FACT SHEET

The Case for Independent Redistricting Commissions

September 2024



Rainey Center

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Promotes Fair Representation

Independent redistricting commissions help ensure that districts are drawn based on fair, nonpartisan criteria rather than partisan interests or, just as often, the interests of incumbents desiring to eliminate primary challengers.

Reduces Gerrymandering

Independent commissions can prevent gerrymandering, where district lines are manipulated to benefit one party. This fosters more competitive elections, which can lead to greater accountability and responsiveness from elected officials.

Anti-Gerrymandering Reforms Are Popular

Gerrymandering is widely loathed among voters, and reforms intended to eliminate or reduce it attract widespread support, including when on the ballot as initiatives or constitutional amendments.

Encourages Voter Engagement

When voters believe that elections are fair, they are more likely to participate. Independent redistricting commissions can enhance public trust in the electoral process, leading to higher voter turnout among all demographics, including conservatives.

Aligns with Principles of Good Governance

Supporting independent redistricting commissions is consistent with the values of transparency, accountability, and limited government intervention. This open and publicly accountable process bolsters public confidence by avoiding the perception of conflict of interest in legislators getting to “choose their voters” rather than vice versa.

Reduces Legal Challenges

Fairer district maps produced by independent commissions are less likely to be challenged in court, saving time and taxpayer money, enhancing fiscal responsibility and efficient governance. Independent redistricting commissions have been upheld by the Supreme Court in Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, a precedent recently reaffirmed.

Promotes Long-Term Party Health

Competitive districts force parties to adapt and appeal to a broader electorate, helping to ensure that the Republican Party remains relevant and responsive to changing demographics and voter preferences.

Prevents Abuse of Power

Independent redistricting commissions prevent a single party from having unchecked power over the redistricting process. This checks and balances approach is one means of limiting government power and preventing corruption.

Encourages Policy-Based Campaigns

When districts are fairly drawn, candidates must focus on policy issues rather than relying on the advantages of gerrymandered districts. This leads to more substantive political debates, which can help advance conservative policy goals.

Reflects the Will of the People

Independent commissions draw districts that more accurately reflect the true political landscape, ensuring that elected representatives are more in tune with their constituents' needs and values, including conservative voters.

Strengthens Representative Government

Supporting independent redistricting commissions contributes to a healthier democracy by ensuring that electoral outcomes genuinely reflect the will of the people, rather than being predetermined by partisan interests. This aligns with conservative ideals of preserving the integrity of democratic institutions. The benefits of representative government through elected legislators are also encouraged, reducing the desire to conduct major and complicated policy enactments through referenda.



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