

# “Partisan Fairness” in Redistricting

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# Criteria for Redistricting Maps

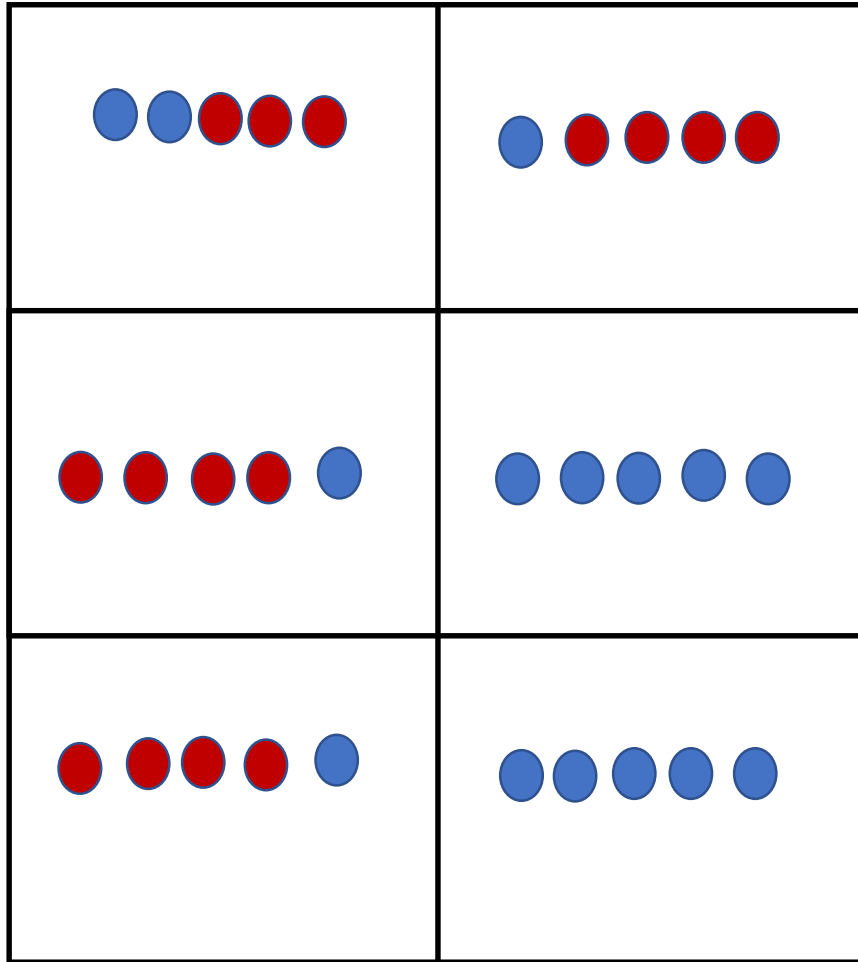
(MI Const. Art IV, Sec 6.13)

- a) Equal population, respect Voting Rights Act
  - b) Contiguous.
- } Federal law
- c) Respect “communities of interests.”
  - d) Not provide an advantage to any party, according to “accepted measures of partisan fairness.”**
  - e) Not favor or disfavor incumbents.
  - f) Respect county and city boundaries.
  - g) Be reasonably compact.

