

Voting and Elections

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PLSC 1

Road map

- How do we vote?
- What is gerrymandering?
- Let's draw some lines!

Poll

Have you voted in any election?

Yes

No

Who Runs Elections?

The Times, Places and Manner of Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State and the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators. (Article 1, Section 4, Clause 1)

A History of Problems

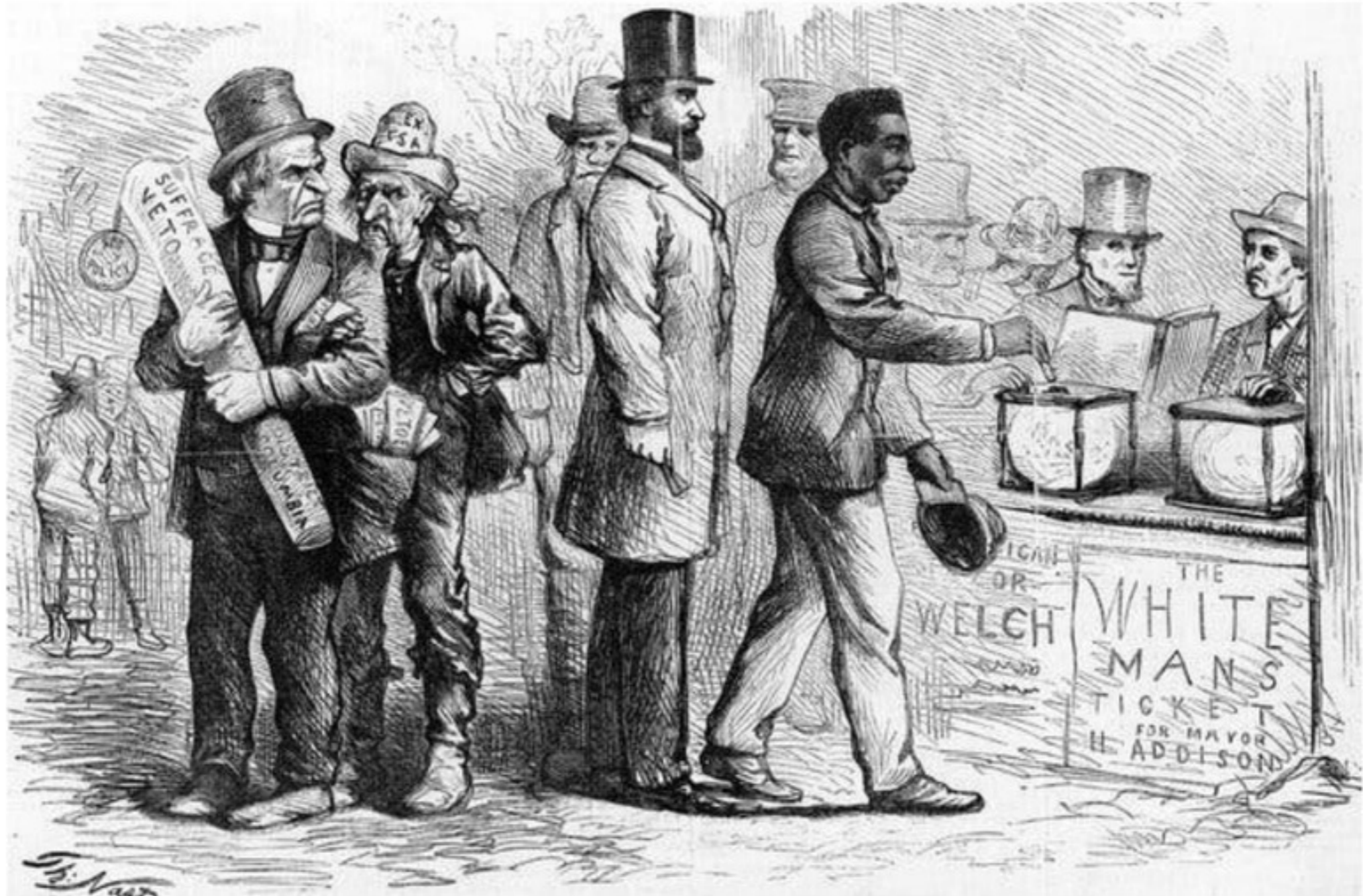


Figure: Source: *New York Times*

A Long Struggle

- 1856 - Non-landowning whites could vote
- 1870 - 15th Amendment (Black Men)
- 1913 - 17th Amendment (Senators)
- 1920 - 19th Amendment (Women)
- 1964 - 24th Amendment (Poll Tax)
- 1965 - Voting Rights Act
- 1971 - 26th Amendment (18-21)
- 2013 - *Shelby v. Holder*

