

Information on Redistricting

(Source: [Associated Press](#), March 21, 2019)

In most places, state lawmakers and governors are responsible for drawing and approving maps for U.S. and state legislative districts following each U.S. Census.

There is a census every 10 years. The latest census was in 2020, but it was extended because of the Covid pandemic.

A growing number of states are shifting the task of redistricting to independent or bipartisan commissions, or making other changes intended to reduce the likelihood of partisan gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering is a term used to name what many believe are unfairly drawn districts that limit the power of the people living in those districts and prevent them from electing the representatives they want because of the way the districts are drawn.

The following states use commissions or other nontraditional methods for the current round of redistricting: Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont, and Washington.

Information on H.R. 1, the For the People Act

On March 3, 2021, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 1, (H.R. 1) the For the People Act, a bill that addresses both the redistricting process and voting, including voting access, integrity in voting, and secure voting. Most say it is unlikely to pass in the Senate, especially given current filibuster rules, which require a 60-vote majority to pass a bill.

According to the [Brennan Center for Justice](#), a non-partisan law and policy institute, “As of February 19, [more than 253 bills](#) restricting voting access had been... introduced in 43 states, and the number is rising. Already, two of [these bills](#) have passed, and many are moving aggressively through state legislatures.” The proposed laws will limit early in-person voting, mail-in voting, and absentee voting. One [Georgia law](#), HB 531, makes it a misdemeanor to deliver food and water to anyone waiting in line to vote.

The Brennan Center charges that many of the 253 bills are “discriminatory in design,” and “have the potential to dramatically reduce voting access, especially for Black and brown voters.” They support passage of the For the People Act, which would thwart bills that restrict voter access.

Section two of the For the People Act proposes that all states “adopt independent redistricting commissions for purposes of drawing Congressional districts.”