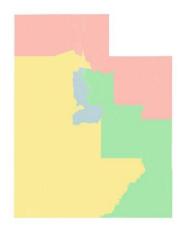
# 2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN UTAH

September 2012

# **Final Congressional Redistricting Plan**



Signed into law by Gov. Gary Herbert on Oct. 20, 2011.

## 2012 Projections (3R, oD, 1?)\*

Utah is one of the most Republican states in the nation, but Democrats have held at least one U.S. House seat for all but four years since 1987. Although partisan numbers show four strongly Republican districts in the previous and current plan, Democrat Jim Matheson is a survivor. He may well hold on yet again in 2012 in the newly created 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

The two Republican incumbents are both secure in their strongly Republican districts, and the now-open 2<sup>nd</sup> District vacated by Matheson is also strongly Republican.

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

## **Utah'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 Utah**

	Current Plan	Previous Plan
District Competition	0% (0/4)	0% (0/3)
Racial Minority Voting Strength*	0%	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 Utah**

The Utah state legislature is responsible for redistricting, subject to gubernatorial veto. Utah Republicans currently control both state legislative chambers and the governor's seat.

Utah gained one U.S. House seat following the 2010 Census. Both Democrats and Republicans threatened lawsuits during the process. Some Republicans threatened to sue if a more Democratic seat was created, while Democrats were concerned that Democratic Congressman Jim Matheson was being targeted for elimination.

A map that led to Matheson running for re-election in the newly created  $4^{\text{th}}$  District was signed into law in October 2011.

### U.S. House Elections in Utah

Utah this year nominated congressional candidates through party conventions and primaries, with incumbents securing nominations in three seats. Since 1998, Utah House incumbents have won all 15 general election reelection bids. Of 18 House races in 2000-2010, 14 were won by landslide margins of 20% or more.

Utah's districts all lean strongly Republican, but Democrat Jim Matheson has won in each election since 2000.

Utah has never elected a racial minority to the U.S. House. It has not elected a woman since 1994.



# **2012 HOUSE ELECTIONS IN UTAH**

September 2012

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

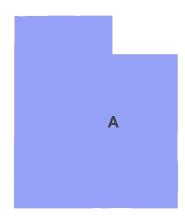
District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship ( D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
1	Rob Bishop	R	2002	69%	31 / 69	27 / 73	Strong R	Safe R
2	OPEN*					36 / 64	Strong R	Safe R
3	Jason Chaffetz	R	2008	72%	27 / 73	27/ 73	Strong R	Safe R
4	Jim Matheson*	D	2000	50%	37 / 63	39/ 61	Strong R	None

<sup>\*</sup> Utah gained one U.S. House seat after reapportionment. Rep. Matheson represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, but will run in the 4<sup>th</sup> District in 2012.



# UTAH REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012



## **Utah's Fair Voting Plan**

Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection: 3R, 1D
A (CDs - 1,2,3,4)	4	690,971	20%	32 / 68	3R, 1D

\* plus 1 vote

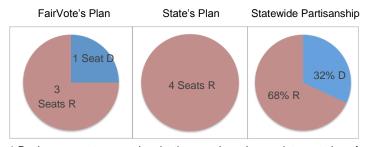
## **How Does Fair Voting Work?**

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

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

\* 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.