

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

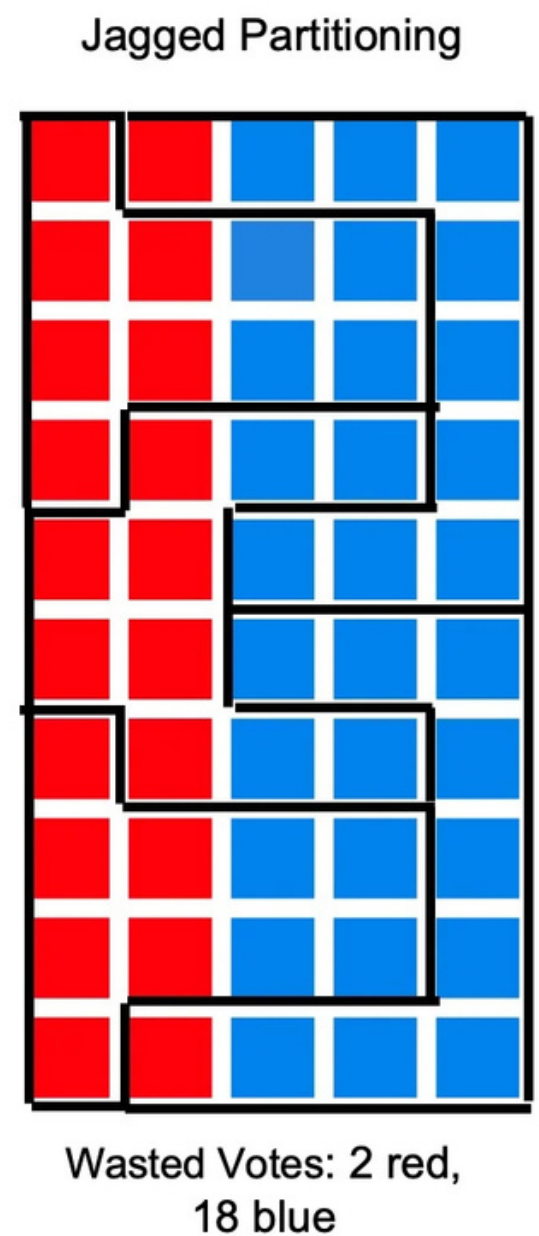
