

From: RepresentUS

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Florida Polling: Voters See Gerrymandering as a Major Problem, Want Reform

Date: Sept 16, 2021

Results of a recent survey in Florida 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 428 participants in a Florida online survey panel administered by YouGov. This survey was conducted between June 30 and July 8. For this sample of 428 respondents the worst-case margin of error at the 95% level is plus or minus 5.42%.

1) About Eight-in-ten Oppose Gerrymandering and Nearly Two-Thirds Say It Would Be a Major Problem if Voting Districts in Florida Are Gerrymandered

Eight-in-ten (80% of voters) oppose drawing voting districts to help one political party or certain politicians win an election. Across the board, gerrymandering is unpopular with Floridians – this includes 81% of Democrats, 83% of independents and unaffiliated voters, and 76% of Republicans who oppose gerrymandering. This bipartisan opposition to gerrymandering extends to people who voted for Donald Trump (75% oppose) and people who voted for Joe Biden (88% oppose).

By three-to-one (43% to 14%), voters expect that congressional and legislative districts in Florida will be gerrymandered when the districts are redrawn this year. **Additionally, if their districts are gerrymandered, 59% of voters say it would be a major problem**, including 71% of Democrats, 56% of independents, and 49% of Republicans.

Voters so strongly believe that gerrymandering is a problem that they also put aside the advantages for their preferred political party. **Nearly nine-in-ten voters (87%) 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 94% of voters who identify as liberal, 94% of moderate voters, and 85% of voters who identify as conservative.

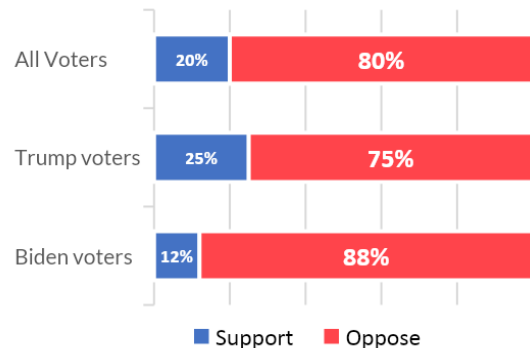
Additionally, 64% of voters would support banning state politicians from participating in the redistricting process – compared to just 9% who would oppose such a ban. 79% of voters who think gerrymandered districts are a major problem support such a ban alongside 71% of Democrats, 74% of independents, and 52% 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, 57% of voters would be more likely to trust their state's elections**, including 77% of liberal voters, 61% of moderate voters, and 51% of conservative voters. Among the 69% of voters who say gerrymandering would be a major problem, 67% would have more trust in their state's elections if voting districts were drawn fairly.

*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?



2) Substantial Majorities Support Policies That Increase Transparency, Limit Special Interests, and Prevent Advantage to One Party Over Another.

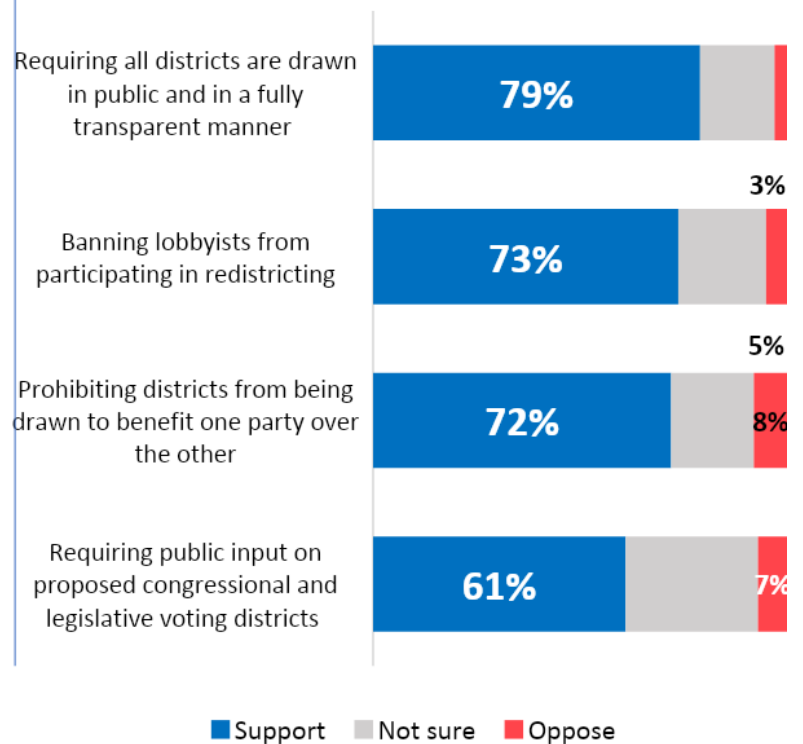
Because voters have widespread concerns that voting districts in their state will be gerrymandered, there is widespread support for policies that increase transparency and limit the role of special interests in the redistricting process.

Nearly eight-in-ten voters (79%) 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 76% of Republicans and 78% of Democrats, 91% of voters who say gerrymandering is a major problem, and 84% of men and 75% of women. **More specifically, by a four-to-one margin (61% support to 7% oppose) voters want the redistricting process in their state to include public input.**

A prominent 72% 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 76% and Republicans with 66%. Independent voters also considerably support this statement with 73% support.

In addition to increasing the public’s role in the redistricting process, 73% of voters want to limit the role of lobbyists and special interests.

Republicans are likely to support this restriction (64% support), while over seven-in-ten voters across the political spectrum agree – 73% of conservative voters as well as 85% of liberal voters and 80% of moderate voters support this proposal.



3) Top Concerns: Gerrymandering Is a Conflict of Interest That Benefits Politicians and Undermines 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.

69% 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 71% of Democrats, 69% of independents, and 65% of Republicans share this concern.

Another primary concern of voters is the lack of transparency in the process. **69% of voters have at least quite a bit of concern that “politicians and lobbyists gerrymander new districts behind closed doors with no transparency,”** including 61% of conservative voters, 74% of moderate voters, 84% of liberal voters, and 77% 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 70% of Florida voters and is yet another area of bipartisan concern - 68% of Republicans, 68% of independents, and 72% of Democrats agree.