2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN ALABAMA

September 2012

Final Congressional Redistricting Plan



Signed into law by Gov. Robert Bentley on June 8, 2011 and approved by the DOJ on Nov. 21, 2011.

2012 Projections (6R, 1D)*

Alabama has become a strongly Republican state, from presidential elections to down ballot elections for the state legislature. As recently as 1996, Democrats held a majority of the state's U.S. House seats and held three of seven seats in 2010. Republicans picked up two districts in 2010, winning six of seven seats.

All six Republican incumbents are seeking reelection and are running in districts with a partisanship of at least 65% Republican. The Democratic incumbent also is running in a district that is 68% Democratic. The likelihood of meaningful competition is remote.

* See details and the fair voting alternative on the following pages.

Alabama's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

New Redistricting Maintains Distorted Political Landscape

Current Plan Previous Plan Statewide Partisanship 1 Seat D 1 Seat D 6 Seats R 36% D 64% R

Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election.

Competition and Voting Rights in Alabama

	Current Plan	Previous Plan
District Competition	0% (0/7)	0% (0/7)
African American Voting Strength*	35%	30%

* Measures the percentage of African American eligible voters living in districts where they are a majority of eligible voters. Voters might not choose to vote for a candidate of their same race

Redistricting Process in Alabama

The Republican-controlled state legislature passed the new redistricting map on June 2, 2011. The plan had to be "precleared" by the DOJ under the Voting Rights Act Section 5. The DOJ approved the plan on November 21, 2011.

To promote public input, Rep. Ford (D) had proposed a citizen's redistricting panel. The legislature rejected the proposal, opting to draw the map themselves, although they did allow the public to submit maps. There was some opposition to this redistricting plan by some critics who thought the districts represented special interests, rather than the people.

U.S. House Elections in Alabama

Alabama's primaries were held on March 13, 2012, and every incumbent won his or her party's nomination. The state's election history shows that U.S. House incumbents typically coast to re-election. In 2010, one incumbent lost – the first incumbent general election loss since 1992.

Alabama Democrats are underrepresented. In 2010, Democratic candidates for the House received 31% of the vote, but only 14% of the seats.

Alabama elected two women in 2010, the first time a woman had been elected since 1972. A black woman, Terri Sewell, was elected in the one Democratic majority district; the state has never elected more than one black member in House elections.



2012 HOUSE ELECTIONS IN ALABAMA

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Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Alabama's new congressional districts. Incumbents are listed according to the districts in which they are running in 2012, with the 2010 district partisanship connected to that incumbent.

			Year First	Last Election	2010 District Partisanship	2012 District Partisanship	2012 District	2012 Election
District	Incumbent	Party	Elected	Winning %	(D% / R%)	(D% / R%)	Projection	Projection
1	Josiah Bonner	R	2002	83%	35 / 65	35 / 65	Strong R	Safe R
2	Martha Roby	R	2010	51%	33 / 67	32 / 68	Strong R	Likely R
3	Mike Rogers	R	2002	59%	40 / 60	33 / 67	Strong R	Safe R
4	Robert Aderholt	R	1996	100%	20 / 80	23 / 77	Strong R	Safe R
5	Mo Brooks	R	2010	58%	35 / 65	33 / 67	Strong R	Safe R
6	Spencer Bachus	R	1992	100%	20 / 80	22 / 78	Strong R	Safe R
7	Terri Sewell	D	2010	72%	69 / 31	68 / 32	Strong D	Safe D

ALABAMA REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012

Alabama's Fair Voting Plan



Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection: 4R, 2D, 1?
A (CDs - 4,5,6,7)	4	682,819	20%	37 / 63	2R, 1D, 1?
B (CDs - 1,2,3)	3	682,820	25%	33 / 67	2R, 1D

^{*} plus 1 vote

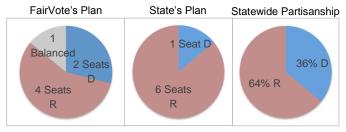
How Does Fair Voting Work?

Fair voting describes American forms of proportional representation that uphold electoral traditions and are based on voting for candidates. They ensure meaningfully contested elections and provide voters with more accurate representation.

Instead of seven individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines current districts into two larger "super-districts" with three or four representatives. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a quarter of voters in a three-seat district will win a seat. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a fifth of voters will win in a four-seat district.

Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Alabama's Redistricting Plan

More Accurate Political Representation*



^{*} Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election similar to the Partisan Voting Index. They do not account for other candidate-based factors like incumbency.

Meaningful Elections and Representation

	FairVote's Plan	State's Plan
District Competition	100% (2/2)	0% (0/7)
Shared Representation*	100% (2/2)	0% (0/7)

^{*} Shared representation indicates districts represented by both Democrats and Republicans – which enables more accurate congressional representation for most voters.

Benefits of a Fair Voting Plan

Shared representation of different views: Supporters of both major parties elect candidates everywhere, with accurate balance of that district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice: Better chance for third parties, independents and major party innovators, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat.

More competition: With voters having a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

Better representation of racial minorities: Lower threshold for racial minority candidates to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

More women: More women likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidacies.