# 2011-2012 REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS IN ARIZONA

September 2012

## **Final Congressional Redistricting Plan**



Approved by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission on Jan. 17, 2012 and by the Department of Justice on April 26, 2012.

## 2012 Projections (4R, 1D, 4?)\*

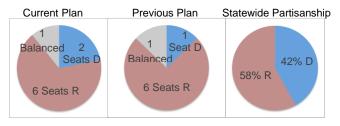
Arizona gained one seat this redistricting cycle, giving it a total of nine. The independent redistricting commission's plan creates one highly competitive district, two districts favoring Democrats and six districts favoring Republicans.

We make five 2012 election projections: four Republican victors and one Democratic winner. Only one of the four remaining districts is balanced, but incumbents need to prove their strength in newly drawn districts. Republican incumbent Dave Schweikert defeated fellow incumbent Ben Quayle in the 6<sup>th</sup> District primary; he is favored but not certain to win in November.

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

## **Arizona's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines**

#### **New Redistricting Plan Maintains Political Distortion**



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

### Competition and Voting Rights in Arizona

	<b>Current Plan</b>	Previous Plan
District Competition	11% (1/9)	13% (1/8)
Latino Voting Strength*	46%	48%

<sup>\*</sup> Measures the percentage of Latino eligible voters in districts where Latinos represent a majority of eligible voters. Voters might not choose to vote for a candidate of their same race.

## **Redistricting Process in Arizona**

The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission (AIRC) – an appointed body with two Democrats, two Republicans, and a nonpartisan chairperson – drew the state's districts.

Republicans were unhappy with the map. The state's attorney general, Tom Horne, investigated the AIRC regarding potential violation of state open meetings and procurement laws connected to the hiring of a mapping consultant. Gov. Jan Brewer removed AIRC chair Colleen Mathis for prioritizing competitiveness, disregarding natural borders, and the possible open meetings violation. Mathis appealed to the state supreme court, which reinstated her as AIRC chair. The AIRC map ultimately was approved.

Some residents expressed concern over dilution of rural areas.

## **U.S. House Elections in Arizona**

All but one incumbent won their August 28 primary; the exception was Ben Quayle, who was forced by redistricting to run against another incumbent. No Republican is running in the new  $7^{\text{th}}$  District, and Democrats ran unopposed in the primaries in the  $5^{\text{th}}$  and  $8^{\text{th}}$  Districts.

Incumbents dominated their races after the last redistricting cycle – all 13 incumbents won with landslides in 2002-2004. Incumbents faced more competition in 2006-10.

In 2010, just 22% of eligible voters received representation that reflected their vote preference.

With the resignation of Gabrielle Giffords, no women currently represent Arizona. Two Latinos, Raul Grijvala and Ed Pastor, hold House seats.



# **2012 HOUSE ELECTIONS IN ARIZONA**

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Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Arizona'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.

District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
1	OPEN* (P. Gosar)	R			(27071170)	45 / 55	Lean R	None
2	Ron Barber	D	2012 (special)	52%	43 / 57	46 / 54	Lean R	None
3	Raul Grijalva	D	2002	50%	54 / 46	55 / 45	Lean D	None
4	Paul Gosar	R	2010	50%	41 / 59	31 / 69	Strong R	Safe R
5	OPEN* (D. Schweikert)	R				33 / 67	Strong R	Safe R
6	D. Schweikert*	R	2010	52%	44 / 56	38 / 62	Strong R	Likely R
7	Ed Pastor	D	1991	67%	63 / 37	62 / 38	Strong D	Safe D
8	Trent Franks	R	2002	65%	35 / 65	35 / 65	Strong R	Safe R
9	OPEN*					48 / 52	Balanced	None

<sup>\*</sup>Redistricting placed incumbent Reps. Ben Quayle and David Schweikert of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Districts, respectively, into different districts. Both incumbents opted to run in District 6, vacated by Jeff Flake, who is running for Senate. Schweikert defeated Quayle in the Republican primary on August 28.

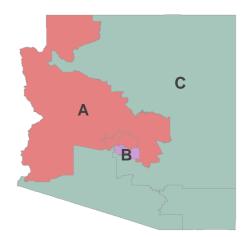
<sup>\*\*</sup>Arizona gained one seat after the 2010 Census, resulting in the new 9<sup>th</sup> District with no current incumbent.



# ARIZONA REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012





Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisanship Projection: 5R, 3D, 1?
A (CDs – 4, 6, 8)	3	710,224	25%	35 / 65	2R, 1D
B (CDs - 5, 7, 9)	3	710,224	25%	45 / 55	2R, 1D
C (CDs – 1, 2, 3)	3	710,224	25%	48 / 52	1R, 1D, 1?

\* plus 1 vote

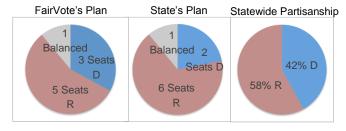
## **How Does Fair Voting Work?**

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

## Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Arizona's Redistricting Plan

## More Accurate Political Representation\*



<sup>\*</sup> 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% (3/3)	11% (1/9)
Shared Representation*	100% (3/3)	0% (0/9)

<sup>\*</sup> 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.