

BLOCKS OF TEXT ABOUT REDISTRICTING & GERRYMANDERING THAT COULD BE adapted (by more astute users) for FB—with links to lwvin.org and/or AllINforDemocracy.org

Indiana's current system of having legislators draw district maps creates the ultimate conflict of interest. Because the process is highly partisan, **it is unrealistic to expect politicians not to exploit it for political advantage.**

Both Democrats and Republicans engage in gerrymandering; the party in power draws the maps providing an unfair electoral advantage for the majority party. Nationally, those lines have grown ever more partisan. In 2012, after the 2010 census redistricting, Republicans won 53% of the vote, but 72% of the U. S. House seats in states where they drew the lines; Democrats won 56% of the vote but 71% of the seats where they controlled the process.

Statewide elections—governor, senators—reveal that **Indiana votes typically 53-57% Republican and 43-47% Democrat.** In 2012, after redistricting based on the 2010 Census, Democratic candidates received a total of 999,219 votes, Republicans 1,342,237. If Indiana districts were fairly drawn, Democrats would hold 43% of the Indiana House districts, with Republicans holding a 57% majority. With gerrymandering, Republicans held a 69% majority (which climbed to 71% in 2014 and remains there today). That translates into **71 Republican seats in the Indiana House, 29 Democrat seats. The Indiana Senate tells the same story, currently seating 39 Republicans (78%) and 11 Democrats (22%).**

Gerrymandered districts, those manipulated for political advantage, undermine the basic concept of one person, one vote and make it more difficult to hold our elected officials accountable. The super-majority can conduct business without the super-minority even present. The dialogue crucial to ensure all citizens are represented in legislative business is currently unnecessary. Consensus building and compromise become unnecessary. **Without our action, redistricting can occur behind closed doors with no effort to create maps fair to all Hoosiers.**

Every effort by **All IN 4 Democracy**, the redistricting coalition co-founded by the League of Women Voters of Indiana and Common Cause Indiana, to get redistricting legislation in place in the last decade has failed. Many of you have been involved in those **efforts to neutralize partisanship, to prevent individuals with a direct stake in the outcome of redistricting from drawing districts, and to encourage public participation in a transparent process.** But the super-majority has obstructed every bill at some point, most not even voted out of committee.