

Fair Districts GA Town Hall “Tales from the Gold Dome: Recap and Next Steps”



December 6, 2021



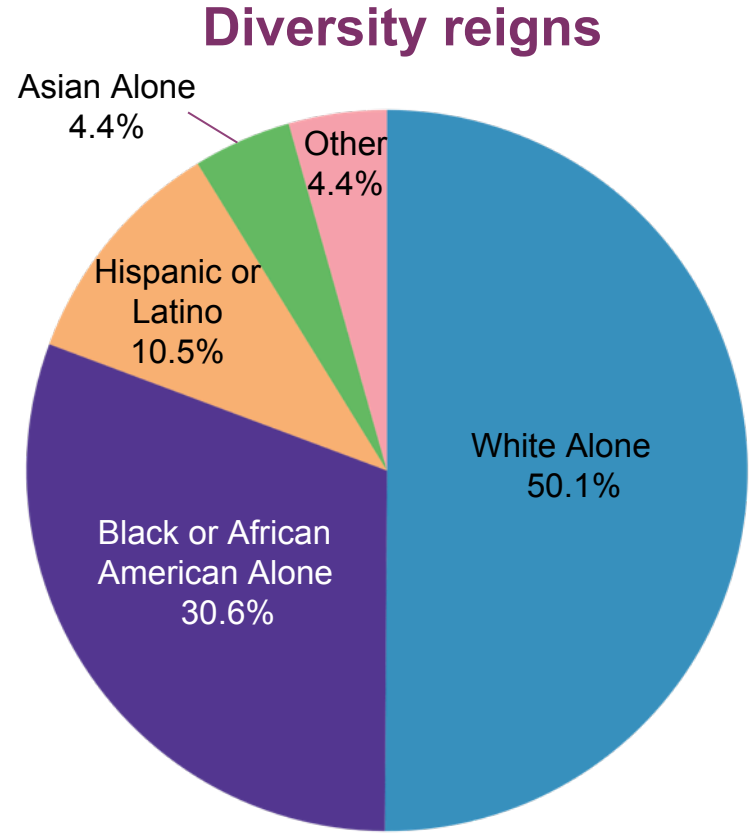
Agenda

- Welcome
- What happened?
- Evaluation of the process
- Celebrating our accomplishments
- What comes next?
- Q&A



The Big Picture: What do we expect?

Growing diversity →
Growing minority
representation

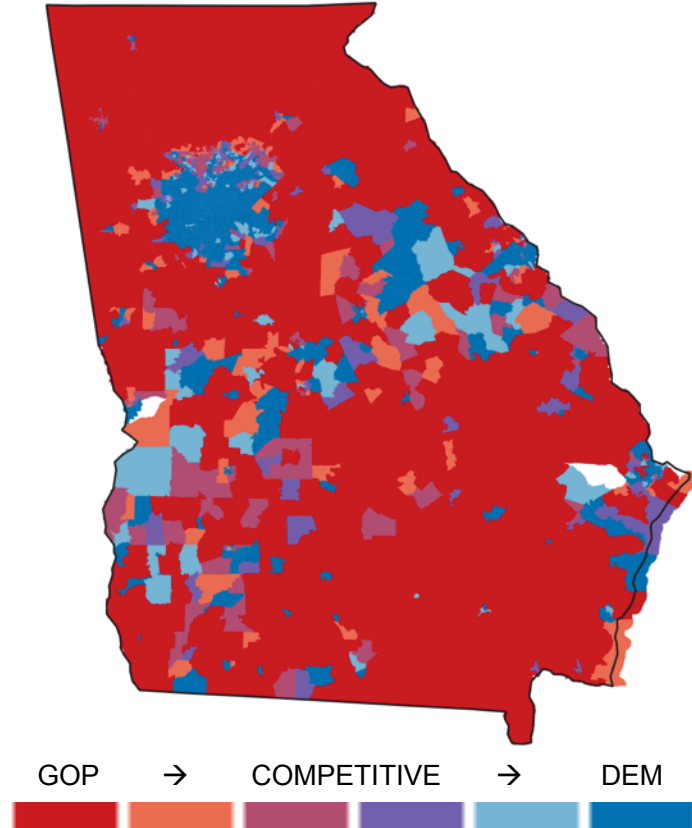


Source: 2020 US Census

The Big Picture: What do we expect?

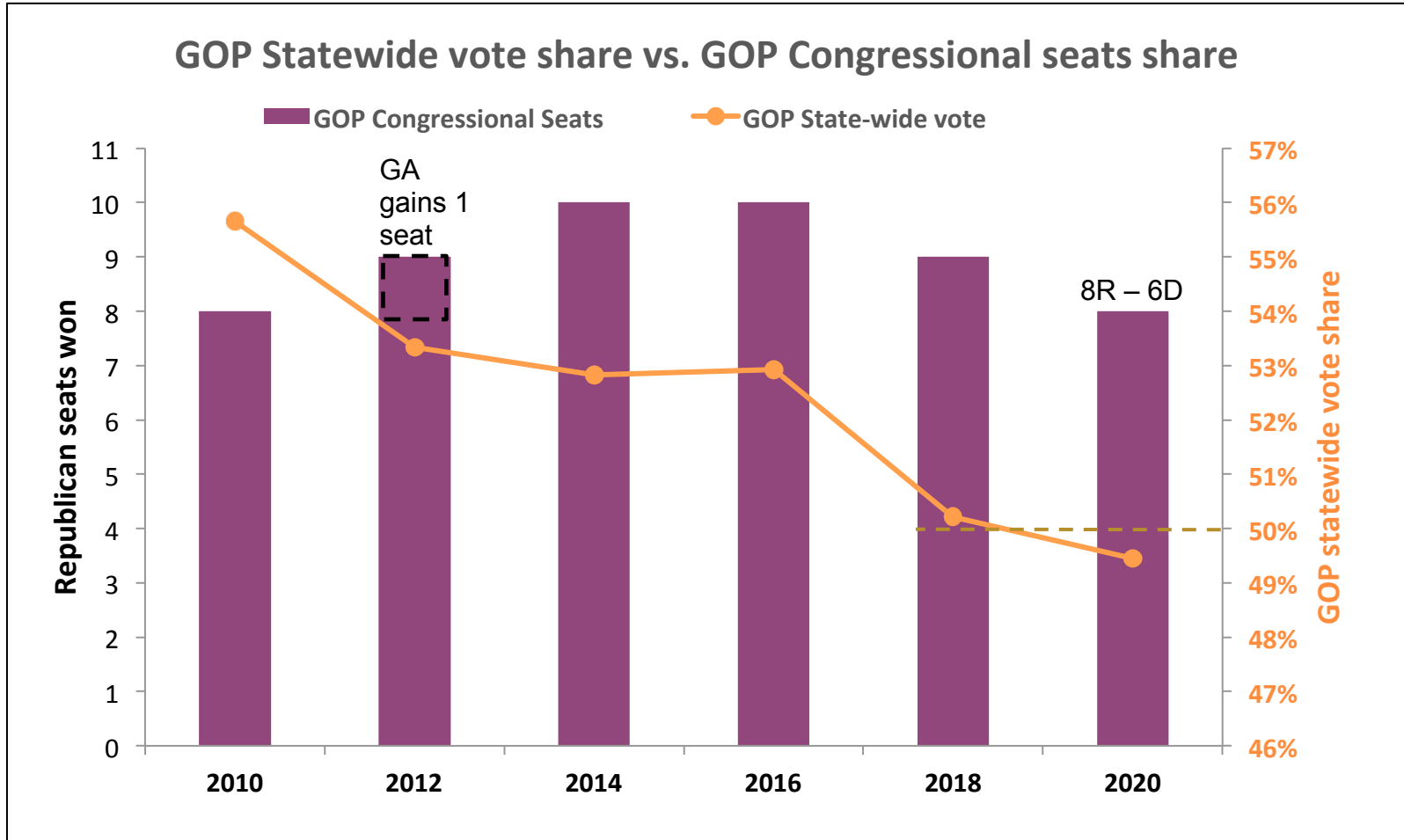
2020 Presidential Election (D+0.2%)

