



GERRYMANDERING RUN AMOK- How is this even possible?

In 2018, one state had the following votes for its assembly.

	Votes	Percent
Republican	1,103,505	44.5%
Democrat	1,306,878	53.0%

Guess what the breakdown of seats between the two parties?

Here is a hint. In the same election, Democrats won every state-wide election including U.S. Senator, Governor, Attorney General, and State Treasurer.

- With an 8.5% election margin and a sweep of all the state-wide elections, logic would suggest, Democrats would have a large majority.
- In 1988, when the Democrats won the U.S. House by a smaller margin, they had a 260 to 175 margin.

Given the voting margins, one would assume that the Democrats won a vast majority of the seats.

OK- since Gerrymandering Run Amok is the title of this paper, you might assume that with gerrymandering, the results were closer. You might even assume that, with gerrymandering, Republicans and Democrats won close to the same number of seats.

Now here is the shocker!

- **With an 8.5% deficit in the popular vote, Republicans won 63 seats and the Democrats won 36!**

How is this possible? How could a party that was badly whipped in the popular vote end up with almost 2/3 of the seats?

It is all in the numbers. In 31 of the 36 districts they won, the Democrats had no Republican opposition. Republicans had no Democratic opposition in only 6 districts.

Districts with No Competition from the Other Party	
Democrats	Republicans
31	6

Democrats won only two closely contested elections. Republicans won 31.

Districts Where the Winning Party Received Less than 60% of the Vote	
Democrats	Republicans
2	31

OK- you probably missed guessing that Republicans would win almost 2/3 of the seats. Now do you want to guess the name of the state?

Guess the State

With the huge number of landslide Democratic districts, you might assume that this state had a large percentage of minorities. You would be wrong.

- Of the 20 largest states, this State has the lowest percentage of minorities.

You might also assume the state has major urban areas that accounted for the Democratic victories. Once again, you would be wrong.

- Of the 20 largest states, this state has the second lowest percentage of urban population.

Give Up?

- **The State IS-----Wisconsin**

How is it possible that in Wisconsin, politicians could have gerrymandered the districts so that:

- Democrats could win 53% of the vote but barely 1/3 of the seats.
- Republicans could win less than 45% of the vote, but almost 2/3 of the seats.

This is what gives politics in the U.S. a bad name.

To make matters even worse, recent legislation, upheld by a Wisconsin court, will disqualify 234,000 residents from voting.

- **Guess which party most of these residents belong to?**

We would be happy to walk anyone through the details of how Wisconsin became such an undemocratic state. The point, however, is very simple.

- **In the U.S. political system, political leaders playing games with districting should not be able to thwart the will of the majority of the people.**

- **Political boundaries should not be drawn in a manner that allows a party that is whipped in the popular vote to control almost 2/3 of the legislative seats.**

Lest there be any confusion,

- **Reform Elections Now believes political districts should be drawn by independent commissions not by politicians.**

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