



GERRYMANDERING TALKING POINTS

BACKGROUND

Gerrymandering is the deliberate manipulation of legislative districts to benefit a particular party or to cause disadvantage/harm to an opposing party. Virginia is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country.

REPUBLICAN POSITION

The Virginia Republican legislature has repeatedly drawn self-serving district lines. The Republican Caucus has refused Democratic efforts to move redistricting reform amendments to the floor. As recently as February 2017, 62 members of the House Republican Caucus voted in favor of HB 1409 to continue to allow lawmakers to draw legislative districts for their own political gain, with every Republican voting to continue to allow gerrymandering, excluding 4 abstentions.

DEMOCRATIC POSITION

It's critical that voting district maps reflect electoral reality and that Americans have a fair and equal voice in their elections no matter where they live. Unrigging the gerrymandered map is the only way Democrats will get fair representation, especially in critical swing states like Virginia, and take back the House and Senate.

The upcoming November 2017 elections are doubly important because the outcome will have a direct impact on who controls the next round of redistricting. In Virginia Clinton won by more than five points, but Republicans still captured 7 of 11 congressional seats and 66 out of 100 House of Delegate seats because of gerrymandered maps written by GOP legislators after the 2010 census. It's critical that Democrats get fair representation before the 2020 census.

OTHER INFORMATION

Gerrymandering practice persists despite the fact that 74% of Virginians feel district lines should be drawn by an independent board.