

sification imposes on representational rights.”¹⁹⁵⁶ But, though he concurred in the holding, Justice Kennedy held out hope that judicial relief from political gerrymandering may be possible “if some limited and precise rationale were found” to evaluate partisan redistricting. *Davis v. Bandemer* was thus preserved.¹⁹⁵⁷

In *League of United Latin American Citizens v. Perry*, a widely splintered Supreme Court plurality largely upheld a Texas congressional redistricting plan that the state legislature had drawn mid-decade, seemingly with the sole purpose of achieving a Republican congressional majority.¹⁹⁵⁸ The plurality did not revisit the justiciability question, but examined “whether appellants’ claims offer the Court a manageable, reliable measure of fairness for determining whether a partisan gerrymander violates the Constitution.”¹⁹⁵⁹ The plurality was “skeptical . . . of a claim that seeks to invalidate a statute based on a legislature’s unlawful motive but does so without reference to the content of the legislation enacted.” For one thing, although “[t]he legislature does seem to have decided to redistrict with the sole purpose of achieving a Republican congressional majority, . . . partisan aims did not guide every line it drew.”¹⁹⁶⁰ Apart from that, the “sole-motivation theory” fails to show what is necessary to identify an unconstitutional act of partisan gerrymandering: “a burden, as measured by a reliable standard, on the complainants’ representational rights.”¹⁹⁶¹ Moreover, “[t]he sole-intent standard . . . is no more compelling when it is linked to . . . mid-decennial legislation. . . . [T]here is nothing inherently suspect about a legislature’s decision to replace a mid-decade a court-ordered plan with one of its own. And even if there were, the fact of mid-decade redistricting alone is no sure indication of unlawful political gerrymanders.”¹⁹⁶² The plurality also found “that mid-decade redistricting for exclusively partisan purposes” did not in this case “violate[] the one-person, one-vote requirement.”¹⁹⁶³ Because ordinary mid-decade districting plans do not necessarily violate the one-person,

¹⁹⁵⁶ 541 U.S. at 307–08 (Justice Kennedy, concurring).

¹⁹⁵⁷ 541 U.S. at 306 (Justice Kennedy, concurring). Although Justice Kennedy admitted that no workable model had been proposed either to evaluate the burden partisan districting imposed on representational rights or to confine judicial intervention once a violation has been established, he held out the possibility that such a standard may emerge, based on either equal protection or First Amendment principles.

¹⁹⁵⁸ 548 U.S. 399, 417 (2006). The design of one congressional district was held to violate the Voting Rights Act because it diluted the voting power of Latinos. *Id.* at 423–443.

¹⁹⁵⁹ 548 U.S. at 414.

¹⁹⁶⁰ 548 U.S. at 418, 417.

¹⁹⁶¹ 548 U.S. at 418.

¹⁹⁶² 548 U.S. at 419.

¹⁹⁶³ 548 U.S. at 420–21.