# 2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN NEVADA

September 2012

### **Final Congressional Redistricting Plan**



Court plan adopted on Oct. 27, 2011.

### 2012 Projections (oR, 1D, 3?)\*

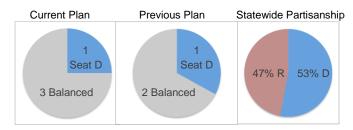
Nevada has been a highly competitive state in federal elections statewide. Three of its four House districts are also relatively balanced in their partisanship. In addition, Nevada has no entrenched incumbent. There are two open seats this year, and the two incumbents were first elected in 2010 and 2011.

We project a Democratic win in Shelley Berkeley's open seat. While Republicans have a slight edge in two of the remaining races and Democrats in the third, we will not project winners in these districts until incumbents have become proven vote-getters.

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

### **Nevada's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines**

### New Redistricting Plan and Political Landscape



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

### **Competition and Voting Rights in Nevada**

	Current Plan	Previous Plan
District Competition	75% (3/4)	67% (2/3)
Latino 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 Nevada**

The state legislature is responsible for redistricting in Nevada. As the state with the fastest-growing population in the 2000's - disproportionately among Latinos - Nevada gained one seat.

Democrats and Republicans sought to handle Latino voters differently in redistricting. The Democrats' first plan for the new district was 23% Latino, while the GOP plan made it 50% Latino, with neighboring districts more Republican. The legislature approved the Democrats' plan, but GOP Governor Sandoval vetoed it, saying it did not allow Latinos to elect a candidate of choice. This veto was repeated a second time.

Unable to pass a plan, both Republicans and Democrats filed lawsuits. The district court ruled that a special panel would complete the redistricting process. Its plan was adopted in October 2011.

### U.S. House Elections in Nevada

The congressional primaries were held on June 12. Republican incumbents from the 2nd and 3rd districts won easily.

Over the past thirty years, 89% of Nevada incumbents seeking re-election have won in the general election. In 2010, however, fewer than 24% of eligible voters in Nevada helped elect any winner to the U.S. House.

Nevada's congressional delegation currently includes one woman, who is leaving to run for Senate. Despite its large and growing Latino population, the state since at least 1980 has not elected any racial minorities to the House.



# **2012 ELECTIONS IN NEVADA**

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Nevada'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 (S. Berkley)	D			61 / 39	62 / 38	Strong D	Safe D
2	Mark Amodei	R	2011	58%	46 / 54	47 / 53	Balanced	None
3	Joe Heck	R	2010	48%	52 / 48	51 / 49	Balanced	None
4	OPEN*					54 / 46	Balanced	None

<sup>\*</sup>Nevada gained one U.S. House seat after reapportionment.



# NEVADA REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012

### Nevada's Fair Voting Plan



Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection: 2R, 2D
A (CDs - 1,2,3,4)	4	675,138	20%	53 / 47	2R, 2D

\* plus 1 vote

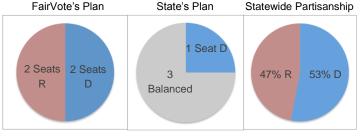
## **How Does Fair Voting Work?**

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 four 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 fifth of voters will win in a four-seat district.

# Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Nevada'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)	75% (3/4)
Shared Representation*	100% (1/1)	0% (0/4)

<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.