Swing state → Still polarized, but partisan gap narrows

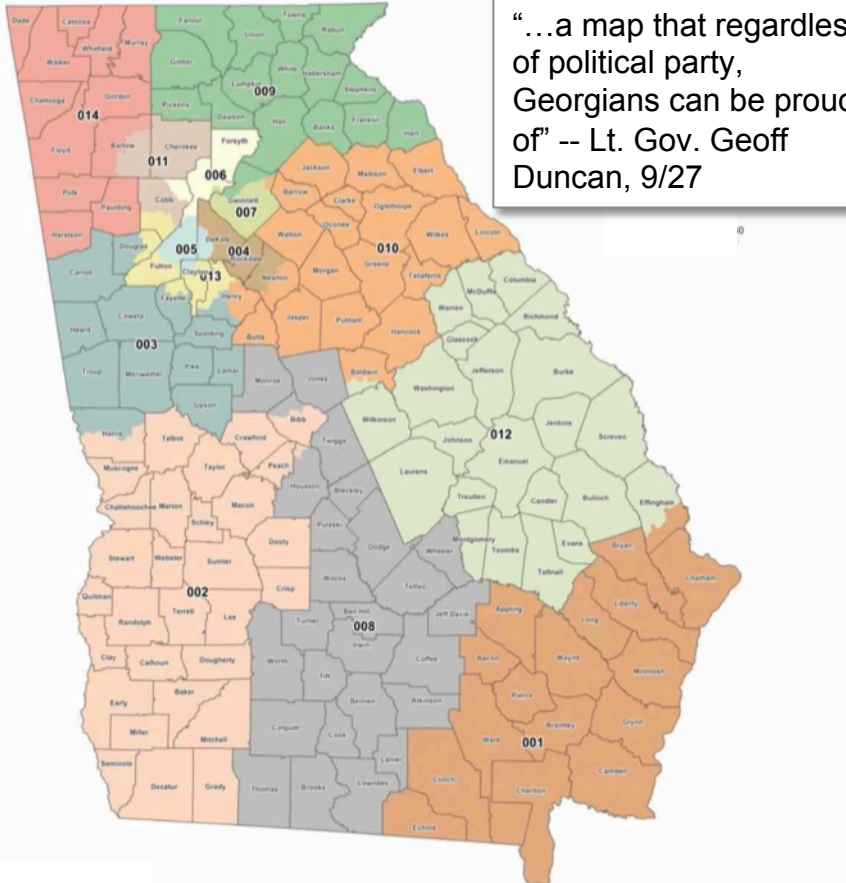


Source: Princeton
Gerrymandering
Project

Partisan gap narrowing in Congressional races since 2010

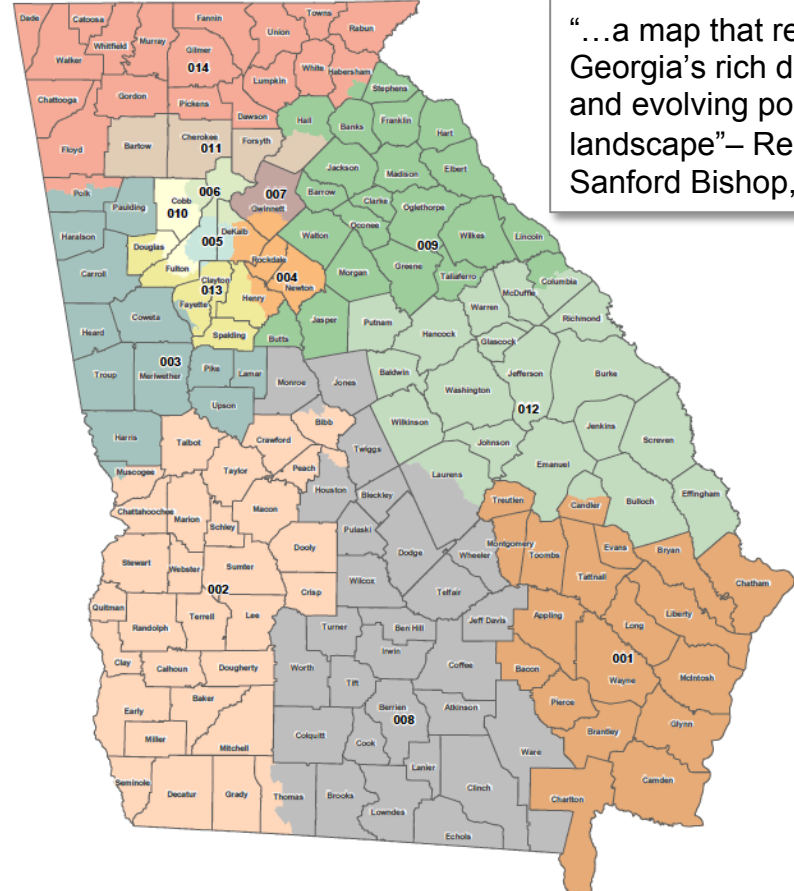


We saw two proposed Congressional maps representing partisan choices



“...a map that regardless of political party, Georgians can be proud of” -- Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, 9/27

Sept 27 Senate committee proposal (GOP)



