FairVote | The Center for Voting and Democracy

Current Congressional District Plan

3, 12, 24, 26, 30, 32, 33

2, 7, 9, 18, 22, 29

20, 35
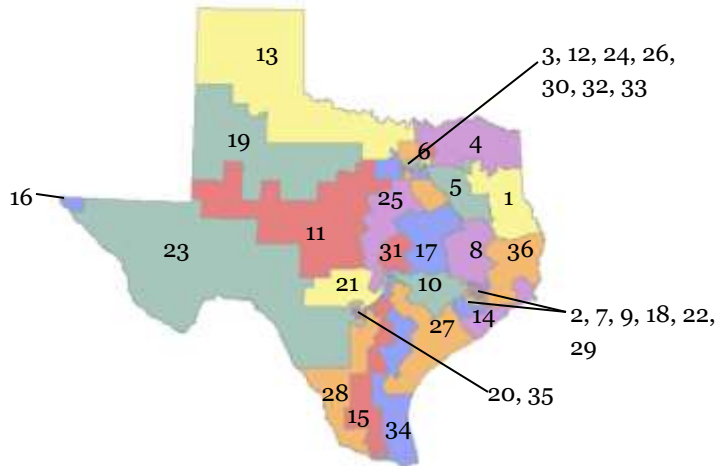
Representation

Statewide Partisanship — 60% R, 40% D

Current Delegation — 24 R, 12 D

2014 Projections — 24 R, 11 D, 1 ?
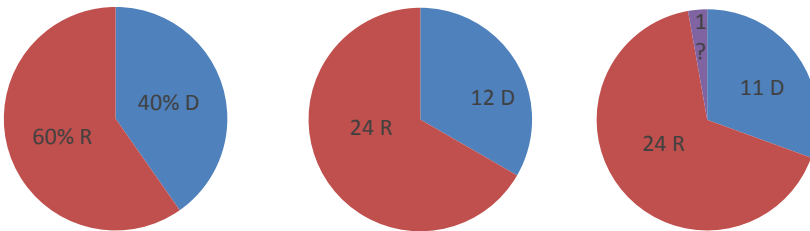
Partisanship is a measure of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

District Competitiveness

Majority Partisanship	*Swing (50-<53%)*	*Lean (53-<58%)*	*Safe (58%+)*
Districts	0	3	33

Redistricting

Redistricting in Texas is controlled by the state legislature, in which Republicans had a sizeable majority during the most recent redistricting process. In 2011, after the legislative session closed without a redistricting plan in place, Gov. Rick Perry called a special session to resolve the dispute over how to draw Texas' four new districts.

After several lawsuits, a panel of three federal judges 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. That interim map was signed into law by Perry on June 26, 2013, immediately following the Supreme Court decision on the Voting Rights Act.

2014 Projections: 24 R, 11 D, 1 ?

After a series of controversial redistricting processes in 2003 and 2011-13, Texas' congressional map is now strikingly uncompetitive – especially given the state's size. Of its 36 districts, zero fall within the "balanced" partisanship band of 47%-53%, and only one is even within range of being competitive in 2014. We project 33 of the races to be won by landslide margins of at least 20%.

The current map has also solidified a strong Republican advantage in Texas, guaranteeing them victories in at least 2/3 of the seats.

Date 2014 Projections Announced: April 2013.

2012 Projections: 24 R, 10 D, 2 ? All projections accurate

Races to Watch: Gallego (TX-23, D). The lone competitive race will be a challenge for Democratic incumbent Pete Gallego, as he attempts to protect a Republican-leaning seat that he won in 2012.

Strongest Candidate: Cuellar (TX-28, D): +4.1% POAC*

Weakest Candidate: Weber (TX-14, R): -5.3% 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

Twelve of Texas' 36 districts are majority-minority districts, including three black majority districts, eight Latino majority districts, and one plurality Latino district.

There are currently three women from Texas in the U.S. House – less than 10% of the state's delegation. Four members of the delegation are African-American and 6 members are Latino.