Voting Rights Act of 1965

- Banned literacy tests
- Appointment of federal examiners to register voters
- Gave Attorney General of US ability to review redistricting
- Section 5 - Preclearance for new voting practices and procedures

Voting Rights Act of 1965

The impact of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

Black voter registration in southern states

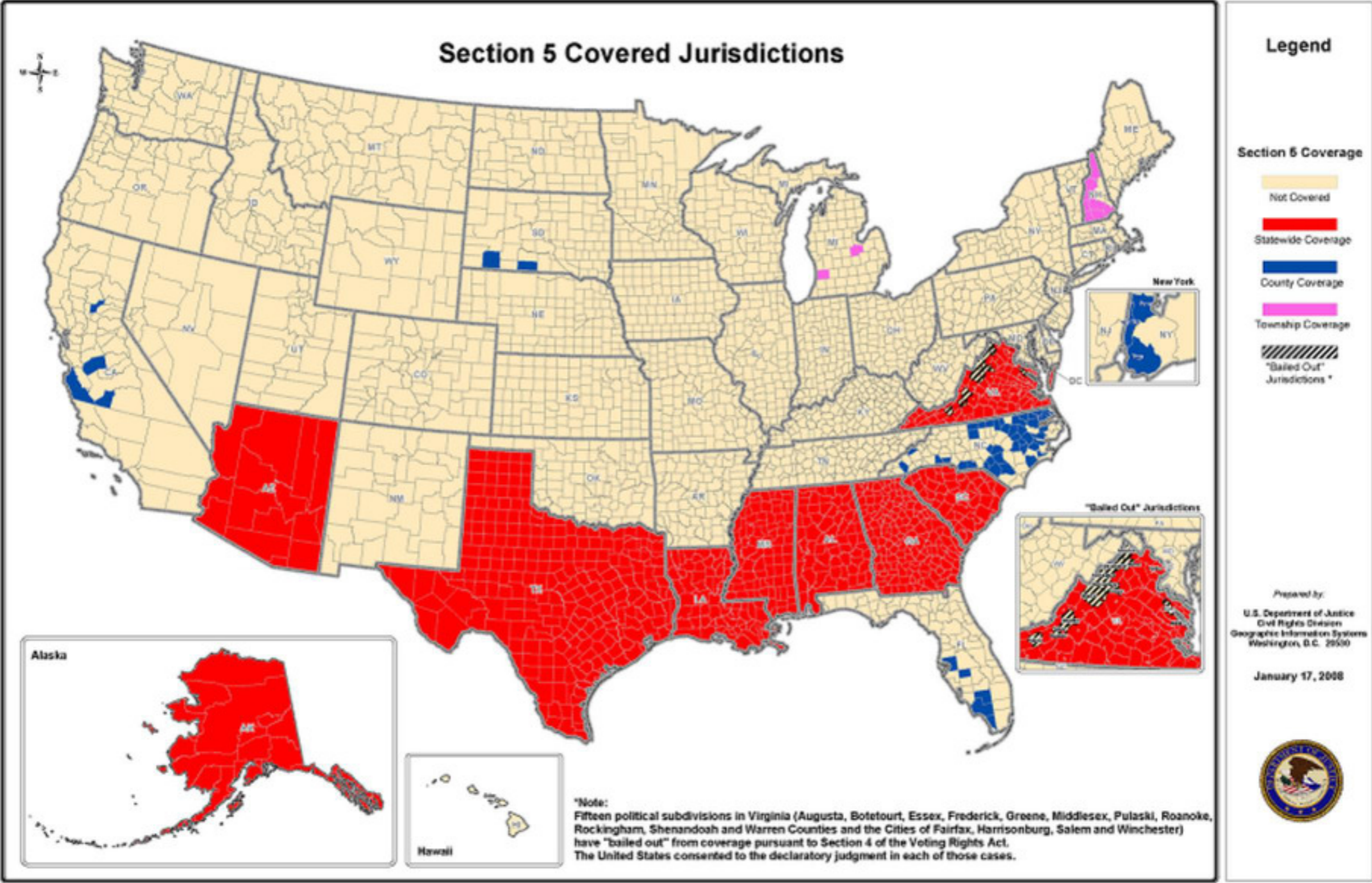


SOURCE: "Minority Representation and the Quest for Voting Equality" via the US Commission for Civil Rights



