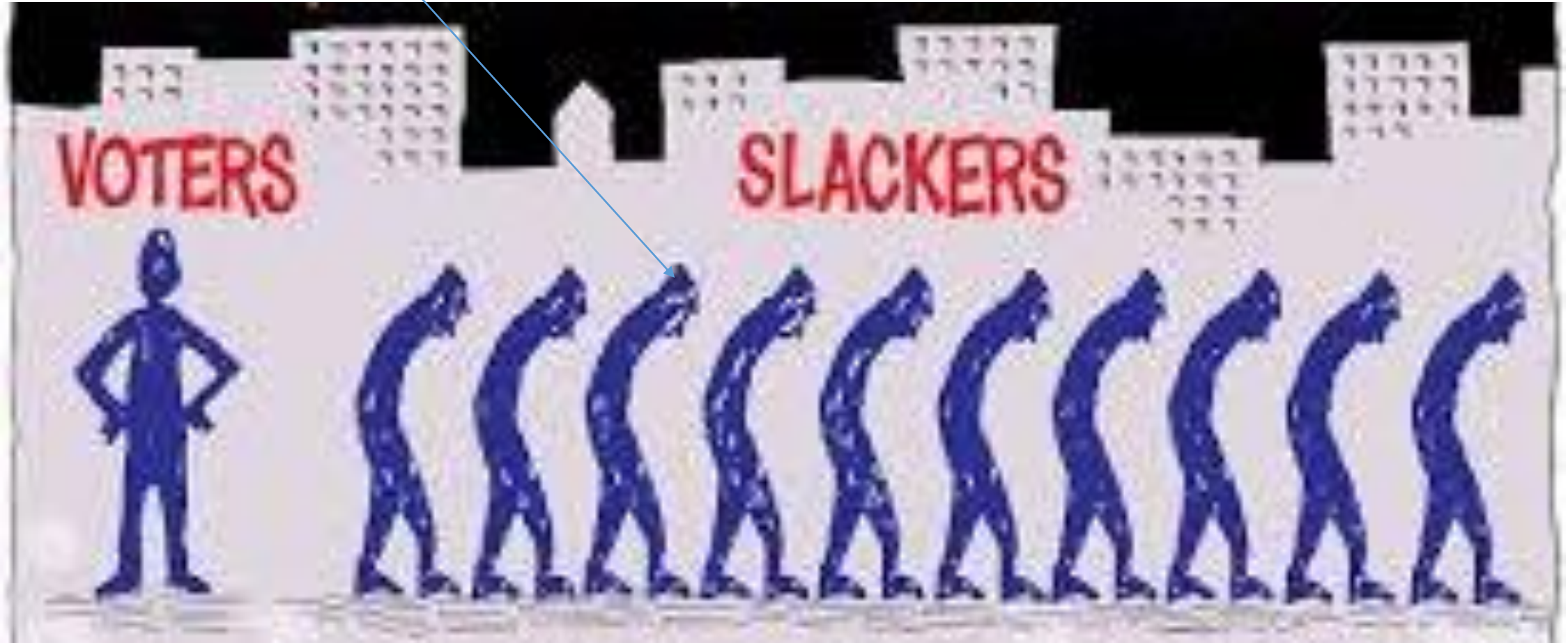


*ME*





**INDEPENDENT TX  
REDISTRICTING**

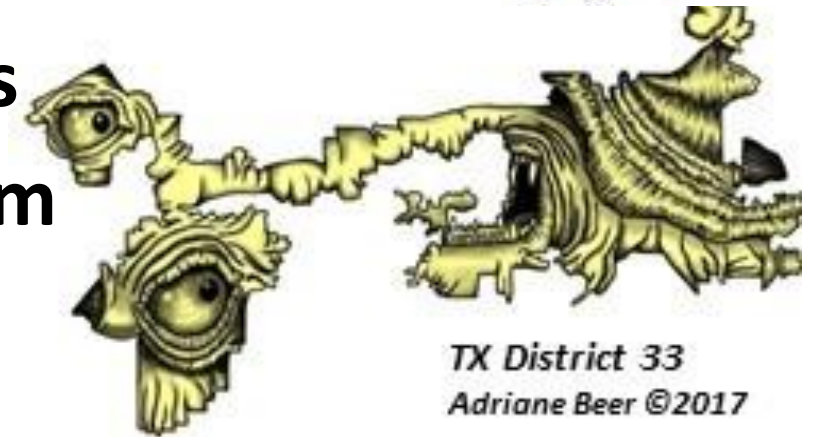
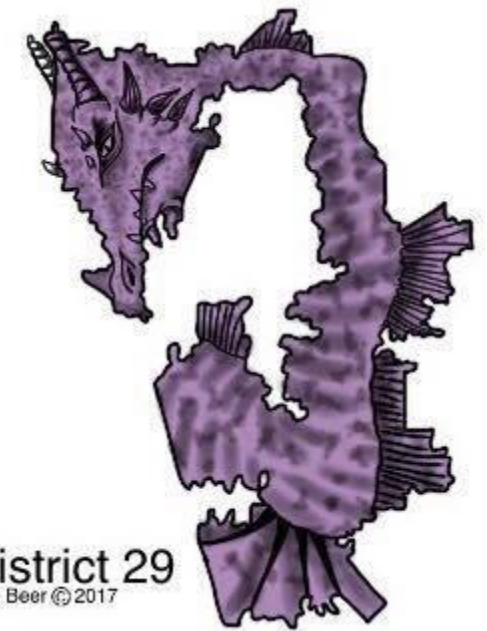
**Don't Gerrymander Me!**

