

Did Gerrymandering Lead to a More Polarized Congress ?

While Republican controlled redistricting lead to slightly more partisan represenatives in congress, Court decided boundaries had basically the same outcome and comissions did little better.

Redistricting was done by...

State or Federal Courts

CO, CN, MN, MS, NM, NY, TX

A Republican Controlled State Government

AL, FL, GA, IN, MI, NE, NH, NC, OH, OK, PN, TN, UT, VA, WI

An 'Independent' Commision

AZ, CA, HI, ID, WA

A Split Party State Government

IA, ME, NJ, OR

A Democract Controlled State Government

AR, IL, MD, MA, RI, WV

The average Democrat's ideology score

-0.38



-0.38



-0.39



-0.37



-0.40



The average Republican's ideology score

0.51



0.50



0.48



0.45



0.41



Republican and Court drawn districts were almost identical in the level of polarization they produced.

Districts drawn by Democrats and Split governments were the least polarized. Districts drawn by Democrats did produce the most extreme liberal ideologies.

← More Liberal

Nominate Score

More Conservative →

Notes: The average ideology score is based on the average for all Democrats or Republicans from states that practiced that redistricting process between 2012 and 2022. States with one congressional district were excluded from this data. Additionally some states had maps that were struck down or replaced throughout the decade. In those cases the state was categorized by whatever map it used the longest. Source: <https://voteview.com/>.