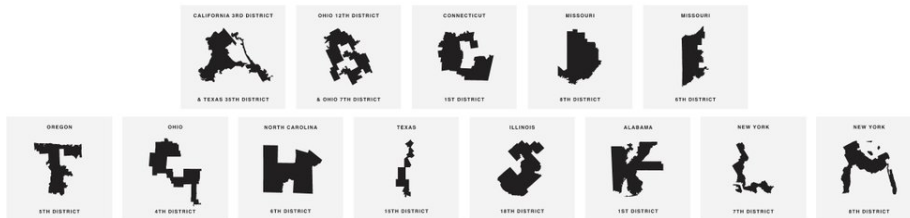


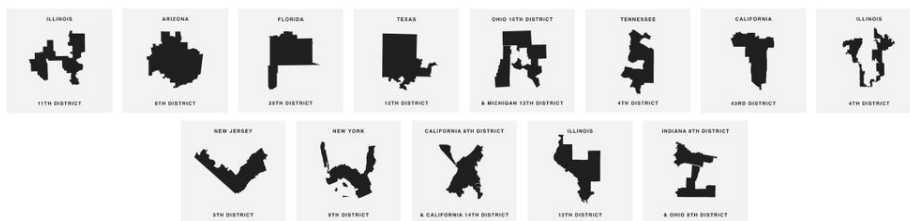


This may look like the alphabet. However, these pictures are not actually letters. They are maps of Congressional Districts created by political leaders and somewhat interpreted by Jerry Whiting on the website Ugly Gerry. (Or as we say, really Ugly Gerry Mandering)

Think this is a joke? It's not. Here is another screen shot with the actual districts identified.



### A FONT CREATED BY YOUR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



Gerrymandering is not a joke. It is a serious challenge to our democracy. When people of one party are crammed into strange districts or when districts are cut up in a way that the winner of the plurality of the popular votes ends up with a majority of the seats in the election, something is wrong. Further, Gerrymandering is one of the greatest causes of polarization.

Reform Elections Now is nonpartisan. We do not side with either party. However, when you look at the work of our legislators in creating these districts, it is difficult not to be offended.

Politicians have distorted the political system by drawing political boundaries to suit their needs rather than following the will of the voters.

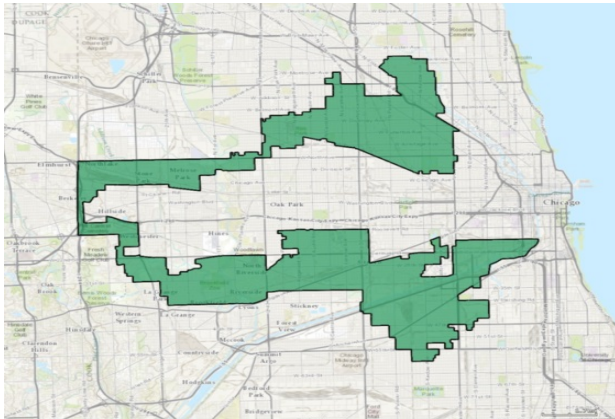
**The drawing of election districts should be taken out of the hands of politicians and placed under the control of nonpartisan, independent commissions.**

Here are some of the real Congressional districts that have been created especially for U.S. voter. (Some of these districts have now been declared illegal and changed, but the inventiveness of our elected representatives is so great that we did not want to destroy their works of art.

## **ILLINOIS**

Democrats are largely in control in Illinois. Perhaps they wanted to prove that they could gerrymander as well as Republicans. They were certainly creative in creating Hispanic and Black districts around Chicago.