**Joanne Mason – Director**  
**TXRedistrictingSpeakers@gmail.com**



# COURSE OVERVIEW

- What is Gerrymandering?
- History of Texas Gerrymandering
- Federal and State Constitution/Laws on Redistrict
- How States Manage the Redistricting process
- Grass Roots Activism and Redistricting Reform
- Party Positions on Gerrymandering/  
How to Talk to your Legislators
- Becoming a Redistricting Reform Champion/Wrap It Up





# WHAT IS GERRYMANDERING?

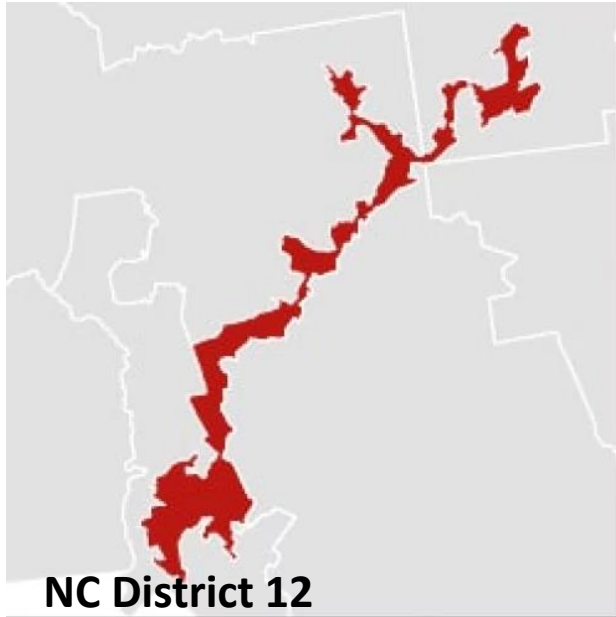
IF WE ALLOWED GERRYMANDERING IN SPORTS...



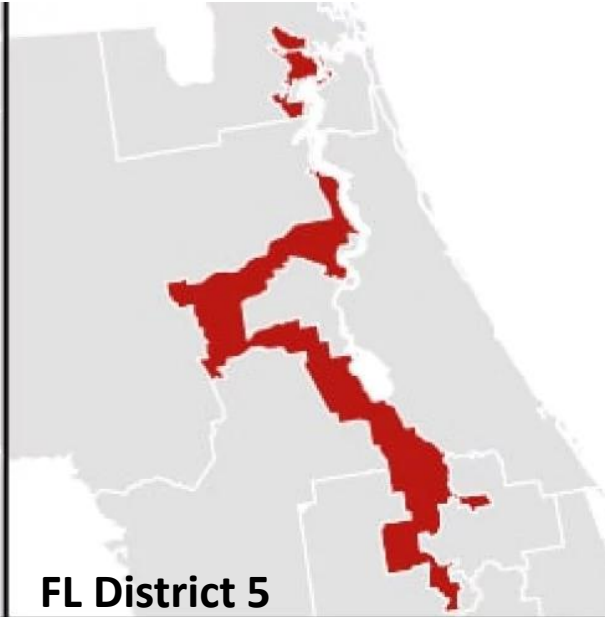
**Gerrymandering** the drawing of electoral district boundaries in such a way to give one party and/or one race a political advantage through either Partisan or Racial Gerrymandering.



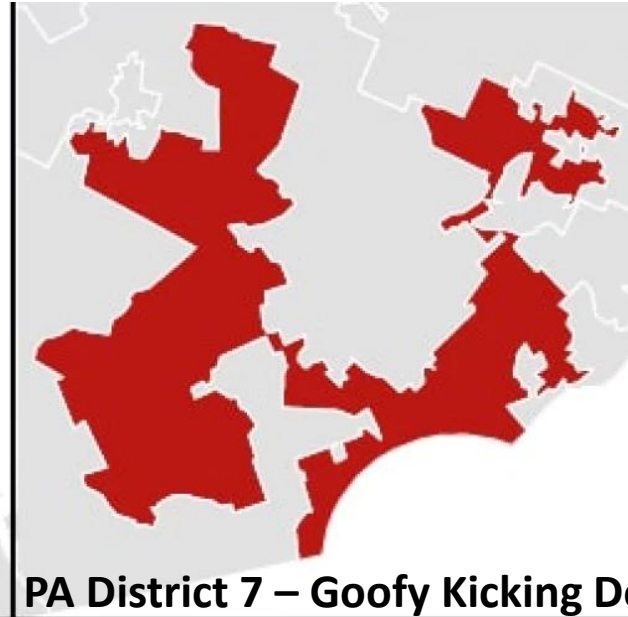
# WHAT IS GERRYMANDERING?



