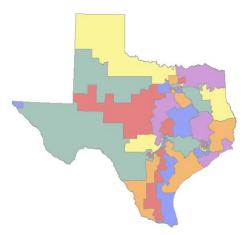


# 2011-2012 REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS IN TEXAS

September 2012

## **Final Congressional Redistricting Plan**



Interim map issued by a panel of federal judges on Feb. 28, 2012.

## 2012 Projections (24R, 10D, 2?)\*

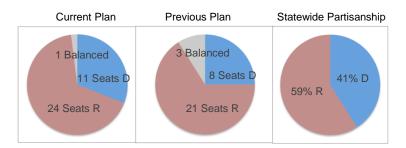
Redistricting has played a huge role in Texas politics for years. In 1992, for example, a Democratic plan produced a 21-9 edge in House seats. Republicans in 2003 returned the favor in a rare mid-decade redistricting, finally cracking the Democratic majority the following election.

We project landslide wins in 27 of 28 incumbent races in 2012. In the eight open districts, we project four Democratic and three Republican victories. Thus, we project 24 Republican seats and 10 Democratic seats after November, with only two races not projected for one party.

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

## Texas' Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

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



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

# Competition and Voting Rights in Texas

|                                      | Current Plan | Previous Plan |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| District<br>Competition              | 3% (1/36)    | 9% (3/32)     |
| African American<br>Voting Strength* | 32%          | 0%            |
| Latino<br>Voting Strength*           | 52%          | 44%           |

\* 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 Texas**

Redistricting in Texas is controlled by the state legislature, made up by a majority of Republicans. In 2003, the legislature famously convened to redraw district lines, with a resulting huge shift toward Republicans in the House.

Texas gained four seats this redistricting cycle. In 2011, after the legislative session closed without a redistricting plan in place, Gov. Rick Perry called a special session to resolve the dispute. Three of the state's four new districts were originally Republican-leaning, despite large gains in the Latino population. After lawsuits, a federal three-judge panel created interim maps, which were later rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. On remand, the panel drew a new map – a compromise plan that created three new majority-minority districts. The interim maps will be redrawn next year – likely with a new map, as federal judges ultimately did not preclear the 2011 plan.

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

In Texas' congressional primary, delayed this year to May 29 by litigation, all but one incumbent won landslide victories. Silvestre Reyes was the one incumbent loser.

Since the 2003 re-redistricting that shifted six Democrats' seats to the GOP in 2004, few races have been competitive. Incumbents had landslide wins in 55 of 63 races from 2008-2010, while just six of 128 races in 2004-2010 were won by less than 10%. A few seats have changed parties, with the GOP having the upper hand. In 2010, Republicans had a 23-9 edge in seats, a near mirror of the Democrats' 21-9 edge after the 1992 election.

Three black representatives and six Hispanic representatives were elected in Texas in 2010. Three of the delegation's 32 seats are held by women .

## **2012** House Elections in Texas

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Texas' 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<br>Elected | Last<br>Election<br>Winning % | 2010 District<br>Partisanship<br>(D% / R%) | 2012 District<br>Partisanship<br>(D% / R%) | 2012<br>District<br>Projection | 2012<br>Election<br>Projection |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1        | Louie<br>Gohmert      | R     | 2004                  | 90%                           | 27 / 73                                    | 27 / 73                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 2        | Ted<br>Poe            | R     | 2004                  | 89%                           | 36 / 64                                    | 34 / 66                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 3        | Sam<br>Johnson        | R     | 1991                  | 66%                           | 39 / 61                                    | 34 / 66                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 4        | Ralph<br>Hall         | R     | 1980                  | 73%                           | 27 / 73                                    | 26 / 74                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 5        | Jeb<br>Hensarling     | R     | 2002                  | 71%                           | 33 / 67                                    | 34 / 66                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 6        | Joe<br>Barton         | R     | 1984                  | 66%                           | 36 / 64                                    | 39 / 61                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 7        | John<br>Culberson     | R     | 2000                  | 81%                           | 38 / 62                                    | 37 / 63                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 8        | Kevin<br>Brady        | R     | 1996                  | 80%                           | 22 / 78                                    | 23 / 77                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 9        | Al<br>Green           | D     | 2004                  | 76%                           | 73 / 27                                    | 73 / 27                                    | Strong D                       | Safe D                         |
| 10       | Michael<br>McCaul     | R     | 2004                  | 65%                           | 41 / 59                                    | 40 / 60                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 11       | Mike<br>Conaway       | R     | 2004                  | 81%                           | 20 / 80                                    | 20 / 80                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 12       | Kay<br>Granger        | R     | 1996                  | 72%                           | 33 / 67                                    | 32 / 68                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 13       | Mac<br>Thornberry     | R     | 1994                  | 87%                           | 19 / 81                                    | 19 / 81                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 14       | OPEN<br>(Ron Paul)    | R     |                       |                               | 30 / 70                                    | 39 / 61                                    | Strong R                       | Likely R                       |
| 15       | Ruben<br>Hinojosa     | D     | 1996                  | 56%                           | 56 / 44                                    | 54 / 46                                    | Lean D                         | Likely D                       |
| 16       | OPEN<br>(S. Reyes)*   | D     |                       |                               | 62 / 38                                    | 61 / 39                                    | Strong D                       | Safe D                         |
| 17       | Bill<br>Flores        | R     | 2010                  | 62%                           | 29 / 71                                    | 38 / 62                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 18       | Sheila<br>Jackson Lee | D     | 1994                  | 70%                           | 74 / 26                                    | 73 / 27                                    | Strong D                       | Safe D                         |
| 19       | Randy<br>Neugebauer   | R     | 2003                  | 78%                           | 24 / 76                                    | 25 / 75                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 20       | OPEN<br>(C. Gonzalez) | D     |                       |                               | 60 / 40                                    | 55 / 45                                    | Lean D                         | None                           |
| 21       | Lamar<br>Smith        | R     | 1986                  | 69%                           | 38 / 62                                    | 39 / 61                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 22       | Pete<br>Olson         | R     | 2008                  | 67%                           | 38 / 62                                    | 36 / 64                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 23       | Francisco<br>Canseco  | R     | 2010                  | 49%                           | 48 / 52                                    | 47 / 53                                    | Balanced                       | None                           |

