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A Watershed Moment Navigating Infrastructure Funding in a Shifting Federal Landscape

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Presenters



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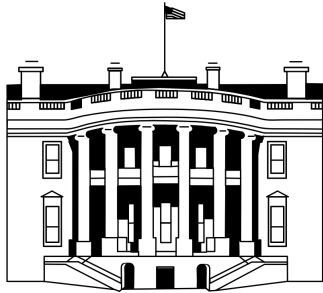
Agenda



1. Introductions
2. Year in Review
3. Federal Funding Update & FY 2026/2027 Appropriations Outlook
4. Looking Ahead
5. Q&A
6. Closing

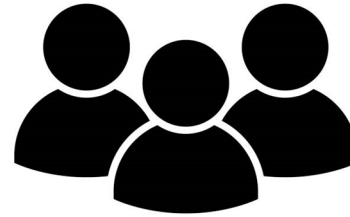
Year in Review

Key Takeaways



White House

- Rapid executive orders & presidential memoranda drove policymaking
- Focus on deregulation, efficiency, and freezing the disbursement of certain federal funds



Agencies

- DOGE consolidation efforts impacted agency staffing and resources
- Accelerated deregulatory agenda focused on overturning prior administrations' regulations (e.g., NEPA, WOTUS, ESA, PFAS)



Courts

- Federal funding freeze blocked, litigation ongoing
- Approved funding largely flowing, new awards subject to Administration priorities
- Recent SCOTUS rulings bolster the Trump Administration's deregulatory efforts

Executive Orders

First 100 Days



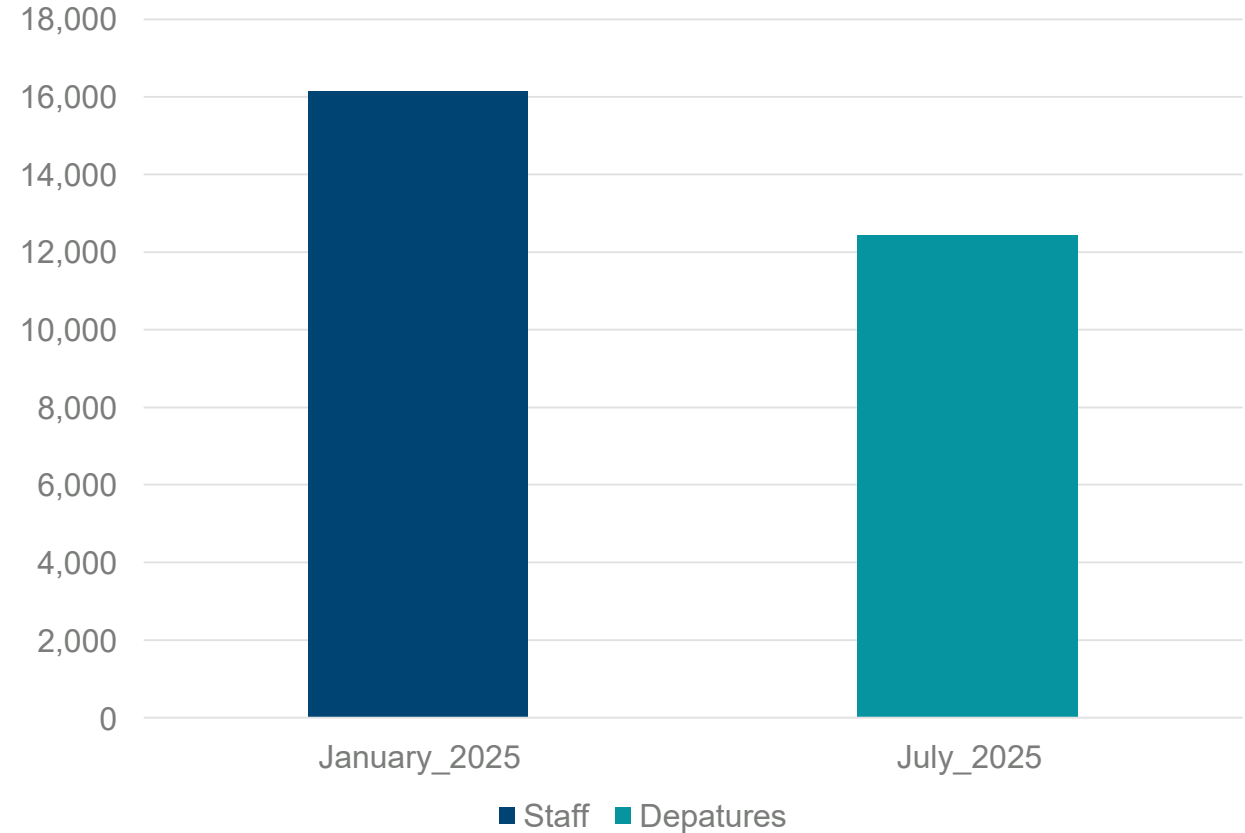
■ Federal government ■ Trade tariffs ■ DEI ■ Foreign Affairs
■ Healthcare ■ Border/Immigration ■ Energy/climate ■ Science/technology
■ Defense ■ Other

Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)



- Jan 20: DOGE established
- Feb 11: Workforce Optimization EO
- Feb 19: Deregulatory Initiative EO
- Feb 26: Cost Efficiency Initiative EO
- Mar 12: EPA terminates EJ/DEI Arms
- May 2: EPA reorg phase I
- Jul 17: EPA reorg phase II
- Jul 18: EPA announces RIFs/reorg

EPA Staffing Levels



(De)Regulatory Shifts

“Unleashing Prosperity Through
Deregulation” EO
(Jan 31)



Presidential Memo: “Directing the
Repeal of Unlawful Regulations”
(Apr 9)



OIRA Memo: “Streamlining the
Review of Deregulatory Actions”
(Oct 21)

Overview

The Trump Administration is shifting federal water and environmental policy away from environmental-justice and climate initiatives, prioritizing traditional infrastructure and accelerating deregulation with reduced federal review requirements

Impacts

- **Feb 25:** NEPA implementing regulations rescinded
- **Apr 17:** ESA Definition of “Harm” rescission proposed
- **May 14:** PFAS NPDWR Compliance Deadline extension/Regulatory Determinations withdrawal announced
- **Nov 20:** Updated Definition of WOTUS proposed

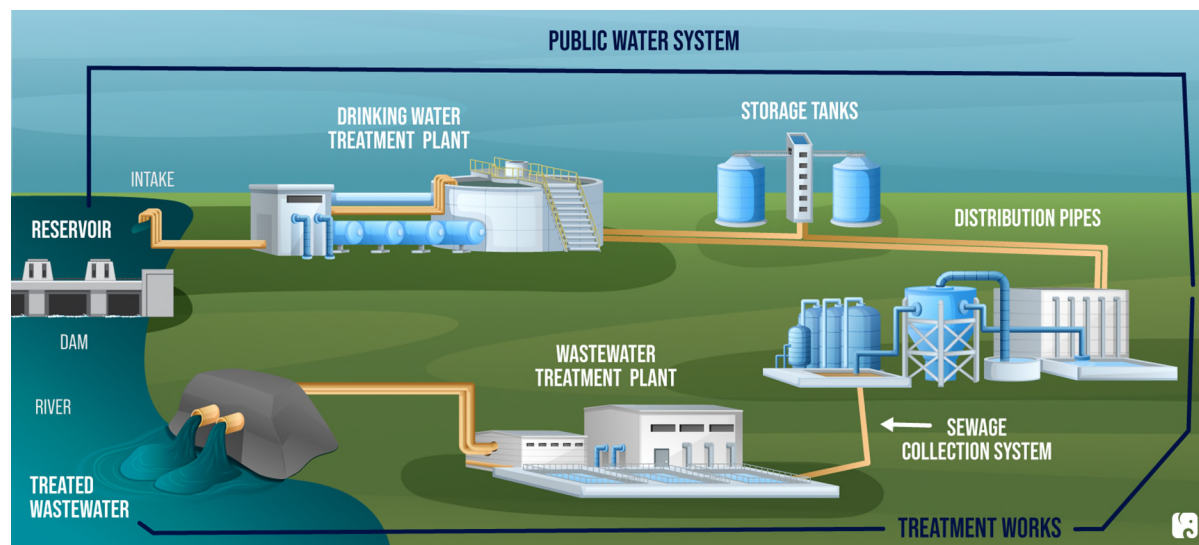
Federal Funding Update & FY26/27 Appropriations Outlook

Federal Water Infrastructure Funding: Current State

- Sources of Federal Funding
 - Annual Appropriations Bills
 - Emergency Supplemental/Infrastructure Legislation
 - Community Project Funding and Congressionally Directed Spending
- Historic Challenges = Historic Funding Levels
- What will the future bring?