# Natural vs Artificial Advantage

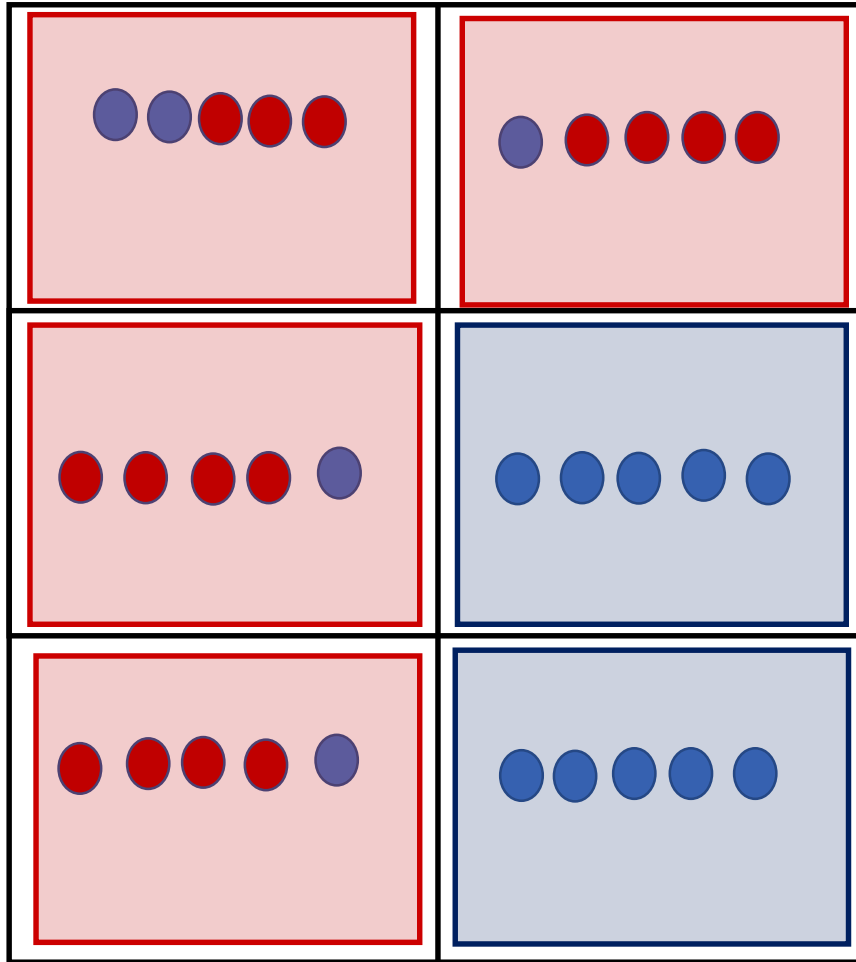
- “Natural” advantage:** Built-in advantage that a party enjoys due to the geographic distribution of voters.
- “Artificial” advantage:** Additional partisan advantage created by drawing maps favorable to a party.
- “Reverse gerrymander”:** A map drawn to nullify the natural advantage of a party by providing the other party with a compensating artificial advantage.

# Example: 6 counties, 30 voters



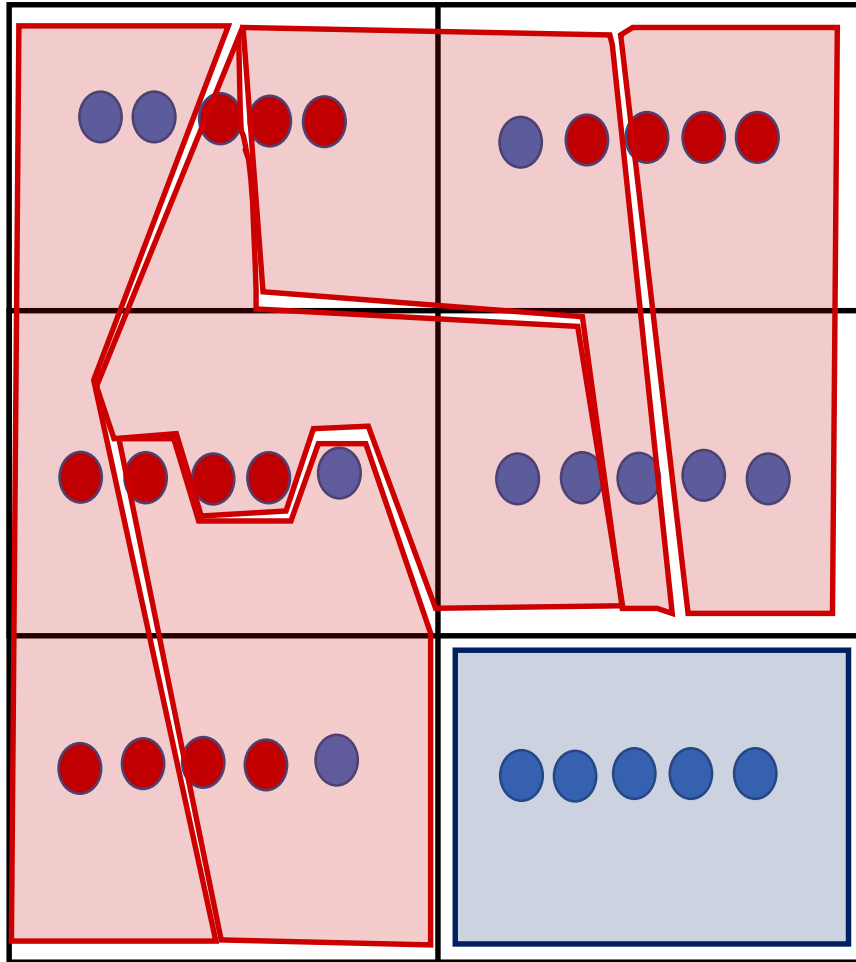
- County map in black.
- 15 blue, 15 red voters.
- Must draw 6 districts.

