

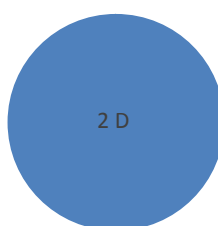
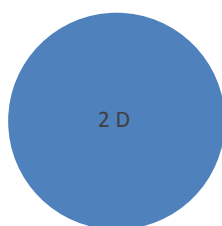
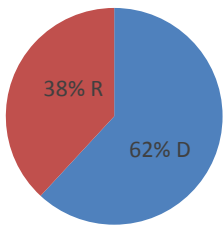


Current Congressional District Map



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	0	2

Redistricting

The state legislature is responsible for drawing district lines in Rhode Island. During the most recent redistricting cycle, Democrats held an overwhelming majority in both legislative chambers while Independent Lincoln Chafee held the governorship.

The map that was approved in February 2012 faced some criticism, as it shifted district lines more than necessary to adjust for population growth – presumably to make re-election easier for struggling Democratic incumbent David Cicilline.

Additionally, a coalition of local advocacy groups sent a joint letter to redistricting consultant Kimball W. Brace, expressing disappointment that information on how districts would impact racial minorities was not made public during the redistricting process.

2014 Projections: 0 R, 2 D

Rhode Island has become one of the most securely Democratic states in the nation in federal races. Democrats have held both of the state's U.S. House seats since 1994, and are almost certain to retain them in 2014. Both districts have Democratic partisanship of at least 58%.

There is a small degree of uncertainty in district 1, where David Cicilline is an unusually unpopular incumbent. Cicilline performed about 10 percentage points worse in 2012 than what would be expected of a generic Democratic incumbent in his district. The district is Democratic enough that Cicilline still enjoyed a comfortable victory, however, and will likely have little trouble winning again in 2014.

Date 2014 Projections Announced: April 2013.

2012 Projections: 0 R, 2 D. All projections accurate.

Races to Watch: None

Strongest Candidate: Langevin (RI-2, D): +1.1% POAC*

Weakest Candidate: Cicilline (RI-1, D): -10.3% 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

Both districts in Rhode Island are majority white, and the state has never elected a racial minority to Congress.

Rhode Island has also failed to elect a woman to Congress since Republican Claudine Schneider, who was first elected in 1980 and served until 1991.

Dubious Democracy

Rhode Island's Democracy Index Ranking: 38th (of 50)

Rhode Island's low ranking stems primarily from the state's poor level of representation: only 30% of Rhode Island's eligible voters voted for a winning candidate in 2012. The state had mediocre turnout – 56% in a presidential election year – and only 54% of those who did turn out voted for one of the two winning Democrats.

Rhode Island also dropped in the rankings because its significant Republican population is completely shut out of representation.

Incumbents typically coast to re-election in Rhode Island, as none have lost in a general election since 1988.

View redistricting alternatives at FairVotingUS.com

FairVote.org // [@fairvote](https://twitter.com/fairvote) // (301) 270-4616 // info@fairvote.org

Listed below are recent election results and 2014 election projections for Rhode Island's two 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 Projected Competition
1	Cicilline, David	D	White/M	2010	56.5%	-10.3%	65.1%	59.4%	Safe D
2	Langevin, Jim	D	White/M	2000	61.3%	1.1%	58.8%	62.7%	Safe D

Rhode Island's Fair Representation Voting Plan

Super District (w/current Cong. District #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win (plus 1 vote)	Partisanship (D/R %)	Current Rep.: 2 D	Super District Rep: 1 D, 1 R
A (CDs- 1,2)	2	526,284	33.3%	62 / 38	2 D	1 D, 1 R



Partisan and Racial Impact: Fair representation voting in Rhode Island would give bipartisan representation to the state's voters, as its substantial population of Republicans would be able to elect a candidate. Rhode Island has too few districts for fair voting to produce a noticeable change in racial representation.

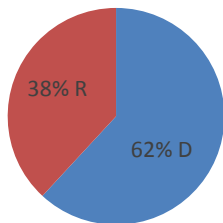
How Does Fair Representation Voting Work?

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.

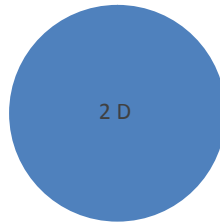
Instead of two individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into one larger "super district." Any candidate who is the first choice for more than one third of voters in a two-seat district will win a seat.

Comparing a Fair Representation Voting Plan to Rhode Island's Current Districts

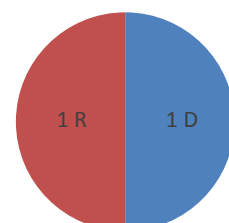
Statewide Partisanship



2014 Projections



FairVote's Plan



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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

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