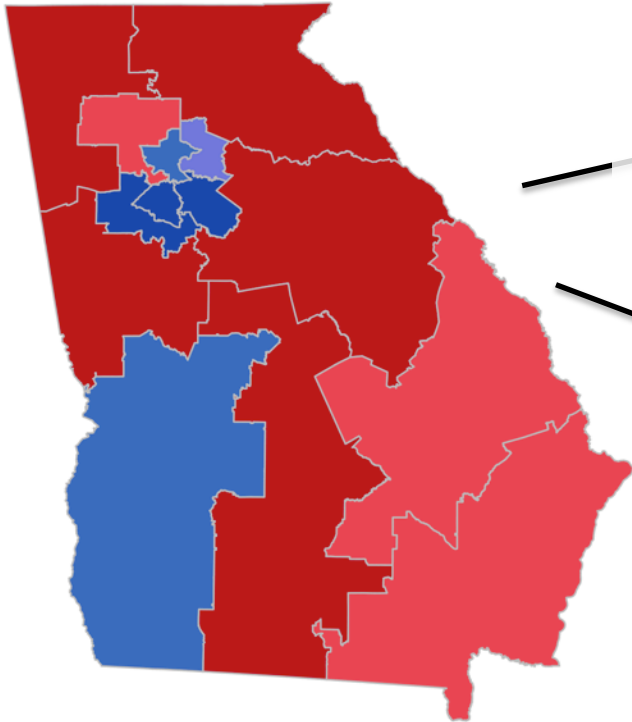
“...a map that recognizes Georgia’s rich diversity and evolving political landscape”-- Rep. Sanford Bishop, 10/21

Oct 21 Democratic Caucus proposal (Dem)

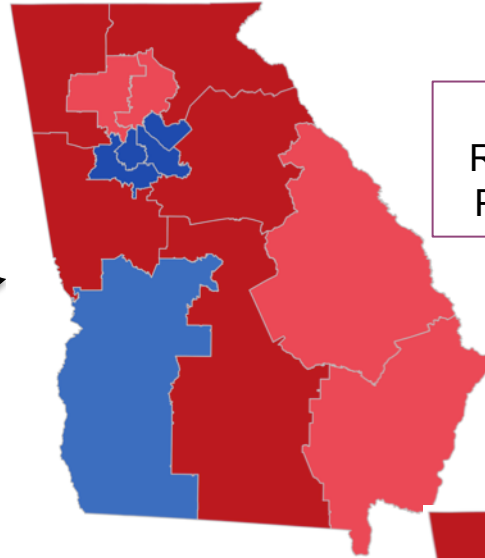
Partisan balance in Congressional maps



Estimated partisan balance in current map (2018-21) **6D** and **8R**

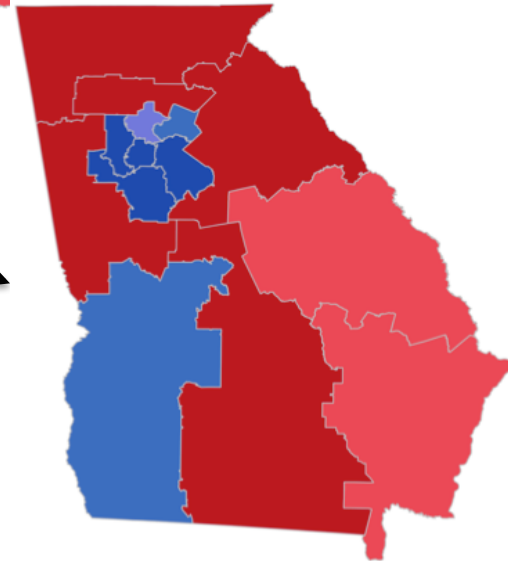


GOP proposal:
5D and **9R**



SB 2EX
Revised 11/17
Passed 11/22




Dem proposal:
7D and **7R**
(SB 3EX)



Partisan lean based on 2018-20-21 SoS election data

Congressional maps favor respective parties in a swing state



Metric	2020 election	PGP benchmark (98% of 1M maps)	Adopted map (SB 2EX)		Dem proposed map (SB 3EX)	
			Districts	What changes?	Districts	What changes?
Partisan lean	8R 6D 	8R • 6D or 9R • 5D	9R 5D 	<u>GA06 flips</u> 55% D → 59% R Northern suburbs of Atlanta all lean GOP	7R 7D 	<u>GA10 new Dem district</u> All districts in metro Atlanta lean Democratic
Competitive districts (46.5% - 53.5%)	1 (GA07)	0 - 3	0	<u>GA07 safer</u> 53% D → 63% D	1 (new GA06)	<u>GA07 safer</u> 53% D → 58% D <u>GA06 competitive</u> 54% D → 53% D
Princeton overall partisan fairness grade			C		B	

Source: PGP simulation using 2020 census and 2016-18-20 SoS election data

Proposed Dem Congressional map provides better minority representation; both maps have fewer Black districts



Metric	Existing map	PGP benchmark	Adopted map (SB 2EX)		Dem proposed map (SB 3EX)	
			Districts	What changed?	Districts	What changed?
Black majority	4	4	2	GA02: 51% → 47% GA05: 53% → 48%	2	GA02: 51% → 49% GA05: 52% → 47%
Minority coalition (excludes Black-only majority)	1	N/A	3	GA02 & 05 moved from Black majority to coalition	4	GA02 & GA05 move from Black majority to coalition Adds GA10, retains GA07
Minority influence (37% - 50%)	4	N/A	3	GA06: 42% → 36% Retains GA01, GA08, GA12	4	Retains 4 current: GA01, GA06, GA08, GA12
Total	9		8		10	