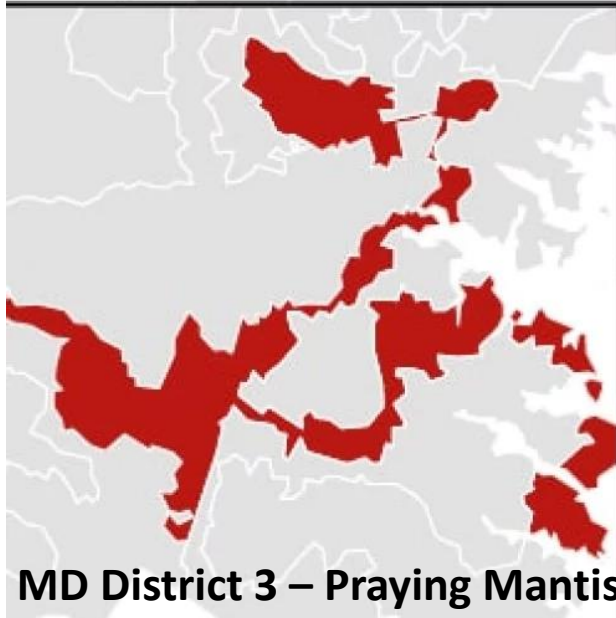
**NC District 12**



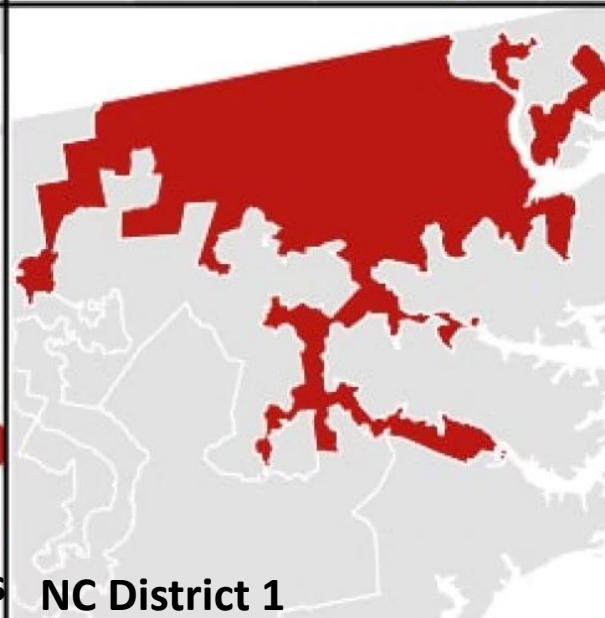
**FL District 5**



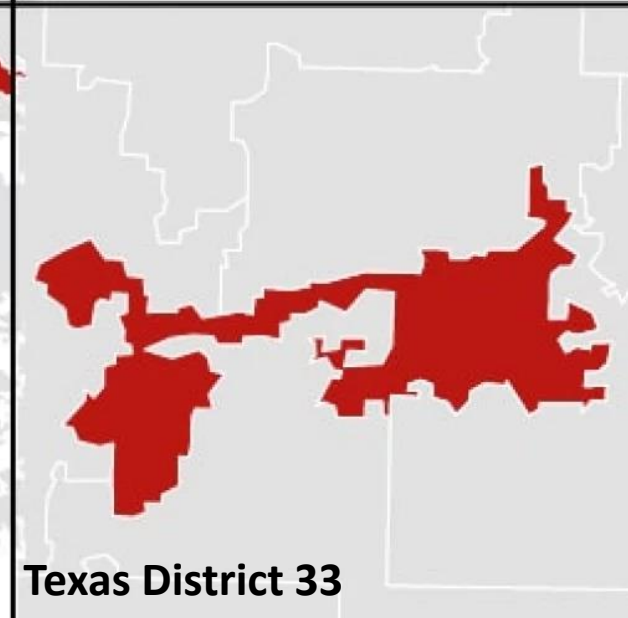
**PA District 7 – Goofy Kicking Donald Duck**



