What's the deal with...

REDISTRICTING?

Frank Tamborello, Hunger Action LA

If you control
White House and
Congress, you can
get your policies
passed

- Presidents need control of Congress to get their agenda passed
- Congress is House plus Senate
- House has 438 Representatives who each represent a District
- Right now the Republicans have a very slim majority in the House---2 or 3 seats

Who decides the districts and when?

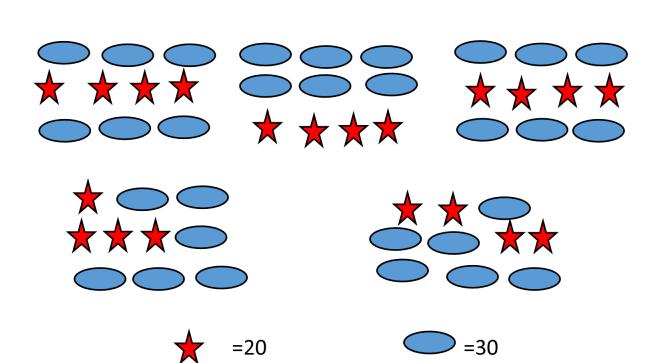
State governments decide how to draw the districts for the federal representation in Congress.

So what is "gerrymandering"

- It's drawing the districts so that you end up winning when you don't actually have as much support.
- Some call it "cheating"

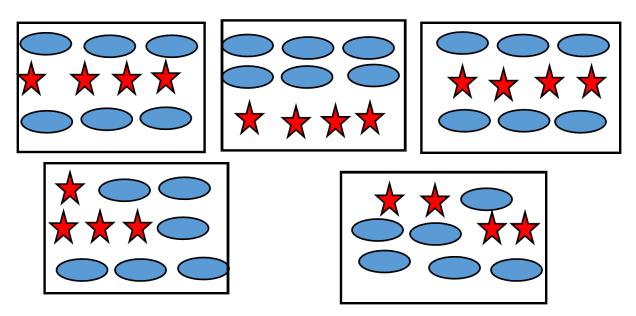
SAMPLE STATE

An example of a gerrymander



Naturally drawn districts—people who live in the same community

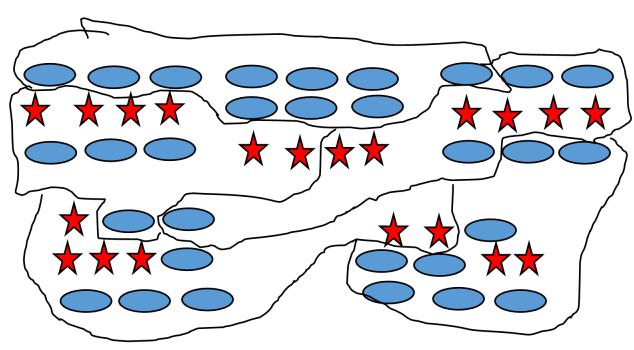
FAIRLY DRAWN DISTRICTS



With districts drawn using natural boundaries, ovals win 6 to 4 in each district. The state elects 5 ovals total.

Then they redraw the districts

GERRYMANDERED DISTRICTS



You still have more ovals than stars. But now the stars win 3 districts, and the ovals only win 2 districts



If you redraw your local districts, and it's your side that's re-drawing them, you can create more power for your party

Consequences of gerrymandering

- Community representationis divided
- A minority of people have more power than the majority

The elections everyone ignores....

- The mid-term elections usually have a very low turnout
- •Many times, the party in power loses seats in the midterm elections
- The president needs votes in the House and Senate to get his agenda passed

Why gerrymander now? HR 1

- Republicans are afraid that their constituents will feel the effect of SNAP and Medicaid cuts that they just passed
- So they want to gerrymander to create more "safe" seats for them in the House, so they can maintain control

So what is happening now and why?

- The president asked Texas to redraw districts to create5 more Republican seats
- Governor Newsom said that if that happened, California would re-district to create 5 more Democratic seats
- California has a citizen's redistricting commission that is supposed to prevent unfair redistricting by politicians (Texas has no such process)
- Governor created Prop 50 to allow the citizens to approve this redistricting
- Ads are already running against Prop 50