# Introduction

# Literature Review

Redistricting of the Federal constituencies in Germany is a task that policy makers need to perform regularly. Demographic changes often require legal adjustments to constituency boundaries to maintain balanced population sizes. Typically, before each federal election, some boundaries need to be redrawn or even entire constituencies merged. Although the merging and creation of new constituencies have caused political tension in the past (Funk, 2024), electoral districting in Germany is not overly contested. This is particularly due to Germany’s electoral system and the legal prerequisites for redistricting. Both topics will be discussed in the next section of this paper.

This thesis focuses on how including non-German residents in calculating constituency population sizes impacts their geographic boundaries. Previous literature has largely concentrated on two related areas: legal interpretations of electoral law and district boundaries (Gieseler, 2007; Goderbauer & Wicke, 2018; Handley & Grofman, 2008; Henkel, 1974), and the technically optimal methods for redistricting (Goderbauer, 2016). A third strand of relevant literature and substantial arguments that should be discussed is not directly academic: over the last seventy years – essentially since the establishment of the Federal Republic (“Bundesrepublik”) Germany – numerous politicans and other political stakeholders have discussed different redistricting techniques (Matthöfer, 1973) as well as the implications of extending the voting rights of non-German residents (citation linke einfügen). Since extending voting rights to non-German residents would also impact the population figures within the constituencies and subsequently their geographic borders as well, this literature also needs to be taken into consideration.