



Open Redistricting

Advancing Fair Representation by Civic Engagement

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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





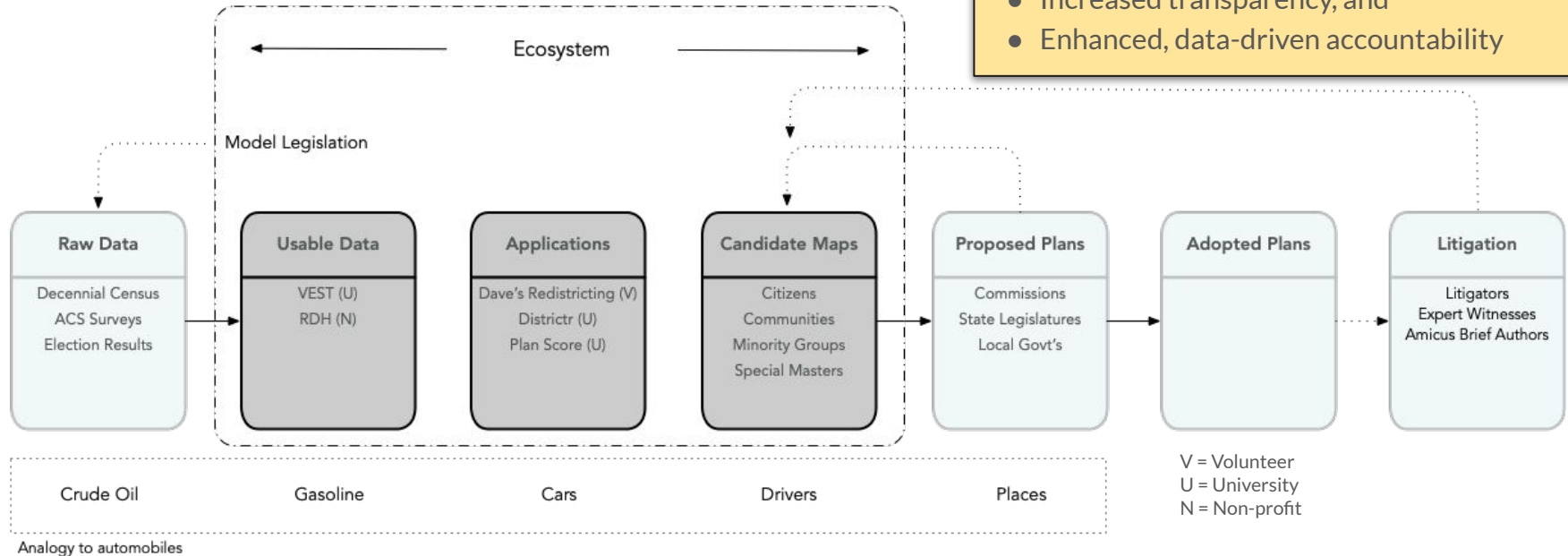
The Solution: Open Redistricting

- Dave's Redistricting (DRA) is the keystone in a rich "open redistricting" ecosystem
- DRA is arguably the most citizen-engaging government-data-driven app in existence
- The recipe:
 - Rich data
 - Bound to a compelling visualization (a map)
 - Supporting an important, defined problem (redistricting, representation)
 - With a perspective (citizens should have a seat at the redistricting table, not just politicians)

* See attached testimonials

Open Redistricting Details

- 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 communities of interest
- Increased transparency, and
- Enhanced, data-driven accountability



Major Players in the Ecosystem

A network of civic techies, academics, & experts:

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



DRA 2020



MGGG =



PlanScore



VEST (UF)



RDH ==



CMU ==



HLS ==



Cornell ==

All candidates for an Advisory Board

Broad, Sustained Use

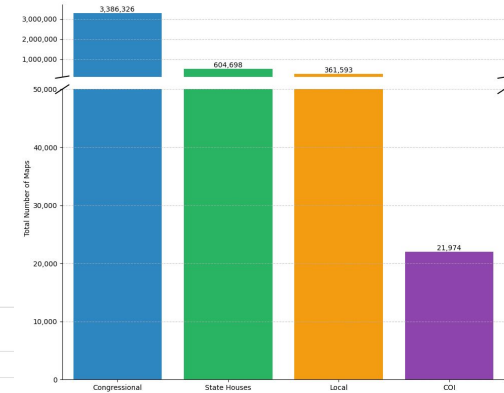
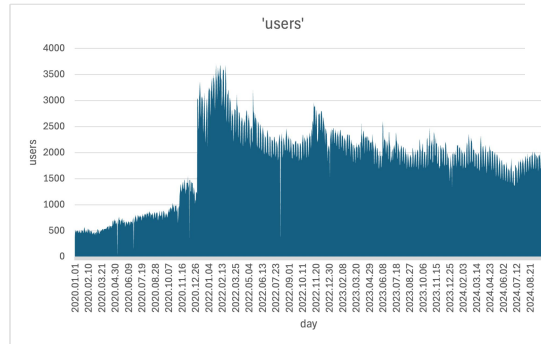
Texas	180,088
New York	179,339
North Carolina	164,821
Michigan	159,752
Georgia	156,526
Ohio	155,274
Pennsylvania	149,204

