# 2011-2012 REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS IN TENNESSEE

September 2012

# **Final Congressional Redistricting Plan**



Signed into law by Gov. Bill Haslam on Jan. 26, 2012.

# 2012 Projections (7R, 2D)\*

Democrats maintained a 5-4 edge in House seats from 2002 to 2010, but Republicans surged to a 7-2 advantage in 2010. With all incumbents seeking reelection in districts strongly leaning toward their party (including all Republican incumbents running in districts that have a GOP partisanship of at least 60%), we project a status quo election in 2012.

Indeed, in the past 44 years in Tennessee, only one House incumbent (a Democrat in 2010) has been defeated.

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

# Tennessee's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

## **New Redistricting Plan Maintains Political Distortion**

# Current Plan Previous Plan Statewide Partisanship 2 Seats D Balanced 7 Seats R 61% R 39% D

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

# **Competition and Voting Rights in Tennessee**

	<b>Current Plan</b>	Previous Plan	
District Competition	0% (0/9)	11% (1/9)	
African American Voting Strength*	42%	37%	

\* 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 Tennessee**

Tennessee's state legislature is responsible for redistricting. The legislature allowed for public input into the redistricting process through a website. The public had until November 1, 2011 to submit their plans.

In January 2012, the house introduced a map with seven safely Republican seats and two safely Democratic seats. The map was approved by the house on January 12 and by the senate on January 13. Governor Bill Haslam signed the map into law on January 26.

# **U.S. House Elections in Tennessee**

All nine of Tennessee's U.S. House incumbents were victorious in its August 2 primary History shows that the state's House incumbents also usually coast to victory in general elections. Before an incumbent lost in 2010, no House incumbent had lost in a general election in Tennessee since 1966. Even in 2010, half of Democratic incumbents and all Republican incumbents won by landslide.

Democrats held five of nine seats from 2003 to 2011, but Republicans now have a 7-2 advantage. Democrats' vote share declined from 52% in 2008 to 35% in 2010.

Two women represent Tennessee in the House. No racial minorities have been elected since 2004.

View redistricting alternatives at FairVotingUS.com

# **2012** House Elections in Tennessee

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Tennessee'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.

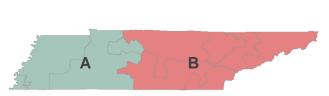
District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
1	Phil Roe	R	2008	81%	26 / 74	25 / 75	Strong R	Safe R
2	John Duncan	R	1988	82%	31 / 69	31 / 69	Strong R	Safe R
3	Chuck Fleischmann	R	2010	57%	34 / 66	30 / 70	Strong R	Safe R
4	Scott DesJarlais	R	2010	57%	31 / 69	33 / 67	Strong R	Safe R
5	Jim Cooper	D	2002	56%	53 / 47	55 / 45	Lean D	Safe D
6	Diane Black	R	2010	67%	34 / 66	30 / 70	Strong R	Safe R
7	Marsha Blackburn	R	2002	72%	31 / 69	33 / 67	Strong R	Safe R
8	Stephen Fincher	R	2010	59%	40 / 60	32 / 68	Strong R	Safe R
9	Steve Cohen	D	2006	74%	74 / 26	73 / 27	Strong D	Safe D



# TENNESSEE REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012

# **Tennessee's Fair Voting Plan**



Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection: 5R, 3D, 1?
A (CDs -5,7,8,9)	4	705,123	20%	48 / 52	2R, 2D
B (CDs - 1,2,3,4,6)	5	705,123	16.7%	30 / 70	3R, 1D, 1?

\* plus 1 vote

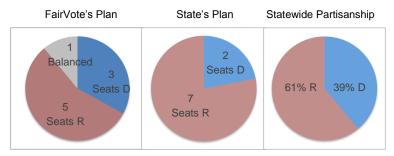
# **How Does Fair Voting Work?**

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 nine individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into two larger "super-districts" with four or five representatives. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than one fifth of voters in a four-seat district will win a seat. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than one sixth of voters will win in a five-seat district.

# Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Tennessee'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% (2/2)	0% (0/9)
Shared Representation*	100% (2/2)	0% (0/9)

<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.