Dubious Democracy

Texas Democracy Index Ranking: 43nd (of 50)

Texas has the lowest ranking of any state with at least 10 congressional districts, largely due to its low turnout rate and lack of competitive races. Just 47.6% of eligible voters turned out in 2012, leading to only 32.4% of eligible voters being represented by a candidate who they voted for. Meanwhile, 86% of Texas' congressional races were won by a landslide margin of at least 20% in 2012, and the average margin of victory in all races was over 40%.

Texas fares relatively well in its level of seats-to-votes distortion, as the requirements of the Voting Rights Act prevented Republican legislators from drawing more favorable lines.

Listed below are recent election results and 2014 election projections for Texas's 36 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 %	POAC	District Partisanship (Dem)	2014 Projected Dem %	2014 Projections
1	Gohmert, Louie	R	White/M	2004	72.6%	-1.9%	26.0%	24.2%	Safe R
2	Poe, Ted	R	White/M	2004	66.5%	-0.8%	34.4%	31.4%	Safe R
3	Johnson, Sam	R	White/M	1991	100.0%	-0.8%	33.0%	29.7%	Safe R
4	OPEN (Hall, Ralph)	R	White/M	1980	75.2%	-4.2%	23.5%	23.5%	Safe R
5	Hensarling, Jeb	R	White/M	2002	66.0%	-3.5%	33.0%	32.2%	Safe R
6	Barton, Joe	R	White/M	1984	59.7%	-3.7%	39.5%	38.8%	Safe R
7	Culberson, John	R	White/M	2000	62.5%	-1.3%	37.4%	34.9%	Safe R
8	Brady, Kevin	R	White/M	1996	79.2%	-3.6%	20.4%	19.6%	Safe R
9	Green, Al	D	Black/M	2004	79.9%	-0.2%	76.5%	79.7%	Safe D
10	McCaul, Michael	R	White/M	2004	62.5%	-1.6%	37.9%	35.5%	Safe R
11	Conaway, Michael	R	White/M	2004	80.9%	-3.6%	18.3%	17.5%	Safe R

District	Incumbent	Party	Race/Gender	Year First Elected	2012 2-Party Winning %	POAC	District Partisanship (Dem)	2014 Projected Dem %	2014 Projections
12	Granger, Kay	R	White/F	1996	72.7%	-0.3%	30.5%	26.8%	Safe R
13	Thornberry, Mac	R	White/M	1994	100.0%	0.0%	17.2%	13.4%	Safe R
14	Weber, Randy	R	White/M	2012	54.5%	-5.3%	38.2%	38.3%	Safe R
15	Hinojosa, Ruben	D	Latino/M	1996	62.3%	-0.1%	56.0%	59.8%	Safe D
16	O'Rourke, Beto	D	White/M	2012	66.5%	1.6%	62.9%	63.8%	Safe D
17	Flores, Bill	R	Latino/M	2010	100.0%	-3.8%	36.7%	35.5%	Safe R
18	Jackson Lee, Sheila	D	Black/F	1994	76.9%	-3.5%	74.7%	75.4%	Safe D
19	Neugebauer, Randy	R	White/M	2003[1]	100.0%	-2.1%	23.8%	21.4%	Safe R
20	Castro, Joaquin	D	Latino/M	2012	65.6%	5.9%	57.7%	59.2%	Safe D
21	Smith, Lamar	R	White/M	1986	63.1%	-0.7%	37.1%	34.2%	Safe R
22	Olson, Pete	R	White/M	2008	66.7%	-0.7%	35.4%	32.1%	Safe R
23	Gallego, Pete	D	Latino/M	2012	52.5%	8.2%	46.8%	48.7%	No projection
24	Marchant, Kenny	R	White/M	2004	62.9%	-1.4%	36.9%	34.4%	Safe R
25	Williams, Roger	R	White/M	2012	60.9%	0.0%	37.0%	36.4%	Safe R
26	Burgess, Michael	R	White/M	2002	70.4%	-2.1%	29.6%	27.7%	Safe R

[1] Neugebauer was first elected in a June 2003 special election to fill the seat of retiring Rep. Larry Combest.