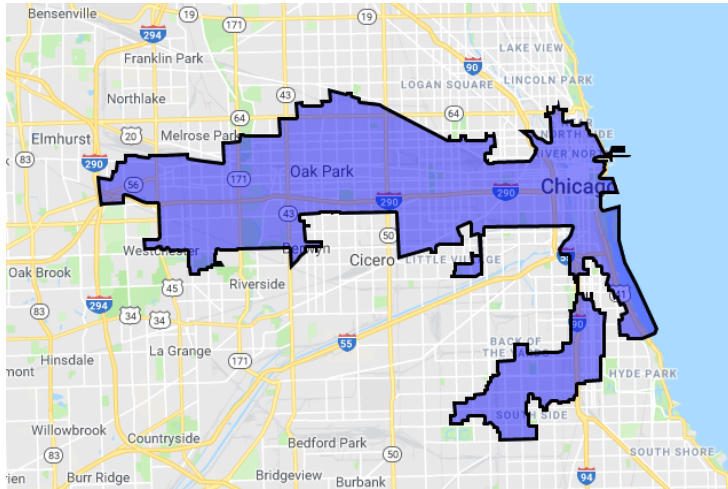
### **Earmuffs in Illinois #4**



The Earmuff district in Illinois (#4) was designed so Hispanics could have their own district.

Illinois #7 was created for Blacks, while not quite as creative as #4, it some pretty artistic legislators to get the southside included.

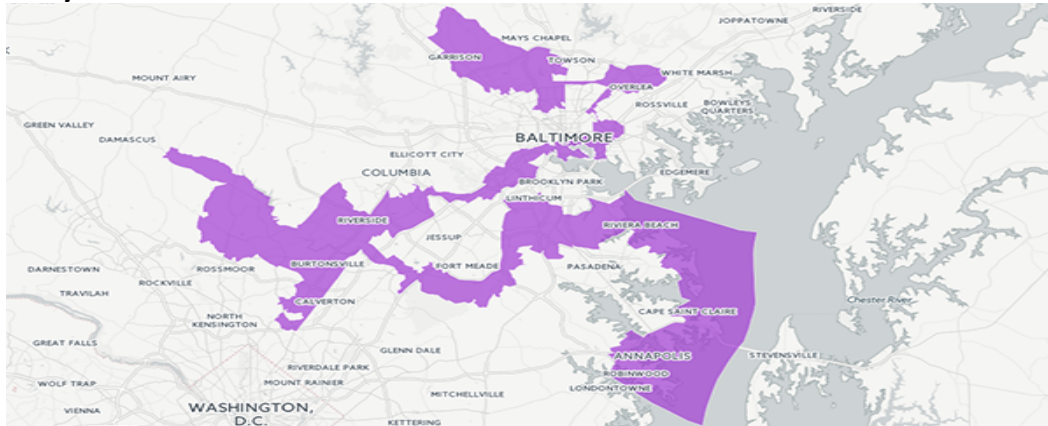
## Illinois #7



## MARYLAND

Democratic Artists at Work. Maryland #3 was created just for Democrats. The funny thing about this district is the surrounding ones are also Democratic, so there was no good political explanation. Perhaps the people drawing the boundaries of this district liked to imbibe?

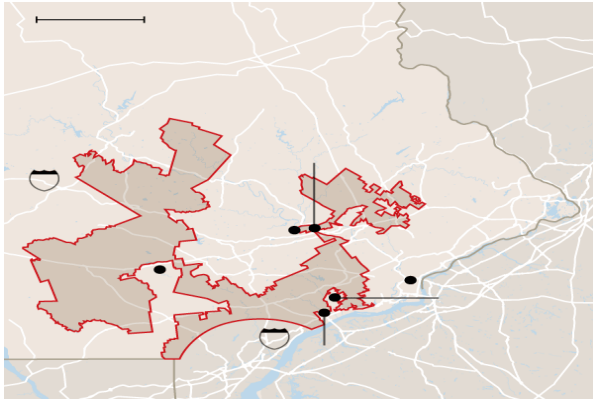
## Maryland #3



## PENNSYLVANIA

There are many bizarre districts in Pennsylvania, but #7, which looks like Goofy kicking Donald Duck is really an artistic prize. Fortunately, the courts forced this district to be redrawn.

