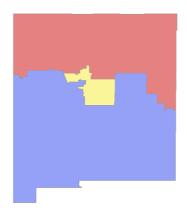
# 2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN NEW MEXICO

September 2012

### **Final Congressional Redistricting Plan**



Enacted by the First Judicial District Court of Santa Fe County, New Mexico on December 29, 2011.

### 2012 Projections (oR, 2D, 1?)\*

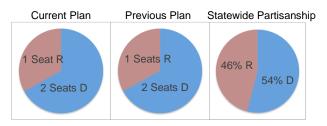
Each of New Mexico's districts has a distinct tilt toward one party, but no district is completely out of reach for the minority party. With an open seat, and two relatively junior incumbents, all of New Mexico's House elections could be competitive in 2012.

Republican incumbent Steve Pearce is favored, but is not as sure a winner as the Democrats in the two remaining districts.

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

## New Mexico's 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.

### Competition and Voting Rights in New Mexico

	<b>Current Plan</b>	Previous Plan
District Competition	0% (0/3)	0% (0/3)
Latino Voting Strength*	0%	0%

<sup>\*</sup> Measures the percentage of Latino eligible voters in districts where Latinos are a majority of eligible voters. No race/ethnicity group has a majority in any of the state's three districts. Voters might not choose to vote for a candidate of their same race.

### **Redistricting Process in New Mexico**

The New Mexico state legislature is responsible for congressional redistricting. In the state house, the Democrats hold only a three seat simple majority. The state senate has a Democratic supermajority. The governor is Republican.

The redistricting process went slowly in 2011, with the legislature reviewing seven drafts in June alone, drawn by consultant Research and Polling, Inc.

On September 19, 2011, the Senate faced a rapidly closing session and passed a status-quo map on a party-line vote. The legislative session ended before the state house could vote, however. The final map decision was then left to the First Judicial District Court, which made only a few changes to account for population shifts.

### **U.S. House Elections in New Mexico**

New Mexico's primaries were held on June 5, with two incumbents re-nominated. Incumbents overall have done well in New Mexico, but are now less entrenched. All House seats were open in 2008, and one Democratic incumbent was defeated in 2010.

In 2010, just 23% of eligible voters helped elect someone, one of the lowest rates in the nation that year.

Rep. Ben Ray Lujan of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District is New Mexico's sole Latino Member in a state where Latinos comprise 46% of the population. No women serve in the House delegation. The last woman elected was Heather Wilson, who served from 1998-2009.



# 2012 House Elections IN New Mexico

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for New Mexico'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.

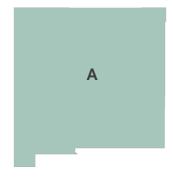
District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
1	OPEN (M. Heinrich)	D			56 / 44	57 / 43	Lean D	Likely D
2	Steve Pearce	R	2010	55%	46 / 54	45 / 55	Lean R	None
3	Ben Ray Lujan	D	2008	57%	58 / 42	58 / 42	Strong D	Likely D



## NEW MEXICO REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012

### **New Mexico's Fair Voting Plan**



Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per % to Seat Win*		Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection: 1R, 2D	
A (CDs - 1,2,3)	3	686,393	25%	54 / 46	1R, 2D	

\* plus 1 vote

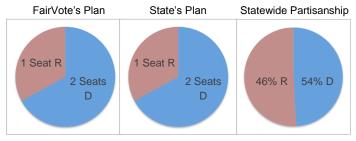
### **How Does Fair Voting Work?**

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 three 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 quarter of voters in a three-seat district will win a seat.

## Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to New Mexico'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)	0% (0/3)
Shared Representation*	100% (1/1)	0% (0/3)

<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.