**MD District 3 – Praying Mantis**



**NC District 1**



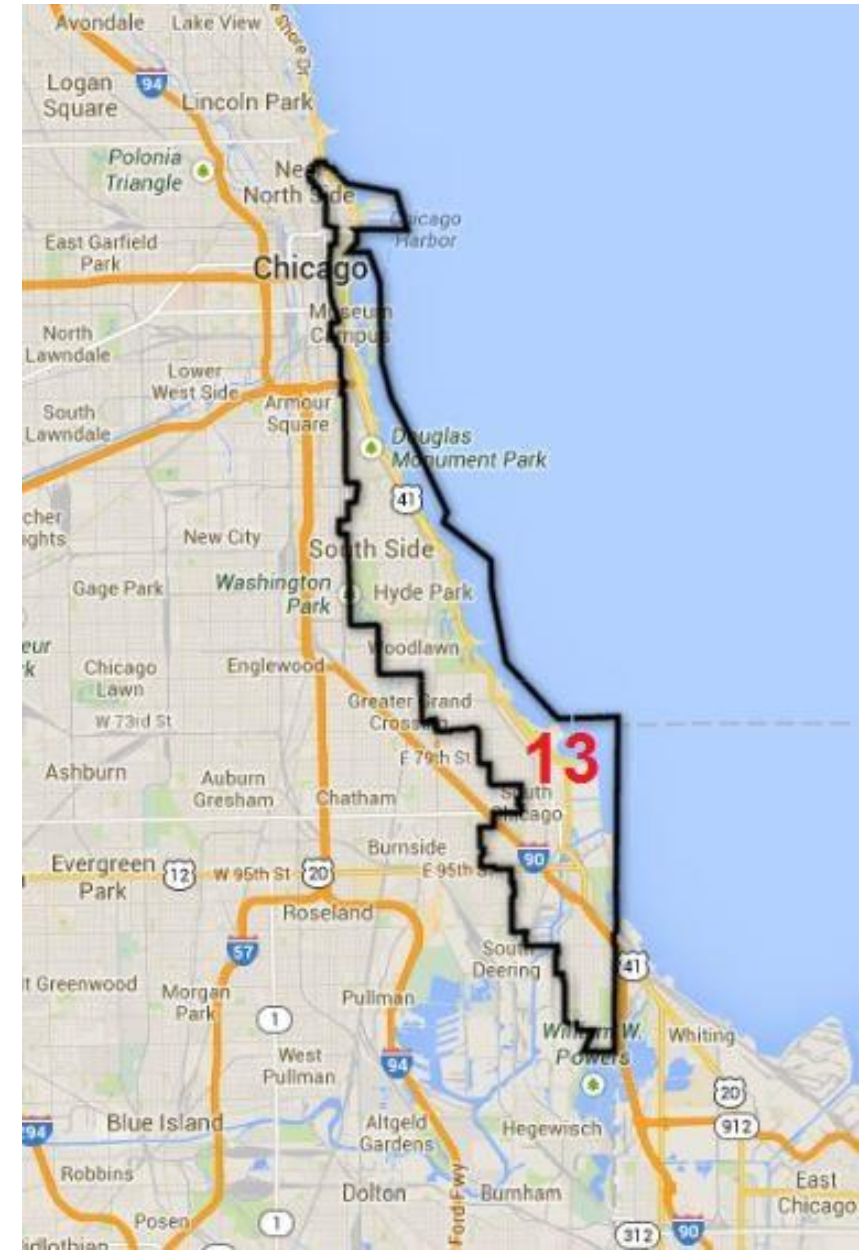
**Texas District 33**



# WHAT IS GERRYMANDERING?

President Obama launched his US Senate career thanks to gerrymandering.

Illinois Democrats gerrymandered districts to force a Democratic majority. Obama, as a state senator, helped redraw his own district. It extended northward to include some of Chicago's wealthiest citizens. As a result, the district became a powerful financial and political base. Obama used that base to win his US Senate seat a few years later.





# Remarks at the Republican Governors Club Annual Dinner - Ronald Reagan *October 15, 1987*

“The fact is gerrymandering has become a national scandal. The Democratic-controlled State legislatures have so rigged the electoral process that the will of the people cannot be heard. They vote Republican but elect Democrats.

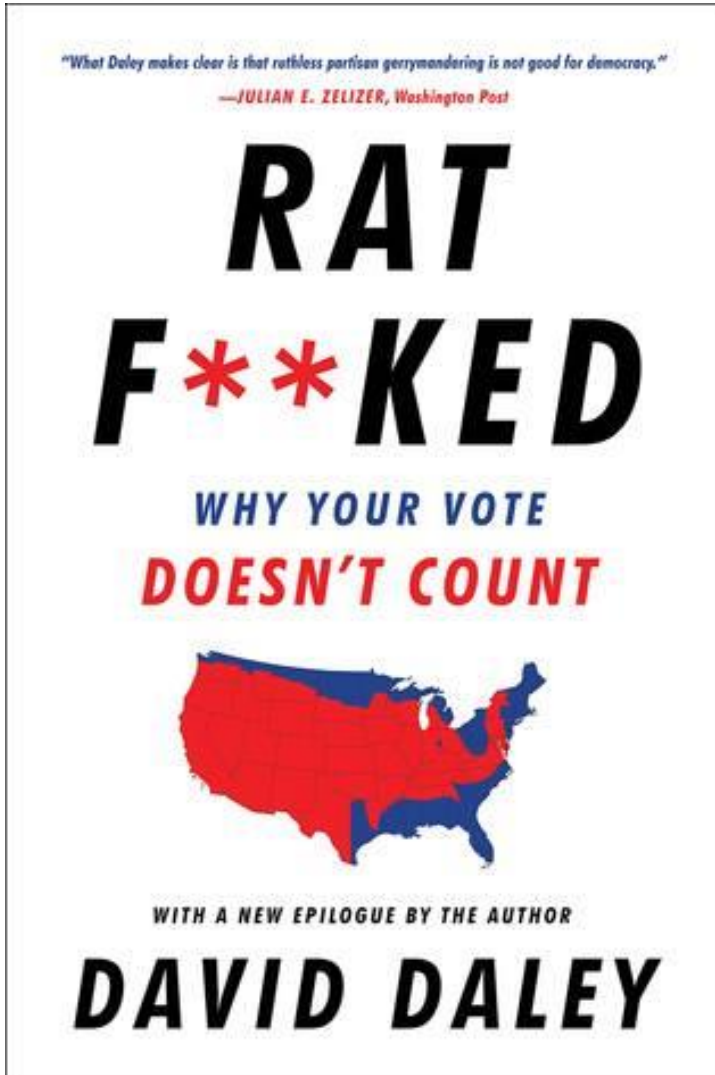
A look at the district lines shows how corrupt the whole process has become. The congressional map is a horror show of grotesque, contorted shapes. Districts jump back and forth over mountain ranges, cross large bodies of water, send out little tentacles to absorb special communities and ensure safe seats... But it isn't just the district lines the Democrats have bent out of shape: it's the American values of fair play and decency. And it's time we stopped them.”

