

*Every person deserves be counted fairly.*

# END PRISON GERRYMANDERING

**Most states count people who are incarcerated at the places where they are imprisoned rather than as part of their home community. This counting method is known as prison gerrymandering, and it distorts our democracy.**

**Ensure EVERYONE is Counted & Represented Fairly**

**Voting districts should be drawn in a way that helps ensure that everyone has a voice in our democracy.**



**"It's almost like your body being used."**

-- Alexander, incarcerated person in Wisconsin



**The vote strength of rural places with prisons is artificially inflated - because most people in prison can't vote, at the same time areas without prisons are deflated.**



## Prison Gerrymandering is Unpopular

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and Washington State, and more than 200 cities and counties have taken action to end prison gerrymandering.

**After a public comment period, the Census Bureau found 99.97% of the public was in favor of counting incarcerated people at their last known residence.**

### The Benefits of Reforming Prison Gerrymandering:

- ✓ It will ensure that representation is more accurate.
- ✓ It will end vote and representation dilution: a small handful of districts from BOTH parties will no longer have gained power at the expense of all others.
- ✓ It will fulfill state constitutional requirements that a prison shall not be a residence.
- ✓ Incarcerated people would regain the protection of and representation in our government. Right now, individuals in prisons rarely come from the surrounding community where they are incarcerated and cannot vote in that area either.

“As our country wrestles with the horrific legacy of racism in our justice systems, it’s time to take a step on a better path forward.”

-- Common Cause

**REMEMBER:** Having mostly incarcerated people who can't vote in a district - means it's easier for elected officials to win elections compared to other legislators in districts without prison populations.