

FAIR MAPS FOR BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES

Non-Partisan Redistricting Advances Community Health Priorities

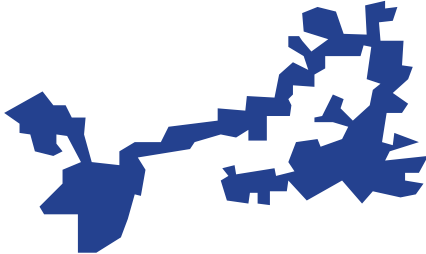
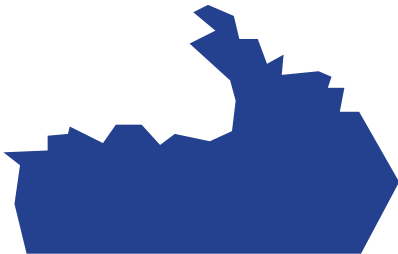
Gerrymandered Districts Thwart Representative Democracy

Redistricting is the redrawing of electoral district maps every ten years to account for population shifts and growth during the previous decade, as defined by the Decennial Census. Gerrymandering occurs when elected officials deliberately draw electoral district boundaries to protect their own interests, rather than to ensure that all communities have a fair say in elections. This silences constituent voices and stifles community power. Worse, gerrymandering often targets historically marginalized communities, particularly communities of color, further perpetuating inequalities and distorting our democracy.

Without Fair Representation, Community Priorities Can’t Compete

It’s no coincidence that some of our most gerrymandered states have some of the worst health outcomes. Gerrymandering effectively allows lawmakers to ignore constituents’ most pressing concerns, including concerns about community health, without fear of consequences at the ballot box – making it even more difficult to address systemic issues like health inequity at the policy level. That’s one reason why so many **popular health policies – especially those that benefit communities of color – get mired in partisan gridlock:**

- ✗ Medicaid funding
 - ✗ Lower prescription drug costs
 - ✗ Access to insurance coverage
 - ✗ Lower healthcare costs
 - ✗ Maternal, child, and reproductive health programs
- ✗ School lunch and other child nutrition programs
 - ✗ Community protections from pollution and toxic chemicals
 - ✗ Access to housing, economic opportunity, and other social determinants of health

GERRYMANDERED DISTRICTS	FAIR DISTRICTS
	
ARBITRARY Districts favor some community members’ voices and input over others.	DATA CENTERED Districts are based on quantitative and qualitative data that reflect communities with shared identities and interests.
OVERTLY PARTISAN Districts are “safe” for one political party, reducing competition.	COMPETITIVE Elected officials must compete for votes, ensuring that they are accountable to constituents.

Fair Maps Can Improve Health Outcomes – But the Clock is Ticking

We can set communities up to beat gerrymandering when the next round of redistricting kicks off with the 2030 census – but only if we act now by supporting non-partisan, community-centered efforts to fix the process. Luckily, there are **many ways** for funders at all levels to **get involved**.

Philanthropy can't solve health inequities alone. But supporting community-led work to secure fair districts can help change the system – and strengthen our democracy – by allowing communities to choose responsive lawmakers who will fight for better health policy.



Health Experts Agree

Experts agree that a healthy civic ecosystem, responsive to community needs, requires fair maps: The **American Medical Association** recognizes that gerrymandering limits access to health care. The **CDC** features Civic Engagement as part of the Healthy People 2030 Plan. And leading organizations like **Grantmakers In Health** have made equitable representation, including through nonpartisan redistricting, a 2024 health policy priority.

Fair Maps Rely on a Fair Count

Every decade, the Census Bureau fulfills a constitutionally-mandated count of every person living in the United States, culminating in data vital to U.S. social, political, and economic systems, with a particularly sweeping impact on healthcare in America. Data derived from the Decennial Census and the ongoing American Community Survey form the statistical backbone for public health, hospitals, insurance, and numerous federal programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP, and Social Service Block Grants.

For more information contact
info@fairredistricting.org

FAIR  COUNT

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REPRESENTATION IN
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MAKERS
IN
HEALTH