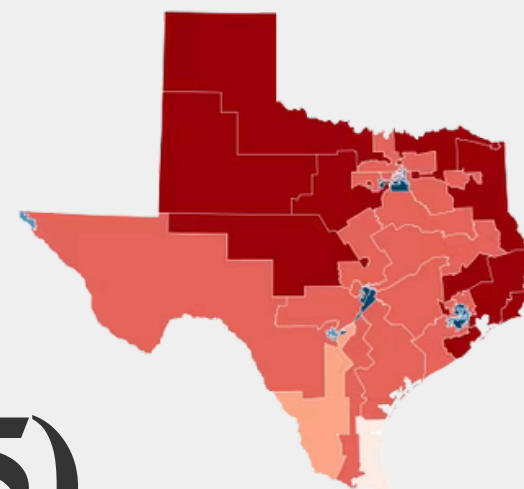
## STRIKE 1: TEXAS

TEXAS PROPOSES ALLEGEDLY RACIALLY CHARGED CONGRESSIONAL MAP THAT CREATES 5 NEW DISTRICTS FOR THE GOP.

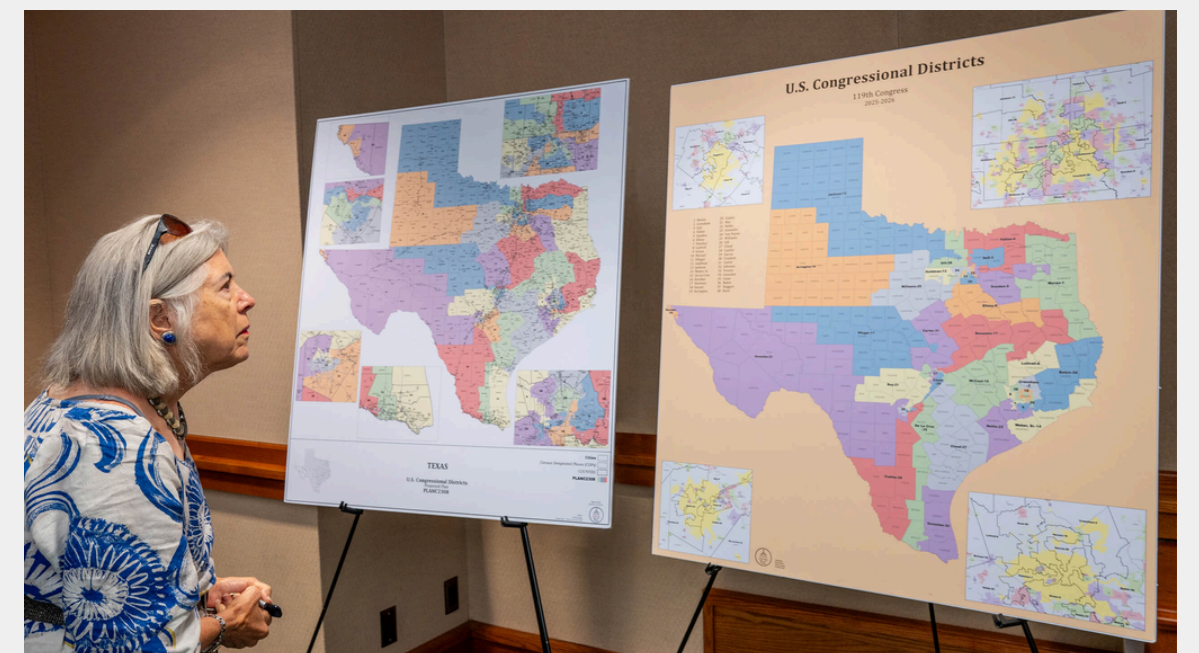
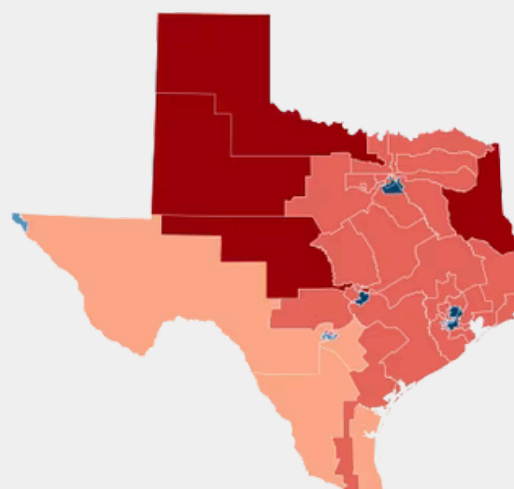
A FEDERAL JUDGE BLOCKED THE MAPS, FINDING EVIDENCE OF RACIALLY INSPIRED DISTRICT CREATION.