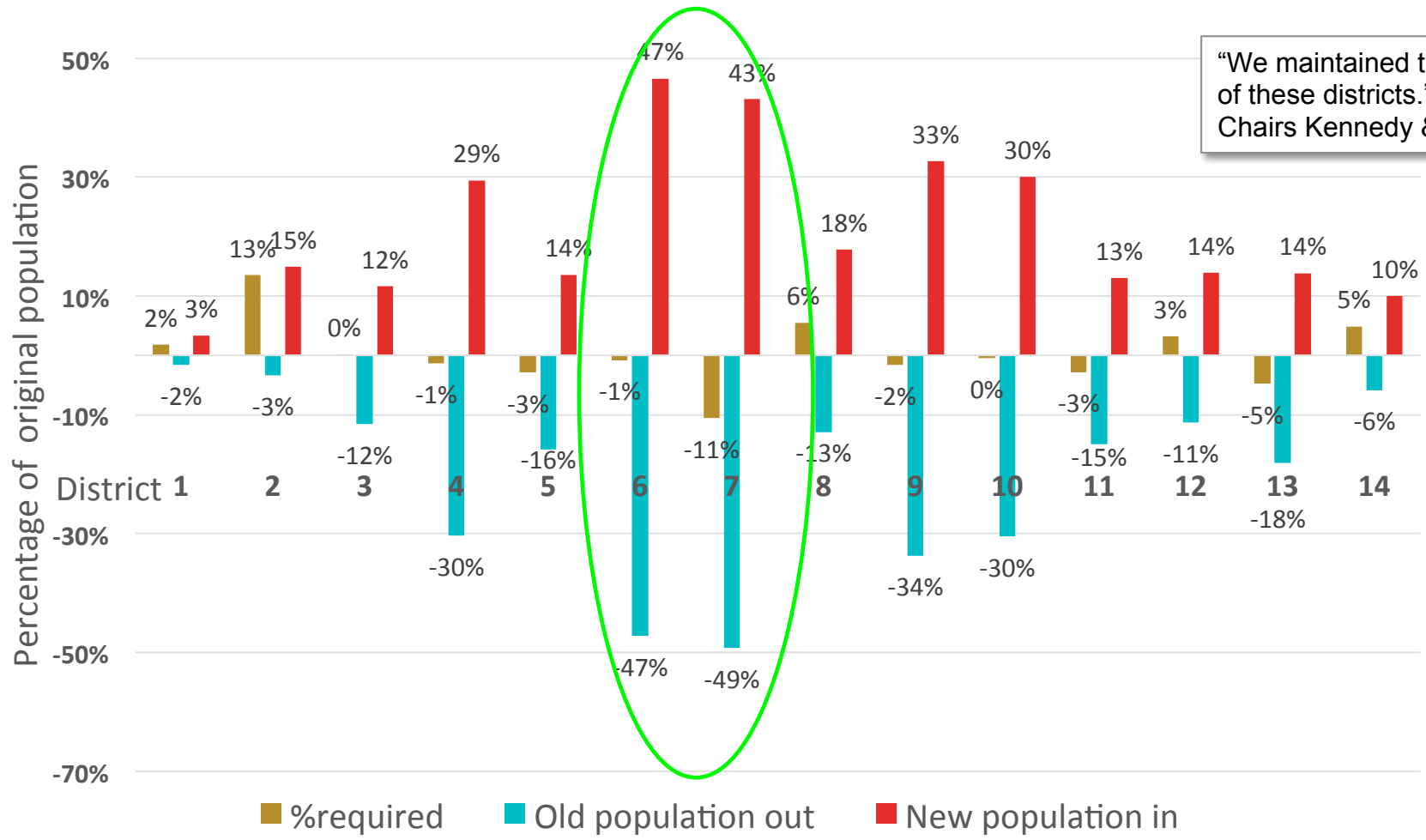


Source: PGP simulation using 2020 census

Congressional map additional observations

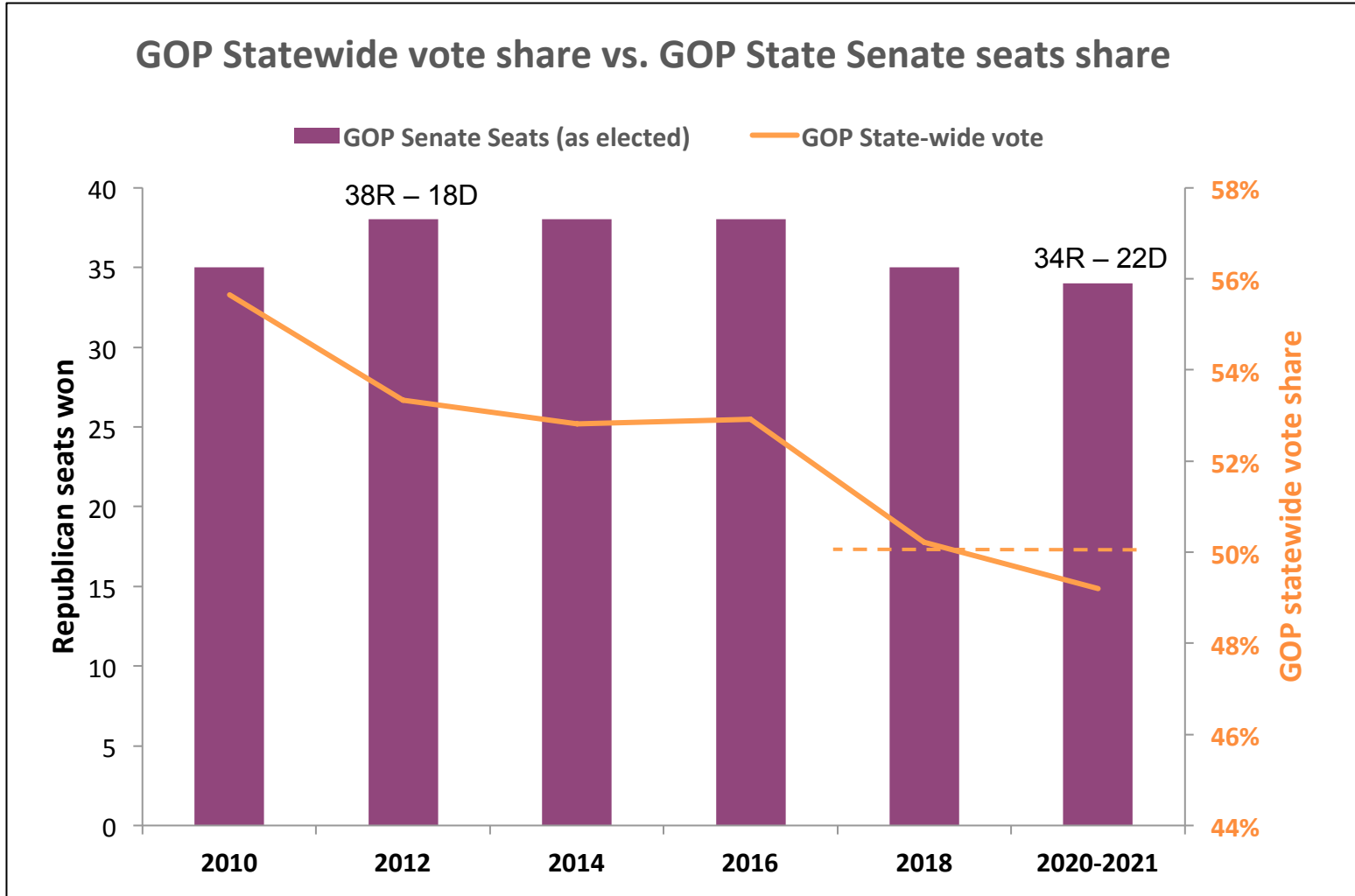
- Reunites Athens/Clarke county under 1 district
- Princeton map corps produced 5 fairer maps
 - 8R – 6D balance
 - 2-5 competitive districts
 - 5-6 Minority-majority districts
 - 9-15 counties split