***And the GOP did exactly that with **Project Red Map.*****

# DECADE OF EXTREME PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING



- Today, GOP control 32 governorships and state legislatures. This is up from 2010 where they controlled as few as 14.
- The next period of redistricting began after the 2010 census.
- Redistricting belongs to each state legislature.
- Frequently engaged in non-transparent processes shutting out citizens and Democratic colleagues.
- Utilized sophisticated mapping software – such as Maptitude – filled with prior voting data, incumbent home addresses and other key demographic information.
- Resulting maps were the most extreme partisan gerrymanders ever seen.
- Gerrymanders have retained their strength each year of elections since 2012.





# DECADE OF EXTREME PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING



“With **Maptitude**, it is fully loaded with just about every census information, with economic information, with every precinct-by-precinct results of elections all the way down ballot going back for years. And you can draw these lines with complete knowledge of how they will respond now.... Redistricting in 1990 and 2000, it was still horse and buggy. It becomes a rocket ship in 2010, thanks to computing power.” David Daley

EXAMPLE: “Michigan's 14th. And it goes about 135 miles, and it takes you all day to, you know, go turn by turn. What you see first is that this is a district designed to connect the poorest neighborhoods in Detroit with the poorest neighborhoods in Pontiac so that you can put as many African-American voters into one district, make it a district that elects a Democrat with about 75 or 80 percent of the vote. ” David Daley



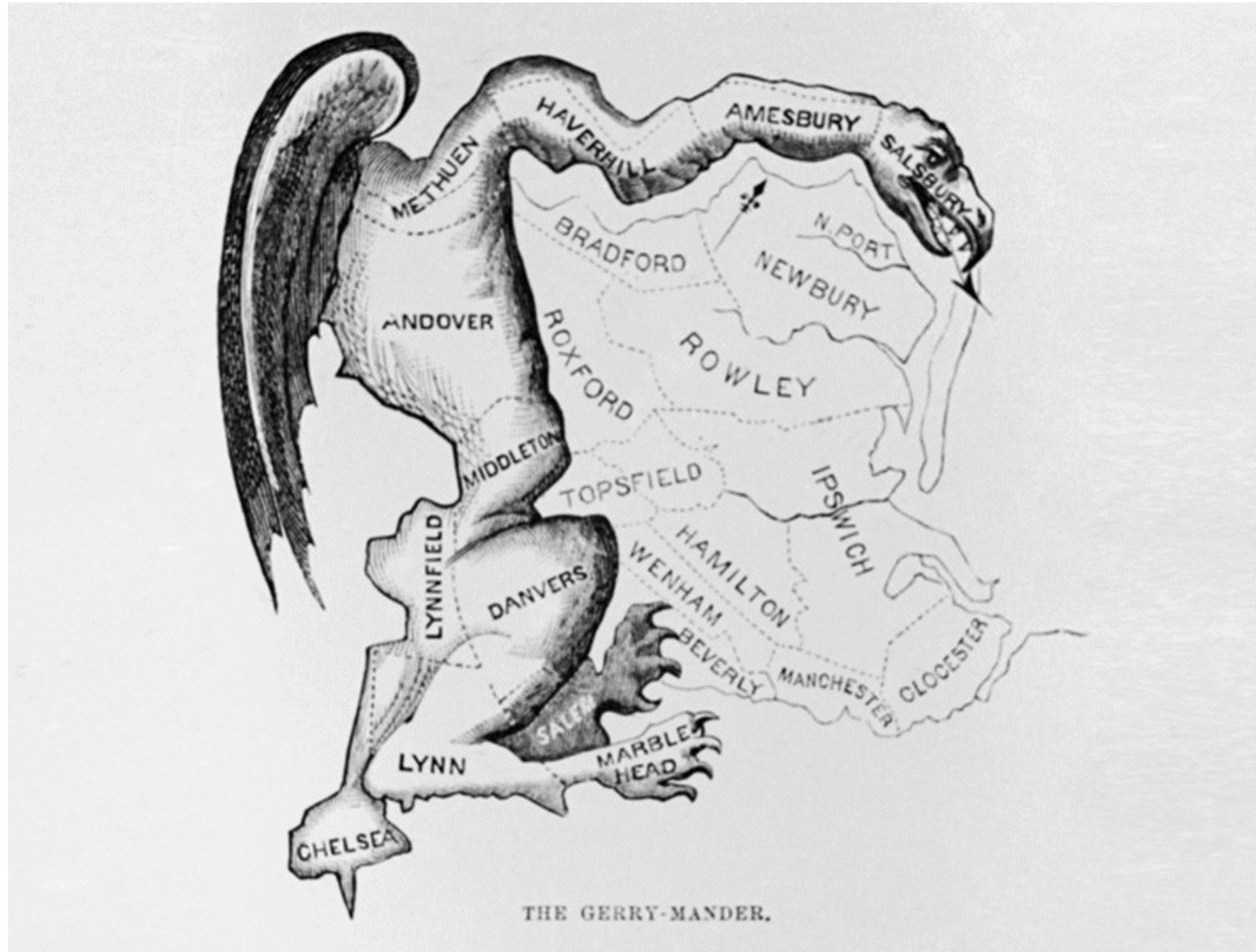
**Maptitude**  
**For Redistricting**



# Gerrymandering – Brief History



Elbridge Gerry – 5<sup>th</sup> VP of the United States



THE GERRY-MANDER.

