



# Response by Republicans and Democrats

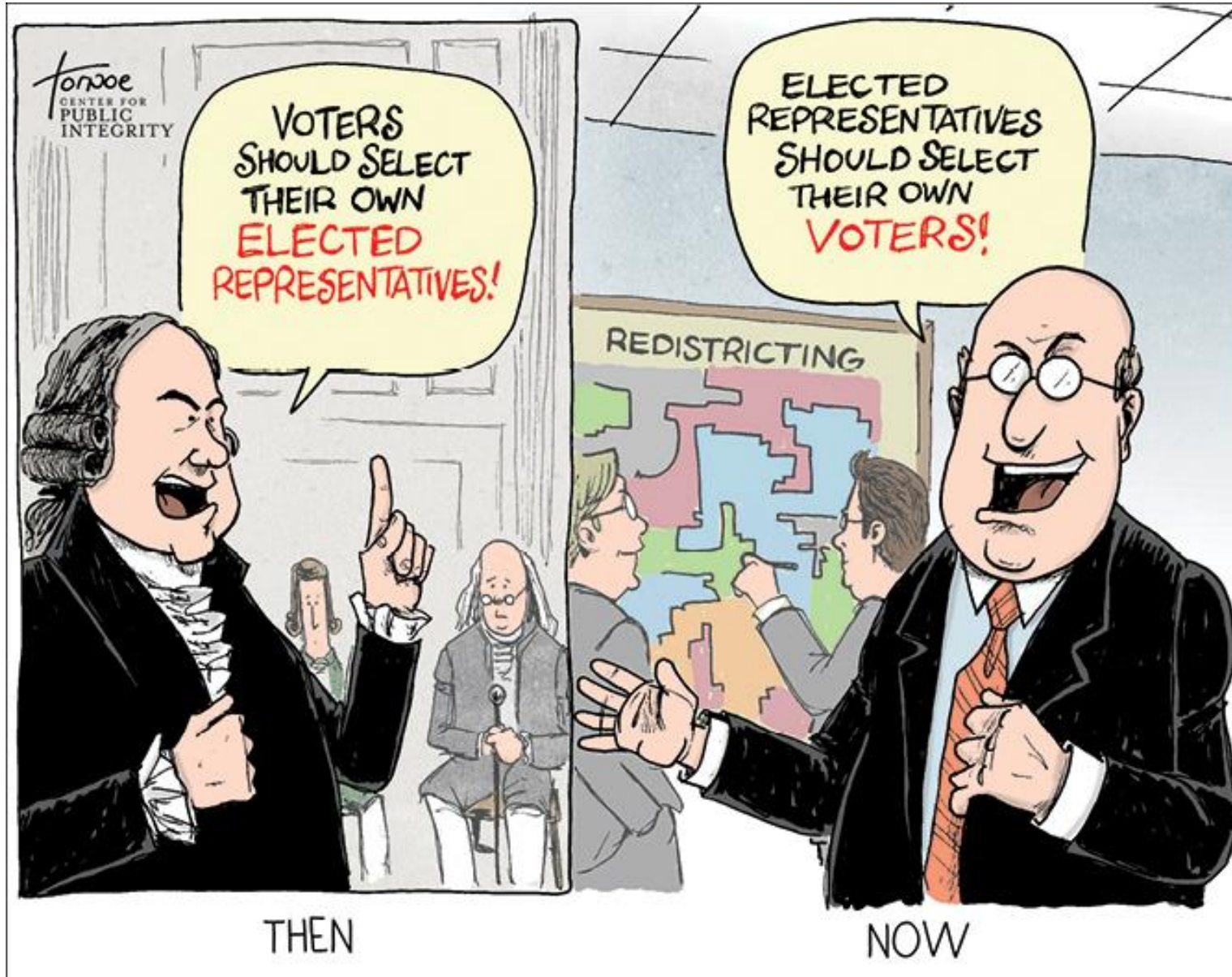
## **National Republican Redistricting Trust - raising \$35M by 2020**

- coordinating redistricting strategy, with an emphasis on legal action and data collection and interpretation rather than contributions to individual campaigns.
- The organization stands for **Compact Districts, Preserving Communities of Interest** (split as few counties and other political geographies as possible), and complying with the **Voting Rights Act** and State Laws. *(from Ballotpedia)*

**National Democratic Redistricting Committee** is raising funds to battle gerrymandering in four areas: **Litigation:** Challenge maps that are unfair to Democrats, **Mobilization:** Build infrastructure to engage people in the redistricting process, **Reform:** Enact fairer redistricting systems in the states, and **Elections:** Elect Democrats in targeted seats to level the playing field.



# Response by Republicans and Democrats





# Response by Republicans and Democrats

## Governor Abbott on Redistricting Reform

**Liberals are trying to mess with Texas. And they don't plan on stopping there...**

With the help of hedge fund billionaire George Soros, the National Democratic Redistricting Committee hopes to wrest control from voters of congressional re-districting in 2021 when booming conservative states such as Texas will gain seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. All for the benefit of their special-interest donors....