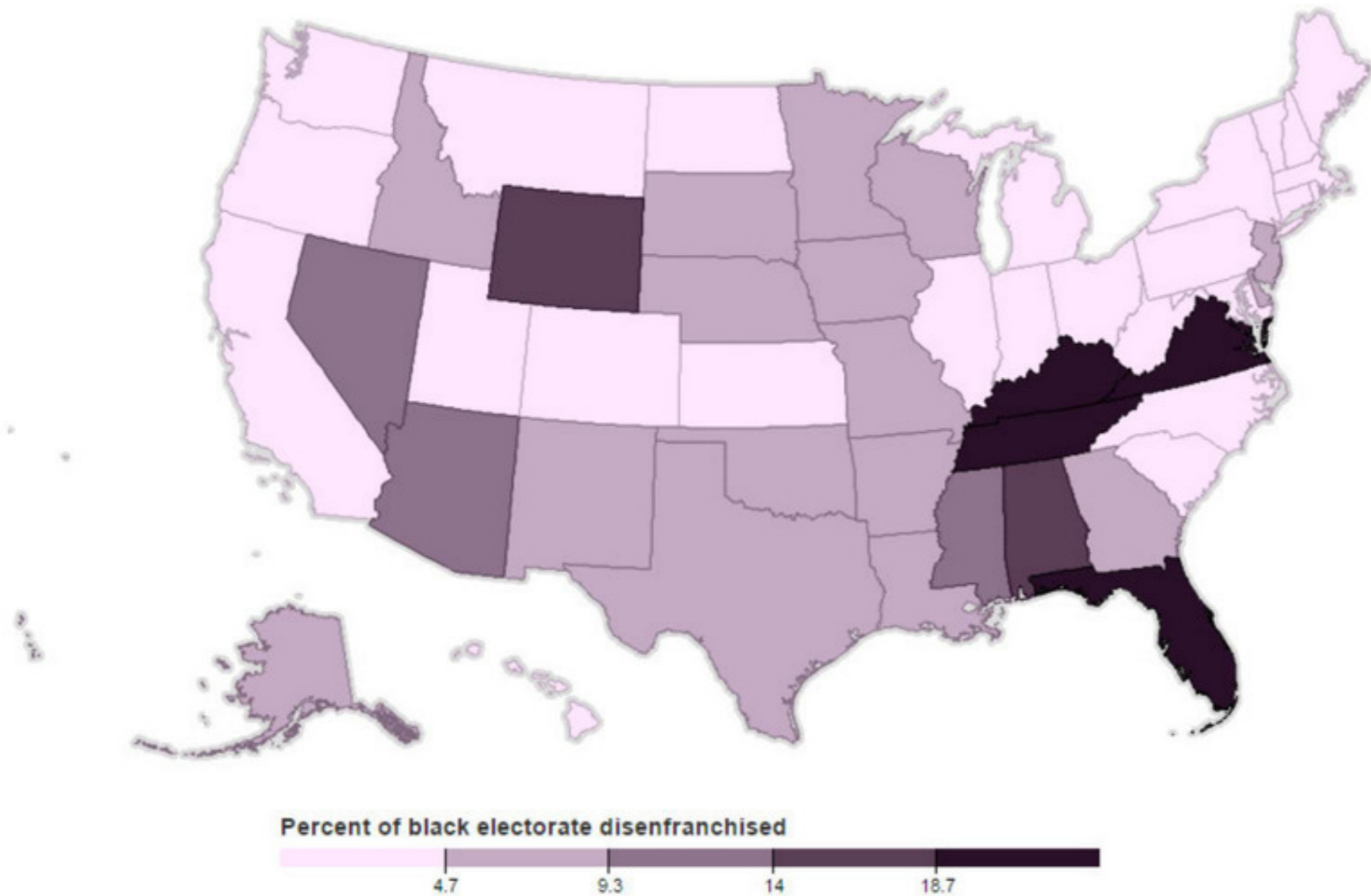
Figure: Source: Vox

Voting Rights Act of 1965



War on Crime and Voting

Felony and prisoner disenfranchisement of the black electorate



Source: The Sentencing Project

Vox

Open Ended Question

Why do people vote?