Population turnover in enacted Congressional map



“We maintained the core of these districts.” -- Chairs Kennedy & Rich

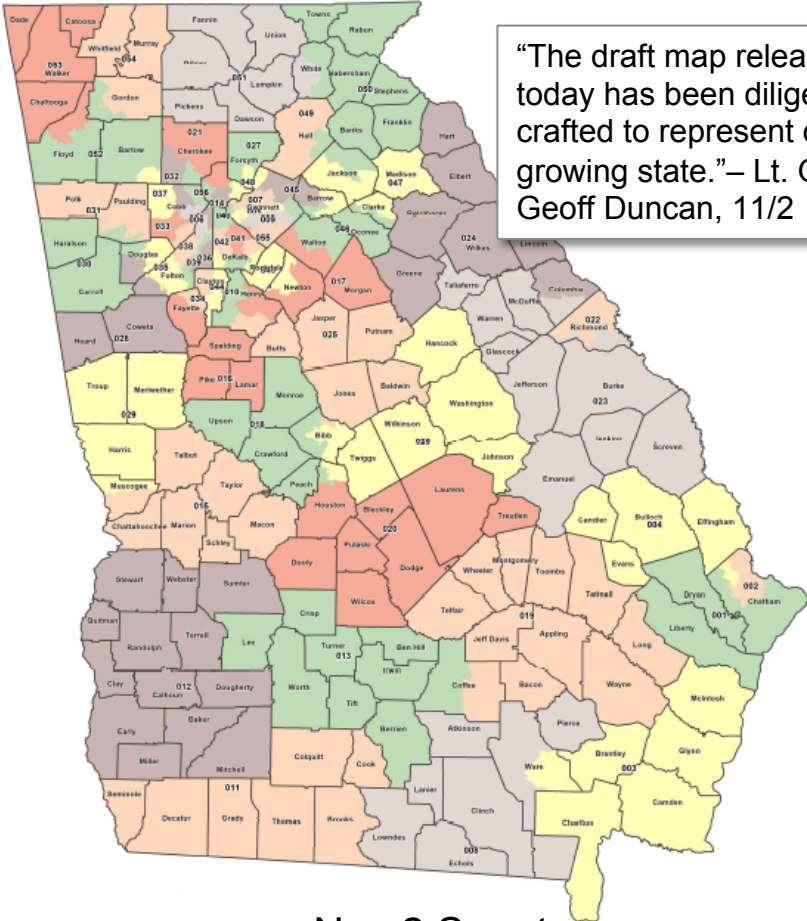
Partisan gap narrowing in State Senate races since 2010



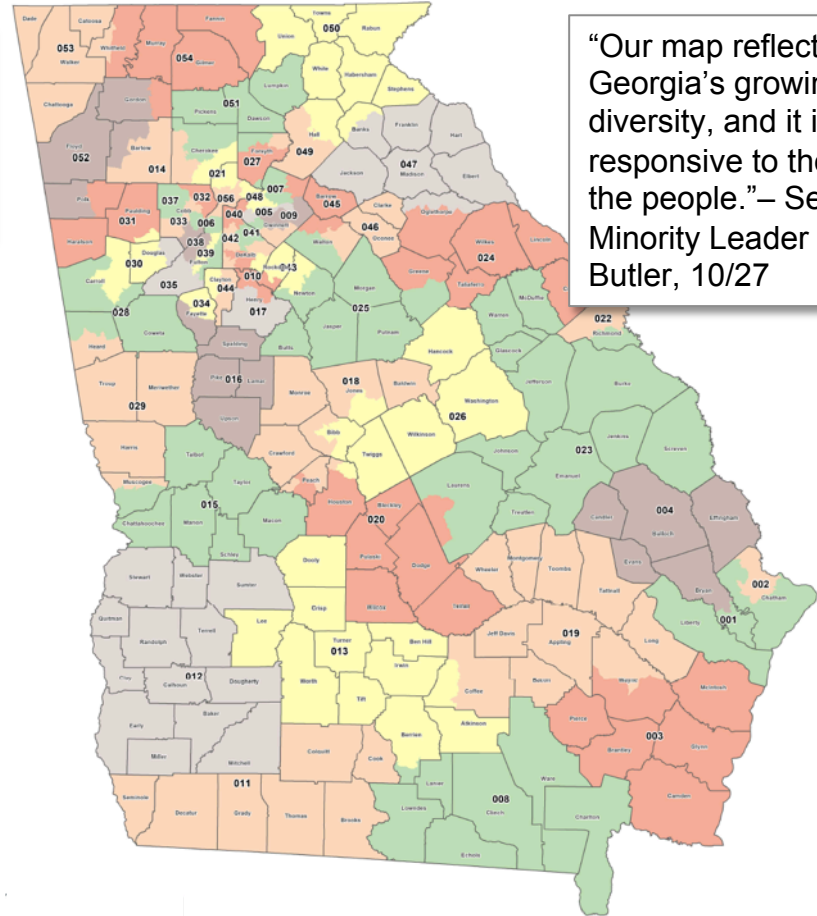
We saw 2 proposed Senate maps

“The draft map released today has been diligently crafted to represent our growing state.” – Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, 11/2

“Our map reflects Georgia’s growing diversity, and it is responsive to the will of the people.” – Sen. Minority Leader Gloria Butler, 10/27



Nov 2 Senate committee (Senate)

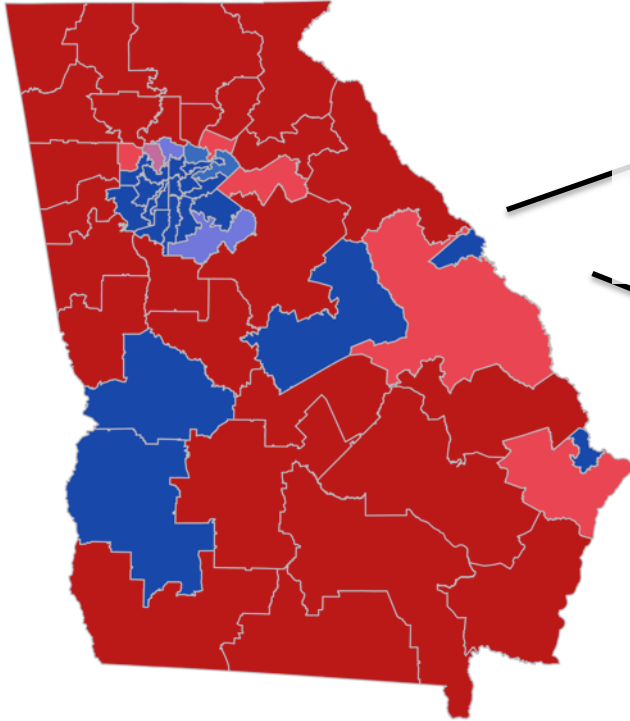


Oct 27 Democratic Caucus proposal (Dem)

