Open Redistricting

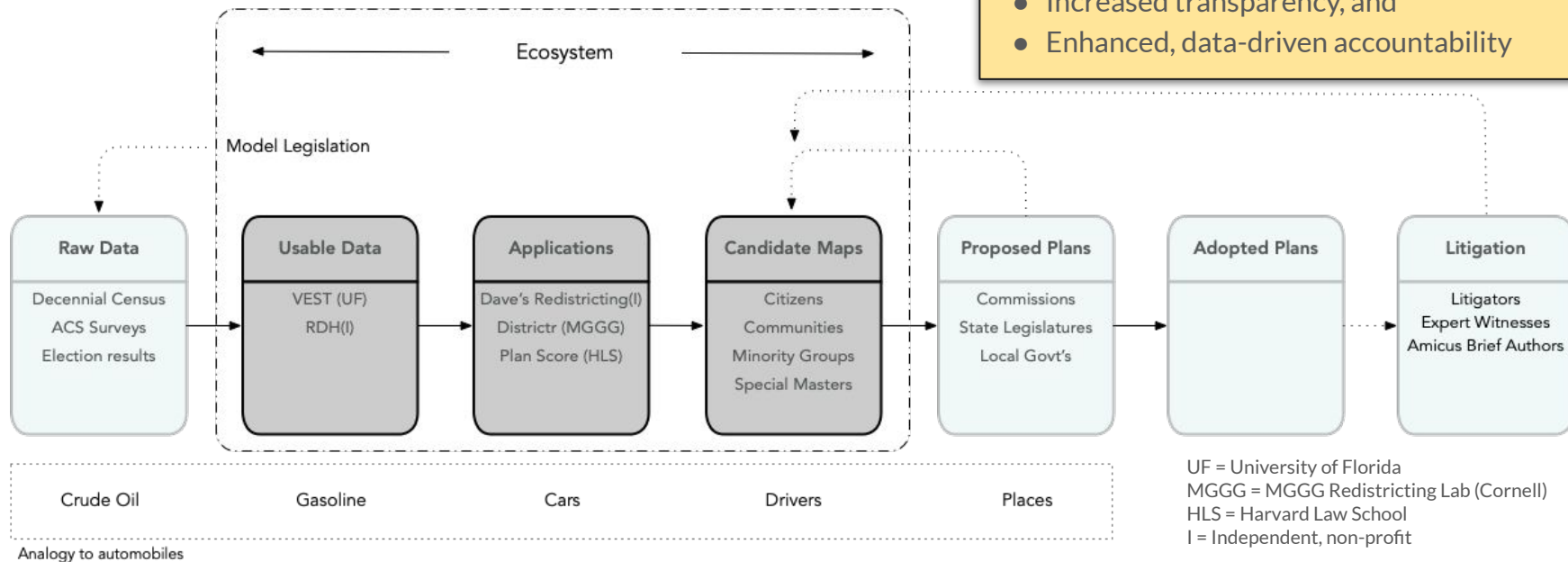Advancing Fair Representation by Civic Engagement

The Problem: Gerrymandering

- After 2010, aggressive gerrymandering (REDMAP) to reshape Congress
- Plus one-off attempts by Dem-controlled states to skew their plans (e.g., MD)
- Then SCOTUS made partisan gerrymandering *de facto* legal in 2019
- States can now dress up racial gerrymanders as "just" partisan gerrymanders

- All together weakened a core democratic process & resulted in disproportional representation

The Solution: Open Redistricting

- Like open source software
- Democratizes redistricting tools & data:
- Broad & deep civic engagement across the political spectrum
- Effective advocacy for fair maps, competitive districts, & respect for COI
- Increased transparency, and
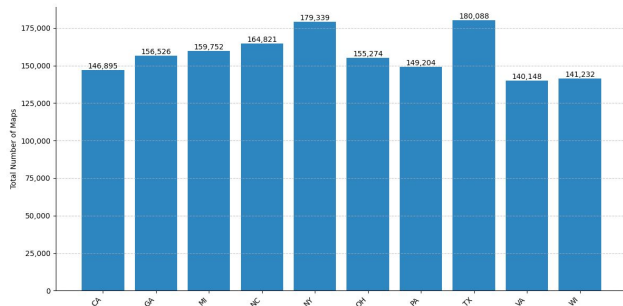- Enhanced, data-driven accountability