# GERRYMANDERING HOW TO GUIDE

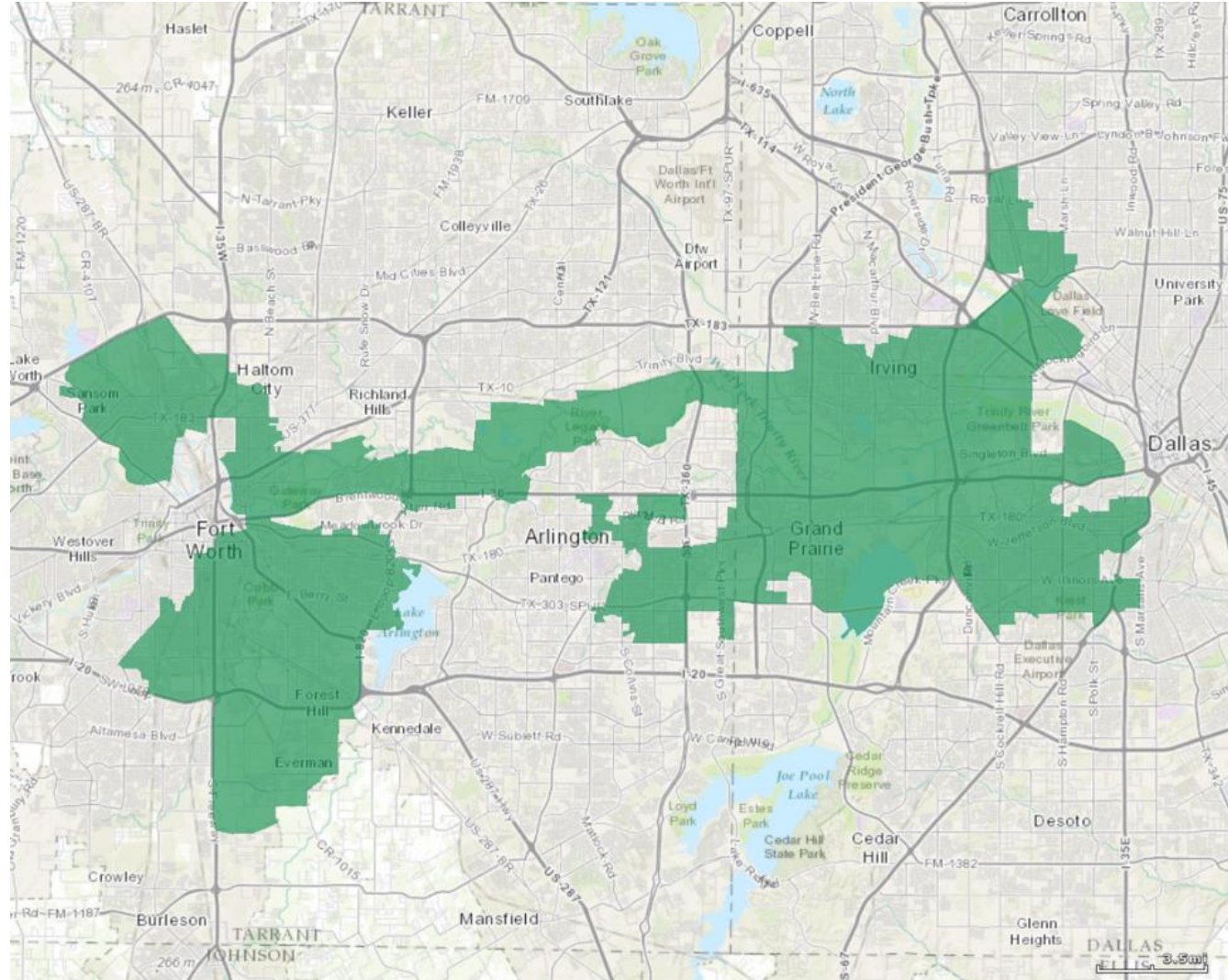


## PACKING

TX Congressional District 33 is one of the most gerrymandered districts in the United States.

Runs from Fort Worth to Dallas.

Congressman Marc Veasey won this district with 74% in 2016.



# GERRYMANDERING HOW TO GUIDE



## ***CRACKING***

Austin, a liberal stronghold, is the largest city in the United States without an anchor district.

Travis County is cross-sected by 5 different Congressional districts:

