

From: RepresentUS
To: Interested Parties
Subject: National Polling: Voters See Gerrymandering as a Major Problem, Want Reform
Date: August 4, 2021

Results of a recent national 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 500 participants in a national online survey panel administered by YouGov. This survey was conducted between June 30 and July 8. For this sample of 500 respondents the worst-case margin of error at the 95% level is plus or minus 4.4%.

1) Nearly All Voters Oppose Gerrymandering and Two-Thirds Say It Would Be a Major Problem if Voting Districts in Their State 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, 90% of independent and unaffiliated voters, and 84% of Republicans who oppose gerrymandering. This bipartisan opposition to gerrymandering extends to people who voted for Donald Trump (88% oppose) and people who voted for Joe Biden (92% oppose).

Meanwhile, the strongest opposition to gerrymandering comes from voters age 65+, 73% of which say they strongly oppose gerrymandering, while two-thirds (67%) of white voters are also strongly opposed.

By nearly three-to-one (43% to 15%), voters expect that congressional and legislative districts in their state will be gerrymandered when the districts are redrawn this year. This concern exists in both parties as 47% of Republicans and 41% of Democrats expect their districts will be gerrymandered.

If their districts are gerrymandered, two-thirds (66%) of voters say it would be a major problem. The voters who most see gerrymandering as a major problem are age 50+ (72% say major problem), Democrats (72%) and white voters (68%). Within other groups, too, a substantial majority of voters see gerrymandering as a major problem, including 62% of Republicans and 60% of people who identify as conservative.

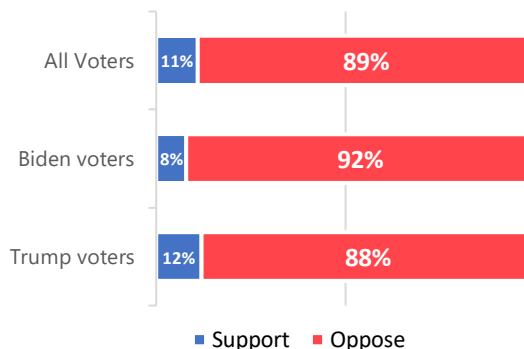
Voters so strongly believe that gerrymandering is a problem that they also put aside the advantages for their preferred political party. **Almost all voters (91%) say congressional and legislative districts should be drawn in a fair way that does not benefit their preferred political party.** This view is shared by 93% of voters who identify as very liberal and 90% of voters who identify as very conservative.

Finally, **nearly half of voters (48%) do not trust state legislators to draw new congressional and state legislative voting districts**, while just 25% do trust legislators. A lack of trust is shared by both Republicans (47%

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?



distrust, 37% trust) and Democrats (42% distrust compared to 28% 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. Voters who would most like to outlaw elected officials from participating in the process are age 65+ (84% support) and the two-thirds of voters who think gerrymandered districts are a major problem (81% support a ban).

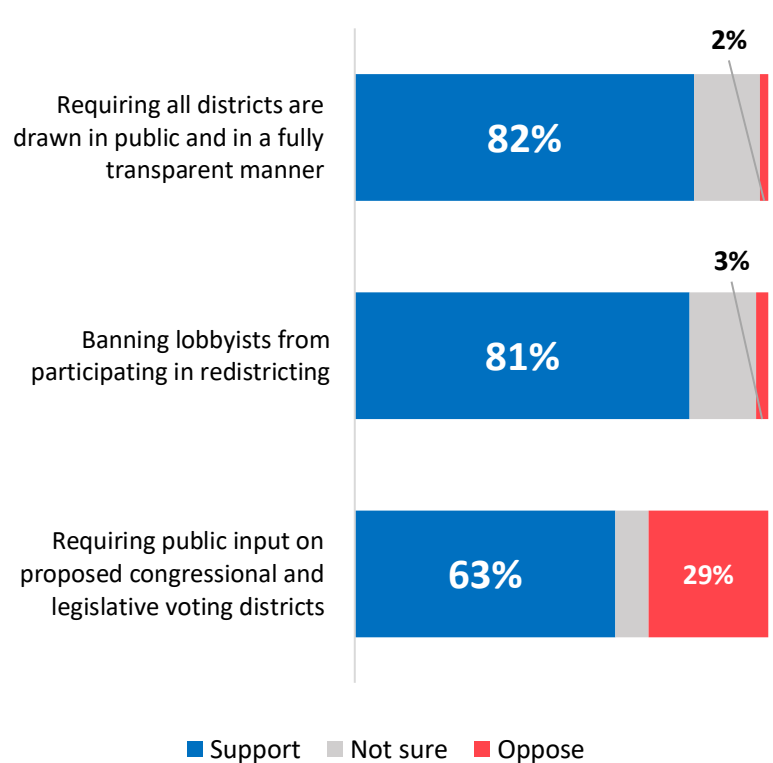
However, there is an opening to gain the trust of voters. If independent experts and leaders in both major parties agree that new voting districts are fair and not gerrymandered, 58% of voters would be more likely to trust their state’s elections, including 73% of Democrats and 51% of Republicans. Among the two-thirds of voters who say gerrymandering would be a major problem, 68% would have more trust in their state’s elections if voting districts were drawn fairly.

2) Substantial Majorities Support Policies That Increase Transparency and Limit Special Interests

Because voters have widespread concerns that voting districts in their state 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 (82%) support requiring that voting districts be drawn in public and in a fully transparent manner. Just two percent of voters oppose such a requirement. Supporters of this policy include 86% of Republicans and 83% of Democrats, 92% of voters who say gerrymandering is a major problem, and 79% of men and 86% of women. More specifically, by an eight-to-one margin (63% support to 8% oppose) voters want the redistricting process in their state to include public input. Voters age 50+ support requiring public input by a 65% margin (72% support, compared to just 7% who oppose).

In addition to increasing the public’s role in the redistricting process, 81% of voters want to limit the role of lobbyists and special interests. Republicans are among the most likely to support this restriction (85% support), while at least eight-in-ten voters across the political spectrum agree – 91% of very conservative voters as well as 85% of very liberal 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.

Six-in-ten voters express a great deal 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 nearly identical 61% of Democrats and 58% of Republicans share this concern. This sentiment, in particular, is shared by supporters of Donald Trump as 59% say they’re concerned a great deal.

Another primary concern of voters is the lack of transparency in the process. 58% of voters have a great deal of concern that “politicians and lobbyists gerrymander new districts behind closed doors with no transparency,” including 67% of voters over age 65, 72% of very conservative voters, and 73% 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 concerning to 57% of voters and is another area of bipartisan agreement - 57% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats are concerned a great deal by this statement.