Ecosystem

Model Legislation

Raw Data	Usable Data	Applications	Candidate Maps	Proposed Plans	Adopted Plans	Litigation
Decennial Census	VEST (UF)	Dave's Redistricting(I)	Citizens	Commissions		Litigators
ACS Surveys	RDH(I)	Districtr (MGGG)	Communities	State Legislatures		Expert Witnesses
Election results		Plan Score (HLS)	Minority Groups	Local Govt's		Amicus Brief Authors
			Special Masters			

Crude Oil	Gasoline	Cars	Drivers	Places

Analogy to automobiles

UF = University of Florida
MGGG = MGGG Redistricting Lab (Cornell)
HLS = Harvard Law School
I = Independent, non-profit

A network of civic techies, academics, & experts

- Alec Ramsay – Dave's Redistricting, researcher; Microsoft 15 years, co-conceived cloud OS (Azure)
- Dave Bradlee – Dave's Redistricting; Microsoft 17 years; created Dave's Redistricting v1 in 2009
- Terry Crowley – Dave's Redistricting; Microsoft 20 years, CVP of Office Development (10 years)
- Michael McDonald – VEST; Professor of Political Science at University of Florida
- Jonathan Cervas – Court-appointed Special Master; Carnegie Mellon Institute for Strategy & Technology
- Sean Trende – Court-appointed Special Master; political analyst
- Moon Duchin – Expert witness; MGGG Redistricting Lab; Professor of Mathematics, Cornell University
- Nick Stephanopoulos – PlanScore; Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
- Ruth Greenwood – PlanScore; Director, Election Law Clinic, Harvard Law School
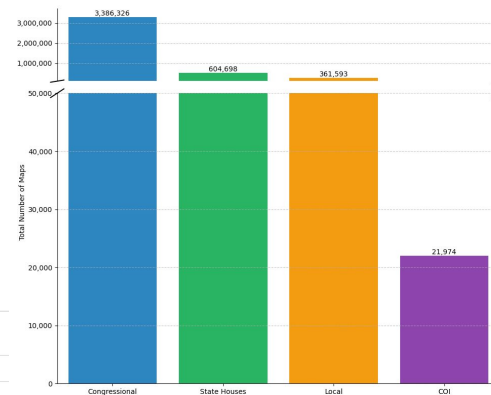- Kate Donovan – Director, Redistricting Data Hub
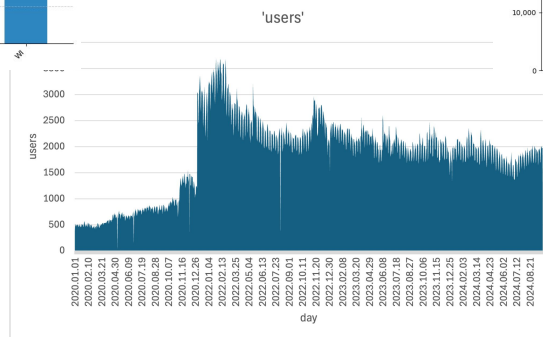
A ready-made Advisory Board

Broad, Sustained Use

Maps by type
- 3,386K congressional
- 605K state legislative
- 362K local
- 22K communities of interest
- 4,375K overall

Maps by state
- 4,375K maps created in Dave's Redistricting by citizens, communities, advocacy groups
- 60K plans evaluated in PlanScore powered by
- 50-state election results for 2016-2020, most by VEST, and
- 20K datasets downloaded from RDH

Users & usage
- 24K active users at peak (11/22)
- Still 15K active users
- Averaging 2K uniques per day!

Deep Impact

Tools & data used by:

- Citizen advocacy groups — e.g., Fair Districts PA, Fair Districts Ohio
- Minority rights groups — e.g., Power on the Line(s): Making Redistricting Work for Us (LDF, MALDEF, AAJC), Making Native Voters Count in Redistricting (NARF)
- State commissions — e.g., public input solicited in AK, AZ, CO, DE, MI, OK, PA, TX, WA, & WI
- Local governments — e.g., public input solicited in Miami-Dade School Board, Navajo County, Porterville (CA), South Pasadena, Spokane County, Seattle, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, San Diego, & New York City
- Successful litigation — e.g., AL, NC, NY, PA, & WI
- Special masters — e.g., Jonathan Cervas, Bernie Grofman, & Sean Trende in NC, NY, PA, & VA