Headed by former Attorney General Eric Holder, the tax-exempt 527 political action committee plans a three-pronged attack to flood state-level races with outside money, to leverage activist courts to wrest control of state redistricting plans, and finally, with the formidable community organizing prowess of former President Barack Obama, to fund astroturfed ballot initiatives in the guise of "fairness....."

**Those winning conservative economic policies are threatened by the Democrats' plan to re-engineer Texas' district maps to make them look like California's maps...**

The GOP needs to take the Soros network and the Holder, Obama, and Pelosi alliance seriously.  
The integrity of the people's vote is at stake.

**We must ensure re-districting efforts reflect the will of the people — not the depth of donors' pockets....**

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/gov-greg-abbott-how-george-soros-is-helping-obama-democrats-buy-their-way-back-to-power/article/2630103>



# Engaging with your “Representatives”

**Know your representatives! Know their positions. Add them as contacts on your phone.**

**Call, email, write, and visit. Facebook and twitter not so much.**

## Effective Messaging:

- Lead with values (patriotism, democracy, engaging voters, restoring faith in democracy)
- Share personal stories (any impact of gerrymandering)
- Provide reasons why it matters (hyperpartisanship, gridlock, lack of debate and compromise)
- Offer that Independent Redistricting Commission is the best solution (shrinks/eliminates partisan gerrymandering)





# Engaging with your “Representatives”

## Recent Bi-Partisan Poll shows:

- 71% of Americans want the Supreme Court to place limits on lawmakers’ ability to manipulate voting maps. This includes 80 percent of Democrats, 68 percent of Independents and 65 percent of Republicans.
- “Americans trust the Supreme Court to rein in partisan gerrymandering and want the Court to act,” said Celinda Lake, President of Lake Research Partners. “Voters are deeply concerned about politicians manipulating voting maps to serve their own political advantage and are looking for a solution.”
- By a margin of 62 to 10 percent, voters are less likely to support a candidate who supports partisan gerrymandering.
- By a margin of 73 to 14 percent, voters support removing partisan bias from redistricting, even if it means their preferred political party will win fewer seats.

<http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org>



# Ask Elected Officials Tough Questions about Redistricting

(From the League of Women Voters)

- 1. Do you support an independent nonpartisan redistricting commission to draw district maps? If not, why and what options for redistricting reform do you support?**
- 2. How will you promote the development of district maps that are more transparent for voters? What opportunities will voters have to participate in the drawing of new district maps?**
- 3. What role should elected officials have in drawing their own districts? Should there be disregard for political parties or incumbents?**
- 4. How will you support district maps that comply with the federal Voting Rights Act?**
- 5. How should computers and technology facilitate the creation of new maps, and how much information should be shared with voters?**
- 6. How will you ensure that entire cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest are maintained in a single district?**

[http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/redistricting\\_action\\_kit\\_-\\_questions\\_for\\_elected\\_officials.pdf](http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/redistricting_action_kit_-_questions_for_elected_officials.pdf)



# Engaging with your “Representatives”

## Talking Points

- **Voters choose representatives. Representatives should not choose their voters.**
- **Gerrymandering is a form of election rigging.**
- **Favors incumbents and party over the will of the people.**
- **Partisan protected Representatives adhere to favor party loyalty over the concerns of their constituents.**
- **Partisan Gerrymandering denies voters access to a representative democracy.**
- **Gerrymandering kills the value of the vote.**
- **Unfair Maps = Poor Representation.**
- **Gerrymandering is bad for business – extreme legislation causes businesses to leave.**



# Engaging with your “Representatives”

## Asks

- **Increase transparency and citizen engagement in the redistricting process.**
- **Ensure the Redistricting Committee meets regularly (not since 2013)**
- **Seriously consider Joint Resolutions on Redistricting Reform.**
- **Sponsor or co-sponsor bills to develop an Independent Redistricting Commission.**
- **Work to better engage citizens and increase voter turnout.**
- **Commit to sitting down with representatives from Fair Maps Texas and other groups promoting redistricting reform.**





# Engaging with your “Representatives”

## Independent Redistricting Commission

- No consideration of incumbent location
- No utilization of voting data
- Identification of Communities of Interest
- Standard and consistently applied rules to map development.
- Keep maps compact
- Ensure development of Opportunity Districts
- Open and transparent process
- Hearings with citizens on proposed maps



# ***Proven Solutions To Gerrymandering***



**Independent or bipartisan redistricting commissions**



**Strong rules for the redistricting process**



**Litigation that challenges illegal gerrymandering**



**Citizen action to hold legislators accountable**

**From Common Cause**



**It is not a liberal cause.**

**It is not a conservative cause.**

**It is a fairness cause.**

**FAIR MAPS = FAIR VOTES**