## Pennsylvania #7

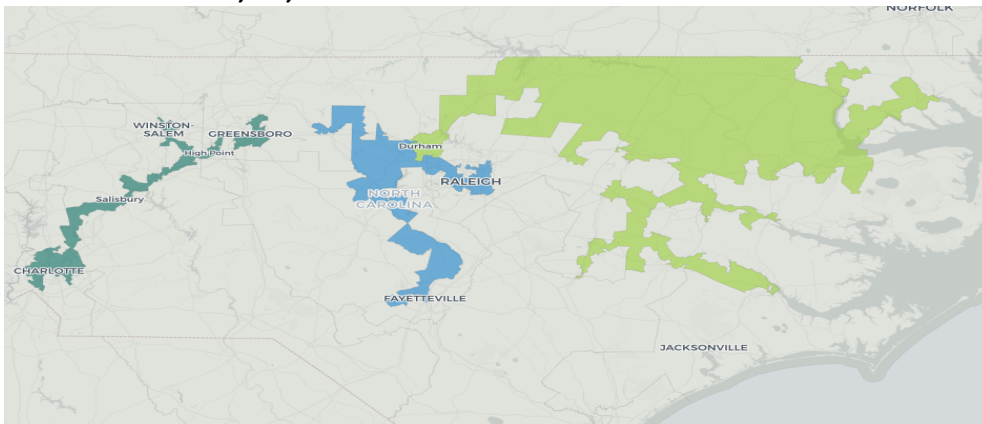


The Pennsylvania Supreme Court forced this district to be changed, much to the chagrin of the artists who created it.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Here are some cool districts from North Carolina. Guess where the Democrats live in the state? Here is a hint. Democrats and Republicans received nearly the same number of votes in 2018. Excluding one district that was disputed, Republicans won 9 and Democrats won 3. The district on the left was created to be a “majority minority” district.

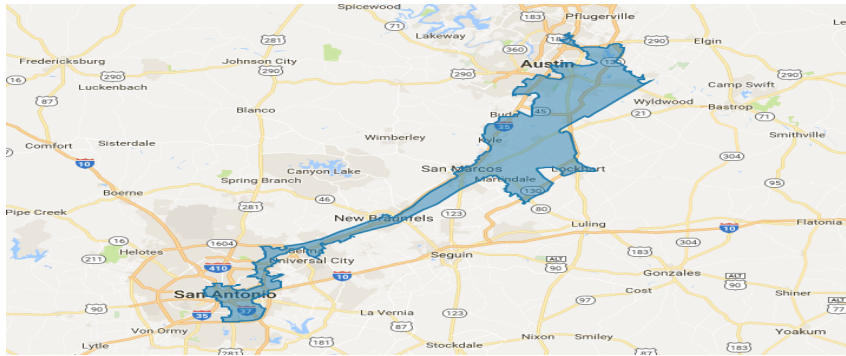
## North Carolina #1, #4, and #12



## TEXAS

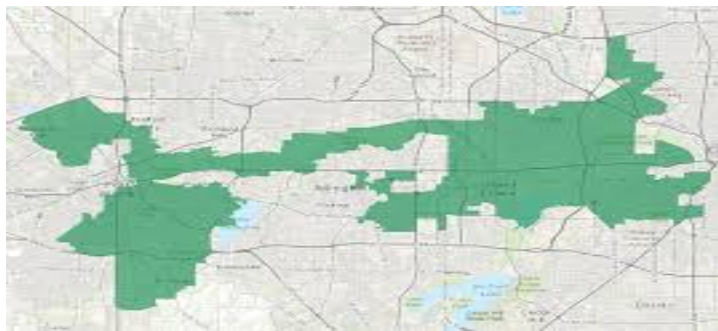
How do you keep the Democrats in Texas from getting uppity? You create a special district, like Texas #35, that winds its way from Austin to San Antonio, grabbing every Democrat it can find.

### Texas #35



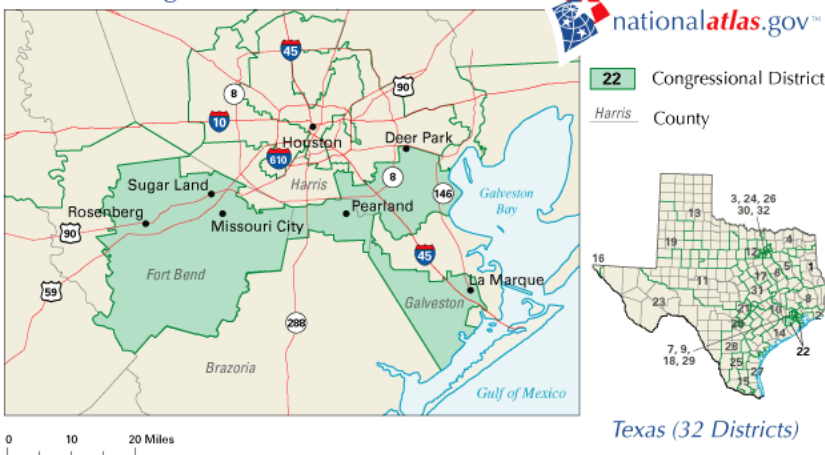
What works in Austin and San Antonio, also works in Dallas and Fort Worth. Legislators put every minority in that part of the state in Congressional District #33.