# A Natural Advantage for Red, 4-2



- Voters: **B 15-15 R**
- County-based map.
- Districts: **B 2-4 R**

# A Red Gerrymander 5-1



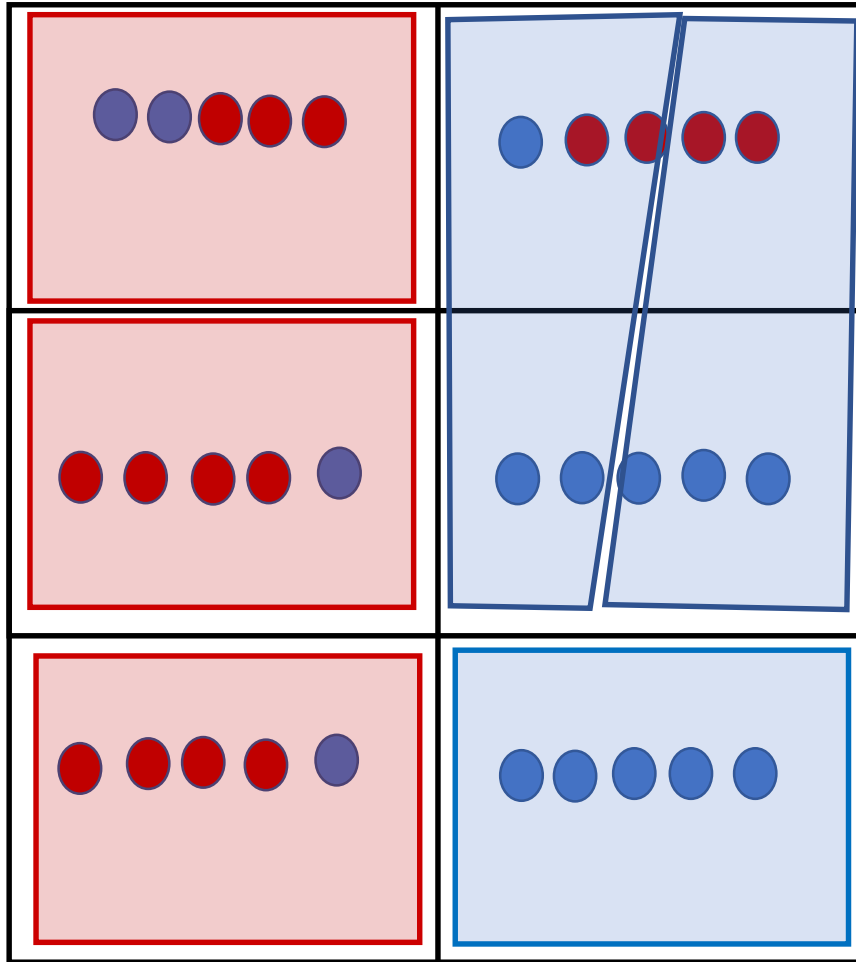
- Voters: **B 15-15 R**

- Districts: **B 1-5 R**

- **Red Artificial Partisan Advantage: 1 seat.**

(difference with county-based benchmark).

