

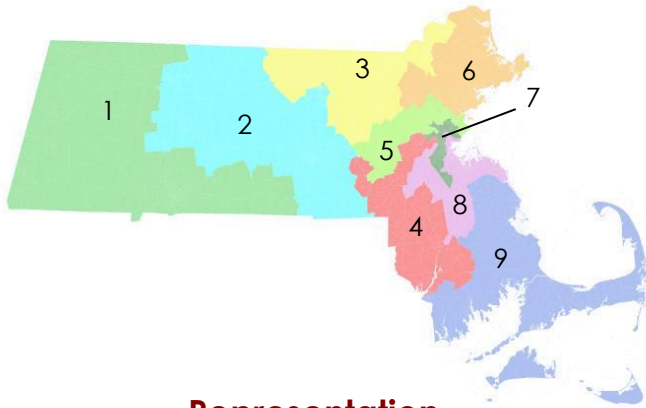


The Center for
Voting and
Democracy

2014 ELECTIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS

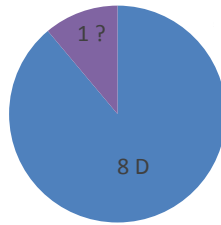
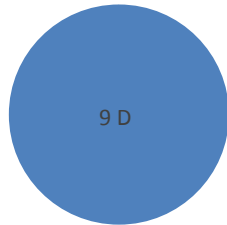
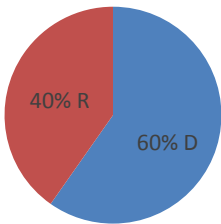
July 2014

Current Congressional District Map



Representation

Statewide Partisanship Current Delegation 2014 Projections



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	6	3

Redistricting

Many have called for an independent redistricting process in Massachusetts, but redistricting continues to be performed by the state legislature. The Democratic State Senate defeated a GOP-sponsored measure that would have established such a system in 2011.

Democrats controlled the redistricting process in 2011, with a Democratic governor and super-majorities in both chambers of the state legislature. The state lost one congressional seat after the census, but the retirement of 20-year incumbent John Oliver made it possible to avoid a heated redistricting battle. A new map was signed into law by Gov. Deval Patrick in November 2011.

View redistricting alternatives at FairVotingUS.com

2014 Projections: 0 R, 8 D, 1 ?

Republicans have not won a U.S. House seat since 1994 in Massachusetts, and are unlikely to do so in 2014. All nine of Massachusetts' congressional districts have a Democratic partisanship of over 53%, and we project that Democrats are likely to win at least seven districts by landslide margins of over 20%.

Date 2014 Projections Announced: April 2013.

2012 Projection: 0 R, 8 D, 1 ? All projections accurate.

Races to Watch: John Tierney (MA-6, D). Tierney won re-election in 2012 by just 1% of the vote, following allegations connecting him with an illegal gambling operation. His 53.5% D district represents the best chance for Republicans to pick up a seat in Massachusetts in 2014.

Strongest candidate: Lynch (MA-8, D): +14.0% POAC*

Weakest candidate: Tierney (MA-6, D): -4.0% 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

There is one woman Massachusetts' delegation: Niki Tsongas of the 3rd district. Tsongas was first elected in a 2007 special election and became the first woman to represent Massachusetts in the U.S. House since 1983.

All members of the delegation are white. The state has one majority non-white district; it is represented by eight-term incumbent Michael Capuano.

Dubious Democracy

Massachusetts' Democracy Index Ranking: 22nd

Massachusetts' middling ranking stems from the fact that 89% of the state's 2012 U.S. House races were won by landslide margins, with an average margin of victory of 55%. These poor numbers were offset by the fact that it has the nation's highest percentage of eligible voters who voted for a winning candidate, at 43.5%.

House incumbents typically coast to re-election in Massachusetts general elections. All 80 incumbents running since 1996 have won, including 50 straight landslide wins from 2000-2008.

Massachusetts also fails to represent Republicans in its delegation, as the state's 40% R partisanship has not translated into a single Republican House seat.