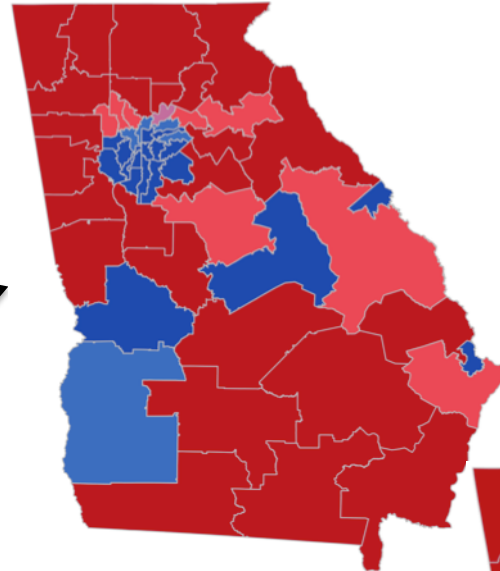
Partisan balance in State Senate maps



Estimated partisan balance in current map (2018-21) **24D** and **32R**

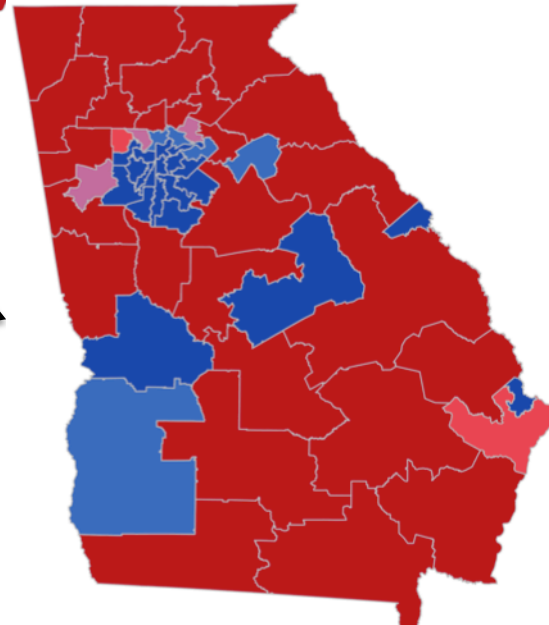


Senate proposal:
23D and
33R



SB 1EX
Revised 11/4
Passed 11/9,
11/15

Dem proposal:
25D and
31R



Partisan lean based using 2018-20-21 SoS election data

Senate map cedes 1 district to Democrats; fails partisan fairness test



Metric	2020 election	PGP benchmark (98% of 1M maps)	Adopted map (SB 1EX)		Dem proposed map (SB 4EX)	
			Districts	What changed?	Districts	What changed?
Partisan lean	34R 22D 	28 – 32 R 24 – 28 D	33R 23D 	Eliminates 2 districts from retiring Republicans No other pairing	31R 25D 	
Competitive districts (46.5% - 53.5%)	3	1 - 7	0	11/2 draft had 1 competitive district	3	
Princeton overall partisan fairness grade			F		A	

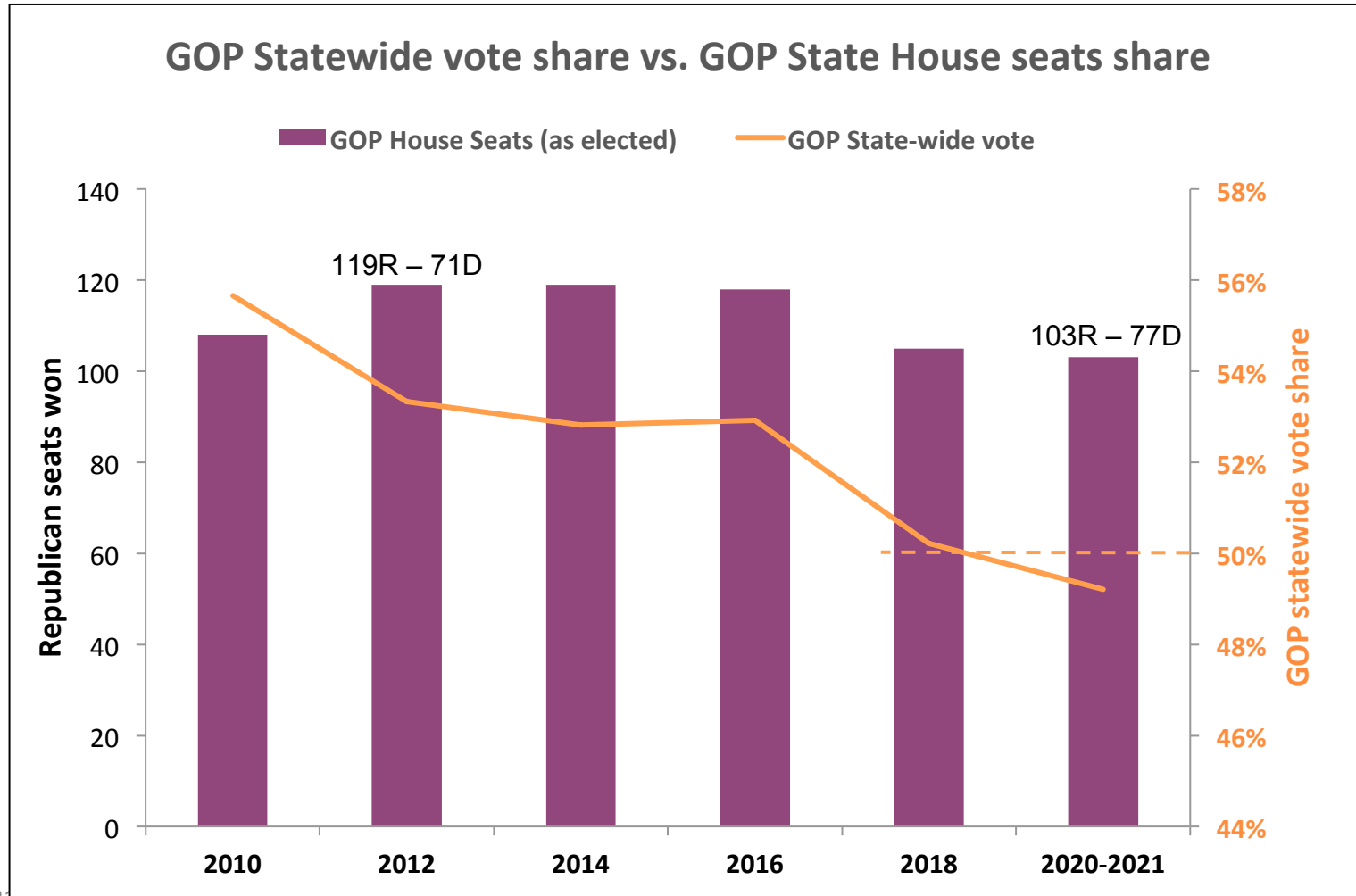
Source: PGP simulation using 2020 census and 2016-18-20 SoS election data

Senate map reduces minority opportunity; Democrats' proposal has 2 more minority-majority districts

Metric	Existing map	PGP benchmark	Adopted map (SB 1EX)		Dem proposed map	
			Districts	What changed?	Districts	What changed?
Black majority	13	16	13		13	
Minority coalition (excludes Black-only majority)	7	N/A	7	SD48 (Gwinnett / Fulton) 62% → 48% minority; only Asian/American female in GGA	9	
Minority influence (37% - 50%)	14	N/A	13	Includes 1 Hispanic district (SD5 – Gwinnett)	12	Includes 1 Hispanic district (SD5 – Gwinnett)
Total	34		33		34	

