

# Texas redistricting

Policy analysts often evaluate government actions by asking who wins and who loses? In the case of the proposed Texas redistricting plan, many Republicans will be made better off. First, Donald Trump will benefit since the plan should result in the Republicans picking up between two and five seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. This pickup may be enough to allow his party to keep the majority in the chamber. With that majority, Trump will have an easier time getting his agenda enacted into law. And with that majority, Republicans can keep the House committees from holding hearings and investigating Trump.

The Republican leaders in the U.S. House will benefit from the redistricting plan because the extra seats may allow them to stay in the majority, which in turn will allow them to keep their leadership positions. Mike Johnson would rather be the Speaker of the House than the minority-party leader.

The Texas state legislators will also gain from the redistricting. Many of the Republicans serving in the Texas State House and Texas State Senate would like to advance their political careers. An obvious next step is to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

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in the U.S. House of Representatives. These incumbents will become more vulnerable. The only way that Republicans can alter the electoral map to win more seats is to accept smaller winning margins. For instance, a House Republican who won 65 percent of the vote in the last election may lose some Republican voters. These voters may be put in a district that a Democrat won with 54 percent of the vote. With the new Republican voters in his district, the Democrat may expect to only get 45 percent of the vote, which would make him lose to a Republican challenger. If things work out as planned, the Republicans will win both the seat they had controlled and the one the Democrats had controlled. This is a good outcome for both Republican candidates.

However, in politics, things seldom go as planned. The econ-

omy could go into a recession, or Trump's tariffs could reignite inflation. If these bad outcomes occur, voters will punish the President's party in House elections. If economic conditions are bad enough, the Republicans could lose both of the seats I just discussed: the one they hoped to narrowly win by adding Republican voters to what had been a Democrat-leaning district and the one that they had won with 65 percent of the vote in the last election. This formerly secure Republican seat became vulnerable because the district had lost so many Republican-leaning voters.

Without the redistricting, this representative could probably have weathered the bad economic times. But with redistricting, he faces a greater chance of losing an election if the political tide turns against Republicans.

Across the nation, Republican voters are cheering on the Texas governor's attempt to redistrict the electoral map. However, the 38 Republican Representatives in the U.S. House from Texas should be rooting against the redistricting plan. Why? Because the plan lessens their job security.

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