Changing Voting Practices...

... changes who votes.

- Closed vs. Open Primaries
- Same-day registration
- Automatic registration
- Voter Identification
- Election day holiday
- Registration difficulty (deadlines, forms)

Poll

Should (photo) identification be required to vote?

- Yes - Photo
- Yes - Any ID
- No

Voter Fraud

More likely for an American to “be struck by lightning than that [s]he will impersonate another voter at the polls.” (Brennan Center Study 2007)

Trade-Off: Ease and Security

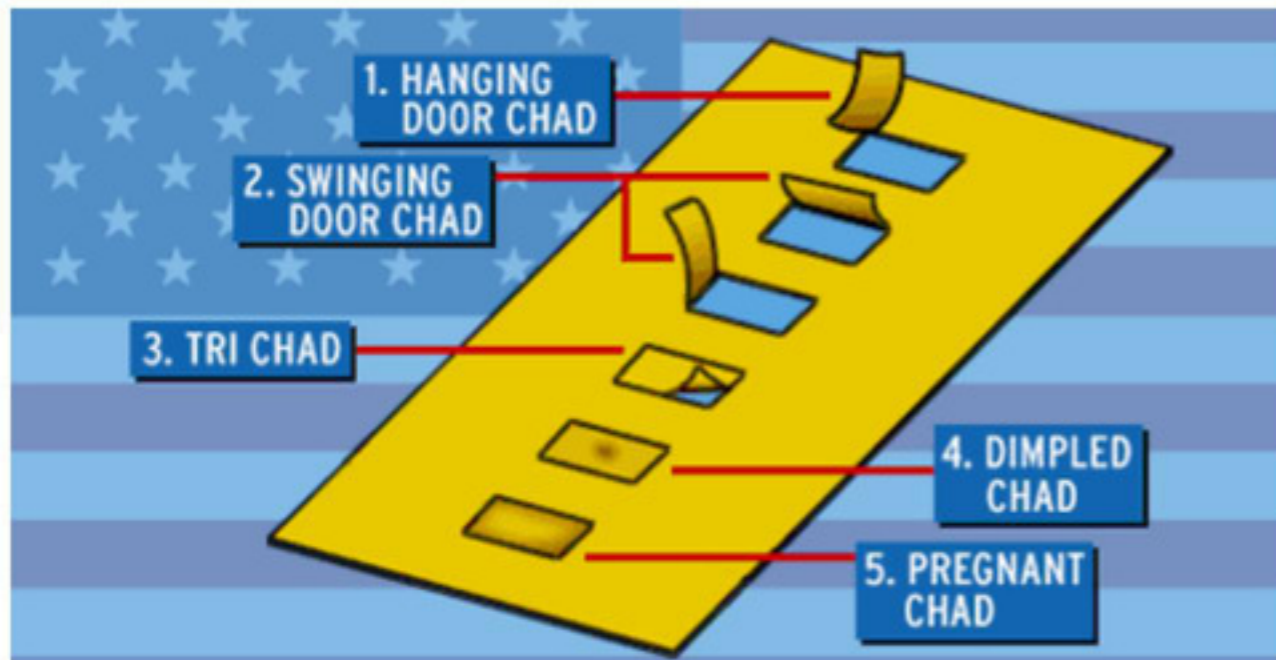


Figure: Source: UCSD

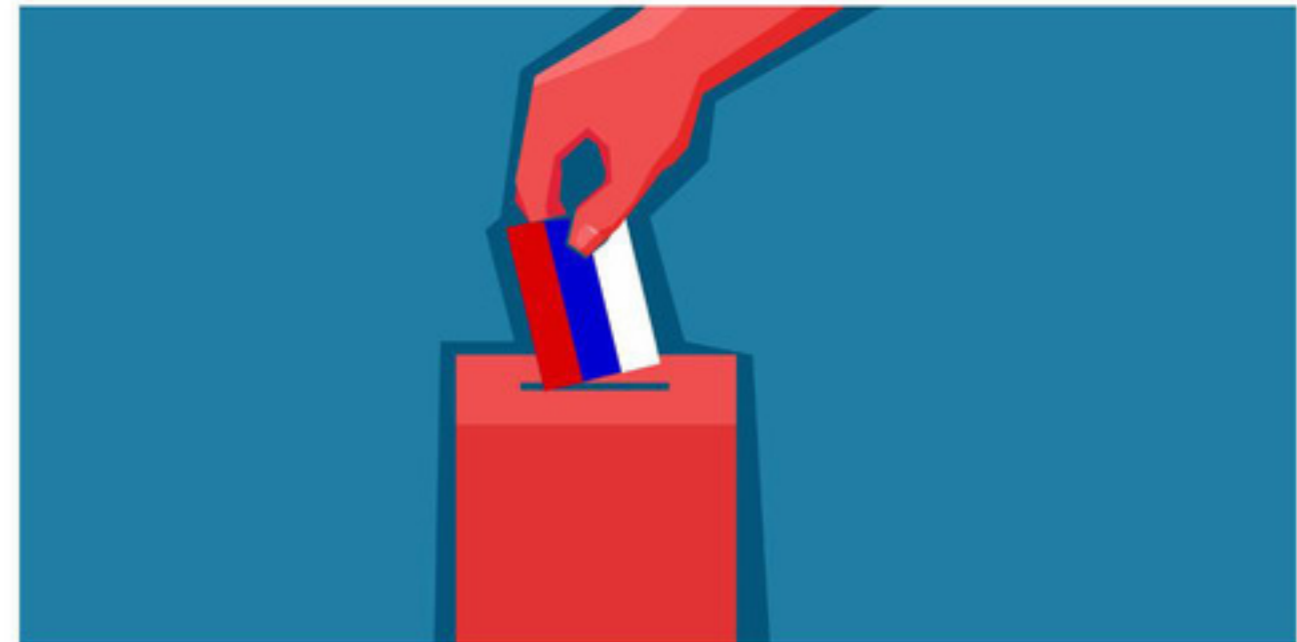


Figure: Source: Health 2019 <https://drawthelinespa.org>

Discussion

Shouldn't we just vote in the Internet?