THIS PAST MONDAY, THE SUPREME COURT OVERTURNED THIS DECISION AND ALLOWED TEXAS TO USE THE MAPS FOR THE 2026 ELECTIONS.

Existing map



Proposed map



(5)



# REDISTRICTING WARS PT. 2

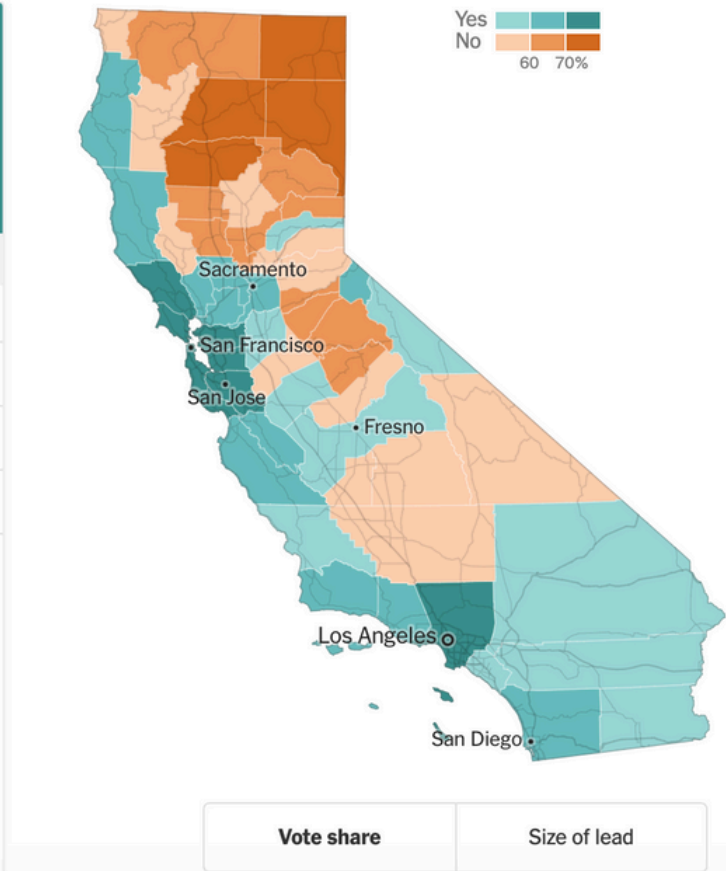
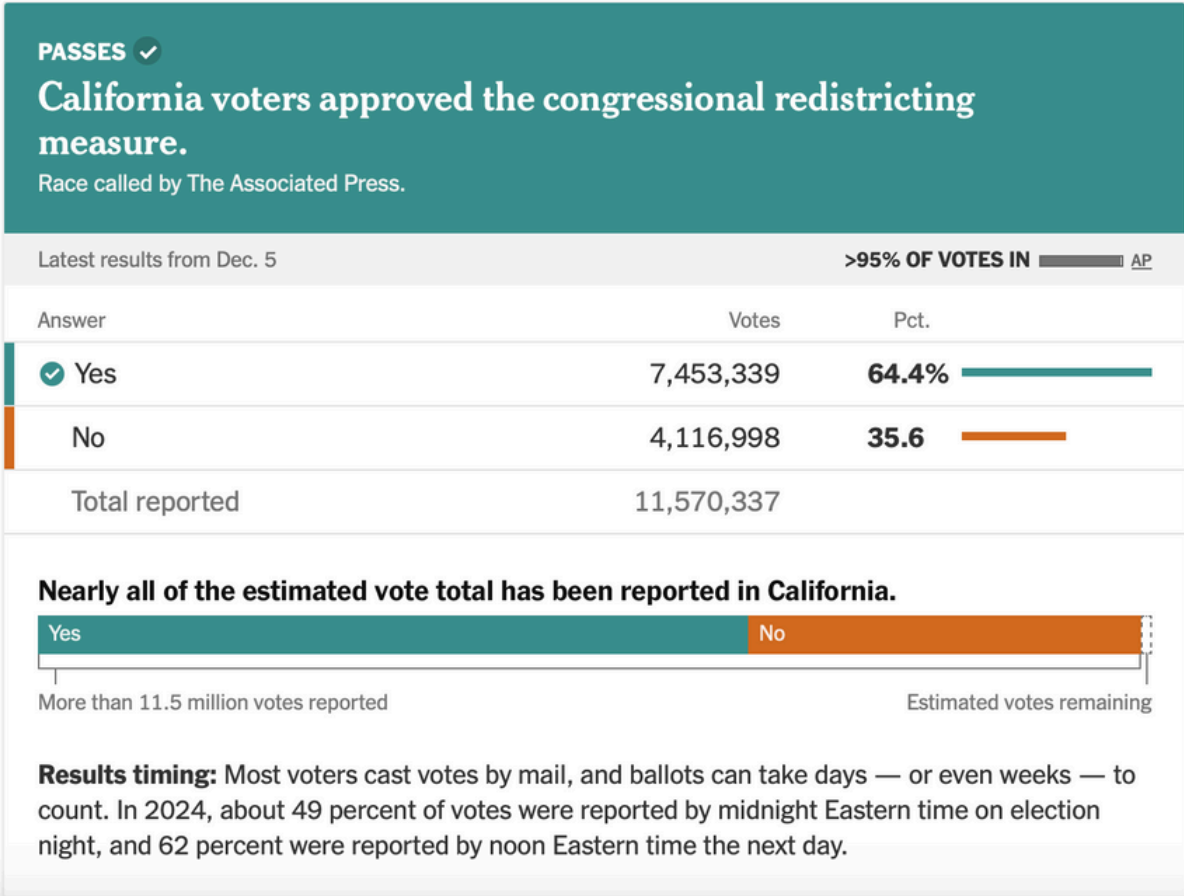