| District | Incumbent                | Party | Year First<br>Elected | Last<br>Election<br>Winning % | 2010 District<br>Partisanship<br>(D% / R%) | 2012 District<br>Partisanship<br>(D% / R%) | 2012<br>District<br>Projection | 2012<br>Election<br>Projection |
|----------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 24       | Kenny<br>Marchant        | R     | 2004                  | 82%                           | 41 / 59                                    | 37 / 63                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 25       | OPEN<br>(L. Doggett)**   | D     |                       |                               | 56 / 44                                    | 40 / 60                                    | Strong R                       | Likely R                       |
| 26       | Michael<br>Burgess       | R     | 2002                  | 67%                           | 38 / 62                                    | 32 / 68                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 27       | Blake<br>Farenthold      | R     | 2010                  | 48%                           | 50 / 50                                    | 37 / 63                                    | Strong R                       | Likely R                       |
| 28       | Henry<br>Cuellar         | D     | 2004                  | 56%                           | 52 / 48                                    | 55 / 45                                    | Lean D                         | Likely D                       |
| 29       | Gene<br>Green            | D     | 1992                  | 65%                           | 58 / 42                                    | 59 / 41                                    | Strong D                       | Safe D                         |
| 30       | Eddie Bernice<br>Johnson | D     | 1992                  | 76%                           | 78 / 22                                    | 75 / 25                                    | Strong D                       | Safe D                         |
| 31       | John<br>Carter           | R     | 2002                  | 83%                           | 38 / 62                                    | 40 / 60                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 32       | Pete<br>Sessions         | R     | 1996                  | 62%                           | 43 / 57                                    | 41 / 59                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |
| 33       | OPEN**                   |       |                       |                               |  | 65 / 35                                    | Strong D                       | Safe D                         |
| 34       | OPEN**                   |       |                       |                               |  | 57 / 43                                    | Lean D                         | Likely D                       |
| 35       | OPEN**<br>Lloyd Doggett  | D     | 1994                  | 53%                           | 56 / 44                                    | 60 / 40                                    | Strong D                       | Safe D                         |
| 36       | OPEN**                   |       |                       |                               |  | 26 / 74                                    | Strong R                       | Safe R                         |

<sup>\*</sup> Rep. Sylvestre Reyes lost in the Democratic primary for the 16<sup>th</sup> District.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Texas gained four seats due to reapportionment. Rep. Doggett moved from District 25 to the newly created District 35.



# TEXAS REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012



## **Texas' Fair Voting Plan**

| Super-District<br>(w/current Cong.<br>Dist. #s) | # of<br>Seats | Pop. Per<br>Seat | % to Win* | Partisanship<br>(D% / R%) | Partisan<br>Projection:<br>19R, 13D, 4? |
|---|---------------|------------------|-----------|---------------------------|---|
| A (CDs- 3, 26, 19, 13, 11)                      | 5             | 698,488          | 16.7%     | 26 / 74                   | 4R, 1D                                  |
| B (CDs- 12, 33, 24, 30, 6)                      | 5             | 698,490          | 16.7%     | 47 / 53                   | 2R, 3D                                  |
| C (CDs- 32, 5, 4)                               | 3             | 698,488          | 25%       | 34 / 66                   | 1R, 1D, 1?                              |
| D (CDs- 16, 23, 28, 20, 35)                     | 5             | 698,488          | 16.7%     | 55 / 45                   | 3R, 2D                                  |
| E (CDs- 25, 31, 17, 10, 21)                     | 5             | 698,485          | 16.7%     | 39 / 61                   | 2R, 2D, 1?                              |
| F (CDs- 14, 36, 8, 1, 22)                       | 5             | 698,488          | 16.7%     | 30 / 70                   | 3R, 1D, 1?                              |
| G (CDs- 9, 7, 18, 2, 29)                        | 5             | 698,488          | 16.7%     | 53 / 47                   | 2R, 2D, 1?                              |
| H (CDs- 14, 36, 8, 1, 22)                       | 3             | 698,487          | 25%       | 47 / 53                   | 2R, 1D                                  |

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

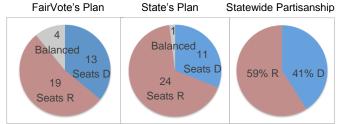
\* plus 1 vote

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 36 individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into eight larger "super-districts" with three or five representatives. Any candidate receiving support from just over a quarter of voters in a three-seat district is sure to win a seat. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a sixth of voters will win in a five-seat district.

## Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Texas' Redistricting Plan

### More Accurate Political Representation\*



<sup>\*</sup> 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<br>Competition   | 100% (8/8)      | 3% (1/36)    |
| Shared<br>Representation* | 100% (8/8)      | 0% (0/36)    |

<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.