Maps by state

- 4.4M maps created in Dave's Redistricting by citizens, communities, advocacy groups
- 60K plans evaluated in PlanScore
- 50-state election results for 2016-2020, most by VEST, and
- 20K datasets downloaded from RDH

Maps by type

- 3.4M congressional
- 605K state legislative
- 362K local
- 22K communities of interest
- 4.4M overall



Users & usage

- 24K active users at peak (Nov. '22)
- Still 15K active users
- Averaging 2K uniques per day!



Deep Impact

Tools & data used by:

- Successful litigation — e.g., AL, NC, NY, PA, & WI
- Special masters — e.g., Jonathan Cervas, Bernie Grofman, & Sean Trende in NC, NY, PA, & VA
- 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
- 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)

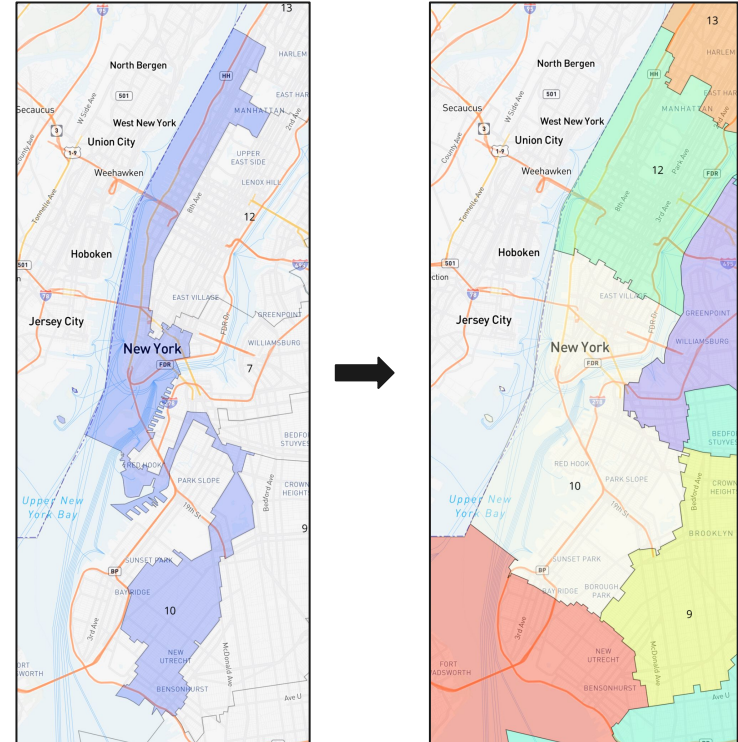
* See attached highlights

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

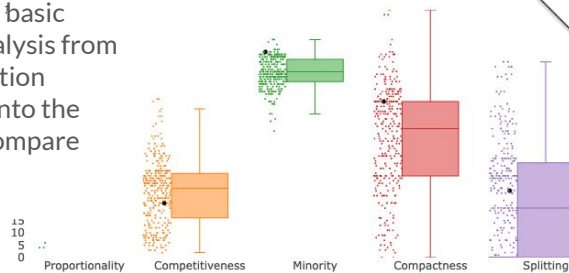
Citizens interacted with Special Master Jonathan Cervas via Dave's Redistricting increasing transparency.