## STRIKE 2: CALIFORNIA

IN RESPONSE TO THE TEXAS REDISTRICTING, THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA, GAVIN NEWSOM PROPOSED NEW MAPS THAT WOULD GIVE DEMOCRATS FIVE EXTRA SEATS (THE SAME AMOUNT REPUBLICANS WOULD GAIN IN TEXAS).

CALIFORNIA RAISED THE MAPS TO VOTERS IN NOVEMBER 2025 UNDER THE NAME PROPOSITION 50.

CALIFORNIA VOTERS APPROVED THE MAPS BY A MARGIN OF 30 POINTS.





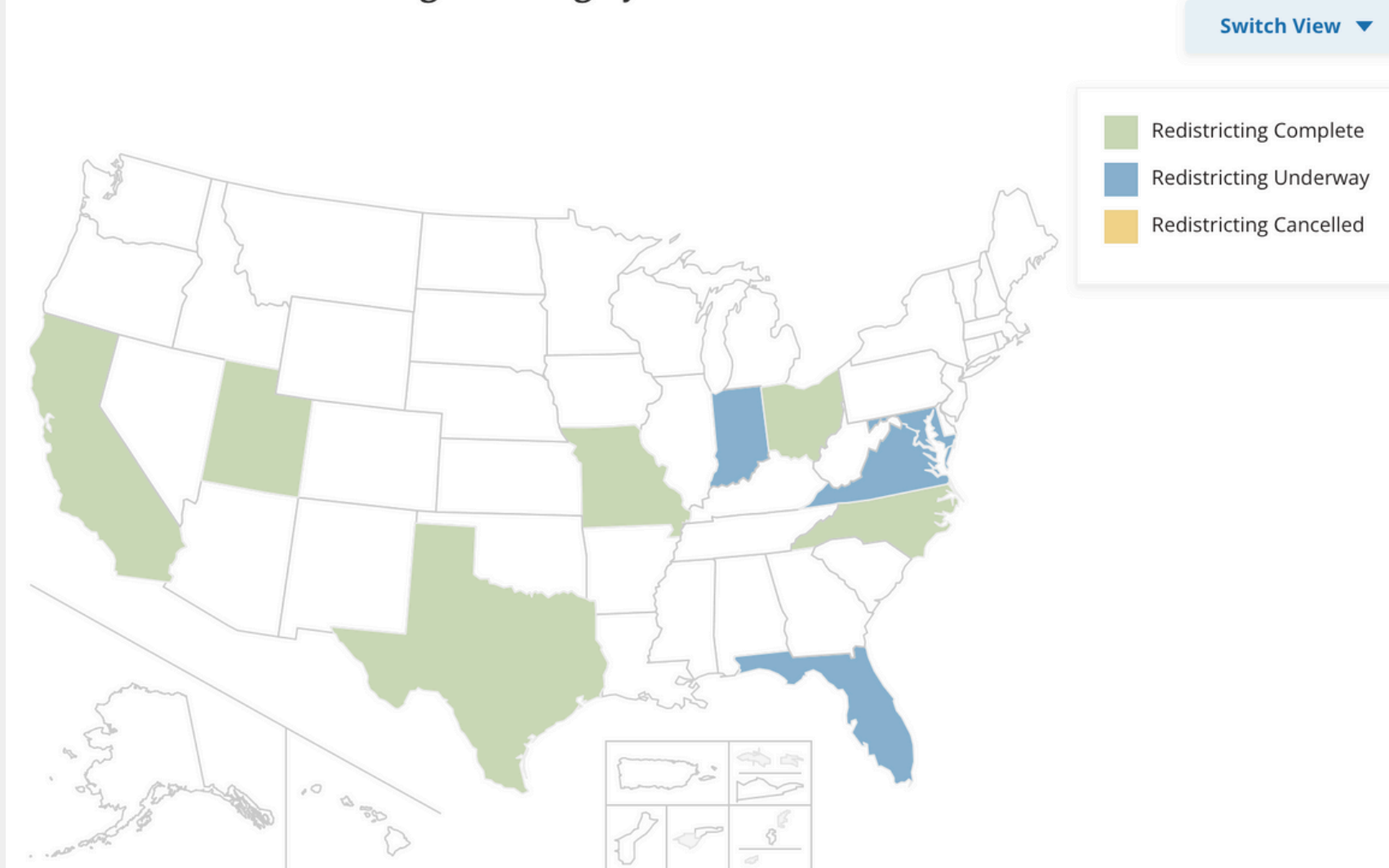
# REDISTRICTING WARS PT. 3

## STRIKE 3: OTHER STATES REDISTRICTING

OTHER STATES, BOTH RED AND BLUE, HAVE ALSO STARTED OR COMPLETED THE PROCESS OF REDISTRICTING. ONLY CALIFORNIA HAS HAD THE MAPS APPROVED BY VOTERS; ALL OTHERS HAVE ONLY BEEN IN FRONT OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE.



Mid-Decade Redistricting Tracking by State







# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Should the United States create a federal, non-partisan body that draws and passes congressional maps? (similar to Canada)

Should partisan gerrymandering be treated the same as racial gerrymandering under the law? Are they different?

Should California have fought Texas' gerrymandering with further gerrymandering of their own? Are they exacerbating the problem? Is California justified?



Can gerrymandering be a good thing?

Do we see a solution to this in the future?



**DRUM**

**ROLL**



# Karishma Manzur

Lecture+ Q&A  
Hosted by  
Exeter Political  
Union

January 11<sup>th</sup>  
2-3 PM  
EPAC 219

## Running For U.S. Senate



Not An Endorsement or Campaign Event

THANK  
YOU.