Testimonial

Richard H. Pildes – Sudler Family Professor of Constitutional Law @ NYU

"Dave's Redistricting is an **extraordinary gift to the public** interested in redistricting issues. It has become **so sophisticated** that it's a **reliable tool** that is now **used in actual court cases**. But it is **widely accessible** for **free** to the public. Anyone can evaluate existing or proposed redistricting maps along numerous dimensions, as well as design their own maps with this **exceptional tool**."
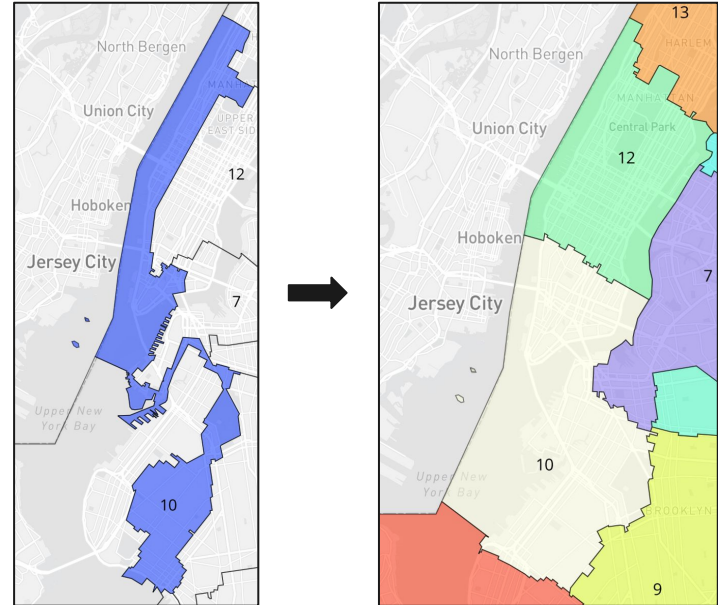
Dave's Redistricting is powered by free precinct-level election data, especially from VEST
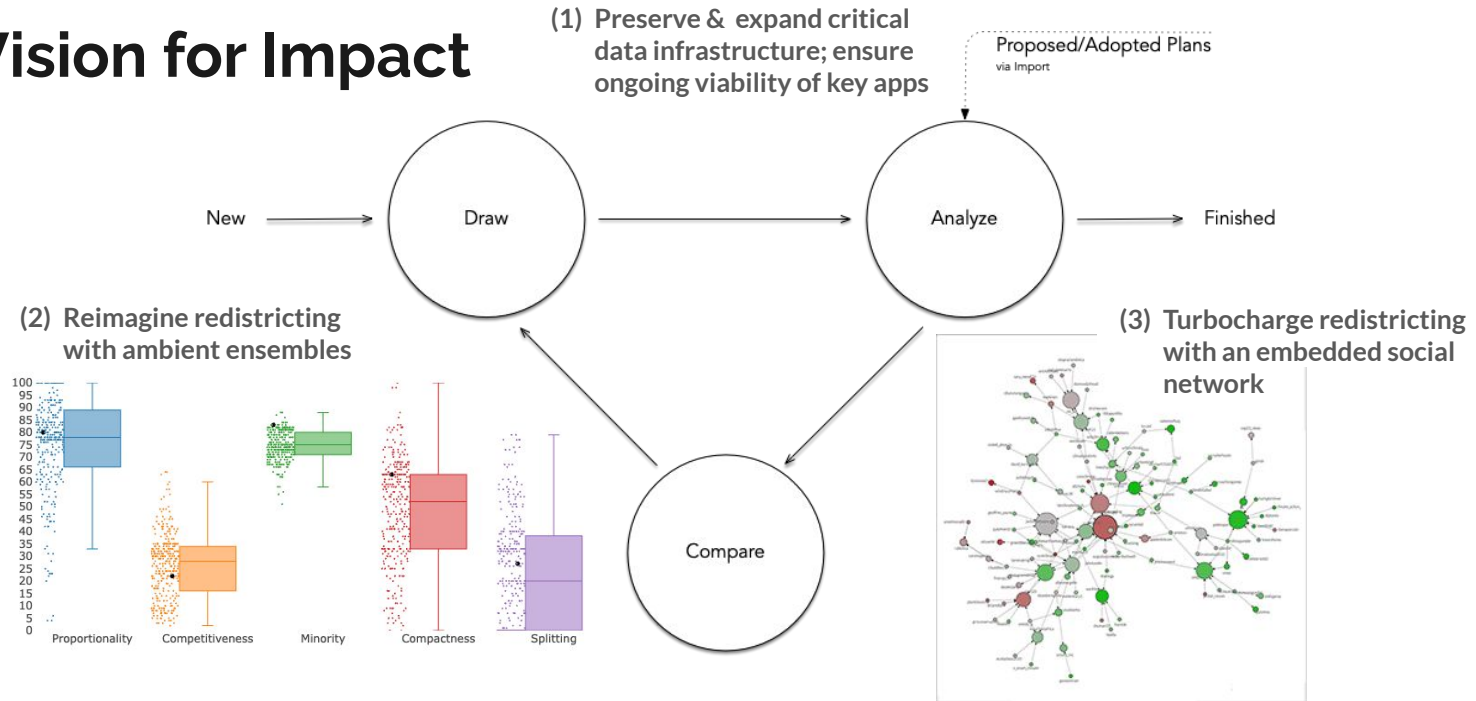
Case Study: New York State

