

NEW STUDY FINDS INDIANA AMONG THE MOST GERRYMANDERED STATES IN THE US

Women4Change commissioned Dr. Christopher Warshaw, a national expert on gerrymandering and associate professor at George Washington University, to analyze Indiana's 2011 legislative and Congressional maps with 50 years of detailed voting data.

The study found Indiana's maps are unfair. In fact, they are more biased towards one party than 95% of all U.S. districting plans for which data is available enacted over the last 50 years.

Gerrymandering hurts Hoosiers because it fosters extremism within the parties, suppresses moderation and consensus, and creates artificial supermajorities in the General Assembly and Indiana's congressional delegation.

Warshaw Report Additional Conclusions:

- Indiana's maps blunt the impact of Democratic votes by packing many Democratic voters into a few heavily Democratic districts. As a result, Indiana Democrats are under-represented in the General Assembly and in Congress. One party is effectively shut out of the legislative process.
- The Indiana maps' bias cannot be explained by where voters live.
- The 2011 maps were more biased than the maps in effect through 2010, and two of the three 2011 maps were much worse than in 2010. That dramatic of a change cannot be caused by voters moving into an area.
- Highly bias led maps come most often from one-party control of map-drawing.

How Gerrymandering Rigs Maps:

- Gerrymandering stacks the electoral deck by "cracking and packing" legislative districts. They "pack" opposition party voters into as few districts as possible, where the opposition voters can run up large majorities but win few seats. Conversely, the map-drawers "crack" or spread their own voters across more districts, to create safe but not overwhelming majorities in those districts.

How Gerrymandering's Effects are Measured:

- Political scientists use several measures to evaluate districting maps for signs of gerrymandering. Dr. Warshaw applied all these measures, and all agreed.
- One leading metric is the Efficiency Gap, which flags the effects of "packing and cracking" by comparing mathematically how efficiently each party converts its votes to seats. In a gerrymandered map, one party's votes will yield legislative seats much more efficiently than the other's.

Indiana's Redistricting Process This Fall:

- Our General Assembly will draft and enact new maps this fall.
- Women4Change has engaged Dr. Warshaw to evaluate new proposed maps when they are released. He will determine the fairness of the proposed maps by evaluating their efficiency gaps and other determinants of gerrymandering and we will share his findings.