

***Gerrymandering*** - the practice of drawing election district lines (such as for Congress or a state legislature) to give an artificial advantage to one party. The following “recipe” is intended to illustrate (and make fun of) this practice.

## GERRYMANDER CAKE

*An Old Maryland Favorite*<sup>1</sup>

1 census map

4 cups Democratic voters

4 cups Republican voters

2 cups unaffiliated voters

*Regional adjustment:* In a Republican-dominated state, use up to 5 firmly packed cups of Democrats; in a Democratic-dominated state, use up to 5 firmly packed cups of Republicans.

2 eggs, well beaten

1 teaspoon baking powder - *or* ¼ teaspoon of political ambition may be substituted – experience has shown a little goes a long way.

½ cup melted shortening (shortchanging of incumbents may be substituted, but the cake may become bitter)

½ cup milk

1 teaspoon artificial vanilla or other artificial flavoring - even artificial “reform” has been used!

Beat firmly until public interest subsides. Then add 1 map of election returns.

Pour beaten mixture into a baking dish carefully marked to show the locations of the homes of incumbents office holders.

Bake in a closed room\* until immediately before the legislative session - or until an opinion poll can be inserted and removed cleanly.

*\*Note:* For most reliable results, the room should be filled with loyal party leaders. Adding independent members may produce unpredictable results.

*Caution:* Do not expose to sunlight while baking - this may ruin your cake!

Refrigerate for at least 4 hours if your party has only recently gained a majority – in this situation, Gerrymander cake, like revenge, is a dish best served cold.

Cut into irregular slices. Serves 8 million voters - poorly.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the traditional Maryland recipe. Other states have similar recipes, which may be adapted for use in other locations, making adjustments as noted.