Source: PGP simulation using 2020 census

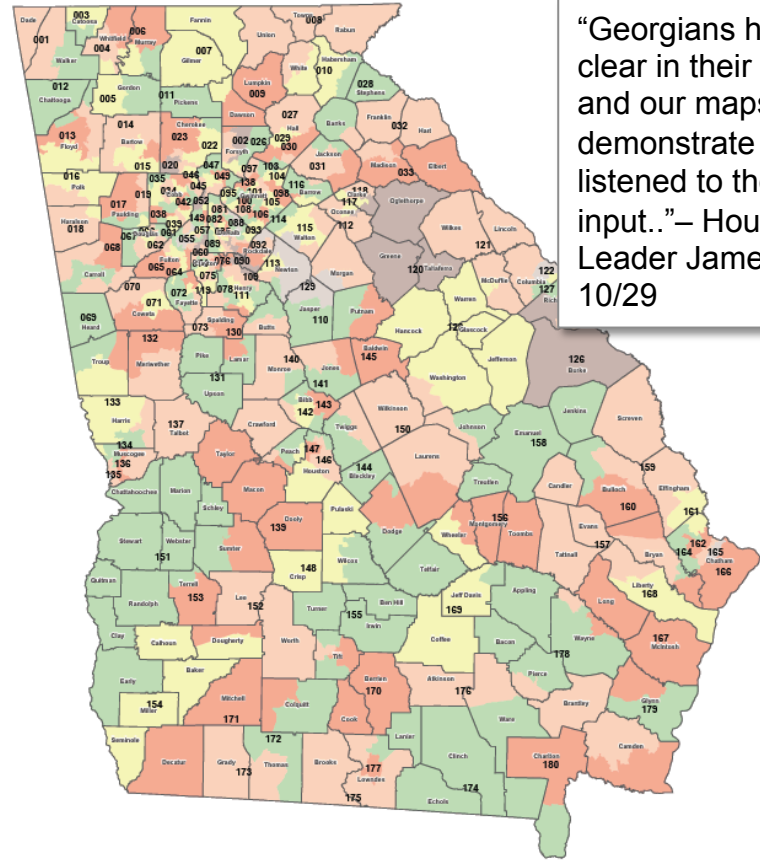
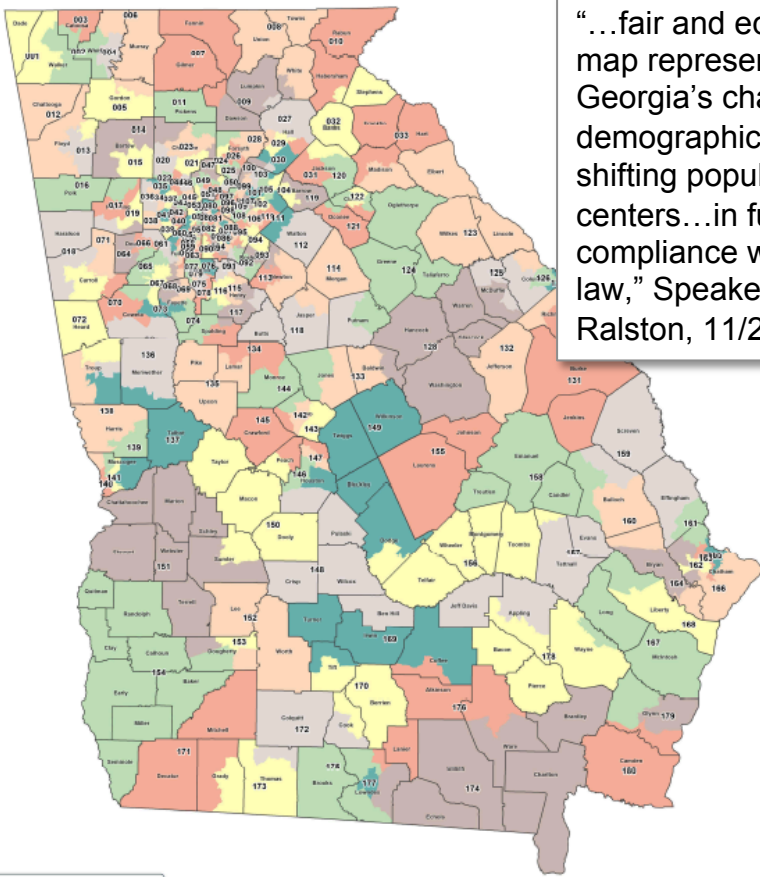
Partisan gap narrowing in State House races since 2010



We saw 2 proposed State House maps

“...fair and equitable map representative of Georgia’s changing demographics and shifting population centers...in full compliance with the... law,” Speaker David Ralston, 11/2

“Georgians have been clear in their request and our maps demonstrate we have listened to their input.” – House Minority Leader James Beverly, 10/29