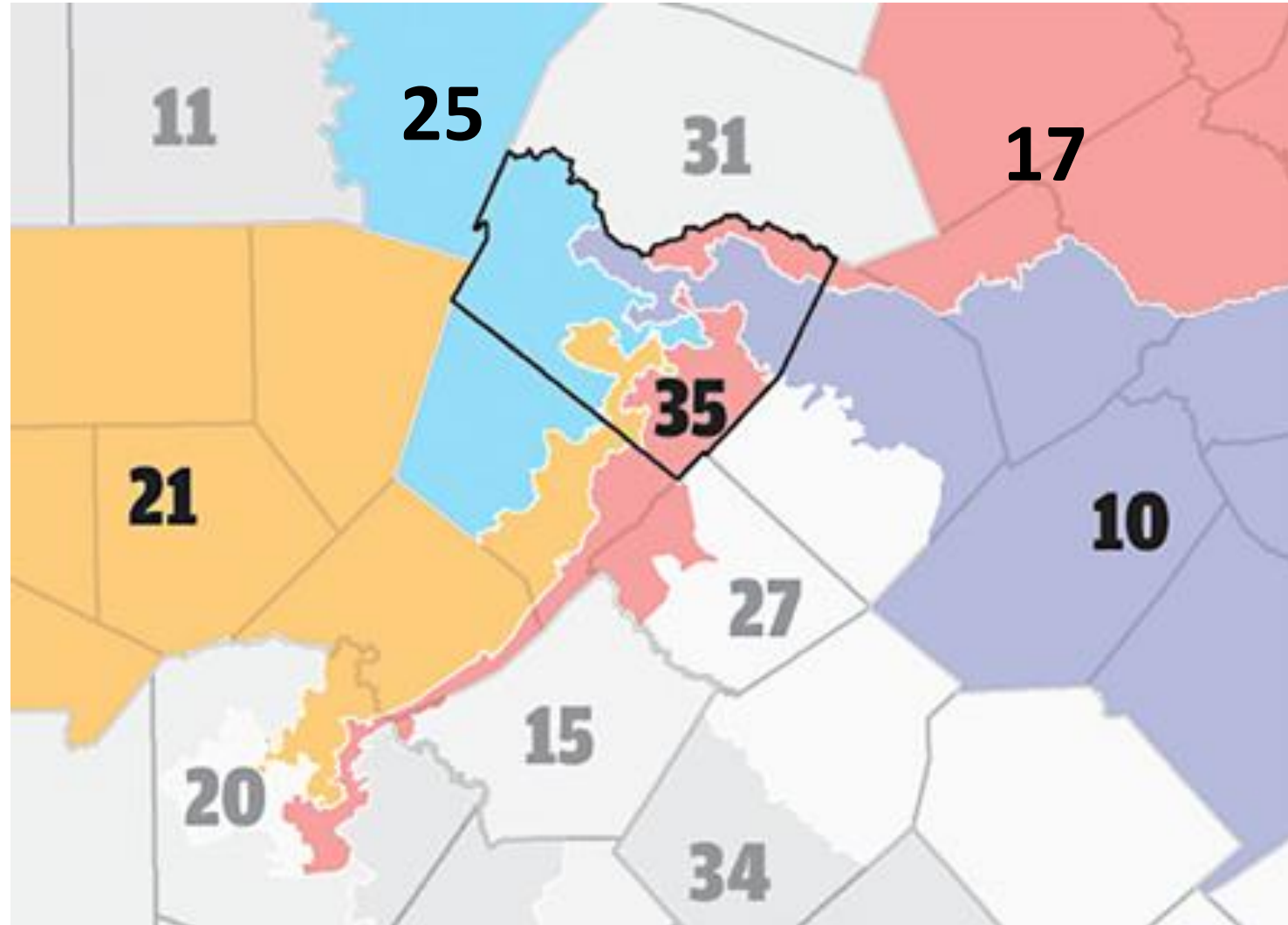
D10 (Rep. **Michael McCaul**, R-Katy)

D17 (Rep. **Bill Flores**, R-Waco)

D21 (Rep. **Lamar Smith**, R-Kerrville)

D25 (Rep. **Roger Williams**, R-Cleburne); and

D35 (Rep. **Lloyd Doggett**, D-San Antonio).





# GERRYMANDERING HOW TO GUIDE

## HIGHJACKING

Putting two incumbents from the opposing party in the same district.



## KIDNAPPING

Putting a popular incumbent into a district with different voters.

Former District  
Popular with base



New District  
Unfamiliar with voters





# PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING

North Carolina is a purple state, closely divided in its support of the two major parties. State Representative David Lewis, senior chair of the House Select Committee on Redistricting, nonetheless wanted to see more red on the congressional map.

“I acknowledge freely that this would be a political gerrymander, which is not against the law,” he said at a committee meeting. “I propose that we draw the maps to give a partisan advantage to 10 Republicans and 3 Democrats because I do not believe it’s possible to draw a map with 11 Republicans and 2 Democrats.”

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/01/how-gerrymandering-silenced-north-carolinas-cities/550406/>

**Today, there are 3 partisan gerrymandering cases before the Supreme Court – MD, NC, and WI.**



In 2004 on [Vieth v. Jubelirer](#), Justice Anthony Kennedy offered that **partisan gerrymanders** may offend “the First Amendment interest of not burdening or penalizing citizens because of their participation in the electoral process, their voting history, their association with a political party, or their expression of political views....If workable standards do emerge to measure these burdens, Courts should be prepared to order relief.”





# RACIAL GERRYMANDERING

**Majority-Minority District or Opportunity District** creation of districts with a majority of a specific racial or language minority in order to provide an opportunity for that community of interest to obtain representation.

**Racial Gerrymandering** purposeful drawing of boundaries of electoral districts in such a way that dilutes the vote of racial minorities or fails to provide an opportunity for racial minorities to elect a representative for their community per the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

***APRIL 2018, THE SUPREME COURT WILL HEAR THE TEXAS RACIAL GERRYMANDERING CASE.***





# RACIAL GERRYMANDERING



**Affirmative Racial Gerrymandering** purposeful drawing of boundaries of electoral districts in such a way that enhances the representation of underrepresented communities.