### Texas #33



Since one good deed deserves another, the Republicans also created this district for former leader Tom DeLay, studiously avoiding every Democrat they could find.

### Congressional District 22



If the Republicans go have a nicely drawn district south of Houston, why not one north of Houston, like District #2?



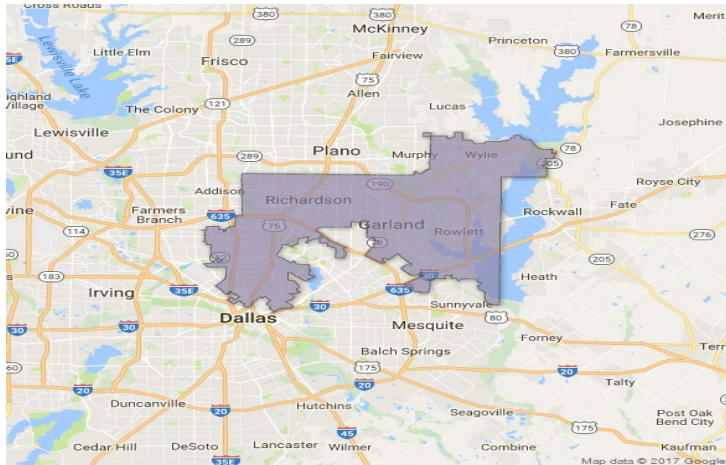
## Texas #2



It turns out the Republicans are pretty good at drawing these maps. They won districts #2 and #29 with 51.4% and 52.8%. The Democrats, on the other hand, won the three districts in the middle with 89.1%, 84.4%, and 75.1% respectively.

If the Republicans could have their own district south of Houston, why not create a similar looking district north of Dallas, Texas #32. This district was so Republican that Pete Sessions won his 11<sup>th</sup> term in 2016 without Democratic opposition. Then, in 2018, something went wrong. In 2018, Colin Allred, a former NFL linebacker defeated Sessions.

## Texas #32



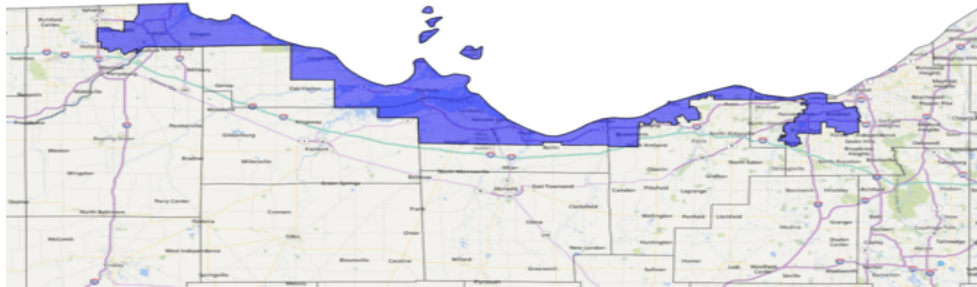
## OHIO

In 2018, in Ohio, won 52% of the Congressional vote compared to 47.3% for Democrats, but Republicans won 12 of 16 seats. Part of their success can be attributed to their ability to draw maps.

In 2001, the Republicans in Ohio created **The Snake by The Lake** so they could have two Democratic incumbents, living more than 100 miles apart, to compete for one seat. This was an

ingenious plan. There is only one risk to this district—climate change. As Lake Erie rises, water could interfere with the contiguous nature of the district.

Ohio's 9th Congressional District



Legislators in Ohio must like animals, because besides the snake district, the state also has the Duck district, Ohio #4. This district, which is represented by Jim Jordan, zig-zags its way through the state, avoiding population centers.

