

**GERRYMANDERING
EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK**

All of the statements below are true.

- ___1. Gerrymandering is named after Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry (1744-1814) because of his actions in 1812 to benefit the Democratic Republican Party, led by Thomas Jefferson, as opposed to the Federalist Party.
- ___2. One district in the Boston area was reconfigured by Governor Gerry and the shape resembled a mythological salamander so the term “gerrymander” was born.
- ___3. Gerrymandering is the redrawing of legislative and/or congressional districts’ voting boundaries to give one political party an advantage over the other party.
- ___4. Redrawing of legislative and congressional district lines occurs every 10 years following the release of official population data from the U.S. Census Bureau.
- ___5. All Arkansas legislative and congressional districts must represent the same population (not voters) within a certain deviation. (U.S. Congress – 725,000; House – 29,000; Senate – 90,000) The Supreme Court has ruled that Congressional districts must have as equal population as possible but have given more leeway for legislative districts which can deviate as much as 10%.
- ___6. Possible reasons for gerrymandering a district would be to minimize a party’s effectiveness, ensure more or less representation of an ethnic or religious group and discriminate against or for a particular group.
- ___7. Only the Arkansas legislature, as a whole, is in charge of drawing congressional districts.
- ___8. Arkansas law says that a prison cell is not a residence but incarcerated people count as residents even though they cannot vote. This is required under “one person, one unit of representation.” Arkansas counts the prisoners at the prison location. Some states (Delaware, Maryland and New York) have passed laws reallocating the count of prisoners from their prison location to the home community of the prisoner.
- ___9. The number of congressional districts allotted to each state is based upon the total state population.
- ___10. Gerrymandering could draw district lines in such a way to place voters of the party in power in the majority within key districts.
- ___11. Arkansas Democrats were in power holding the offices of Governor and Attorney General, as well as majorities in the House and Senate, in 2011 when legislative House of Representatives and Senate districts, as well as congressional districts, were drawn and the 2012 vote shifted control in the Arkansas House and Senate to the Republicans.
- ___12. 2021 will be the earliest Arkansas legislative and congressional districts can be redrawn.
- ___13. If Arkansas Democrats want to determine lines of the congressional districts in 2021, Democrats must win two of these offices - Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General - in 2018.

GERRYMANDERING
EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

- ___14. The “Fayetteville Finger” was part of a fourth congressional district map proposal presented to and discussed by the House and Senate State Agencies Committees.
- ___15. “Cracking” is a gerrymandering term referring to diluting of power of the opposing party’s supporters across many districts by splitting voters in an area among several districts.
- ___16. “Packing” refers to the concentration of the opposing party’s voting power in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts.
- ___17. “Hijacking” refers to redrawing two districts in such a way to force two incumbents of the same party to run against each other to eliminate one so that the other district can be won by someone from a different party.
- ___18. “Kidnapping” aims to move areas where certain elected officials have significant support to another district making it difficult to win future elections with the new electorate.
- ___19. Malapportionment is when the number of eligible voters per elected representative can vary widely without relation to how the boundaries are drawn due to , for example, faster growing urban areas and less populated rural ears. This is not the same as gerrymandering
- ___20. Other names for gerrymandering have been voiced as: “Jerrymandering” (California – Jerry Brown) and “Perrymandering” (Texas – Rick Perry).
- ___21. Odd shaped districts, even if drawn in order to ensure the required number of residents, may lead to accusations of gerrymandering but may actually be the result of population shifts.
- ___22. Gerrymandering is usually very advantageous for incumbents in the controlling party because it can “shore up” a district with higher levels of partisan support but may be problematic because it leads to higher levels of partisanship in legislative bodies.
- ___23. Gerrymandering may create higher candidate campaign costs because the districts become more stretched geographically and costs of campaign transportation and advertising are increased.
- ___24. In Arkansas, the House and Senate State Agencies Committees are charged with developing and approving congressional maps in the form of legislative bills and referring to respective chambers for a vote.
- ___25. Because the Arkansas Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General are in charge of drawing maps for legislative districts, the election of 2018 is extremely critical.