# GERRYMANDERING HOW TO GUIDE

## **PRISON**

### **GERRYMANDERING**

Incorporating a prison into a district to give the incumbent a smaller/easier district.



## **MILITARY**

### **GERRYMANDERING**

New for 2020. Census will start counting soldiers at their bases and not their home addresses.





# GERRYMANDERING – NOW IT IS YOUR TURN!

**Drawing district maps is not easy!**

**Remember that districts must be equal in size**

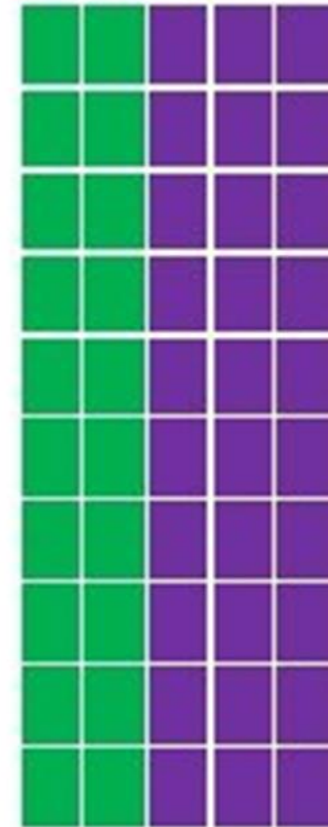
**One person = One vote**

**You have 50 precincts in 5 districts**

**30 are staunch Purple voters**

**20 are dedicated Green voters**

**Your job: Design a gerrymander where  
Purple wins all 5 districts!**



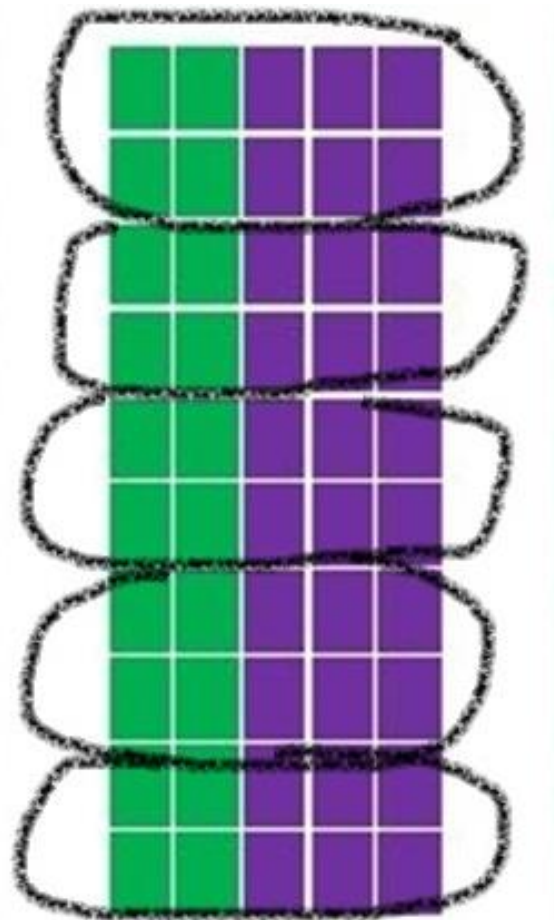
**50 PRECINCTS**

**60% PURPLE**

**40% GREEN**



# CREATING AN EXTREME PARTISAN GERRYMANDER



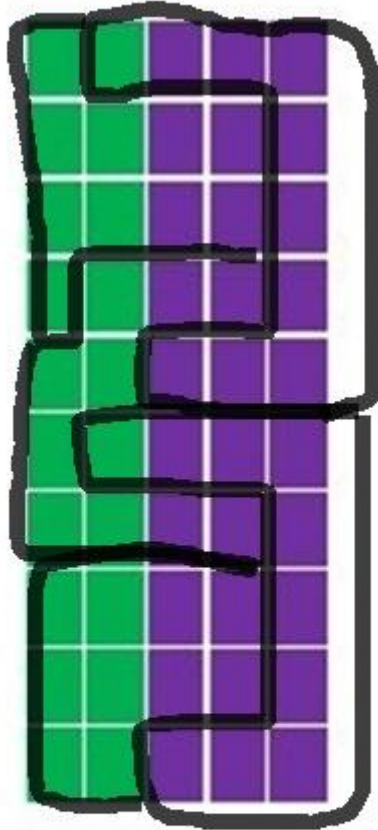
5 DISTRICTS  
5 PURPLE  
0 GREEN  
PURPLE WINS

CREATED BY CRACKING GREEN VOTERS SO THEY NEVER HAVE MORE THAN 40% OF THE VOTE IN ANY DISTRICT.

*JUST LIKE AUSTIN DEMOCRATIC VOTERS WHO ARE DIVIDED AMONG 5 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS!*



# CREATING AN EXTREME PARTISAN GERRYMANDER



5 DISTRICTS  
3 GREEN  
2 PURPLE  
GREEN WINS

**CREATED BY PACKING PURPLE VOTERS INTO 2 DISTRICTS TO DILUTE THEIR VOTING POWER. REMAINING PURPLE VOTERS ARE CRACKED INTO GREEN DISTRICTS.**



**HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A GERRYMANDER?  
ARE GERRYMANDERS ALWAYS BAD?**