# A Blue Reverse Gerrymander, 3-3



- Voters: **B 15-15 R**

- Districts: **B 3-3 R**

# Constructing the Seat Benchmark (1)



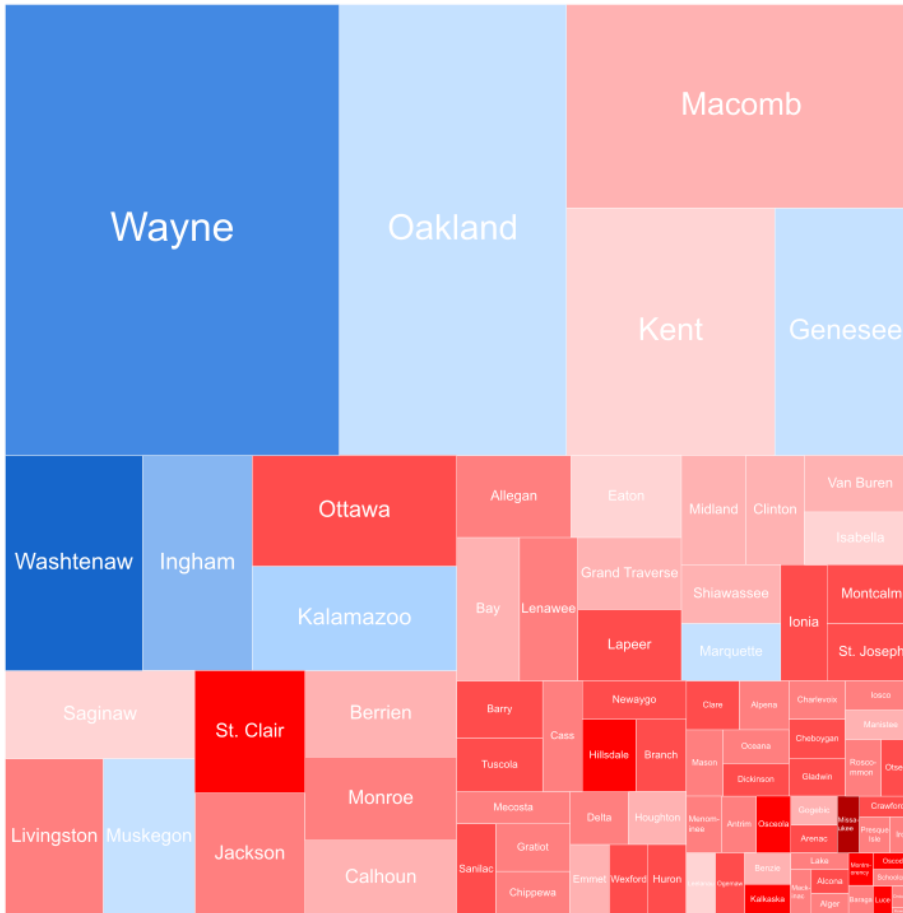
- Assign seats to counties in proportion to population.

COUNTY	POP.	SEATS
Alcona	10,362	0.01
Alger	9,097	0.01
Allegan	117,327	0.16
Alpena	28,360	0.04
Antrim	23,365	0.03
Arenac	15,041	0.02
Baraga	8,320	0.01
Barry	61,157	0.09
Bay	103,923	0.15
Benzie	17,753	0.02
Berrien	154,141	0.22
	[...]	



# Constructing the Seat Benchmark (2)

**Michigan Counties**  
United States presidential election, 2016



- Assign a county's seats to the party that won the county.

COUNTY	DEM	REP
Alcona		0.01
Alger		0.01
Allegan		0.16
Alpena		0.04
Antrim		0.03
Arenac		0.02
Baraga		0.01
Barry		0.09
Bay	0.15	
Benzie		0.02
[...]		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.30</b>	<b>7.70</b>