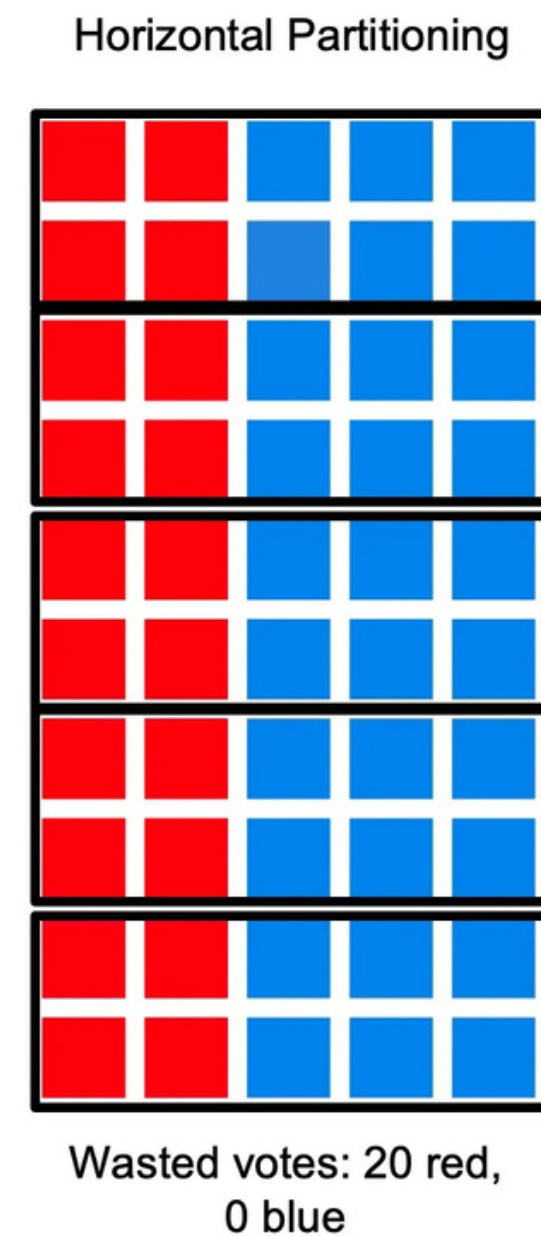
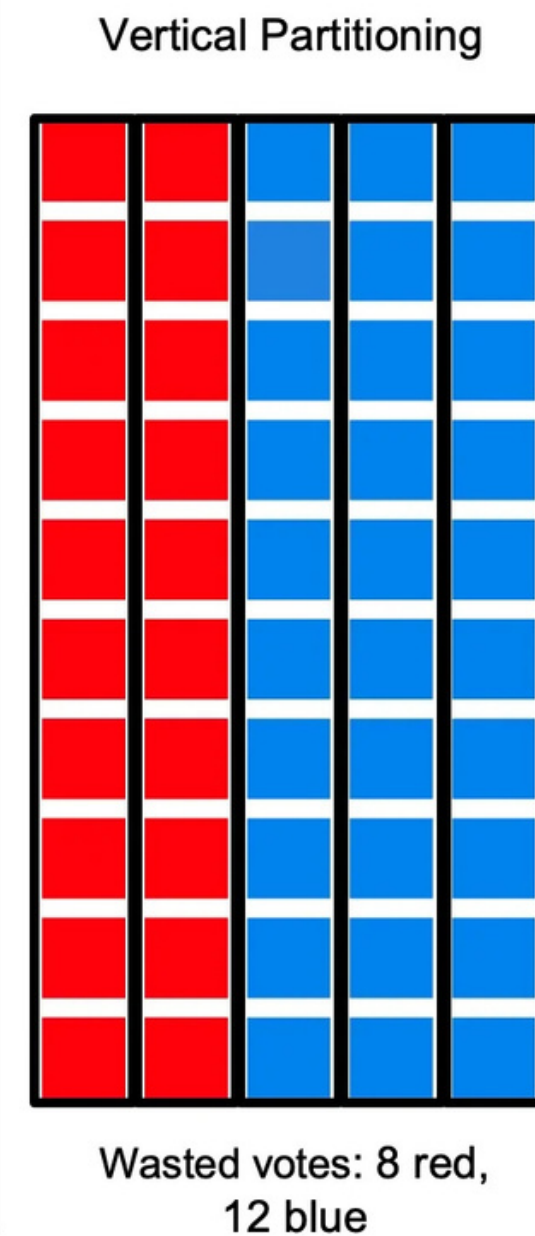
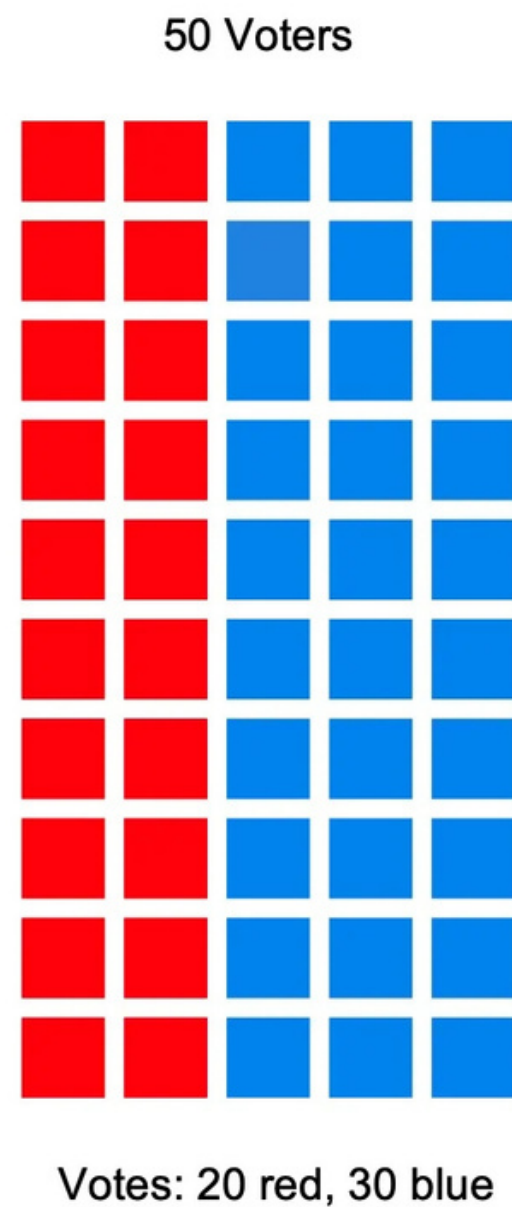
THE HOUSE