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Listed below are recent election results and 2014 election projections for Massachusetts' nine 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.

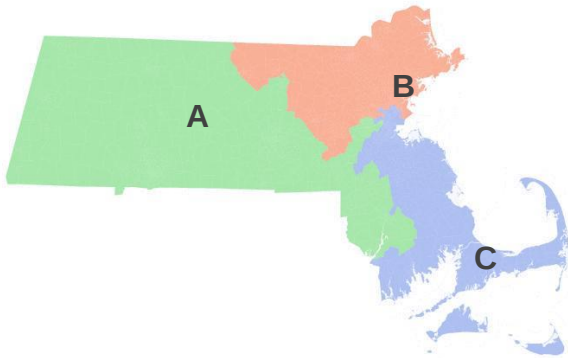
District	Incumbent	Party	Race/ Gender	Year First Elected	2012 2-Party Winning Percentage	POAC	District Partisanship (Dem)	2014 Projected Dem %	2014 Projection
1	Neal, Richard	D	White/M	1988	100.0%	0.1%	62.9%	66.8%	Safe D
2	McGovern, Jim	D	White/M	1996	100.0%	1.0%	57.8%	62.3%	Safe D
3	Tsongas, Niki	D	White/F	2007	66.0%	1.5%	55.8%	61.3%	Safe D
4	Kennedy, Joe	D	White/M	2012	63.0%	5.0%	56.0%	57.4%	Likely D
5	Katherine Clark ¹	D	White/F	2013	35.1	3.4%	64.1%	64.1%	Safe D
6	OPEN (Tierney, John)	D	White/M	1996	50.6%	-4.0%	53.5%	53.5%	No Projection
7	Capuano, Mike	D	White/M	1999	100.0%	0.0%	81.5%	85.4%	Safe D
8	Lynch, Stephen	D	White/M	2001	76.2%	14.0%	56.6%	72.1%	Safe D
9	Keating, Bill	D	White/M	2010	64.6%	4.1%	54.3%	61.6%	Safe D

¹ Massachusetts' 5th district was vacated when Democrat Ed Markey was elected to the U.S. Senate in a special election, and therefore resigned his House seat on July 15, 2013. Katherine Clark won a special election on December 20, 2013 to fill the seat.



Massachusetts' Fair Representation Voting Plan

Super District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win (plus 1 vote)	Partisanship (D/R %)	Current Rep.: 9 D	Super District Rep.: 3 R, 6 D
A (CDs - 1,2,4)	3	727,514	25%	59 / 41	3 D	1 R, 2 D
B (CDs - 3,5,6)	3	727,515	25%	58 / 42	3 D	1 R, 2 D
C (CDs - 7,8,9)	3	727,514	25%	63 / 37	3 D	1 R, 2 D



Political and Racial Impact: Instead of having 9 lopsided districts that effectively deny Republicans any representation, this fair voting plan would provide shared representation in each super district. We project a likely 6-3 partisan split. No racial minority group exceeds the threshold for election, but they could help elect a candidate of choice by joining in cross-racial coalitions.

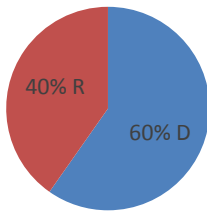
How Does Fair Representation Voting Work?

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.

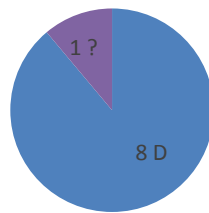
Instead of nine individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into three larger "super districts" with three representatives each. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a quarter of voters in a 3-seat district will win a seat.

Comparing a Fair Representation Voting Plan to Massachusetts's Redistricting Plan

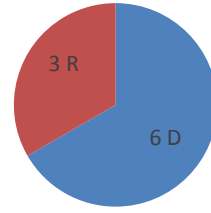
Statewide Partisanship



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

FairVote.org // Tweet @fairvote // (301) 270-4616 // info@fairvote.org