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Redistricting fight: Top takeaways as Maryland jumps in the fray with Trump, Texas



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Maryland politicians are weighing in on the national debate over [mid-decade redistricting](#), as states propose plans to give parties in power more congressional seats ahead of the 2026 midterms.

On June 30, Texas Republicans introduced a new redistricting map in the state legislature that would likely flip five congressional districts — and their seats in the U.S. House — to Republicans. In response, Texas Democrats fled the state, leaving the legislature without enough members present to vote on the maps.

Republicans currently hold seven more seats than Democrats do in the U.S. House. Four seats are vacant, three of which were held by Democrats who died in office this year.

Democrats across the country have threatened to retaliate against Texas Republicans if they pass the new map, including leaders from California, Michigan, New York, Illinois and Maryland.

With a majority in the State House, and only a simple-majority quorum requirement, Maryland Democrats could vote to redraw congressional districts without Republicans being able to block the move — except in court. Maryland has eight U.S. House seats, and all but one are held by Democrats.

Here's what you may have missed from the redistricting fight this week:

Democrats launch fight in Maryland

House Majority Leader David Moon, a Montgomery County Democrat, said he has drafted legislation for the 2026 General Assembly session to restart the Maryland congressional redistricting process if another state redistricts more than once this decade.

However, Moon wrote in an op-ed in The Hill that he hopes this redistricting back-and-forth does not come to fruition. He instead proposed that states join an interstate compact to regulate how often states redistrict. States typically redraw districts after the national census, which happens every 10 years, to reflect population changes.

Maryland Senate President Bill Ferguson posted on X that “It’s my sincere hope that we don’t have to pursue this strategy, but at this point, nothing can be off the table.”

“This [is] a dangerous road for democracy, and what’s happening in Texas right now is peak dysfunction. Democracy deserves better,” Ferguson added.

Rep. Andy Harris

In Maryland, redistricting to add Democratic seats would likely require breaking up Rep. Andy Harris’ district, which includes the Eastern Shore, Harford County and a part of Baltimore County.

Harris, the sole Republican member of the state’s congressional delegation, said in a Wednesday news conference that Maryland Democrats jumping into the redistricting wars would benefit his party. The congressman, who is also the leader of the House Freedom Caucus, said he believes any attempt to do so would be thrown out in court.

Leader of the Maryland Freedom Caucus, Del. Matt Morgan, a Republican from St. Mary’s County, [posted](#) on X that he believes that states like Maryland have caused the Texas push to redistrict, adding: “For a state as reliant as Maryland on federal dollars, it’s economic suicide to have a congressional delegation entirely in the minority party.”

Gov. Wes Moore evaluating options

Democratic leaders in the state have not announced any specific plans but have expressed openness to redistricting in response to Texas.

Gov. Wes Moore will continue to evaluate “all options,” in the redistricting fight, the governor’s spokesman, Carter Elliott, said in a release to The Baltimore Sun on Friday. The statement called moves toward mid-decade redistricting in Texas, Indiana and possibly Missouri “partisan power grabs.”

“They are right to be worried that voters will punish them at the ballot box,” the statement said.

Hogan, Ehrlich against partisan redistricting

Former Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, [wrote](#) in The Sun that gerrymandering in response to the Texas map would be “dangerously anti-democratic and indefensible.”

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Maryland’s congressional redistricting has come under fire before over gerrymandering concerns. A 2021 map drawn by the state legislature was vetoed by Hogan and was later thrown out by a judge.

As governor during the last redistricting process, Hogan pushed for lines to be drawn by a separate redistricting commission. The map that was eventually passed in 2022 was drawn by state politicians.

“The answer is not to join the race to the bottom. It’s to stand firm, to reaffirm that redistricting should serve voters, not parties,” Hogan wrote.

Former Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., a Republican, pointed the blame towards both parties for redistricting problems and suggested that the only resolution is from the courts.

“The mess in Texas reminds us reapportionment is a hyper-partisan process,” [Ehrlich](#) said in an X post. “Democrats try to maximize seats in blue states (check out Md’s lines) and Republicans do the same in red states. Relief lies with the courts...NOT in another state (Illinois) with its own partisan issues.”

Trump sees opportunity

President Donald Trump said he was “entitled” to the five additional seats that could be handed to Republicans in the Texas redistricting.

“We have an opportunity in Texas to pick up five seats. We have a really good governor, and we have good people in Texas. And I won Texas,” Trump said Tuesday on CNBC’s Squawk Box. “We are entitled to five more seats.”

The president has also called for a new census that would not include undocumented immigrants, an attempt that could take away House seats from states with large immigrant populations.