# Artificial Partisan Advantage in MI

Artificial Advantage = Actual Seats – Benchmark seats

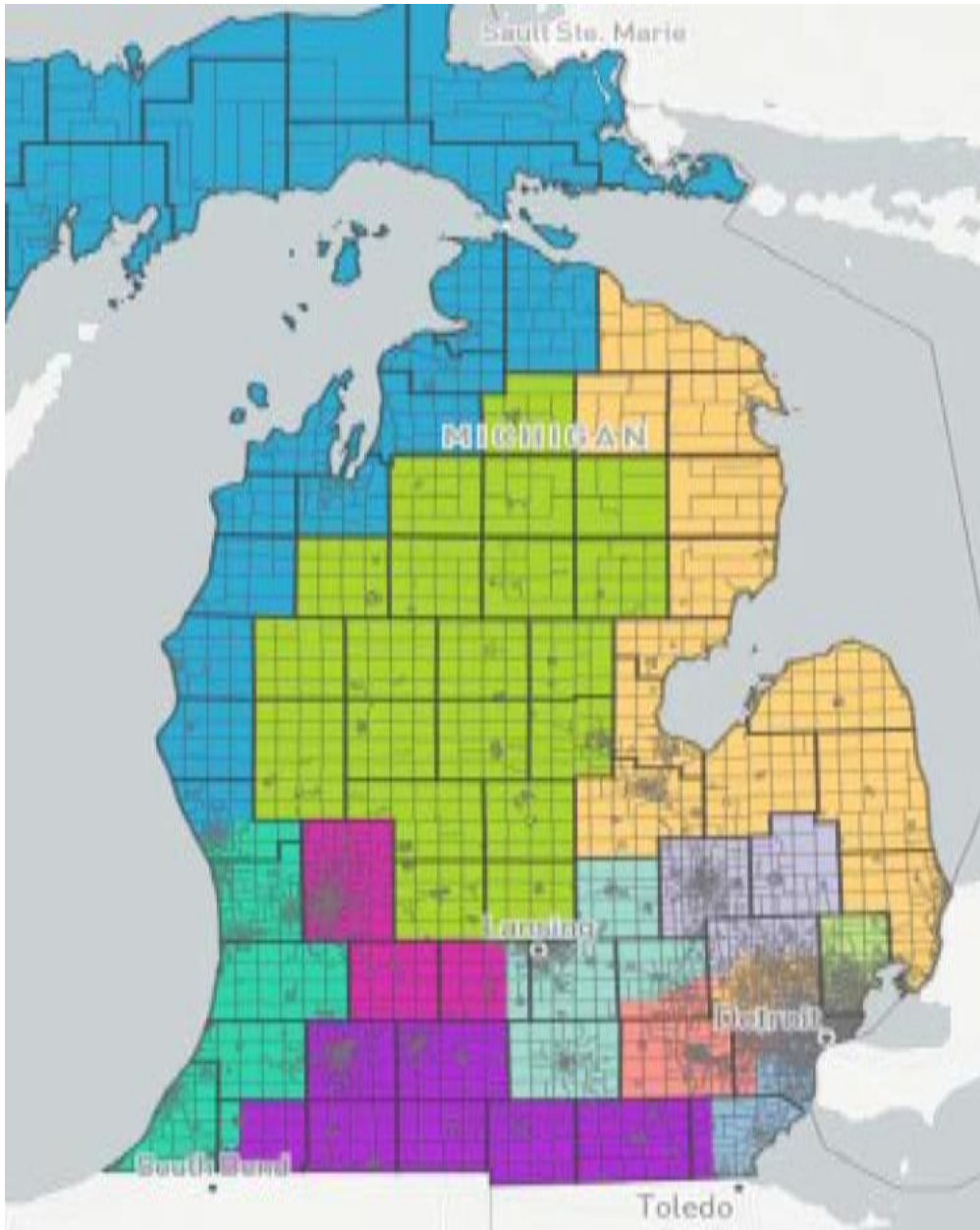
	2012	2014	2016	2018	AVG	50-50
US HOUSE						
Vote share	D 51-46 R	D 49-47 R	D 47-48 R	D 52-45 R	50%-47%	D 50-50 R
Seat split	5-9	5-9	5-9	7-7	5.5-8.5	5-9
Benchmark	8.5-5.5	6.8-7.2	6.3-7.7	8.3-6.7	7.5-6.5	6.3-7.7
<b>Artific. Adv</b>	<b>GOP +3.5</b>	<b>GOP +1.8</b>	<b>GOP +1.3</b>	<b>GOP +1.3</b>	<b>GOP +2.0</b>	<b>GOP +1.3</b>
More than 10% of the delegation. One of 4 worst in country (NC, OH, UT).						
MI Senate: GOP +3 seats (out of 38)						
MI House: GOP +3 seats (out of 110).						

# 2022-2030 Michigan District Maps

*“...shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party.”*

- Should preserve any natural advantage.
  - Should minimize the Artificial Partisan Advantage.<sup>[1]</sup>
- In practice, on a tied vote share, MI GOP may win:
- 8 US House seats, for an 8-6 majority (not 9-5).
  - 22 MI Senate seats, for a 22-16 majority (not 26-12).
- A seat tie may require a small (2%) Democratic vote victory, not the large one (8%) now required.

[1] Jon X. Eguia. “Artificial Partisan Advantage in Redistricting. SSRN 3335967, 2019.



# DIY Maps

- Try out drawing your own map at <https://districtr.org/>
- Thank you!