Key Water-Funding Accounts



- Environmental Protection Agency
 - SRF, WIFIA
- Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Reclamation: WaterSMART, Title XVI
 - Fish & Wildlife: National Fish Passage Program
- USDA
 - Rural Water & Waste Disposal
- Corps of Engineers

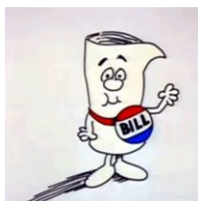
How to Position For Success

- Near-Term Actions
 - Inventory your infrastructure needs and priorities
 - Check eligibility across multiple agencies and programs
 - Consider technical assistance resources
- Engaging Congress
 - Start early to develop relationships
 - Coordinate with a coalition if possible
 - Find ways to stand out

Looking Ahead – 2026 & Beyond

What Does All of this *Mean*?

INPUTS



Policy

Politics



History

Culture



OUTPUTS



New Laws and Regulations

Political Campaigns & Media Coverage



Voter Sentiments & Behavior

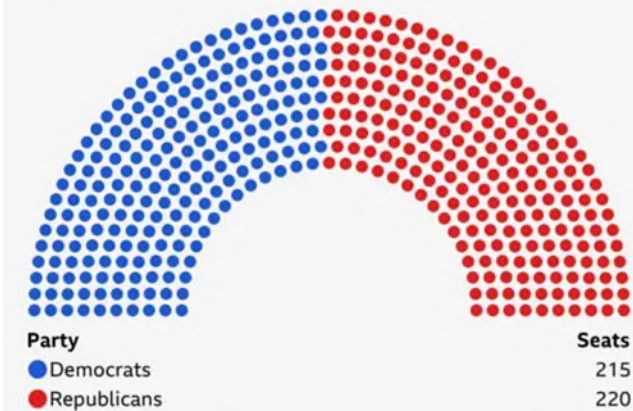
Electoral Results & Institutional Power



The 2026 Midterm Elections

- What's on the Ballot?
 - **All 435 Seats** in the U.S. House of Representatives
 - ??? Toss Up's (redistricting mania)
 - **33 seats** in the U.S. Senate
 - 9 Democratic Incumbents Defending
 - ❖ GA considered "flip" opportunity for GOP
 - 4 Retiring Democratic Seats
 - ❖ MI & NH considered "flip" opportunities for the GOP
 - 18 Republican Incumbents Defending
 - ❖ ME considered "flip" opportunity for Democrats
 - ❖ TX & OH buzz; would require a very strong "wave" year
 - 4 Retiring Republican Seats
 - ❖ NC considered "flip" opportunity for Democrats
 - ❖ IA buzz; would require a very strong "wave" year