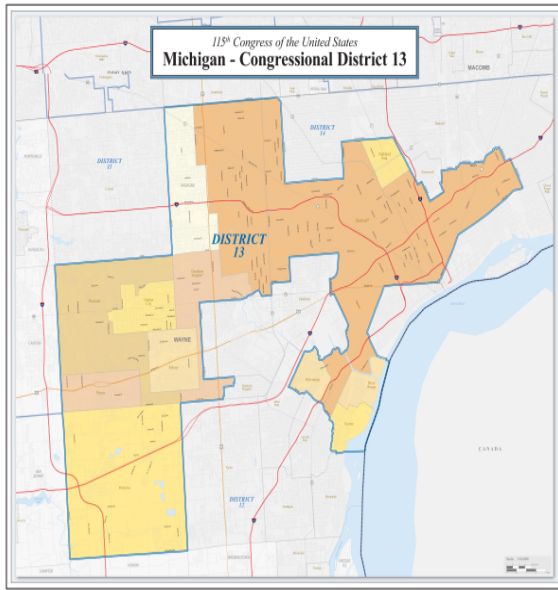
Ohio #4



## MICHIGAN

In the 2016 Congressional elections in Michigan, Republicans had 48% of the vote and Democrats had 47%, yet Republicans won 9 seats to 5 for the Democrats. In the 2018 elections, Democrats won 52.3% to 44.6%, yet the seats were split 5 to 5. Part of the reason was the creativity of the Republicans who drew the maps, creating two landslide districts for the Democrats #13 and #14. It is not easy to draw such creatively shaped districts.

### Michigan #13



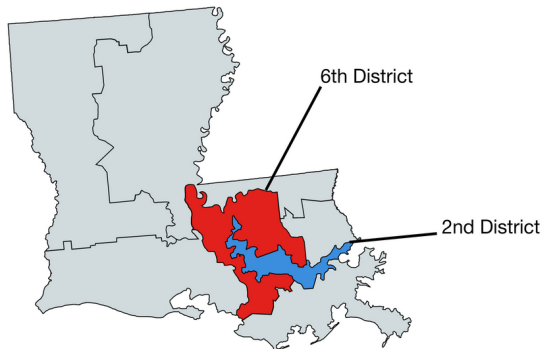
### Michigan #14



## LOUISIANA

Many districts have been given names. Because we are a PG rated organization, we will not discuss the names Louisiana #2 and #6 have been given. However, in 2011, Republicans shifted a large number of Black voters in Baton Rouge to District #2 from District #6. Democrats won District #2 without any Republican challengers.

