

Redistricting in MN

What You Need to Know

Topics We Will Cover

- * How does redistricting happen In MN?
- * How does redistricting affect me?
- * What role does the census play in redistricting?
- * How are district lines drawn? What is the process?
- * Other types of redistricting models used in USA
- * What seems to be the problem with redistricting in MN?

Redistricting Snapshot

- * It is process by which census data is used to redraw the lines and boundaries of electoral districts within a state.
- * It affects districts at all levels of government; local school boards, city councils state legislatures & United States House of Representatives.
- * It takes place every 10yrs.
- * It determines a state's voice in U.S. House of Reps. & how many local house seats will be given to a specific district/area through apportionment.

How Does Redistricting Happen in MN

- * In Minnesota district lines are set by the legislature, i.e., House Redistricting Committee, and are passed like other laws, which means that the governor has the chance to veto a redistricting map.
- * MN legislature adopts district lines by a simple majority vote in each chamber. No supermajority is needed, i.e., 2/3rd of votes.
- * Should there be a stalemate, violation of constitutional provisions or a veto, the MN Supreme Court Intervenes and takes over the process.

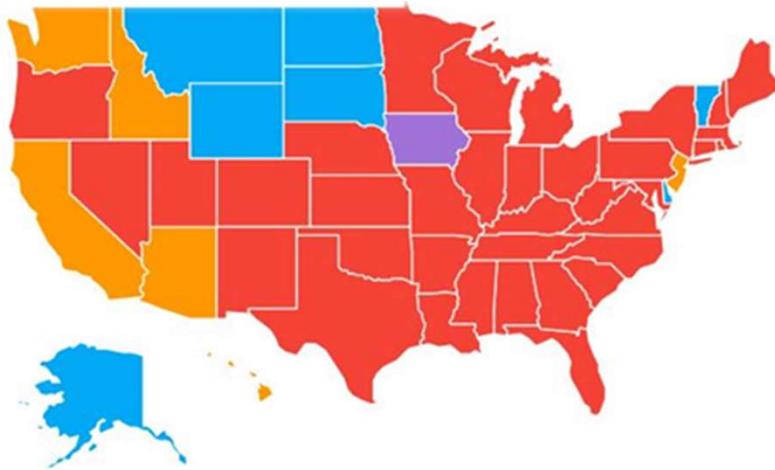
How does redistricting affect me?

- * How and where districts are drawn often determine if your community can elect representatives of choice to sit on your local school board, city council, state legislature and Congress.
- * It can also influence whether or not your elected officials respond to your needs, such as ensuring equal educational opportunities or health care for everyone.
- * Literally sets up a system of voters selecting candidates OR candidates selecting voters. It sets out your voting maps.

How has it happened in MN?

- * Minnesota Supreme Court appointed a panel to draw the final congressional district lines after the Governor vetoed proposed maps.
- * Process utilized by the Court: how does the court do it?
- * Common Cause MN created a parallel Independent Redistricting Commission to model what one might look like and act like in submitting proposed district maps with direct community participation.

Other types of redistricting models



- NJ has bipartisan commission
- CA, AZ, ID, WA have citizen's commission
- IA has panel of civil servants
- FL has legislative redistricting with court approval
- Remaining states have legislators drawing district lines

Other types of redistricting models

- * Bipartisan commissions > 1 NJ

maps drawn by bipartisan commission with public interest tiebreaker

- * Citizen's commission > 4 CA, AZ, ID, WA

maps drawn by commission selected

- * Panel of civil servants > 1 IA

maps drawn by nonpartisan civil servants

- * Legislative Redistricting with Judicial Approval - FL

What is the problem with redistricting in MN

- * Lack of competitive races
- * Incumbency

What you can do

- * Reach out to gubernatorial candidates and ask them if they'd support an independent redistricting commission.
- * Ask your senators/representatives if they'd support an independent redistricting commission.
- * Read up on what it is and talk with friends/family; share the info you know.
- * Write an Op-Ed in your community newspaper/newsletter /church bulletin.

What you can do

- * Host a meeting to talk about it and download redistricting apps to practice.
- * Start an online petition with family/friends/others in support of an independent redistricting commission.
- * Ask your city council/mayor/human rights commission to pass a resolution in support of an independent redistricting commission.

Partner with Common Cause MN to move redistricting reforms.

- 1) Join our Redistricting Action Team**
- 2) Text "cause" to "97779" to get calls to actions and updates**

Questions?



<http://www.commoncause.org/states/minnesota/>



@commoncauseminnesota



@commoncausemn

Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera, Executive Director
(612)605-7978
550 Rice Street, Suite 214
St. Paul, MN 55103
abelladonna@commoncause.org



Minnesota