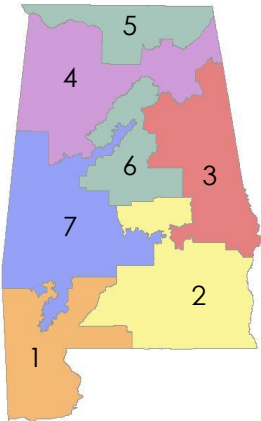
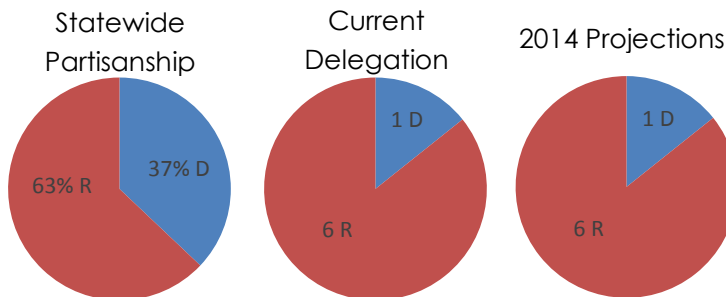




## Current Congressional District Map



### Representation



*Partisanship is a measure of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.*

### District Competitiveness

| Majority Partisanship | Swing (50-<53%) | Lean (53-<58%) | Safe (58%+) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Districts             | 0               | 0              | 7           |

### Redistricting

The Republican-controlled state legislature passed the new congressional redistricting map on June 2, 2011. The plan had to be "pre-cleared" by the DOJ under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, due to the state's history of racial discrimination.

To promote public input, State House Minority Leader Craig Ford (D) had proposed a nine-member citizen's redistricting panel. The Republican-controlled state legislature rejected the proposal. They instead drew the map themselves, although the public was allowed to submit maps.

In December 2012, county public officials challenged the state legislative redistricting map under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. The case is currently on appeal.

**View redistricting alternatives at [FairVotingUS.com](http://FairVotingUS.com)**

FairVote.org // Tweet @fairvote // (301) 270-4616 // [info@fairvote.org](mailto:info@fairvote.org)

## 2014 Projections: 6 R, 1 D

Alabama has rapidly become a highly Republican state. Democrats held a majority of the state's U.S. House seats as recently as 1996, but after losing two seats in the 2010 elections, only one Democrat remains.

All six Republican-held districts have a Republican partisanship of over 60%. The lone Democrat represents a district with a Democratic partisanship topping 70%. As a result, the likelihood of meaningful competition in any of the races is remote.

**Date 2014 Projections Announced:** April 2013.

**2012 Projections:** 6 R, 1 D. All projections accurate.

**Races to Watch:** None

**Strongest Candidate:** Byrne (AL-1, R): +6.5% POAC\*

**Weakest Candidate:** Roby (AL-2, R): -9.7% POAC

\*POAC (Performance Over Average Candidate) is a measure of the quality of a winning candidate's campaign. It compares how well a winner did relative to what would be projected for a generic candidate of the same party and incumbency status. See our Methodology section to learn how POAC is determined.

### Race and Gender in the U.S. House

The six Republican-controlled districts are majority white, while the one Democratic-controlled district is majority black. Racial representation matches these district majorities, as has been the case in all Alabama House elections since Reconstruction. Alabama has never elected more than one African American to the House. There are two female U.S. House Members, one of whom is also African American. Before 2010, a woman had not been elected to a House seat from Alabama since 1972.

### Dubious Democracy

**Alabama's Democracy Index Ranking: 24<sup>th</sup> (of 50)**

The state's election history shows that U.S. House incumbents typically coast to re-election. In 2010, one Democratic incumbent lost, which was the first incumbent general election loss since 1992.

In 2012, 40% of eligible voters voted for a winning House candidate, a relatively high percentage among states. Alabama's Democracy Index ranking is brought down by two factors. First, there is general lack of competition, as the average margin of victory in 2012 was 46% and all races were landslide victories. Second, Alabama Democrats are underrepresented. In 2012, Democratic candidates for the House received 36% of the two-party vote, but only 14% of the seats.

Listed below are recent election results and 2014 election projections for Alabama's seven U.S. House districts. All metrics in this table are further explained in the Methodology section of this report.

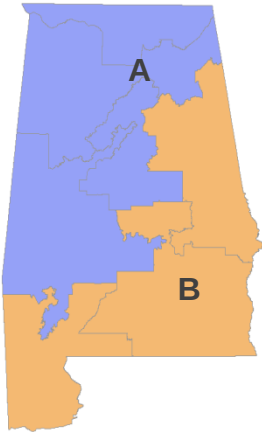
**Partisanship** is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. It is determined by measuring how the district voted for president in 2012 relative to the presidential candidates' national averages. Developed by FairVote in 1997 and adapted by Charlie Cook for the Cook Partisan Voting Index, this definition of partisanship is based on only the most recent presidential election.

