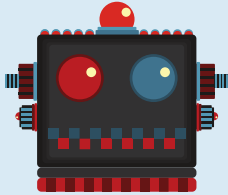


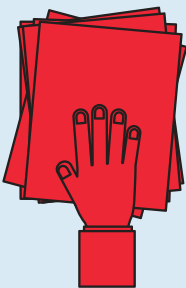
REFORMING REDISTRICTING

“Why can’t you just use make a computer draw all the redistricting maps?”



No computer program to draw districts will ever be free of human judgment and bias because human beings must input instructions for a computer program to follow. One or more human beings must make value judgments about whether to tell the program to prioritize competition between the major parties, keeping counties and or cities together, nesting state house districts into state senate districts, or one of the many measures of compactness, partisan symmetry, or responsiveness.

“OK, but once humans have made all those decisions, can’t a computer automatically generate the best map?”



Ordering a computer to generate a map based on specific criteria does not result in one map. It results in an infinite number.

In several court challenges to the gerrymandering of districts, Common Cause has hired University of Michigan political scientist Jowei Chen to testify as an expert witness. In his work, Professor Chen generally produces 1,000 maps per simulation. Another one of our expert witnesses, John Mattingly, produced more than 20,000. Choosing a map requires human judgment.

Common Cause values the voices of people from each community



The best redistricting reforms encourage robust public participation in a transparent process by requiring all commission deliberations to happen in public and by mandating a minimum number of hearings across the jurisdiction with adequate public notice.

Read more: www.commoncause.org/NotSiri