### Louisiana #2 and #6

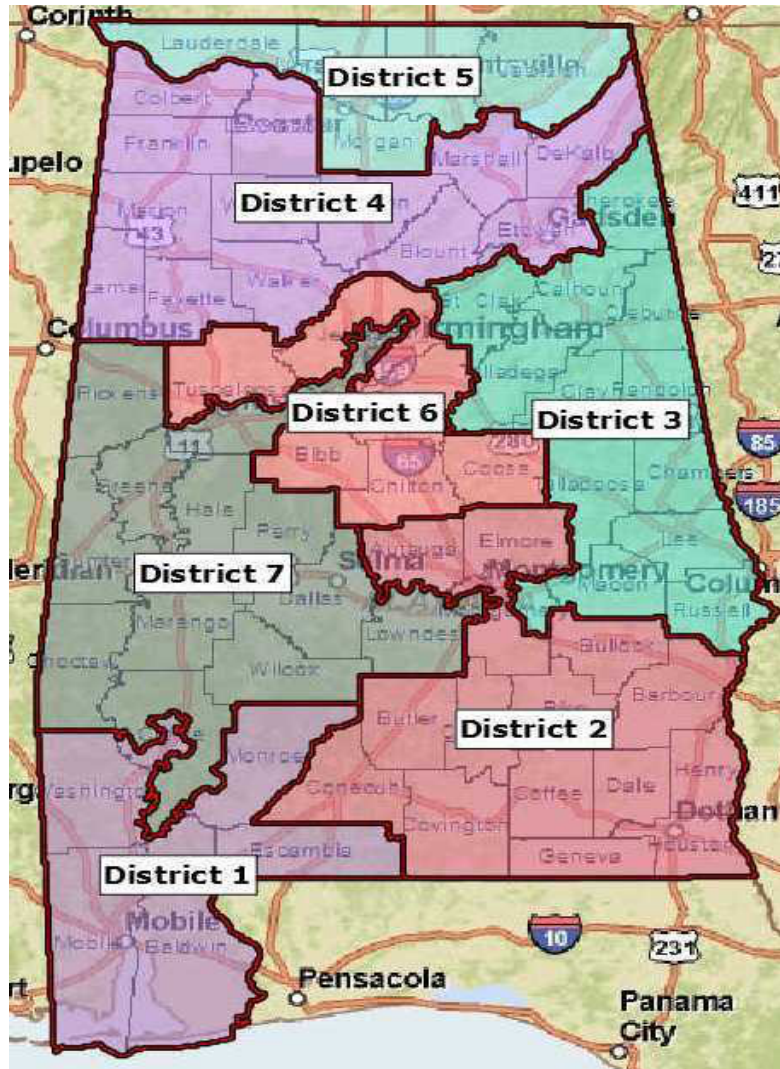




## ALABAMA

Legislators in Alabama are pretty creative as well. The picture below looks pretty innocuous until one realizes Republicans won 6 of 7 districts by large margins, while Democrats won the 7<sup>th</sup> district without Republican opposition. The shape of the 7<sup>th</sup> district was drawn to provide a “majority minority” district.

### Alabama #7



## UTAH

In 2010, Republicans in Utah became concerned because a Democrat from Salt Lake City won a seat in Congress. They decided to redo the districts so that Democrats in Salt Lake City were diluted by Republicans downstate. The strategy was originally successful as Mia Love, a Haitian-American, was elected to Congress. In 2018, however, Love lost—leading President Trump to say, “Mia Love gave me no love and she lost. Too bad.”

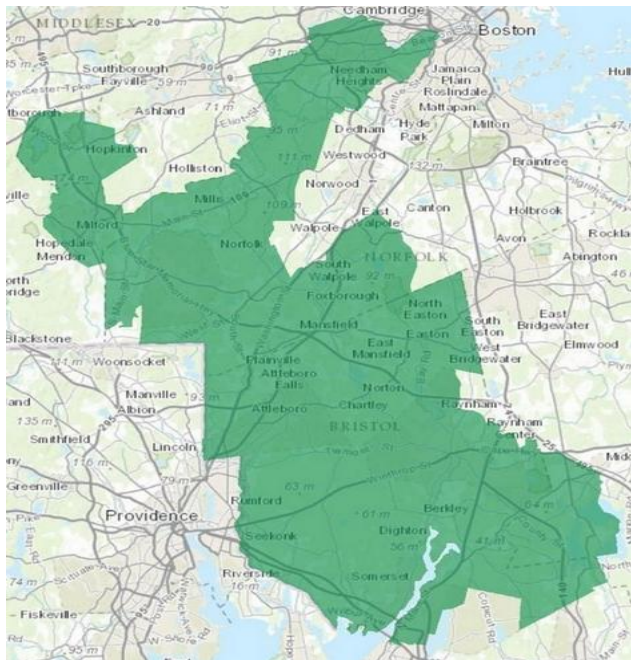
#### Utah #4



#### MASSACHUSETTS

Not to be outdone by Republicans, Democrats have also created some strange districts. Here is Massachusetts #4 which was won by Joe Kennedy without competition. Why Democrats in a Democratic state needed to come up with strange looking districts is a good question. Perhaps attributable to legalized marijuana in the Commonwealth.

#### Massachusetts #4



## Conclusion

We have had some fun picking on legislators who have decided to draw what often are bizarre looking districts. However, this is not a laughing matter. Gerrymandering is one of the worst problems in U.S. politics. Partisan politicians should not be able to distort the will of the voters by creating districts that suit their partisan interests.

We strongly believe **the drawing of election districts should be taken out of the hands of politicians and placed under the control of nonpartisan, independent commissions.**

Peter Siris  
March 20, 2020