United States House of Representatives
Seats for a majority: 218



Source: NEP/Edison via Reuters

BBC

Current
breakdown of
the U.S. House
of
Representatives

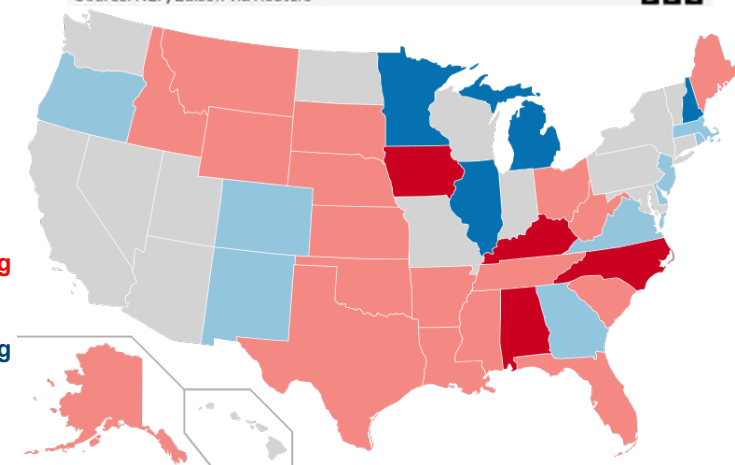
Republican
incumbent

Democratic
incumbent

Republican
incumbent retiring

Democratic
incumbent retiring

No election



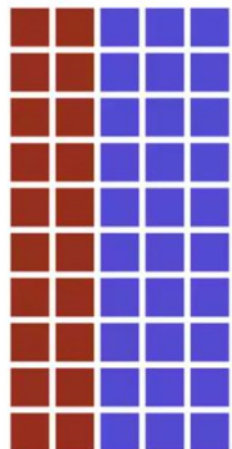
2026 U.S.
Senate
Battleground
Map

Mid-Decade Redistricting

Gerrymandering, explained

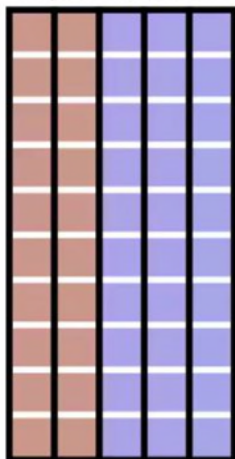
Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts

50
people



60% blue,
40% red

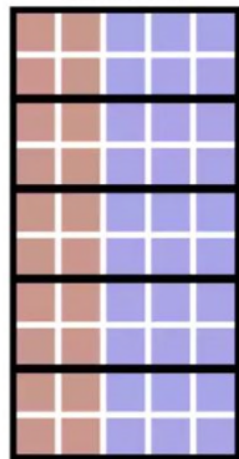
1. Perfect
representation



3 blue districts,
2 red districts

BLUE WINS

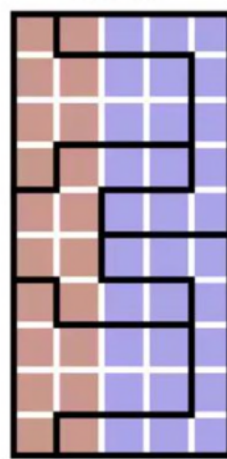
2. Compact,
but unfair



5 blue districts,
0 red districts

BLUE WINS

3. Neither compact
nor fair



2 blue districts,
3 red districts

RED WINS



The “Gerry-Mander”
Boston Gazette, March 26, 1812

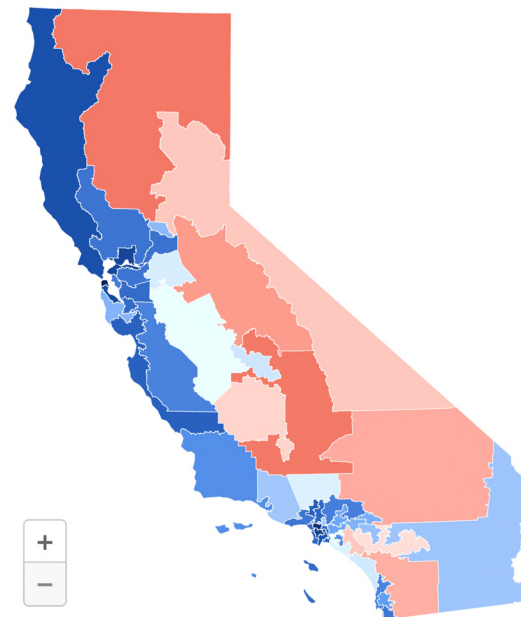
How We Got Here

- **Texas:** Texas Passes new Congressional maps at White House's urging to create 5 new GOP Congressional districts
 - Federal Court strikes down new Texas districts under claim of racial gerrymandering; SCOTUS to make final decision
- **California:** Governor Newsom announces **California** will pursue its own mid-decade redistricting effort to offset Texas
 - California voters pass Prop. 50 with 64% of the vote; 5 new likely Democratic districts created; lawsuit filed
- **North Carolina:** State Legislature enacts new map to net 1 new GOP seat; likely 11-3 Congressional Delegation
- **Ohio:** Fearing voter referendum, state redistricting commission cuts deal to limit GOP net to 0-3 seats; current 10-5 split

How California's current congressional districts last voted

These are the 52 districts California currently has, and who was chosen to represent each via the 2024 U.S. House of Representatives election.

See versions of this map for the newly proposed and current congressional districts.

