



Talking Points

- South Carolina's state legislative districts have been gerrymandered to have the least competitive elections in the nation, allowing one political party an unfair advantage on Election Day.

- 69% of state legislative districts have been gerrymandered by state lawmakers to offer only one major-party candidate in the general election. 117 out of 170 legislative districts offer voters no choice. Just 10% of legislative seats (17) were won by the competitive margin of 10% recommended by Fair Maps SC. The current average victory margin for legislators without competition is 89%. The current average victory for all 170 legislative seats is 85.8%.

- No state law establishes criteria for creating congressional and state legislative districts. The legislature has adopted redistricting guidelines that expressly protect their seats for re-election.

- An independent citizen's redistricting commission of qualified voters, chosen like a jury, should be placed in charge of drawing election maps to end the detrimental unfair impact of gerrymandering.

- The State Ethics Commission would oversee the application and qualification process, and would randomly select commission members that reflect the geographic and demographic makeup of South Carolina.

- The commission would be independent of direct control or influence by any elected government official, political party, or politician. Eligible registered voters would be able to apply for service on the commission.

- Politicians, lobbyists, and people with significant conflicts of interest would not be eligible to serve on the commission.

- The commission would be provided with the latest technology to accurately and fairly reapportion districts.

- The commission would be required to follow strict criteria when drawing maps to ensure no political party, politician, or candidate is given a disproportionate advantage.

- The commission would be required to conduct its business publicly, with strong rules in place to ensure the process is fair, impartial, and transparent.

- The commission would hold public hearings across the state to gather feedback from citizens to hear from communities before a final vote to approve district maps. The public could even submit maps for consideration.

- The legislature and governor would be prevented from interfering with the redistricting process, altering, or vetoing its final maps.