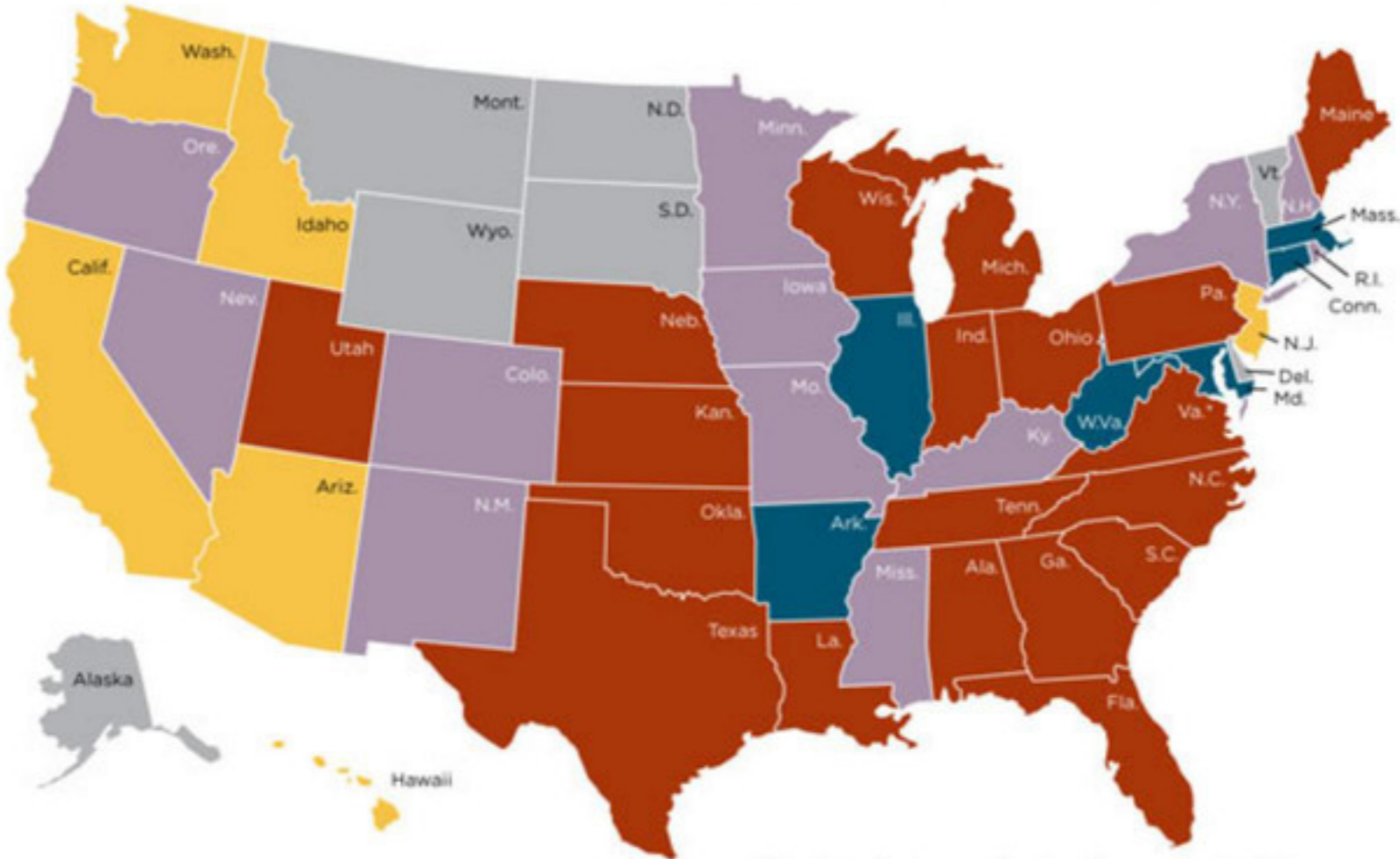
Drawing the Lines

- Districts redrawn after every Census
- Not always the case
- *Baker v. Carr* (1962), *Wesberry v. Sanders* (1964), *Reynolds v. Sims* (1964) - One person, one vote

Methods

Who controls redistricting?

■ Republicans
 ■ Democrats
 ■ Split
 ■ Commission
 ■ Single district



By districts
435 total

* One state Senate race had not been called as of press time, but it appeared the GOP would take control of the chamber.



Values

Other values are included in state constitutions

- Compactness
- Contiguity
- Equal population
- Preservation of communities
- Partisan fairness
- Racial fairness
- Partisan competition

Poll

What is your top value?