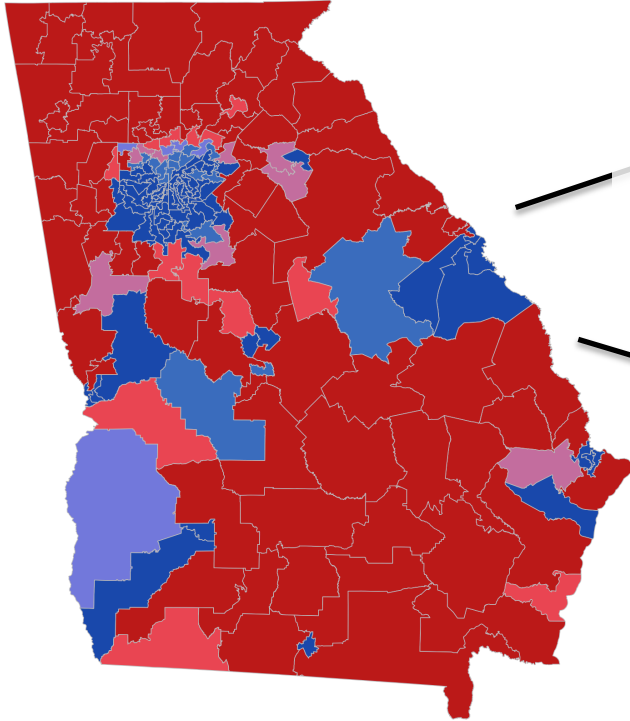


Nov 2 House committee draft

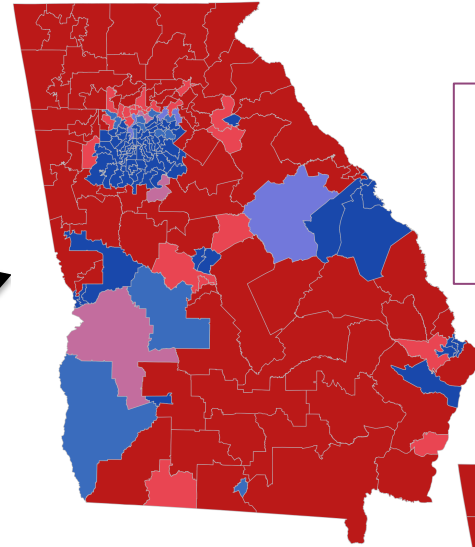
Oct 29 Democratic Caucus proposal

Partisan balance in State House maps

Estimated partisan balance in current map (2018-21) **83D** and **97R**

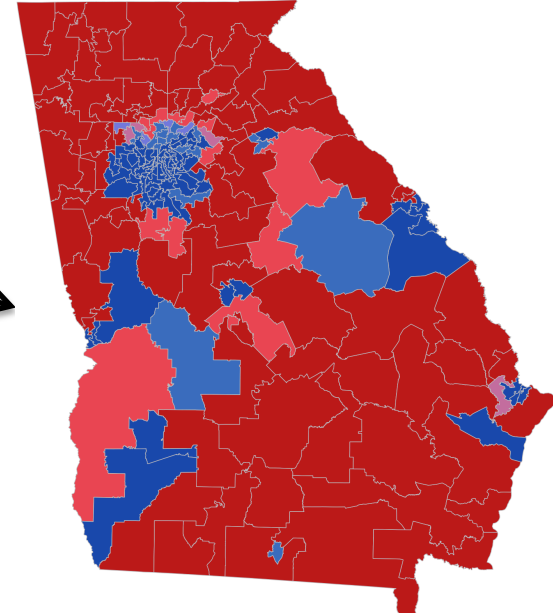


House proposal:
82D and
98R



HB 1EX
Revised 11/8
Passed 11/10,
11/12




Dem proposal:
84D and
96R
(HB 4EX)



Partisan lean based using 2018-20-21 SoS election data

State House map falls within benchmark; slightly favors Republicans



Metric	2020 election	PGP benchmark (98% of 1M maps)	Adopted map (HB 1EX)		Dem proposed map (HB 4EX)	
			Districts	What changed?	Districts	What changed?
Partisan lean	103R 76D 	92 – 99 R 81 – 88 D	98R 82D 	Safe seats Many local adjustments help incumbents	96R 84D 	
Competitive districts (46.5% - 53.5%)	15	9 - 22	7	Below benchmark	8	Below benchmark
Princeton overall partisan fairness grade			B		B	

Source: PGP simulation using 2020 census and 2016-18-20 SoS election data

House maps slightly reduce minority districts

Metric	Existing map	PGP benchmark	Adopted map (HB 1EX)		Dem proposed map (HB 4EX)	
			Districts	What changed?	Districts	What changed?
Black majority	42	48	45		41	
Minority coalition (excludes Black-only majority)	31	N/A	31	HD98 (Gwinnett) is Hispanic majority HD29 (Gainesville) & HD4 (Dalton) are Hispanic influence	32	HD99 (Gwinnett) is Hispanic-majority HD29 (Gainesville) & HD100 (Gwinnett) are Hispanic influence
Minority influence (37% - 50%)	38	N/A	33		37	
Total	111		109		110	

Source: PGP simulation using 2020 census

What happens next?

- Governor Kemp has 40 days to sign into law
- Maps will be effective for the 2022 elections
- Local redistricting underway, will be approved during regular session



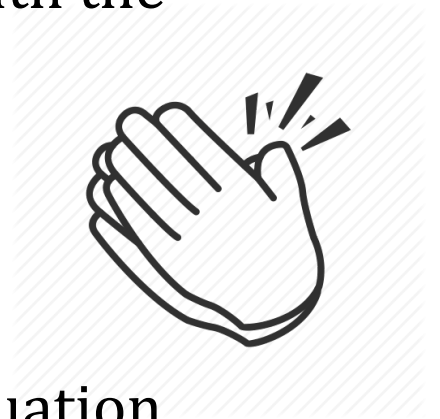
Assessment of the Process



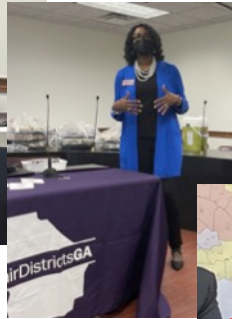
- Highly partisan
- Public testimony prior to census data and draft maps
- Lack of transparency in the map drawing and hearing process
- Last minute posting of maps immediately prior to hearings/testimony; substitutes with no explanation of changes
- Rushed process with votes within a few days of maps posted
- No map changes based on testimony input
- Maps prioritized keeping counties whole vs city/community

Celebrating our Accomplishments

- We successfully changed the conversation with the introduction of PGP benchmarks, grades
- Initial Congressional map released 9/27
- Mitigated extreme partisanship in the maps
- Media coverage/engagement
- Informed legislators on the process and evaluation methods
- Public engagement in summer hearings and written comments



Thanks to the FDGA Team!



Day at the Capitol

Testimony



Gold Dome Team



Thanks to the FDGA Team!

First Look Analysis:
Proposed Map Comparison
 Congress, State Senate and House, Nov. 18, 2021

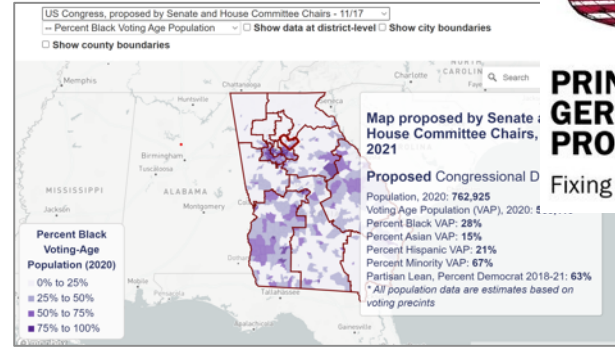
Fair Districts GA & Princeton Gerrymandering Project

Working with Fair Districts GA, the Princeton Gerrymandering Project conducted a state-of-the-art analysis, drawing 1 million maps per chamber using 2020 census data to create benchmarks/fairness tests that can be used to evaluate proposed Congressional, State Senate, and State House maps. Benchmarks identify the range of values for partisan balance, competitiveness, and minority representation expected in a map drawn without partisan intent. A map at the extreme end or outside of the benchmark range is less desirable than one near the midpoint of the range. This document is a summary of the benchmark scores for the proposed maps submitted to the General Assembly for consideration.

Proposed Congressional Map				
Metrics	POP / FDGA Benchmarks	House & Senate Committee 2EX	Senate Democratic SEX	Comments
Republican districts	8 - 9	9	7	
Democratic districts	5 - 6	5	7	
Competitive districts	0 - 3	0	1	48.5% - 53.5% partisan balance
Extreme districts	N/A	5	5	Outside benchmark range



Legislative Handouts



PRINCETON GERRYMANDERING PROJECT

Fixing bugs in democracy

- Mapping and Analysis Team
- Princeton Gerrymandering Project
- Sara Hodges, Cartographer
- SWAT Team



Action Alert: Virtual hearing scheduled for this Saturday

The House Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Committee has set a unique VIRTUAL opportunity for citizens to have input into the proposed congressional maps on **Saturday, November 20, 9 am-11 am.**

Action Team

Next Steps

- Pass the Freedom to Vote Act (and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act)
- Support litigation on the 2022 maps
- Pursue redistricting reforms (independent commission, end mid-cycle redistricting, transparency act, etc.)
- Save the date: January 31, 2022
Town Hall







NEVER DOUBT
THAT A SMALL GROUP
OF THOUGHTFUL COMMITTED CITIZENS
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD:
INDEED IT'S THE ONLY THING
THAT EVER HAS.

MARGARET MEAD