Results of a recent North Carolina survey show that Republicans, Democrats and independent voters agree that gerrymandering is a major problem that undermines the integrity of our elections. State legislators and other elected officials have an opportunity to improve trust in our elections by adopting fair voting district maps, improving transparency and preventing special interests from participating in redistricting.

This data is based on a survey of 416 participants in a North Carolina online survey panel administered by YouGov. This survey was conducted between June 30 and July 8. For this sample of 416 respondents the worst-case margin of error at the 95% level is plus or minus 5.86%.

1) Nine-in-ten Oppose Gerrymandering and Two-Thirds Say It Would Be a Major Problem if Voting Districts in North Carolina Are Gerrymandered

Nine-in-ten (89% of voters) oppose drawing voting districts to help one political party or certain politicians win an election. Across the board, gerrymandering is deeply unpopular with Americans – this includes 91% of Democrats, 91% of independent and unaffiliated voters, and 86% of Republicans who oppose gerrymandering. This bipartisan opposition to gerrymandering extends to people who voted for Donald Trump (89% oppose) and people who voted for Joe Biden (92% oppose).

By nearly eight-to-one (58% to 7%), voters expect that congressional and legislative districts in North Carolina will be gerrymandered when the districts are redrawn this year. This concern exists in both parties as 51% of Republicans and 61% of Democrats expect their districts will be gerrymandered. 60% of independents share this expectation.

If their districts are gerrymandered, 69% of voters say it would be a major problem, including 82% of Democrats, 64% of independents and 60% of Republicans.

*As you may know, **redistricting** occurs every ten years when each state redraws their U.S. congressional and state legislative voting districts so that each district has an equal number of people.*

***Gerrymandering** is when those voting districts are drawn to help one political party or certain politicians win an election.*
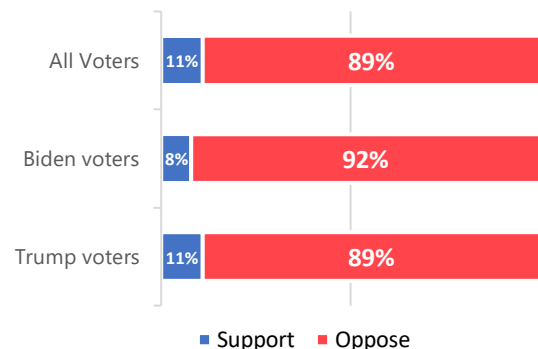
Do you support or oppose gerrymandering?

Voters so strongly believe that gerrymandering is a problem that they also put aside the advantages for their preferred political party. **Nine-in-ten voters (90%) say congressional and legislative districts should be drawn in a fair way that does not benefit their preferred political party**. This view is shared by 96% of voters who identify as liberal, 83% of voters who identify as moderate, and 95% of voters who identify as conservative.

Finally, **nearly half of voters (46%) do not trust state legislators to draw new congressional and state legislative voting districts**, while just 22% do trust legislators. A lack of trust is shared by conservative voters (41% distrust, 25% trust), moderate voters (39% distrust, 19% trust), and liberal voters (65% distrust compared to 13% who trust legislators). **In fact, 69% of voters would support banning state politicians from even participating in the redistricting process** – compared to just 8% who would oppose such a ban. 80% of voters who think gerrymandered districts are a major problem support such a ban alongside 78% of Democrats, 66% of Independents and 64% of Republicans.

However, there is an opening to gain the trust of voters. If independent experts and leaders in both major parties agree that new voting districts are fair and not gerrymandered, 52% of voters would be more likely to trust their state's elections, including 61% of Democrats and 48% of Republicans. Among the two-thirds of voters who say gerrymandering would be a major problem, 59% would have more trust in their state's elections if voting districts were drawn fairly.

