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Suppose you work hard,
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Can you think of an issue that would cause you to lose your temper, have a fist fight with other legislators, or act in un

Can you think of the most contentious form of regular politics in the US over the last 200 years?
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Legislative Redistricting
(Watch Carefully; We’ll have a contest to re district Brookline shortly!)

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Texas Senators Head For New Mexico To Block Redistricting
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Important but Inadequate! Standards for Fairness
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Preserving “Communities of Interest”
Compactness (and contiguity)
Gar*king (Harvard) 13/23
Democrat
Average = 52.5%
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New Standard for Fair Redistricting
Equal population
Preserving “Communities of Interest”
Compactness (and contiguity)
Partisan symmetry (no bias)
Electoral responsiveness
Opinion of KENNEDY, J.

NOTICE: This opinion is subject to formal revision before publication in the preliminary print of the United States Reports. Readers are requested to notify the Reporter of Decisions, Supreme Court of the United States, Washington, D. C. 20543, of any typographical or other formal errors, in order that corrections may be made before the preliminary print goes to press.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Nos. 05–204, 05–254, 05–276 and 05–439

LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS, ET AL., APPELLANTS

05–204

v.

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR OF TEXAS, ET AL.
Fair Seats

Partisan symmetry: When votes are split equally, seats are split equally.

Fair, Proportional
Gary King (Harvard) 19 / 23
Biased Seats

Partisan Bias: When votes are split equally, seats are split unequally.

Biased, Proportional
Gary King (Harvard) 20 / 23

Dem Vote Proportion
Compute average vote and seat proportions; plot black dot
Find difference of vote average from 0.5
Add difference from every district’s vote (new vote average = 0.5)
See who “wins” new districts with the adjusted votes; calculate seat proportion;
plot red dot
Calculate bias (difference in seat proportion from 0.5)
Find difference of vote average from 0.5
Add difference from every district's vote (new vote average = 0.5)
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Calculate bias (difference in seat proportion from 0.5)
In redistricting, the rules of the game are part of the game
With partisan symmetry, math can make redistricting fair
In practice, redistricting is a mess; lawsuits will be filed everywhere; rules will be broken; hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent
To legislators, this is the most visible issue
Redistricting is often invisible to the public. . . but not to you!

What did we learn?

Gary King (Harvard) 23/23
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