- The House of Representatives is apportioned according to each state's population.
- Each house member is elected from a district within their state.
- States set their own rules for drawing their respective districts, and this usually happens every 10 years during the census. However, mid-decade attempts can and do happen.
- One problem with this system is that it's susceptible to gerrymandering, the practice of drawing districts with the intent to favor or oppose a particular party, incumbents, or another group.
- Gerrymandering often results in bizarre-looking districts--the origin of the name (Elbridge Gerry + Salamander)



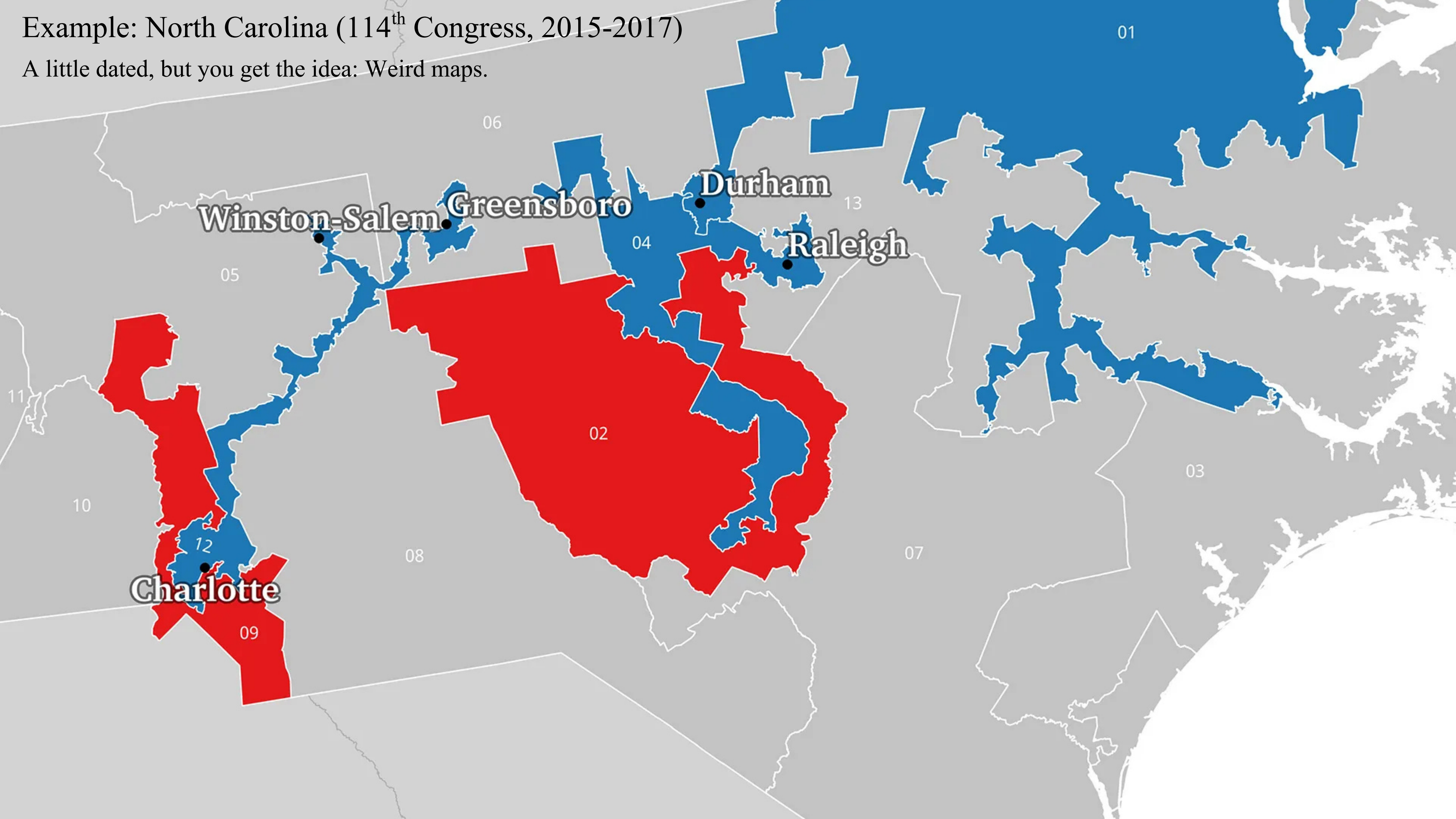
HOW IT WORKS

- “Pack and Crack”
- Packing concentrates opposing voters into one uncompetitive district to reduce their influence elsewhere.
- Cracking spreads them across many districts to dilute their voting power, so they cannot be represented.

