



Tame the Gerrymander!

Political Cartoon Contest

Maryland is home to some of the most poorly drawn congressional districts in the nation. We want to build on the proud history of political cartoons by running our own cartoon contest to document the current state of redistricting in Maryland.

The contest is open to any student in an accredited Maryland high school, college or university and to residents of Maryland attending like schools out-of-state. Cartoons should deal with gerrymandering in Maryland. Entries will be accepted until 11:59pm on February 23, 2014. The cartoons will be judged on their incorporation of both artistic quality and political satire. The winning cartoon will be published in papers across Maryland, and the artist will receive a cash prize of \$1,000! The second place winner will receive \$500 and the third place winner will receive \$250, so there are many chances to win.

Background

Political cartoons have a long history of driving policy change. Also known as editorial cartoons, these amazing pieces of work draw public attention to current events or personalities. They combine artistic skill with satire to draw attention to political corruption or other issues.

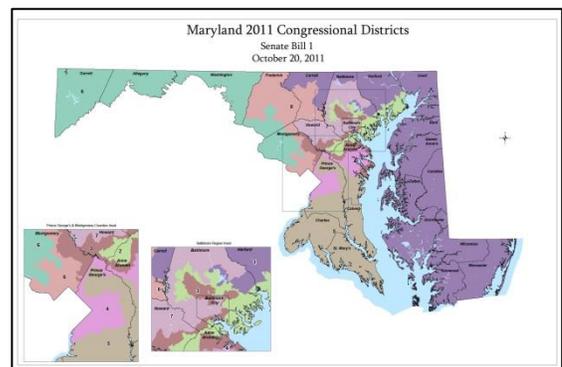
"Gerrymander" is a term that is now widely used to describe any act of drawing legislative districts for partisan advantage. But the name was invented thanks to an 1812 political cartoon that depicted a poorly drawn district in Massachusetts as a dragon-like monster. The image of a salamander stuck, and was combined with the name of the Governor, Elbridge Gerry, to coin the now infamous term.

Legislative and Congressional districts are drawn up by the states every ten years. The national census provides updated population data that is used to determine how many seats a state will have in the United States Congress and to draw district lines. States control the creation of their districts and use a variety of methods to draw the lines. Many states have moved to independent or non-partisan commissions to take the politics out of the process. In Maryland, the Governor draws both the congressional and legislative maps and they are approved by the Legislature. Maryland is the only state in the nation where the Governor draws the map of congressional districts!

By many measures Maryland is now the most gerrymandered state in the United States. Four of our eight districts (50%) are among the least compact in the country. Maryland's current plan has been called "comically gerrymandered." Critics have called the Maryland map "highly partisan and racially charged," questioning how a Congressman could fairly and accurately represent a district that "slices and dices counties, communities and neighborhoods". Judge Paul V. Niemeyer described the 3rd Congressional District as a "broken-winged pterodactyl, lying prostrate across the center of the state."

For more information about gerrymandering and the contest visit www.commoncause.org/md or www.lwvmd.org.

Examples of political cartoons are readily available through an online search. *Remember, all submitted work must be an original concept and idea!*



Contest Details

The Tame the Gerrymander political cartoon contest is open to any student in an accredited Maryland high school, college or university and to residents of Maryland attending like schools out-of-state. Cartoons should deal with gerrymandering in Maryland.

The winner will receive a cash prize of no less than \$1,000. Second-place will receive \$500 and third-place will receive \$250, so there are many chances to win!

There is no entry fee, but entrants must submit a completed application form and brief biography.

Rules

- All entries must be submitted by 11:59 pm February 23, 2014. The winning cartoon will be announced in early March, 2014.
- Entrants can either enter their own work or be sponsored by their school newspaper. If the entry is sponsored, the entry must be accompanied by a cover letter from the sponsor.
- There can be no more than 5 entries per individual.
- Each cartoon entered must be at least 9 x 7 inches and no more than 8 x 10 inches. Entries must be emailed to CCMD@CommonCause.org as a .jpg .gif or .png.
- Cartoons may be in color or black and white.
- Each entrant must provide a brief biography of 100 to 200 words and personal photo for use in publicizing the contest winners.
- Contestants and/or their sponsor must certify that the submitted entries are original work.
- By submitting a cartoon to this contest, the entrant agrees that the cartoon may be published by the Tame the Gerrymander Coalition in print or electronic format.
- All entries become the property of the sponsoring organizations (Common Cause Maryland, the League of Women Voters of Maryland, and the Annapolis Section of the National Council of Jewish Women).

Judging

The contest judges include Kevin Kallaugher (Kal), Editorial Cartoonist for the Economist and Baltimore Sun; Len Lazarick, Editor and Publisher of MarylandReporter.com; John Rouse, retired editor of the Gazette Newspapers; and Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Executive Director of Common Cause Maryland. Submissions will be judged based on how well they incorporate artistic quality, political satire, and the current state of redistricting in Maryland.

Here are a few tips and suggestions for drafting cartoons:

- Political cartoons are often negative. They point out flaws, corruption, or issues that need correcting.
- Strong cartoons create a metaphor for an issue; they create an image that can be used to represent the idea.
- Often cartoons focus on an existing theme or illustration and use hyperbole to send an exaggerated message.
- "Humor" is not easily defined. Have fun and make the judges smile!

Tame the Gerrymander!

Common Cause Maryland * League of Women Voters of Maryland * National Conference of Jewish Women, Annapolis Section
For more information email CCMD@CommonCause.org or ttgb42020@verizon.net

Tame the Gerrymander!
Political Cartoon Contest Entry Form

Entrant Name _____

School Attending _____

Phone (home) _____

(cell) _____

E-Mail _____

Address _____

State of Legal Residence _____

By signing below, I agree that the material submitted with this entry form becomes the property of the sponsoring organizations (Common Cause Maryland, the League of Women Voters of Maryland, and the Annapolis Section of the National Council of Jewish Women). I also certify that this entry is the original work of the entrant.

(Signature)

(Date)

(Signature of parent or guardian, if under 18)

(Date)

- 1) If submission is made by multiple entrants, each entrant must complete and sign the entry form.
- 2) If submission is sponsored by a school paper, the paper must complete and sign the form in addition to the entrant. A school paper may sponsor multiple entrants but each must complete the entry form. The paper must also submit a cover letter stating their support.
- 3) If the entrant is under 18, the form must also be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- 4) All submissions must be received by 11:59pm on February 23, 2014. No submissions will be accepted after that date.
- 5) To be considered a complete submission, any cartoon entered must be at least 7 x 9 inches and no more than 8 x 10 inches and must be submitted as a .jpg .gif or .png. Each entrant must provide a brief biography of 100 to 200 words and personal photo for use in publicizing the contest winners.