

2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN NEW JERSEY

September 2012

Final Congressional Redistricting Plan



Adopted by the NJ Redistricting Commission on Dec. 23, 2011.

2012 Projections (5R, 6D, 1?)*

New Jersey's redistricting commission has a history of seeking to project the state's interests in Congress by protecting most House incumbents. It typically creates only one or two swing districts to allow some changes in the state's overall representation when there are national shifts, as with Democrats doing well in 2008 and Republicans in 2010.

In 2012, six Democrats and five Republicans are projected to win, with first-term Republican Jon Runyan in the one toss-up district.

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

New Jersey's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

New Redistricting Plan and the Political Landscape

Current Plan Previous Plan Statewide Partisanship 2 Balanced 4 Seats D Seats D Seats R Statewide Partisanship

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

Competition and Voting Rights in New Jersey

	Current Plan	Previous Plan	
District Competition	17% (2/12)	23% (3/13)	
African American Voting Strength*	34%	31%	
Latino Voting Strength*	26%	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 New Jersey

New Jersey lost one seat as a result of the 2010 Census, reducing its number of congressional districts from 13 to 12.

The state's redistricting process is controlled by the New Jersey Redistricting Commission. The NJRC is a bipartisan commission comprised of twelve members, and a possible thirteenth member appointed by the state supreme court. The commission is required to hold three public hearings on redistricting. On December 23, 2011, the commission approved a new map. Traditionally the commission protects most House incumbents, and did so again in 2011.

A lawsuit was brought challenging the process of redistricting as unconstitutional in *LaVergne v. Bryson*, but was dismissed by a three-judge panel sitting for the Third Circuit.

U.S. House Elections in New Jersey

New Jersey's primaries were held on June 5, 2012. All incumbents won except for Steve Rothman, who lost to fellow incumbent Bill Pascrell after redistricting eliminated Rothman's previous seat.

The state's election history shows that U.S. House incumbents in November typically coast to re-election. From 2000 to 2010, incumbents won 72 of 73 races.

No woman has been elected as a New Jersey congressional representative since 2000.

Rep. Donald Payne, the first and only African American to represent New Jersey in Congress, died in March 2012. There is currently one Latino, Albio Sires, serving in the House delegation.



2012 HOUSE ELECTIONS IN NEW JERSEY

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Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for New Jersey'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	Rob Andrews	D	1990	63%	62 / 38	62 / 38	Strong D	Safe D
2	Frank LoBiondo	R	1994	65%	51 / 49	50 / 50	Balanced	Likely R
3	Jon Runyan	R	2010	50%	49 / 51	48 / 52	Balanced	None
4	Chris Smith	R	1980	69%	44 / 56	42 / 58	Lean R	Safe R
5	Scott Garrett	R	2002	65%	42 / 58	45 / 55	Lean R	Safe R
6	Frank Pallone, Jr.	D	1988	55%	57 / 43	55 / 45	Lean D	Likely D
7	Leonard Lance	R	2008	59%	48 / 52	44 / 56	Lean R	Likely R
8	Albio Sires*	D	2006	74%	72 / 28	70 / 30	Strong D	Safe D
9	Bill Pascrell*	D	1996	63%	60 / 40	61 / 39	Strong D	Safe D
10	OPEN (D. Payne)	D			83 / 17	82 / 18	Strong D	Safe D
11	Rodney Frelinghuysen	R	1994	67%	42 / 58	44 / 56	Lean R	Safe R
12	Rush Holt	D	1998	53%	55 / 45	63 / 37	Strong D	Safe D
13	ELIMINATED*	D						

^{*}New Jersey lost one seat after the 2010 Census. Representative Albio Sires is now running for the seat in District 8. Fellow Democratic representatives Pascrell and Roth were pitted against one another in the primary. Pascrell won the primary 61%-39%.



NEW JERSEY REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012



New Jersey's Fair Voting Plan

Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection: 4R, 5D, 3?
A (CDs - 5,9,11)	3	732,658	25%	49 / 51	1R, 1D, 1?
B (CDs - 4,7,12)	3	732,658	25%	49 / 51	1R, 1D, 1?
C (CDs - 6,8,10)	3 732 658		25%	69 / 31	1R, 2D
D (CDs - 1,2,3)	3	732,658	25%	53 / 47	1R, 1D, 1?

* plus 1 vote

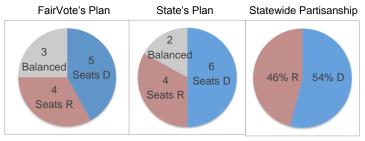
How Does Fair Voting Work?

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

Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to New Jersey'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% (4/4)	17% (2/12)
Shared Representation*	100% (4/4)	0% (0/12)

^{*} 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.