# 2011-2012 REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

September 2012

### **Final Congressional Redistricting Plan**



Signed by New Hampshire Governor John Lynch on April 23, 2012.

### 2012 Projections (oR, oD, 2?)\*

Both of New Hampshire's congressional districts have a balanced partisanship, and thus both Frank Guinta in District 1 and Charlie Bass in District 2 are potentially vulnerable in 2012.

Democrats held both seats going into the 2010 election, but lost both to Republican challengers as part of the Republican wave. The districts have changed little for this year's election.

On election night in November 2012, the outcome of these two House elections may be an indicator of which party will have the advantage in other closely balanced districts across the country.

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

### New Hampshire's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

#### New Plan and the Political Landscape



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

#### **Competition and Voting Rights in New Hampshire**

	<b>Current Plan</b>	Previous Plan
District Competition	100% (2/2)	100% (2/2)
Racial Minority Voting Strength*	0%	0%

<sup>\*</sup> 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 New Hampshire**

New Hampshire's redistricting authority falls to the state legislature. With Republican supermajorities in both houses in 2011, the legislature had override power in the case of a gubernatorial veto.

Because both House members are Republicans who are seeking reelection, the redistricting process was relatively uncontroversial, aside from a brief intra-party fight over which district would have a few Republican-leaning towns.

With minor changes to the pre-existing district lines, the plan was approved by the full redistricting committee on March 12, 2012. Democratic governor John Lynch later signed the plan into law in April. The state supreme court rejected several legal challenges to the map.

# U.S. House Elections in New Hampshire

New Hampshire's primaries were held on September 11, 2012, and both incumbents were victorious. The state's election history shows that New Hampshire's congressional elections are far more competitive than those of most states, as incumbents have won only 50% of their general election bids in the last decade. Both seats changed hands in 2006 (from Republican to Democrat) and 2010 (from Democrat to Republican).

New Hampshire has never had a racial minority Member of Congress. There are no women currently serving in New Hampshire's congressional delegation. The only woman to ever represent New Hampshire was Carol Shea-Porter, who lost her re-election bid in 2010.



# 2012 House Elections IN New Hampshire

September 2012

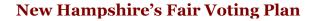
Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for New Hampshire's new congressional districts. Incumbents are listed according to the districts in which they are running in 2012, with the 2010 district partisanship connected to that incumbent.

					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	Frank Guinta	R	2010	54%	49 / 51	50 / 50	Balanced	None
2	Charlie Bass	R	2010	48%	53 / 47	53 / 47	Balanced	None



# NEW HAMPSHIRE REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012





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	658,235	33.3%	51 / 49	1R, 1D

\* plus 1 vote

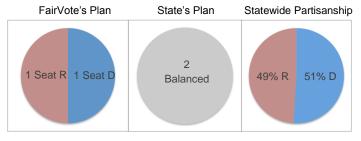
### **How Does Fair Voting Work?**

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 New Hampshire'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)	100% (2/2)
Shared Representation*	100% (1/1)	0% (0/2)

<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.