Future Impact

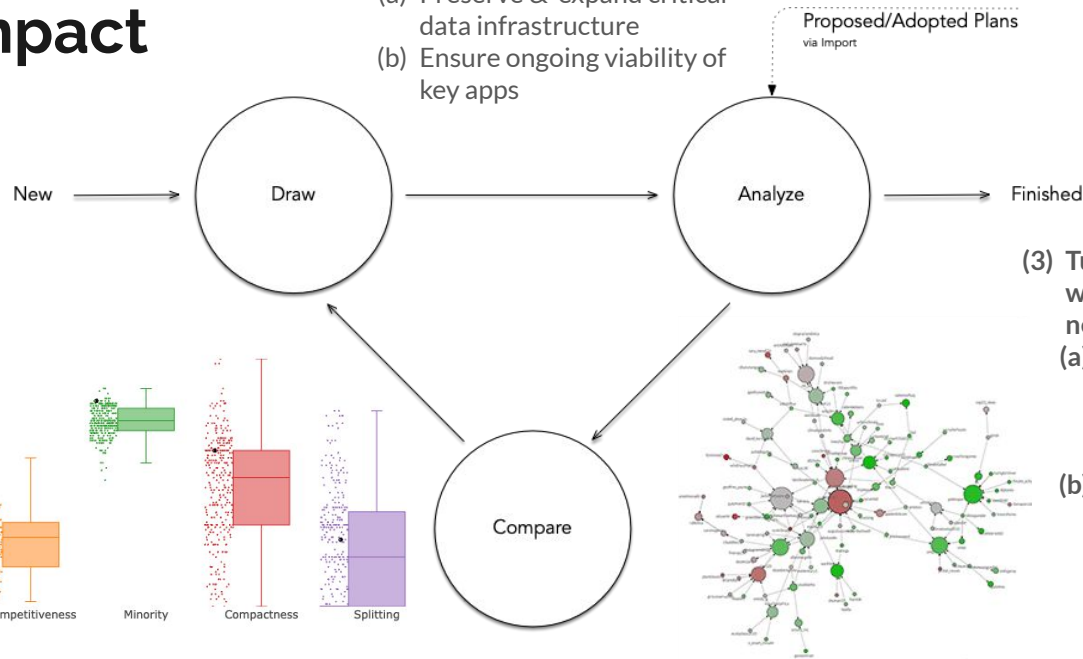
(2) Reimagine redistricting with ambient ensembles

- (a) Start new maps from plans with desired metrics & trade-offs; avoid the blank map problem
- (b) Time-shift basic outlier analysis from post-adoption litigation into the analyze/compare processes



(1) Keep redistricting transparent nationwide

- (a) Preserve & expand critical data infrastructure
- (b) Ensure ongoing viability of key apps



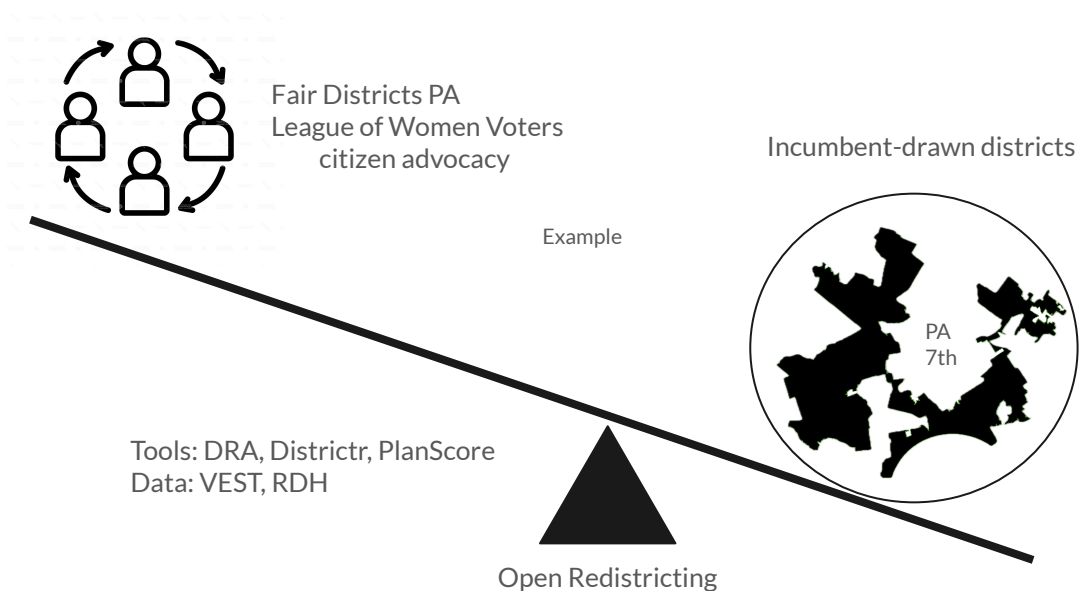
(3) Turbocharge redistricting with an embedded social network

- (a) Connect low-tech advocacy groups with high-tech mapping experts
- (b) Convert a loose collection of individual users into a strong open redistricting community

The Opportunity: Institutionalizing the Change

- A major, named gift funding
- A prominent university institute
- A center of gravity for the ecosystem
- Non-partisan
- Data-driven decision making
- With deep civic engagement

The most highly leveraged gift one can make in fair representation





Call to Action

- Establish a prominent institute to be the center of gravity for the ecosystem
- Begin knowledge transfer to it, in advance of early work on 2030 redistricting
- Preserve & accelerate the momentum around broad & deep civic engagement in redistricting
- Take redistricting to the next level on multiple dimensions

Q&A