

2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTION IN ILLINOIS

September 2012

Final Congressional Redistricting Plan



Signed into law by Gov. Pat Quinn on June 24, 2011.

2012 Projections (2R, 7D, 9?)*

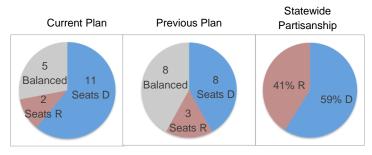
In the wake of the Republicans' big year in 2010 and passage of redistricting reform in California, Democrats around the nation had few chances to pursue aggressive partisan gerrymanders in 2011. Illinois was by far the biggest exception.

In 2010, Illinois Republicans gained four seats, for an 11-8 advantage. Now they will be lucky to win six seats, and could drop to as few as two. But the Democrats' aggressive map could lead to reversals of their gains during the decade. One key question may be how strongly Illinois voters vote for their state's incumbent president Barack Obama – and whether partisanship calculations were skewed by his 2008 candidacy.

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

Illinois' Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

New Redistricting Plan and the Political Landscape



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

Redistricting Process in Illinois

Illinois employs a somewhat unique redistricting process: the state legislature is given the first opportunity to draw district lines, and if they fail to meet the deadline, the task falls to a bipartisan commission. The state legislature and governor's seat are controlled by Democrats.

Democrats in the state legislature drew a new map that threatened several Republicans' seats in the House. Governor Quinn signed off on the map, saying that it was fairly drawn and protected racial minority voting rights. Republicans filed suit, asking courts to declare the redistricting process tiebreaking provision in violation of the state constitution.

According to Washington Post blog "The Fix," Illinois ranked #1 as the top redistricting battle in the country. Illinois' newly drawn Districts 4 and 17 were featured by Slate as two of "The Most Gerrymandered Congressional Districts."

Competition and Voting Rights in Illinois

	Current Plan	Previous Plan
District Competition	28% (5/18)	42% (8/19)
African American Voting Strength*	42%	43%
Latino Voting Strength*	26%	23%

^{*} Measures the percentage of eligible voters of a racial minority in districts where their racial group is a majority of eligible voters. Voters might not choose to vote for a candidate of their same race.

U.S. House Elections in Illinois

Incumbents were successful in each contest of Illinois' 2012 primaries, with the exception of Donald Manzullo, a 20-year veteran who lost to a fellow incumbent.

Before 2010, Illinois had a remarkable record of incumbent reelection in general elections. In the six elections from 1998-2008, for example, 104 out of 105 incumbents were re-elected. But in 2010, four Democrat incumbents were defeated. New district lines are likely to further shake up incumbency in 2012.

Democrats won 51% of House votes in 2010, but only 42% of seats.

There are only two women in the House delegation – Jan Schakowsky (D) and Judy Biggert (R). The state's four racial minority members are Latino Luis Gutierrez and African Americans Bobby Rush, Danny Davis and Jesse Jackson, Jr.



2012 House Elections in Illinois

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Illinois' 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	Bobby Rush	D	1992	80%	83 / 17	78 / 22	Strong D	Safe D
2	Jesse Jackson, Jr.	D	1995	81%	86 / 14	78 / 22	Strong D	Safe D
3	Dan Lipinski	D	2004	70%	61 / 39	55 / 45	Lean D	Likely D
4	Luis Gutierrez	D	1992	77%	82 / 18	78 / 22	Strong D	Safe D
5	Mike Quigley	D	2009	71%	70 / 30	67 / 33	Strong D	Safe D
6	Peter Roskam	R	2006	64%	53 / 47	48 / 52	Balanced	None
7	Danny Davis	D	1996	82%	84 / 16	86 / 14	Strong D	Safe D
8	Joe Walsh	R	2010	48%	53 / 47	59 / 41	Strong D	None
9	Jan Schakowsky	D	1998	66%	69 / 31	66 / 34	Strong D	Safe D
10	Robert Dold	R	2010	51%	58 / 42	60 / 40	Strong D	None
11	Judy Biggert	R	1998	64%	51 / 49	58 / 42	Strong D	None
12	OPEN (J. Costello)	D			51 / 49	52 / 48	Balanced	None
13	OPEN (Tim Johnson)*	R			45 / 55	52 / 48	Balanced	None
14	Randy Hultgren	R	2010	51%	52 / 48	48 / 52	Balanced	None
15	John Shimkus	R	1996	71%	41 / 59	40 / 60	Strong R	Safe R
16	Adam Kinzinger	R	2010	57%	50 / 50	47 / 53	Balanced	None
17	Bobby Schilling	R	2010	53%	53 / 47	57 / 43	Lean D	None
18	Aaron Schock	R	2008	69%	45 / 55	41 / 59	Strong R	Safe R
19	ELIMINATED (J. Shimkus)	R						

^{*}After winning his party's nomination in the 13th District, Representative Tim Johnson suddenly decided to retire.



ILLINOIS REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012

Illinois' Fair Voting Plan



Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisanship projection: 6R, 11D, 1?
A (CDs – 2, 14, 16, 17, 18)	5	712,813	16.7%	54 / 46	2R, 3D
B (CDs – 1, 3, 6, 8, 11)	5	712,813	16.7%	60 / 40	2R, 3D
C (CDs – 4, 5, 7, 9, 10)	5	712,813	16.7%	71 / 29	1R, 4D
D (CDs – 12, 13, 15)	3	712,813	25%	48 / 52	1R, 1D, 1?

* plus 1 vote

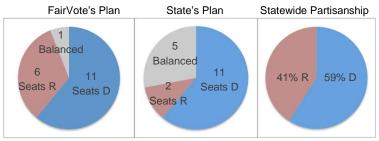
How Does Fair Voting Work?

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 18 individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into four larger "super-districts" with three or five 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 sixth of voters will win in a five-seat district.

Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Illinois' 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% (4/4)	28% (5/18)
Shared Representation*	100% (4/4)	0% (0/18)

^{*} 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.