

INDIANA COALITION FOR INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING



Democracy is not a spectator sport.

---Carrie Chapman Catt

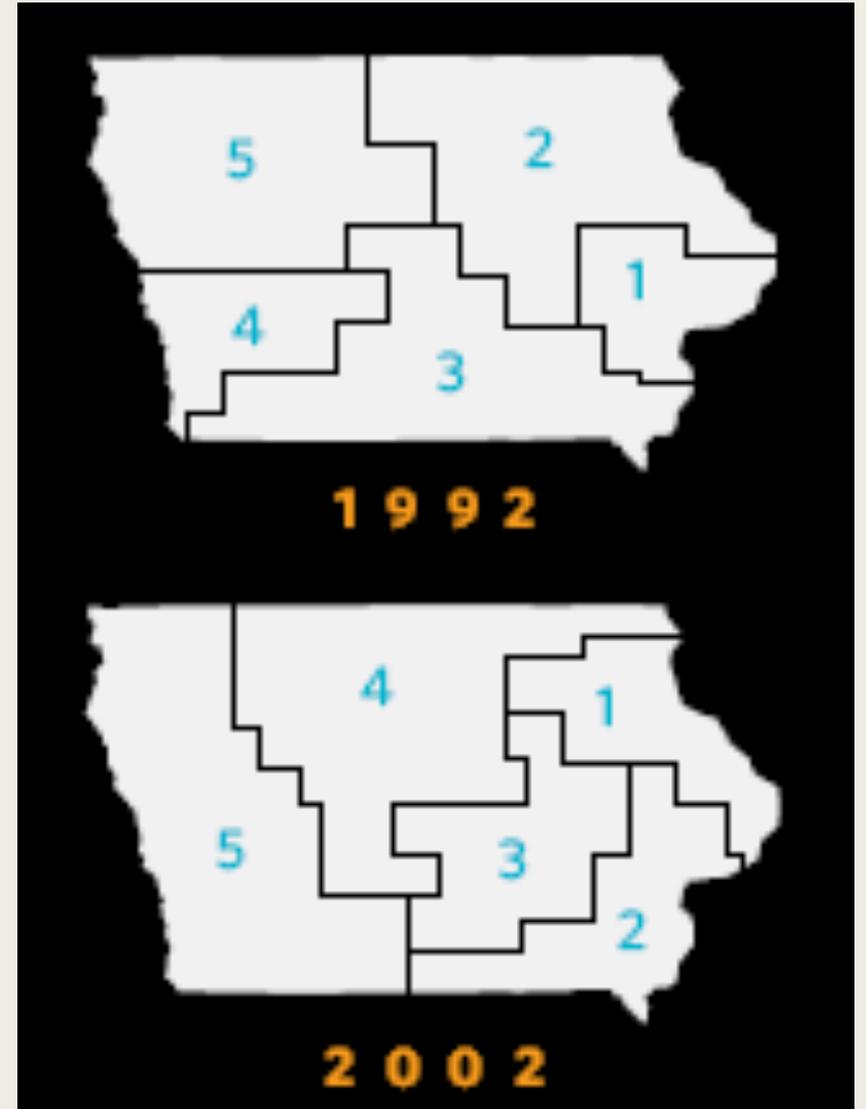
The thing about democracy, beloveds,
is that it is not neat, orderly, or quiet.
It requires a certain relish for
confusion.

*---Molly Ivins. You got to dance
with them what brung you.*



Political Cartoon in March 1812—Boston Gazette. The first ‘gerrymandered’ district created to favor the Democratic-Republican Party Candidates favored by then Governor Elbridge Gerry over the Federalists. Governor Gerry signed the bill allowing this newly re-districted map. The term ‘gerrymander’ is a portmanteau of the governor’s last name and the word ‘salamander’ – the cartoonist’s caricature of the bizarre shape of a district in Essex County.

- Every 10 years (at least), after the census
- Congress, state legislature, many local legislatures
- Sorts voters into groups, distributes political power



Values for Drawing the Lines

- Compactness
- Contiguity (*only criteria Indiana is required to follow*)
- ‘Incumbent blind’—appropriately competitive
- Maintenance of communities of interest
- Protection of voting rights
- Ensuring ‘one person one vote’ representation

Let's be Clear....

- Independent Commission does NOT take the politics out of redistricting
 - *But the players should not also be the umpires*
 - *Has flexibility to accommodate local 'exceptions'*
 - *Understands the importance of a statewide majority being reflected in the legislative majority*
 - *The commission maintains 'meaningful independence, is appropriately diverse, has clear standards, and of course will 'report' to the legislature*

Impact of gerrymandering

- Indiana had worst voter turnout in the country in 2012 elections
- 44 out of 100 races for state representative were uncontested
- 10 out of 25 races for state senate were uncontested
- In Indiana, “Republicans generally win 53 to 57 % of the votes in state legislative races, but have drawn the maps with such surgical precision that they now find themselves in 71 to 80 of seats in Indiana House and Senate, respectively.” (Krull, Feb.4, 2016)

It's More Insidious than we think....

- Impact goes beyond representation
 - *Voter apathy--why bother, my vote doesn't count*
 - *Qualified candidates don't bother running--deck is already stacked against them by vote and money*
 - *Insulates elected officials from the will of the majority because of safe districts (RFRA case in point--60 % public support extending civil rights protection to LGBT)*
 - *Encourages the more 'radical fringes' of both parties to not only run but win (capable and well respected candidates can be 'primaried out')*
 - *Eroding and threatening the fabric of our democracy*

What's Happening in Indiana

- An Interim Study Committee on Redistricting was created in response to HEA 1003
- Rep. Jerry Torr is the Chair, Sen. Brandt Hershman is Vice-chair
- There are 3 Senators, 3 Representatives and 4 Lay Members (Former Supreme Court Justice Ted Boehm, Tom Sugar, Former Senator Bev Gard and Sheila Kennedy)
- They have promised to contact Justin Levitt (formally of Brennan Center, now Law Professor at Loyola in Los Angeles to provide expert consult
- The Coalition is working to educate voters and put pressure on the committee to really study the issue and work to create recommendations well vetted and grounded in real data
- Their final report is due in December of 2016—*they will begin meeting again after this 2016 short session*
- It is imperative that this committee hears from concerned and *well informed* Hoosiers
- Citizens need to chose their legislators, and not legislators choosing their voters.

Thank You!