

2022 Enacted House Map

House Committee Chair, December 27, 2021



Respect voters' political preferences:

PARTISAN BALANCE AND COMPETITION

Comparison of the State House map to fairness benchmarks:

The partisan gap between Republican and Democratic voters has narrowed in recent elections and is now close to a 50-50 split; however, the enacted map favors Republicans by creating 98 Republican-leaning districts vs. 82 Democratic-leaning districts. Although the enacted map is technically within benchmark ranges, 89% of the 1 million simulated maps created for the analysis had better partisan balance.

Twenty-five Republican and 20 Democratic districts, or 25% of the total 180 districts, show evidence of partisan gerrymandering by packing more Republican or Democratic voters into those districts than any of the benchmark analysis simulated maps. There are only 7 competitive districts that have a proportion of each party's voters in the 46.5%-53.5% range. This is fewer than the expected range of 9-22 competitive districts.

Conclusions:

Although the enacted map is within the benchmark ranges for partisan balance, it favors Republicans and lacks sufficient competitive districts. The Princeton Gerrymandering Project gave this map a grade of "B."

What is a Fair Map?

Working with Fair Districts GA, the Princeton Gerrymandering Project conducted a state-of-the art analysis using 2020 census data to create benchmarks/fairness tests that were used to evaluate proposed maps drawn by the Georgia General Assembly. To be considered fair, district maps should comply with the following criteria.

Respect voters' political preferences

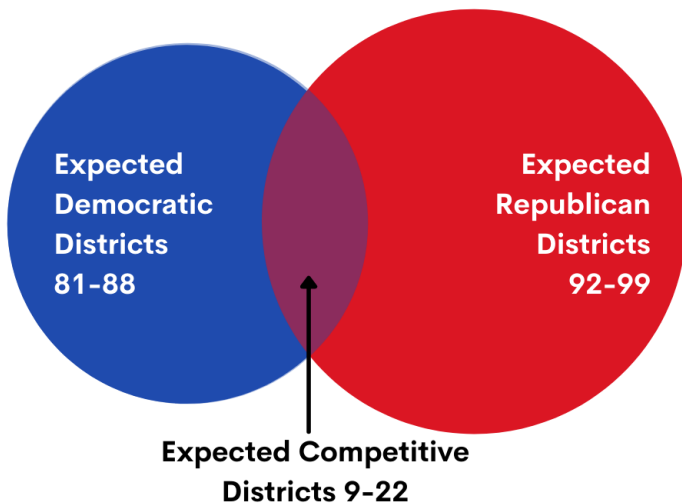
- Reflect the natural political preferences of voters distributed across the state
- Allow for competition

Reflect Georgia's diversity

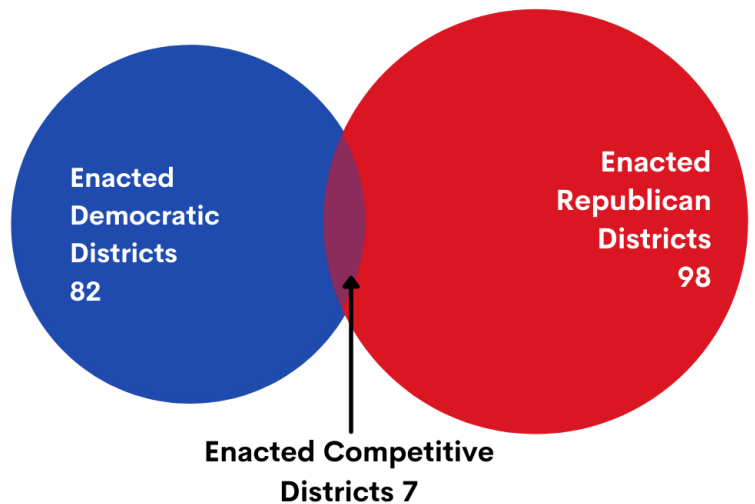
- Provide sufficient majority-minority opportunity districts and comply with the Voting Rights Act
- Preserve minority influence districts

Honor communities of interest

House Fairness Benchmarks:



Enacted House Map:



Reflect Georgia's diversity:

MAJORITY-MINORITY AND MINORITY INFLUENCE DISTRICTS

Comparison of the State House map to fairness benchmarks:

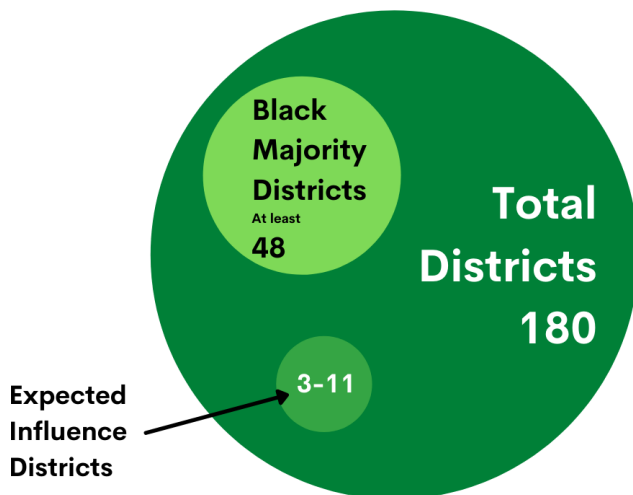
The enacted map provides 45 Black-majority districts, which are protected by the Voting Rights Act if specific criteria are met. The previous map included 47 districts; our analysis indicates that 48 were possible. The enacted map has 12 Black influence districts, 1 more than the 3-11 benchmark range, with a Black Voting Age Population between 37% and 50%. Studies have shown that at these population levels Black voters, defined as Black/African-Americans plus Black Hispanics, can elect candidates of their choice by forming coalitions with other groups.

As shown in the 2020 census, the diversity of Georgia's population has increased significantly to include multiple minority groups. The enacted map includes 76 majority-minority districts and 33 minority influence districts, which include Black and other minority voters. The expected number of majority-minority districts was 66.

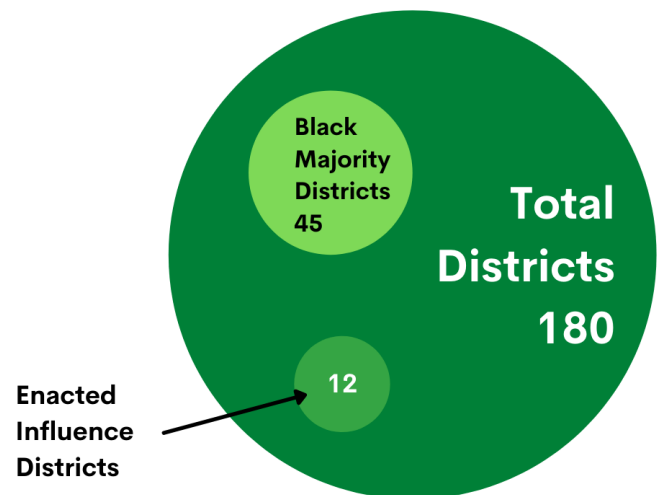
Conclusions:

The enacted map provides a total of 109 districts that give Black and other minority voters the opportunity to elect the candidates of their choice. Although the enacted map has 2 fewer districts than the previous map, it provides 1 Hispanic-majority and 2 Hispanic influence districts for the first time.

House Fairness Benchmarks:



Enacted House Map:



Honor communities of interest:

CITY SPLITS

The previous map unnecessarily split 64% of Georgia cities that have a 2020 census population that could fit into a single district. The enacted map reduces the percentage of split cities to 62% .