District	Incumbent	Party	Race/ Gender	Year First Elected	2012 2-Party Winning %	POAC	District Partisanship (Dem)	2014 Projected Dem %	2014 Projection
27	Farenthold, Blake	R	White/M	2010	59.1%	-2.7%	36.9%	**36.0%**	Safe R
28	Cuellar, Henry	D	Latino/M	2004	69.5%	4.1%	58.9%	**66.2%**	Safe D
29	Green, Gene	D	White/M	1992	100.0%	3.2%	64.5%	**70.5%**	Safe D
30	Johnson, E.B.	D	Black/F	1992	80.6%	-2.6%	78.1%	**79.4%**	Safe D
31	Carter, John	R	White/M	2002	63.7%	-0.7%	37.4%	**34.3%**	Safe R
32	Sessions, Pete	R	White/M	1996	59.6%	-1.9%	40.3%	**38.2%**	Safe R
33	Veasey, Mark	D	Black/M	2012	73.8%	1.3%	70.5%	**71.4%**	Safe D
34	Vela, Filemon	D	Latino/M	2012	63.1%	1.8%	59.3%	**60.3%**	Safe D
35	Doggett, Lloyd	D	White/M	1994	66.6%	-2.3%	62.3%	**64.2%**	Safe D
36	OPEN (Stockman, Steve)	R	White/M	2012[2]	72.7%	-1.0%	24.3%	**24.3%**	Safe R

[2] Stockman was first elected to the U.S. House in 1994, but was defeated in 1996 after district lines changed due to the previous map being struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Texas' 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.: 24 R, 12 D	Super District Rep.: 20 R, 14 D, 2 ?
A (CDs - 3,11,13,19,26)	5	698,488	16.7%	25 / 75	5 R	4 R, 1 D
B (CDs – 6,12,24,30,33)	5	698,490	16.7%	48 / 52	3 R, 2 D	2 R, 2 D, 1 ?
C (CDs - 2,4,5)	3	698,488	25%	32 / 68	3 R	2 R, 1 D
D (CDs - 16,20,23,28,35)	5	698,488	16.7%	57 / 43	5 D	2 R, 3 D
E (CDs – 10,17,20,25,31)	5	698,485	16.7%	37 / 63	5 R	3 R, 2 D
F (CDs – 1,8,14,22,36)	5	698,488	16.7%	29 / 71	5 R	4 R, 1 D
G (CDs – 2,7,9,18,29)	5	698,488	16.7%	55 / 45	2 R, 3 D	2 R, 3 D
H (CDs - 15,27,34)	3	698,487	25%	49 / 51	1 R, 2 D	1 R, 1 D, 1 ?

Partisan and Racial Impact: In place of the current map in which 35 districts are beyond the reach of the minority party, this fair voting plan would give every voter in Texas the opportunity to vote in a competitive election and help elect a member of their preferred major party. We project 20 GOP wins, 14 Democratic wins, and two balanced seats. Under this plan, Latino voters would be guaranteed the ability to elect a candidate of choice in seven seats and black voters would be able to do so in two seats.
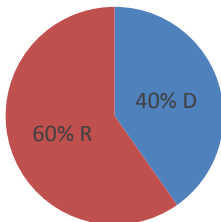
How Does Fair Representation Voting Work?

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 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 5 seat districts.

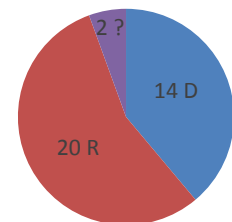## Comparing a Fair Representation Voting Plan to Texas' Current Districts

Statewide Partisanship — 60% R, 40% D
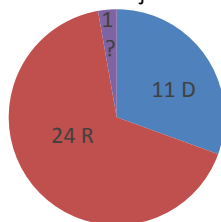
2014 Projections — 24 R, 11 D, 1 ?

FairVote's Plan — 20 R, 14 D, 2 ?

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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.