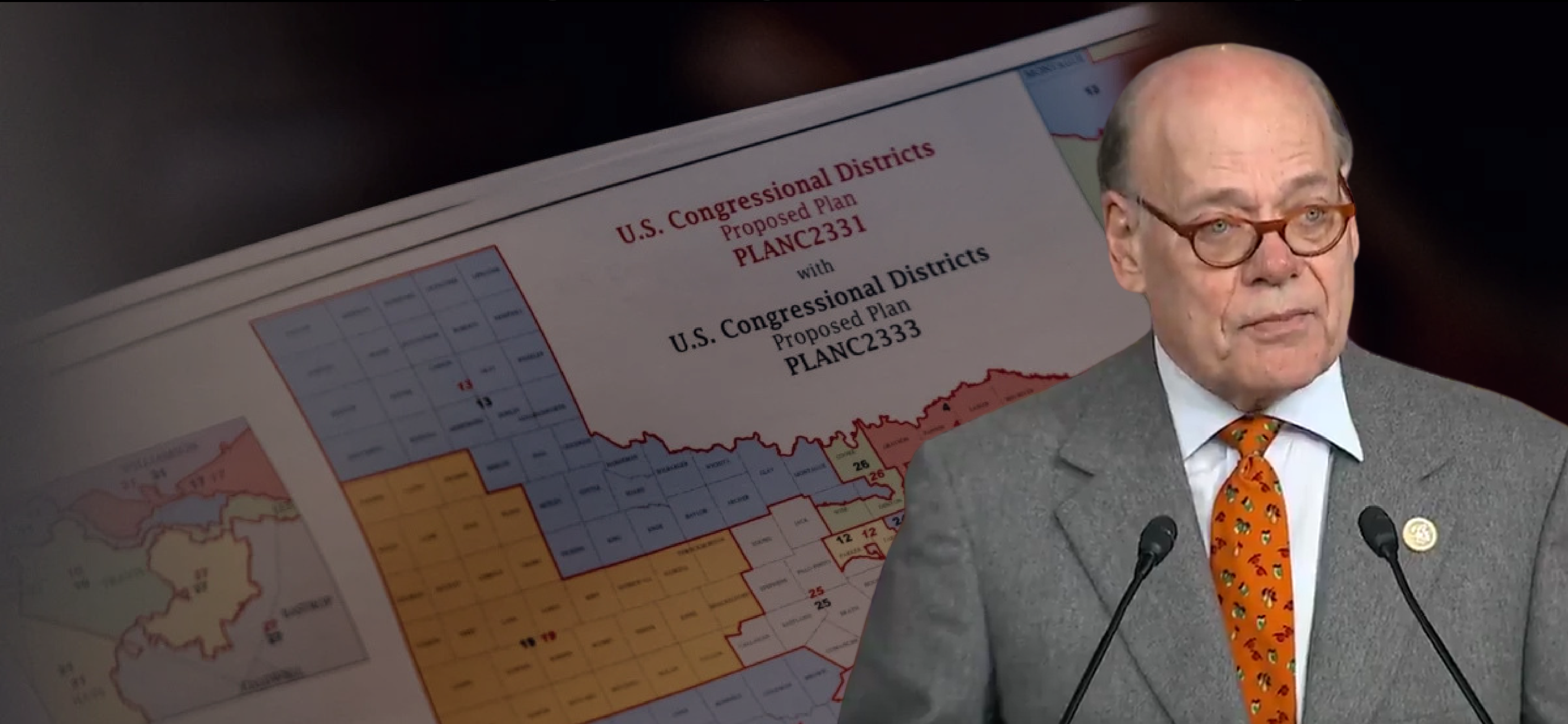


Example: North Carolina (114th Congress, 2015-2017)

A little dated, but you get the idea: Weird maps.

