

Uphold the Will of the People: Keep Fair Maps!

[SJR 38](#) - [Sen. Hegeman](#), R-12 | [HJR 76](#) - [Rep. Trent](#), R-133 | [HJR 101](#) - [Rep. Plocher](#), R-89

These constitutional amendments would undo the mandate from voters for fair maps and fair redistricting, which passed with an overwhelming 62% of the vote in 2018. **They go far beyond 'repealing' Amendment 1, adding new, dangerous details that set the stage for truly extreme partisan gerrymandering.** Under these proposals:

- x **Political appointees could rig maps** to advance their own interests.
- x **Lobbyists and political appointees could split communities** in the name of 'compactness.'
- x **New language weakens protections for communities of color.**
- x **Independence and checks-and-balances that protect voters would be gone.**
- x **Citizens would lose rights to challenge unfair maps in court.**
- x **MO opens the door to exclude people under 18 and legal immigrants** from map counts.

AMENDMENT 1'S REFORMS PUT VOTERS FIRST

Amendment 1 created a more transparent and fair redistricting system that is supported by Republican, Democratic and Independent redistricting reform experts. Amendment 1 prohibited racial gerrymandering and partisan gerrymandering and increased transparency, requiring the state demographer to disclose data used. To add independence to the process, it established checks and balances to protect against partisan gamesmanship.

Under current, voter-approved rules:

- ✓ The nonpartisan state demographer crafts draft maps using clear, transparent criteria that protect voters. All of the data used by the demographer for draft maps is made public.
- ✓ The bipartisan redistricting commissions remain in place, and may make changes to the demographers' drafts. If the commissions chose not to make changes, the drafts from the demographer go into effect.
- ✓ Missourians who feel the maps are unfair can sue, using the strong criteria now in the constitution to contest racial gerrymandering and partisan gerrymandering.

SJR 38, HJR 76, and HJR 101 remove the demographer role completely, so map drawing and deal-making will return to party appointees behind closed doors— and then get sent to judges if the commissions fail to reach consensus. Judges are not experts in map-drawing or redistricting. Judicial panels were forcefully condemned before the passage of Amendment 1 by Republicans for the secretive ways they did their work.

BROAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

Amendment 1 passed by a landslide and won a majority of the vote in every state senate district. It also carried the day in 80 of Missouri's 114 counties, plus the City of St. Louis, and won in 149 of 163 state house districts.

Missourians knew what they voted for. Some opponents have falsely claimed that voters did not understand that redistricting reforms were part of Amendment 1, and that the multi-part nature of Amendment 1 was unconstitutional. This is absurd: Redistricting was the subject of the very first bullet in the summary on every November 2018 ballot and every petition packet signed.

Amendment 1 earned bipartisan support *because of the redistricting provisions in the measure, not in spite of them.* [Senator John Danforth in 2018:](#)

"Amendment 1 will... Create an independent process with clear, transparent criteria to ensure no party is given an unfair advantage when new maps are drawn after the next census, ensuring everyone has a voice in our democracy, not just the ideologically extreme. Districts will be compact and contiguous."

EXCLUDING PEOPLE UNDER 18 & LEGAL IMMIGRANTS Opening the door to “citizen voting-age population” proposals

Right now, Missouri is like almost every other state: Districts are drawn on the basis of **total population** — all the people who live in an area.

This new plan makes a subtle but extreme change: It removes “total population” language that currently requires everyone to be counted in districts. The effect opens the door to a scheme that would only count eligible Missourians of voting age for redistricting— and *not count* people under 18, refugees, and other non-citizens.

WHY IT MATTERS THAT WE COUNT EVERYONE

The population numbers for legislative districts are crucial for our communities. Representation determines how resources get allocated. When our neighbors aren’t represented and included in all counts, our entire community loses out.

Families with children would lose the most. A lot changes in 10 years, including many children becoming eligible to vote. It doesn’t make sense to not count or represent a 16-year-old until they become 26, denying them representation as they drive on our roads and use public services.

We're not talking about who votes — but about who is *represented*. We need fair maps that include **all of us**. Everyone uses services and everyone exists and lives here.

- Excluding the **nearly 1.5 million people under 18** will systematically under-count Black and Latinx communities.
- State legislators make decisions about funding and governing public education, so it’s essential that their districts count the children they represent.
- Many legal immigrants who are not eligible to vote live, work in, and contribute taxes to our communities, including those who served in our military, have U.S. citizen children, and have protected refugee status.

