

## Defending Amendment 1's Redistricting Reforms

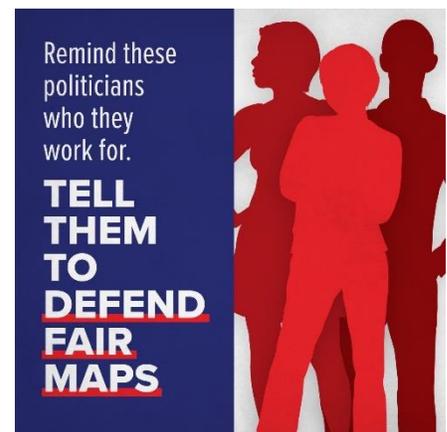
**Redistricting** refers to the process by which new congressional and legislative boundaries are drawn. District lines are redrawn every 10 years following the U.S. Census. The federal government requires that districts have nearly equal populations, be competitive, and not discriminate based on race or ethnicity.

**Voters in every state senate district approved Amendment 1 (Clean Missouri) in 2018 to increase fairness, accountability, integrity and transparency in Missouri politics.** This constitutional amendment ensures that neither party has an unfair advantage when state legislative maps are drawn after each census and protects minority communities from vote dilution.

Amendment 1 enshrined the Voting Rights Act in the Missouri Constitution and added language protecting the voting power of communities of color. It set the following criteria for redistricting state legislative seats:

- ★ make districts as equal in population as practicable;
- ★ promote partisan fairness, which would be defined as parties being able to translate their popular support into legislative representation with about equal efficiency;
- ★ promote competitiveness, which would be defined as parties' representation in the state legislature being similarly responsive to changes in the electorate's preferences;
- ★ create districts composed of contiguous territory;
- ★ create districts which coincide with the boundaries of political subdivisions of the state; and
- ★ create districts compact in form.

SS3/SJR38 asks voters to replace Amendment 1's redistricting reforms with a more partisan process after the 2020 Census. It eliminates the independent demographer, has a weaker race equity standard, put compactness as the top criteria, makes fairness and competitiveness the least important criteria, and hides the data used for the final legislative district maps. Incumbents would have more protection, with political parties having more say in drawing legislative district maps than they did in the two-year redistricting process after the last census.



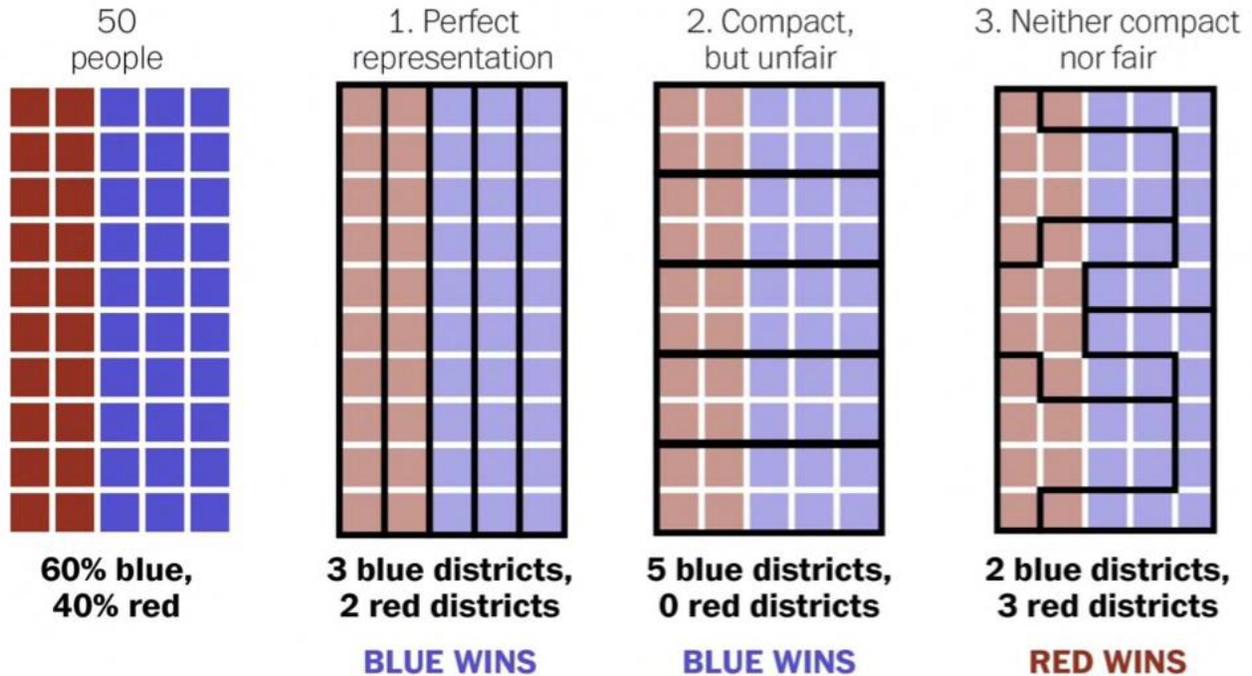
Both the resolution approved by the Senate (SS3/SJR38) and a similar proposal in the House (HJR115) would allow the **Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)** to be used draw the maps, which would exclude legal immigrants and other non-citizens, as well as any resident under the age of 18. That is despite the fact that courts have not accepted that standard or total voting age population (TVAP) in redistricting. The Supreme Court's unanimous decision in [Evenwel v. Abbott](#) in 2016 supported drawing legislative districts using the **total population**.

Proponents want to put this on the August 2020 ballot. SJR 38's only "sweeteners" to repealing Clean Missouri's redistricting reforms would be eliminating lobbyist gifts that Clean Missouri capped at \$5 and taking \$100 off the \$2,500 campaign contribution for Senate candidates.

**Gerrymandering** is the practice of drawing electoral district lines to favor one party, individual, or constituency over another. The two most common forms are partisan and racial gerrymandering. The illustration below shows several ways maps can be drawn to favor one party or the other.

## Gerrymandering, explained

Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts



WASHINGTONPOST.COM/**WONKBLOG**

Adapted from Stephen Nass

An article in the January 7, 2020 St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* explained why the legislature says overturning the will of the voters is a top priority: “Republicans worry they’ll lose some of their legislative power after a nonpartisan demographer draws legislative maps after this year’s census.”

For decades, the League of Women Voters of Missouri has fought for fair maps. In 1991, Sydell Shayer said the purpose of apportionment (redistricting) “is to guarantee fair and equal access to the political process for all citizens. The probability of political participation increases if citizens believe that they have equal opportunity to influence government.”

The League encourages members to contact their state representatives to ask them to **respect Missouri voters** and not replace Amendment 1’s fair maps with a more partisan process that will expand gerrymandering in Missouri. Redistricting after the 2020 Census should be a non-partisan, transparent practice that upholds the ideas of equity and fairness for all Missouri residents. For more information, contact the League of Women Voters on Facebook, [www.lwvmissouri.org](http://www.lwvmissouri.org) or call 314-961-6869.

**PEOPLE  
POWERED**  
FAIR MAPS™

Fact sheet paid for by a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund.