

Congressional Apportionment 2013-2023

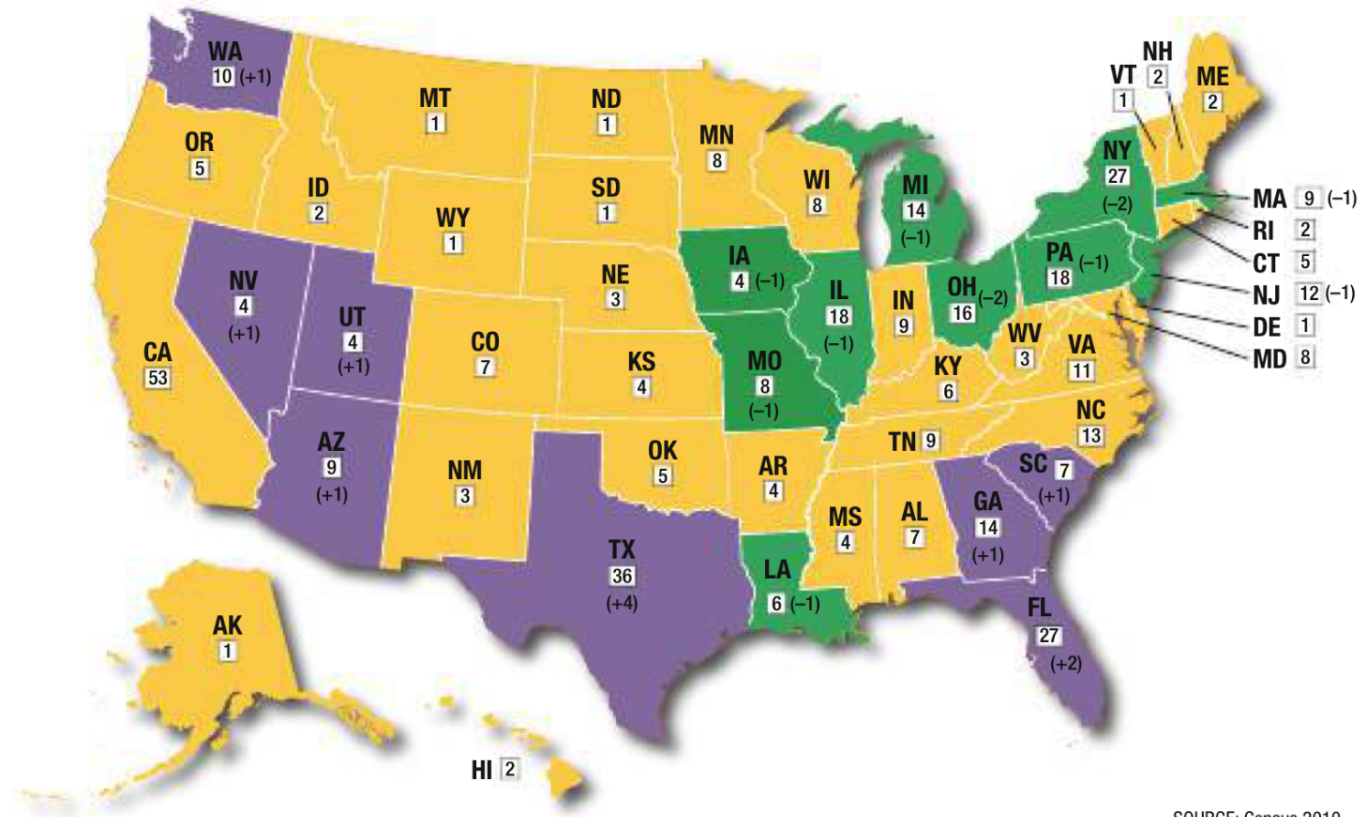


Audio Tour

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► **Interpreting Maps** The 435 seats in the House are reapportioned among the States every ten years. *What regions are gaining or losing population?*

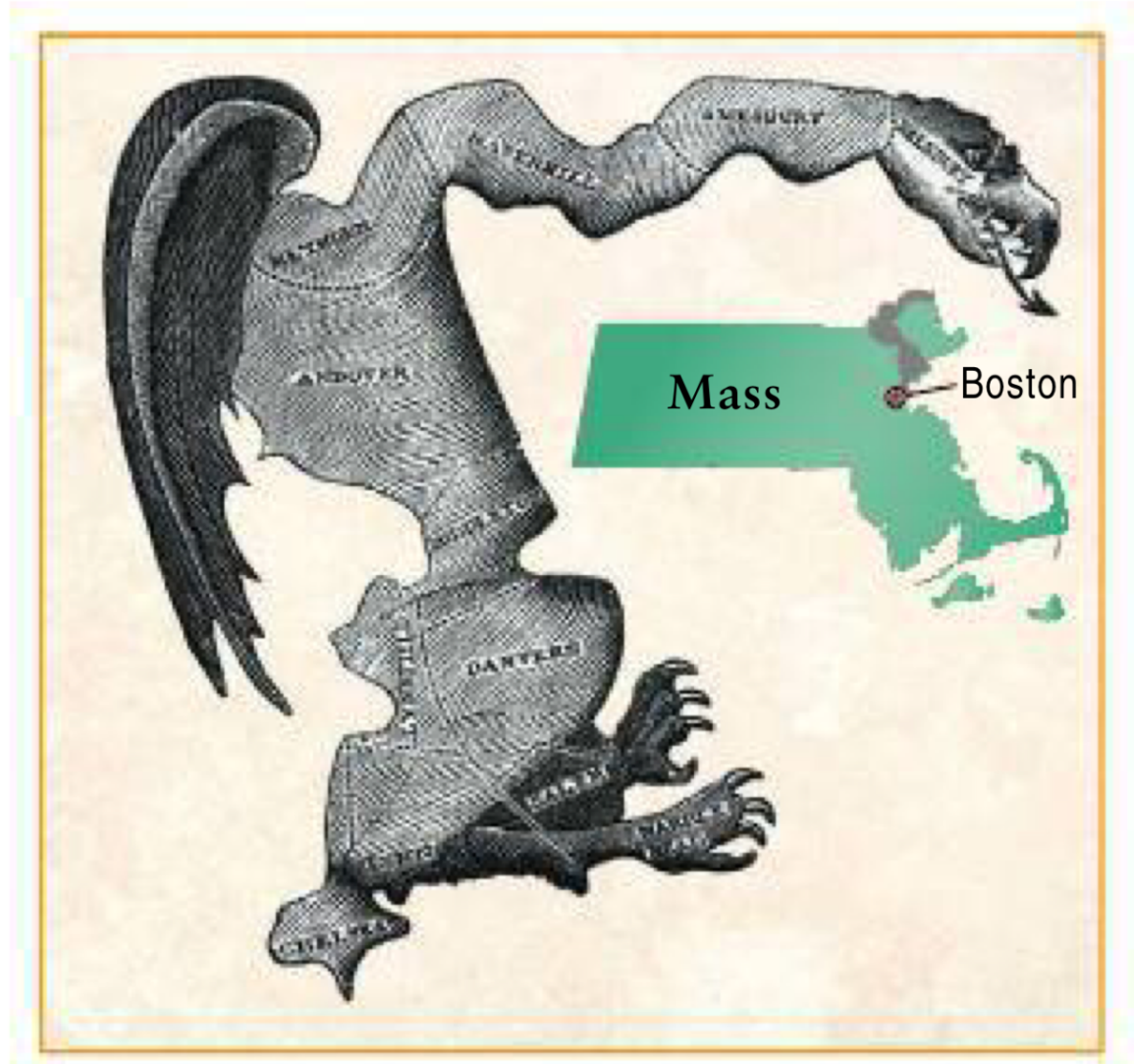


KEY

- Gained representation
- Lost representation
- No change
- 12 Number of representatives
- (+1/-1) Number of seats gained/lost

SOURCE: Census 2010

Gerrymandering takes its name from Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry, who in 1812, drew the State's legislative districts to favor his party. A noted painter added a head, wings, and claws to a district map hanging over the desk of a newspaper editor. "That will do for a salamander," the artist said. "Better say Gerrymander," growled the editor. ▶



in the number of people they included. State

Gerrymandering Choosing Their Voters

Each State's congressional districts must be redrawn every ten years, to bring the districts into line with the federal census. This gives State legislatures the opportunity to redistrict the State to the advantage of the majority party. **Why do some people think gerrymandering should be outlawed?**



- Registered Green Party voter
- Registered Orange Party voter
- ★ Each star represents incumbent
- ★ Each star represents incumbent

PACKING Packing happens when the State legislators “pack” as many voters from the opposing party into a single district as possible. This makes the other districts “safe” for the party in power.

Result: Two districts are safe for the Orange Party.



For an **interactive** exploration of gerrymandering, visit PearsonSchool.com/phgovt

CRACKING Cracking happens when the party in power splits up (spreads out) the voters who support the opposing party. This results in the minority party winning fewer seats.

Result: The Orange Party wins three districts.



KIDNAPPING Kidnapping happens when the party in power redraws the district lines to move a minority-party incumbent into a different district where she or he is less likely to win reelection.

Result: The Orange Party wins three seats. The Green Party incumbent “loses” his district.