- Compactness
- Competitive Elections
- Communities of Interest
- Contiguity
- Equal population
- Jurisdictional Splits
- Minority Representation
- Party Advantage
- Wild Card



Draw the Lines

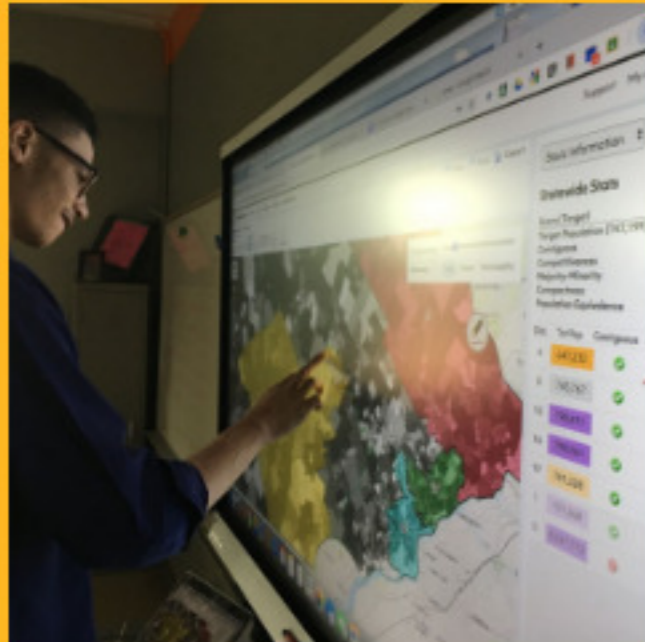
Gerrymandering 101

Educator Resources

Contest Winners

Participate

[Draw a map](#)



BACK TO SCHOOL

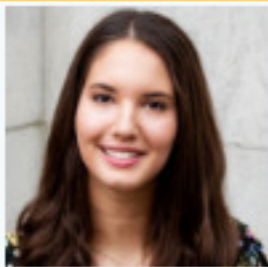


Check out DTL's Educational Materials

They're adaptable for high school or college →

[Learn more →](#)

<https://drawthelinespa.org>



Slay the

Two Assignments

Voting Assignment

Due October 18, See Syllabus Appendix B

Gerrymandering Assignment

Due November 8, See Syllabus Appendix B

Quiz 2

Opens now! Due Monday by start of class.