2) Substantial Majorities Support Policies That Increase Transparency, Limit Special Interests, and Prevent Advantage to One Party Over Another.
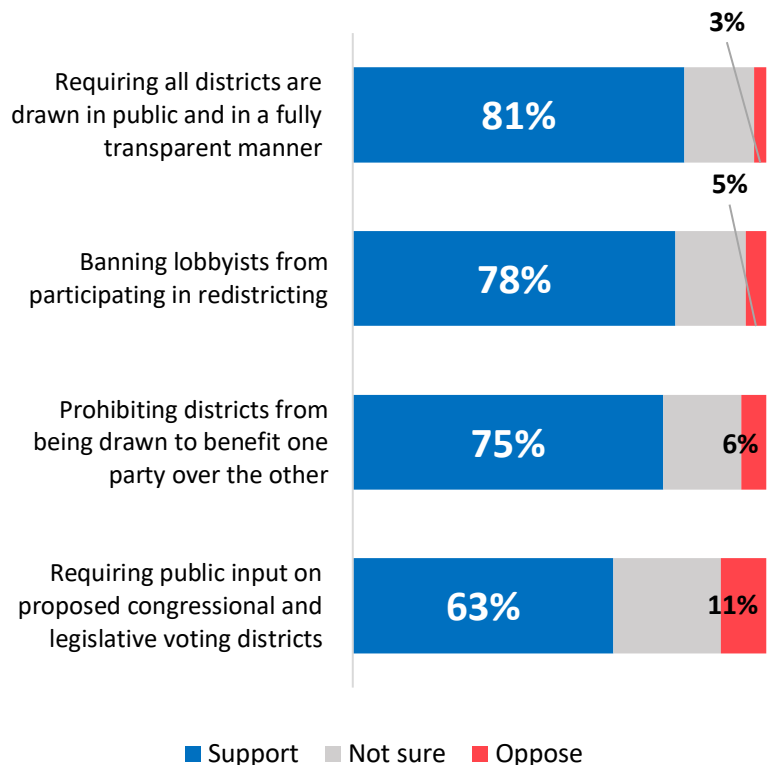
Because voters have widespread concerns that voting districts in North Carolina will be gerrymandered, there is widespread support for policies that increase transparency and limit the role of special interests in the redistricting process.

Eight-in-ten voters (81%) support requiring that voting districts be drawn in public and in a fully transparent manner. Just 3% of voters oppose such a requirement. Supporters of this policy include 82% of Republicans and 84% of Democrats, 88% of voters who say gerrymandering is a major problem, and 84% of men and 79% of women. More specifically, by about a six-to-one margin (63% support to 11% oppose) voters want the redistricting process in North Carolina to include public input.

A prominent 75% of voters also support "prohibiting districts from being drawn to benefit one political party over the other," with strong agreement between both major political parties – Democrats support this with 83% and Republicans with 72%. Independent voters also considerably support this statement with 69% support.

In addition to increasing the public's role in the redistricting process, 78% of voters want to limit the role of lobbyists and special interests.

Republicans are among the most likely to support this restriction (83% support), while at least seven-in-ten voters across the political spectrum agree – 83% of very conservative voters as well as 88% of very liberal voters and 72% of moderate voters support this proposal.

3) Top Concerns: Gerrymandering Is a Conflict of Interest That Benefits People Who Want to Rig the Rules and Undermine Our Elections. Voters Think This Process Needs More Transparency.

The problem with redistricting, as voters see it, is that it creates a conflict of interest that's used by people in power to go behind closed doors and rig the outcome of our elections.

75% of voters express at least quite a bit of concern that "politicians today have used gerrymandering to rig the outcome of elections in their favor and undermine the integrity of our elections." Again, there is consensus across party lines – a substantial 85% of Democrats and 69% of Republicans share this concern.

Another primary concern of voters is the lack of transparency in the process. **75% of voters have at least quite a bit of concern that "politicians and lobbyists gerrymander new districts behind closed doors with no transparency,"** including 87% of conservative voters, 73% of liberal voters, 67% of moderate voters, and 83% of voters who regularly follow current events and news.

A final major concern from voters is that "politicians can rig the outcome of their own election because they get to decide which voters and which communities they represent." This ethically compromising position is at least quite a bit concerning to 74% of North Carolina voters and is yet another area of bipartisan concern - 66% of Republicans and 86% of Democrats agree.