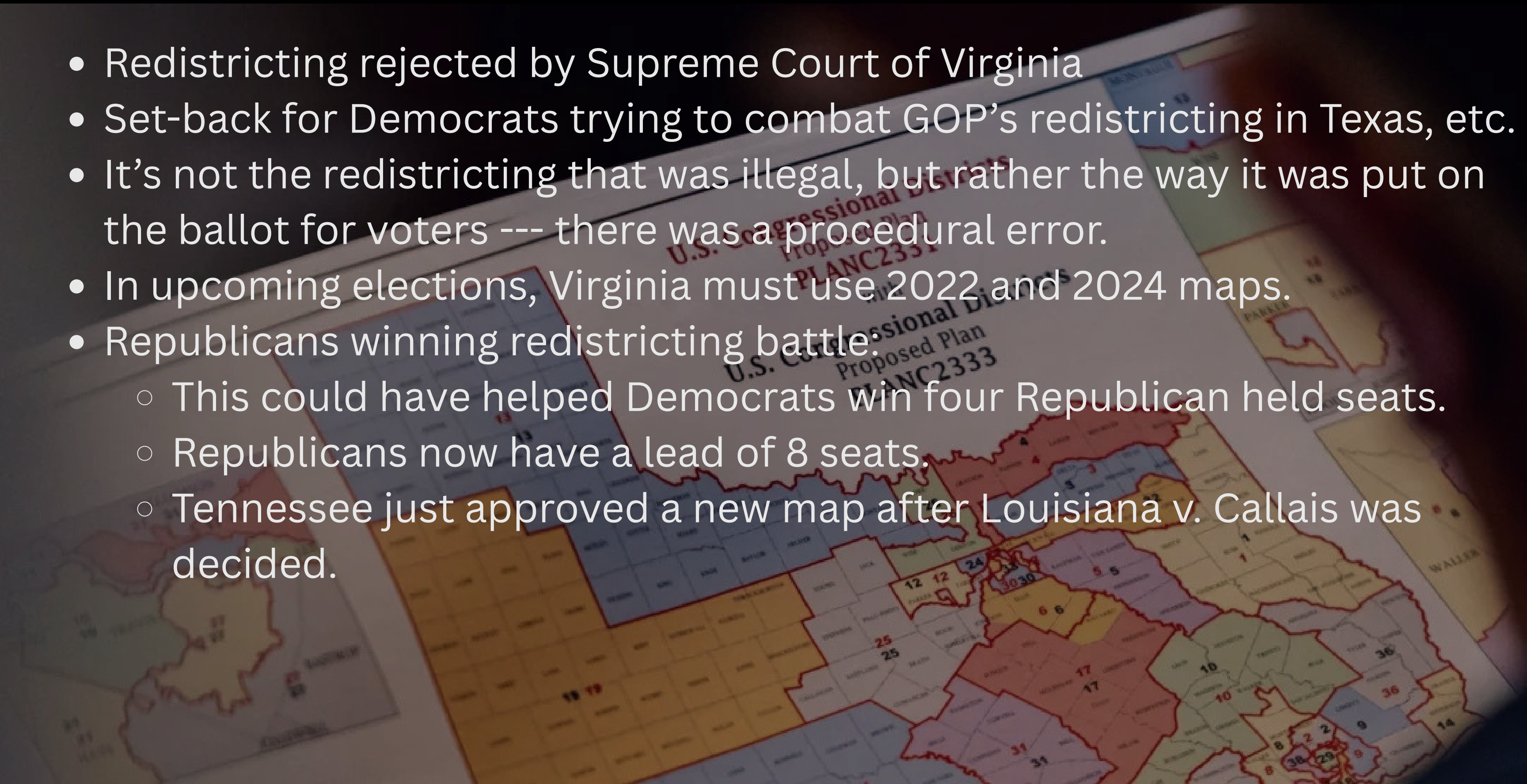


THE 2026 MAPS



VIRGINIA SITUATION

- Redistricting rejected by Supreme Court of Virginia
- Set-back for Democrats trying to combat GOP's redistricting in Texas, etc.
- It's not the redistricting that was illegal, but rather the way it was put on the ballot for voters --- there was a procedural error.
- In upcoming elections, Virginia must use 2022 and 2024 maps.
- Republicans winning redistricting battle:
 - This could have helped Democrats win four Republican held seats.
 - Republicans now have a lead of 8 seats.
 - Tennessee just approved a new map after Louisiana v. Callais was decided.



LOUISIANA V. CALLAIS.

- After the 2020 census, Louisiana drew a map with only one majority-Black district; courts found this violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.
- Louisiana redrew the map (SB8), adding a second majority-Black district.
- SB8 was challenged as an illegal racial gerrymander.
- Updated Thornburg v. Gingles framework, citing four changed conditions: broad social change in the South, the correlation between race and party preference, racial-gerrymandering claims being used to repack partisan ones, and modern computing enabling alternative map generation.
- Plaintiffs must now present strong evidence of present-day intentional racial discrimination; past discrimination and present-day disparities framed as effects of societal discrimination receive significantly less weight.
- Dissent claims that this effectively renders the VRA worthless, as proving intentional racial discrimination is impossible even if it exists.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Gerrymandering as a justiciable issue
 - Defeated by *Rucho v. Common Cause*
 - Courts don't allow for this
- States use Independent Redistricting Commission
- Make Congress oversee or do it
- Abolish Districts



DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

UFO FILES

- https://www.war.gov/medialink/ufo/release_1/2024-04-30-composite-sketch.pdf
- https://www.war.gov/medialink/ufo/release_1/serial-3_redacted.pdf
- https://www.war.gov/medialink/ufo/release_1/nasa-uap-d4-apollo-11-technical-crew-debriefing-1969.pdf
-