Harkenrider v. Hochul (2022)

Congressional Plan	Legislature	Special Master
Counties split / # of splits	34 / 56	15 / 25 (smaller better)
Reock / Polsby-Popper compactness	32 / 25	40 / 34 (bigger better)
Competitive districts	3	8

Citizens interacted with Special Master Jonathan Cervas via Dave's Redistricting increasing transparency.

Vision for Impact

(1) **Preserve & expand critical data infrastructure; ensure ongoing viability of key apps**

Proposed/Adopted Plans
via Import

New → Draw → Analyze → Finished

(2) **Reimagine redistricting with ambient ensembles**

(3) **Turbocharge redistricting with an embedded social network**

Compare

Proportionality Competitiveness Minority Compactness Splitting
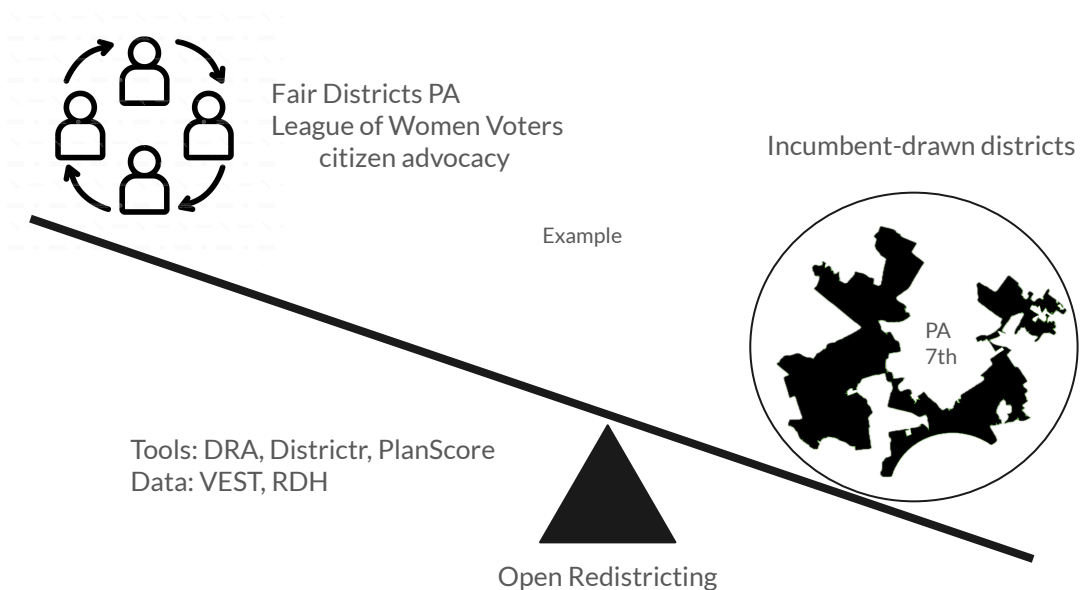
The Opportunity: Lasting Institutional Change

- A major, named gift funding
- A prominent university institute

The most highly leveraged gift one can make in fair representation

Fair Districts PA
League of Women Voters
citizen advocacy

Incumbent-drawn districts

Example

PA
7th

Tools: DRA, Districtr, PlanScore
Data: VEST, RDH

Open Redistricting

Call to Action

Your gift will ensure that open redistricting survives & thrives for another decade

- Keeping redistricting transparent nationwide
- Preventing the return to backroom gerrymandering
- Empowering citizens to participate meaningfully
- Taking redistricting to the next level
- Helping ensure fair representation through 2032 & beyond

You can make fair redistricting the norm, not the exception.

Q&A