

2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN MAINE

September 2012

Final Congressional Redistricting Plan



Signed into law by Gov. Paul LePage on September 28, 2011.

2012 Projections (oR, 2D)*

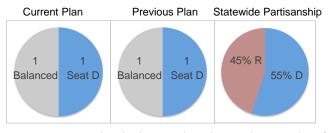
Maine is a state with a disproportionate number of independent voters who will swing between and away from the major parties. Independents and third parties do well in state races, including electing Angus King for governor in 1994 and 1998. And while Maine has voted for the Democratic candidate for president since 1992, the two U.S. Senate seats, the governorship and the legislature are all held by Republicans.

Democrats have won both House seats since 1996. The two Democratic incumbents are favored in 2012, although both were held under 58% in the 2010 election.

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

Maine Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

New Redistricting Does Not Change Political Landscape



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

Competition and Voting Rights in Maine

	Current Plan	Previous Plan
District Competition	50% (1/2)	50% (1/2)
Racial Minority Voting Strength*	0%	0%

^{*} 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.

Redistricting Process in Maine

Although under Maine election law the legislature would normally have released the new maps in 2013, the U.S. District Court for Maine required redistricting to take place before September 30th, 2011 so that the 2012 election could continue in population-equal districts.

Governor Paul LePage, a Republican, called a special redistricting session of the Maine legislature, also controlled by Republicans after the 2010 elections. The redistricting process was politically charged, with intense debate surrounding a Republican map that would place the two Democratic incumbents in the same district. The legislature ended up approving the Democratic plan (which makes minimal changes to the earlier districts) with only three votes against the plan.

U.S. House Elections in Maine

Maine held its congressional primary on June 12, 2012, with both U.S. House incumbents winning their respective primaries.

Maine's congressional elections are dominated by Democratic incumbents. The last time a Republican was elected in Maine was 1994, and the last time an incumbent lost a race in Maine was 1996.

There is currently one woman serving in Maine's congressional delegation.

The state has never elected a racial minority candidate to the U.S. House.



2012 HOUSE ELECTIONS IN MAINE

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Maine's new congressional district lines. Incumbents are listed according to the districts they have chosen to run in for the 2012 election.

					2010 District	2012 District	2012	2012
District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisanship (D% / R%)	District Projection	Election Projection
1	Chellie Pingree	D	2008	57%	58 / 42	58 / 42	Strong D	Safe D
2	Michael Michaud	D	2002	55%	52 / 48	52 / 48	Balanced	Likely D



MAINE REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012



Maine's Fair Voting Plan

Super- District(w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection: 1R, 1D
A (CDs - 1,2)	2	664,181	33.3%	55 / 45	1R, 1D

* plus 1 vote

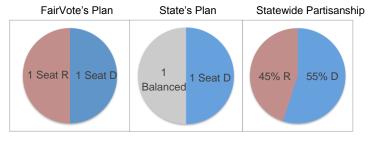
How Does Fair Voting Work?

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 two individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into one larger "super-district." Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a third of voters in a two-seat district will win a seat.

Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Maine'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% (1/1)	50% (1/2)
Shared Representation*	100% (1/1)	0% (0/2)

^{*} 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.