**Performance Over Average Candidate (POAC)** is an indicator of how well the winner did compared to a hypothetical generic candidate of the same district, incumbency status, and party, based on their winning percentages in 2010 and 2012. A high POAC suggests that the winner appealed to independents and voters from other parties in addition to voters from his or her own party. A low POAC suggests that the winner did not draw many votes from independents and other parties.

| District | Incumbent                      | Party | Race/<br>Gender | Year<br>First<br>Elected | 2012 2-<br>Party<br>Winning<br>Percentage | District<br>Partisanship<br>(Dem) | POAC  | 2014<br>Projected<br>Dem % | 2014<br>Projection |
|----------|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1        | Byrne,<br>Bradley <sup>1</sup> | R     | White/M         | 2013                     | 41.3                                      | 35.9%                             | 6.5%  | 34.2%                      | Safe R             |
| 2        | Roby,<br>Martha                | R     | White/F         | 2010                     | 63.7%                                     | 34.8%                             | -9.7% | 38.2%                      | Safe R             |
| 3        | Rogers,<br>Mike D.             | R     | White/M         | 2002                     | 64.1%                                     | 35.3%                             | -6.0% | 36.1%                      | Safe R             |
| 4        | Aderholt,<br>Rob               | R     | White/M         | 1996                     | 74.1%                                     | 22.7%                             | -2.9% | 21.8%                      | Safe R             |
| 5        | Brooks,<br>Mo                  | R     | White/M         | 2010                     | 65.0%                                     | 33.6%                             | -7.4% | 35.5%                      | Safe R             |
| 6        | OPEN<br>(Bachus,<br>Spencer)   | R     | White/M         | 1992                     | 71.3%                                     | 23.3%                             | -4.0% | 23.3%                      | Safe R             |
| 7        | Sewell,<br>Terri               | D     | Black/F         | 2010                     | 75.9%                                     | 70.7%                             | 3.0%  | 76.4%                      | Safe D             |

<sup>1</sup> Alabama's U.S. House district 1 was vacated when Republican Jo Bonner resigned in August 2013. The state is held a special election in the fall of 2013, with the seat filled by Republican Bradley Byrne.

## Alabama's Fair Representation Voting Plan



| Super District<br>(w/current Cong.<br>Dist. #s) | # of<br>Seats | Pop. Per<br>Seat | % to Win<br>(plus 1<br>vote) | Partisanship<br>(D/R%) | Current<br>Rep.: 6R, 1D | Super<br>District<br>Rep.:<br>4 R, 2 D, 1 ? |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b><br>(CDs - 4,5,6,7)                     | 4             | 682,819          | 20%                          | 38 / 62                | 3 R, 1 D                | 2 R, 1 D, 1 ?                               |
| <b>B</b><br>(CDs - 1,2,3)                       | 3             | 682,820          | 25%                          | 35 / 65                | 3 R                     | 2 R, 1 D                                    |

**Partisan and Racial Impact:** Instead of having 7 lopsided districts that distort representation, this fair voting plan would provide more accurate partisan representation. Both black and white voters would be able to elect preferred candidates in each district. We project that four or five seats would be won by the GOP and two preferred candidates would be elected by black voters.

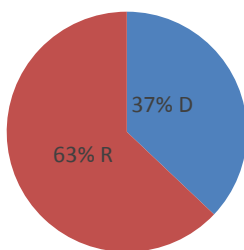
## How Does Fair Representation Voting Work?

Fair representation voting methods such as ranked choice voting describe American forms of proportional representation with a history in local and state elections. They uphold American electoral traditions, such as voting for candidates rather than parties. They ensure all voters participate in competitive elections and ensure more accurate representation, with the majority of voters likely to elect most seats and backers of both major parties likely to elect preferred candidates.

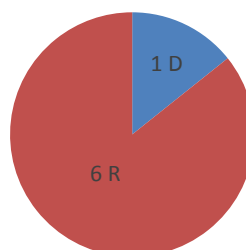
Instead of seven individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines current districts into two larger "super districts" with three or four representatives. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a quarter of voters in a three-seat district will win a seat. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a fifth of voters will win in a four-seat district.

## Comparing a Fair Representation Voting Plan to Alabama's Current Districts

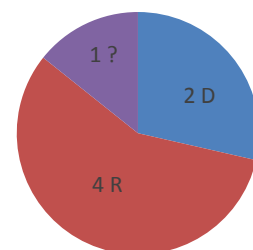
Statewide Partisanship



2014 Projections



FairVote's Plan



*Partisanship is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.*

## Benefits of a Fair Representation Voting Plan

**More accurate representation:** Congressional delegations more faithfully reflect the preferences of all voters. Supporters of both major parties elect candidates in each district, with accurate balance of each district's left, right, and center.

**More voter choice and competition:** Third parties, independents and major party innovators have better chances, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat. Because voters have a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

**Better representation of racial minorities:** Racial minority candidates have a lower threshold to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

**More women:** More women are likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidates.

View more fair voting plans at [FairVotingUS.com](http://FairVotingUS.com)

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