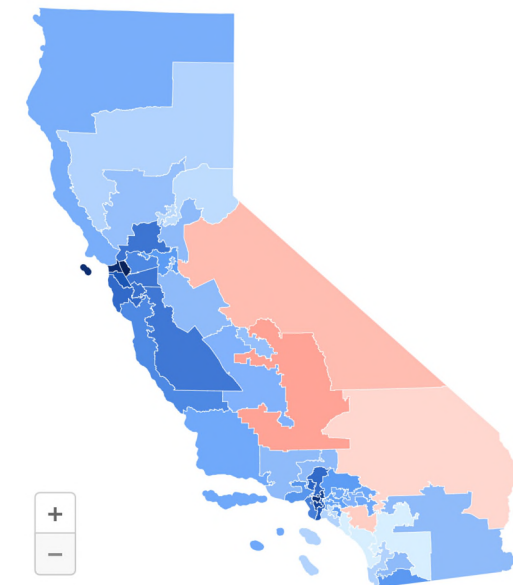


Map: Nicki Camberg/Get the Facts Data Team • Source: [California Secretary of State](#)

California's proposal for new congressional districts

These are the 52 new districts contained within Prop 50, which is on the ballot for the 2025 midterms. Democrats hope to gain five seats in Congress if the newly drawn maps are approved.

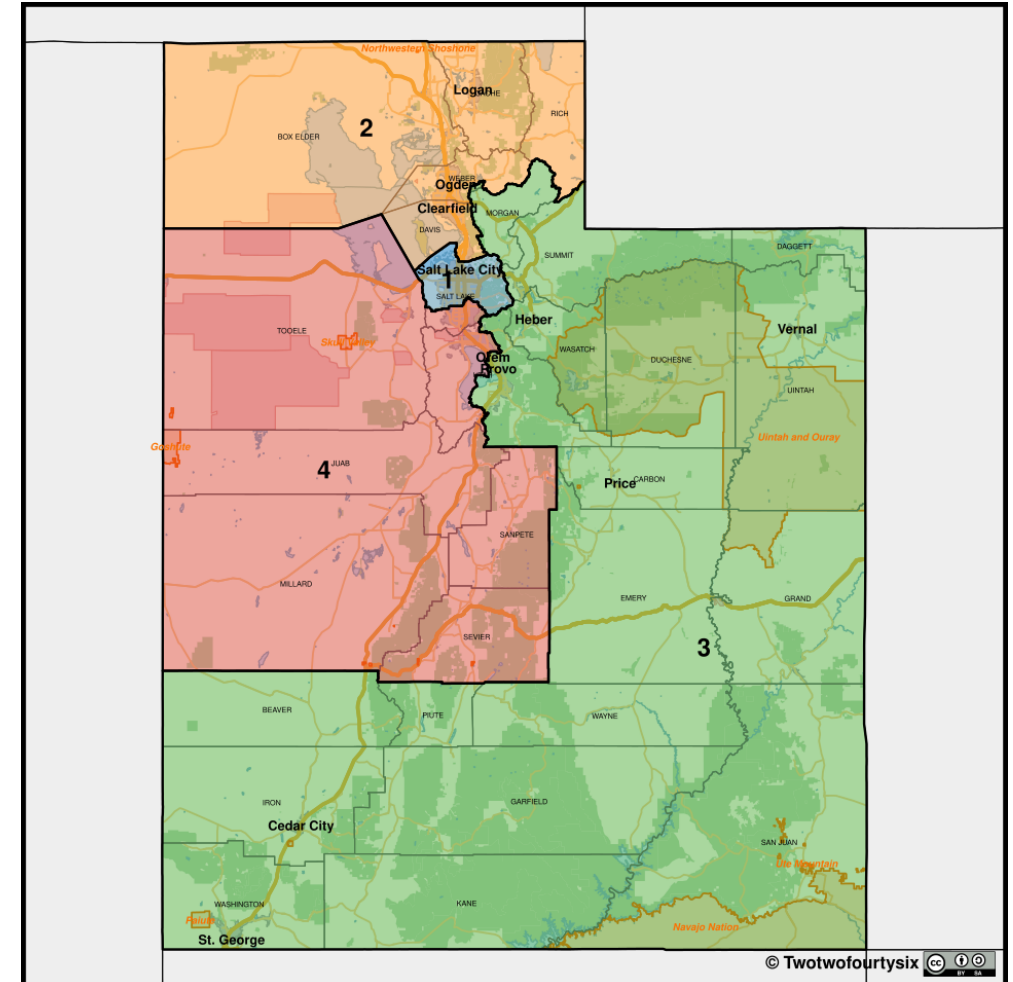
See versions of this map for California's current congressional districts and who won each district in the 2024 House elections.



Map: Nicki Camberg/Get the Facts Data Team • Source: [California State Assembly, Redistricting Partners](#)

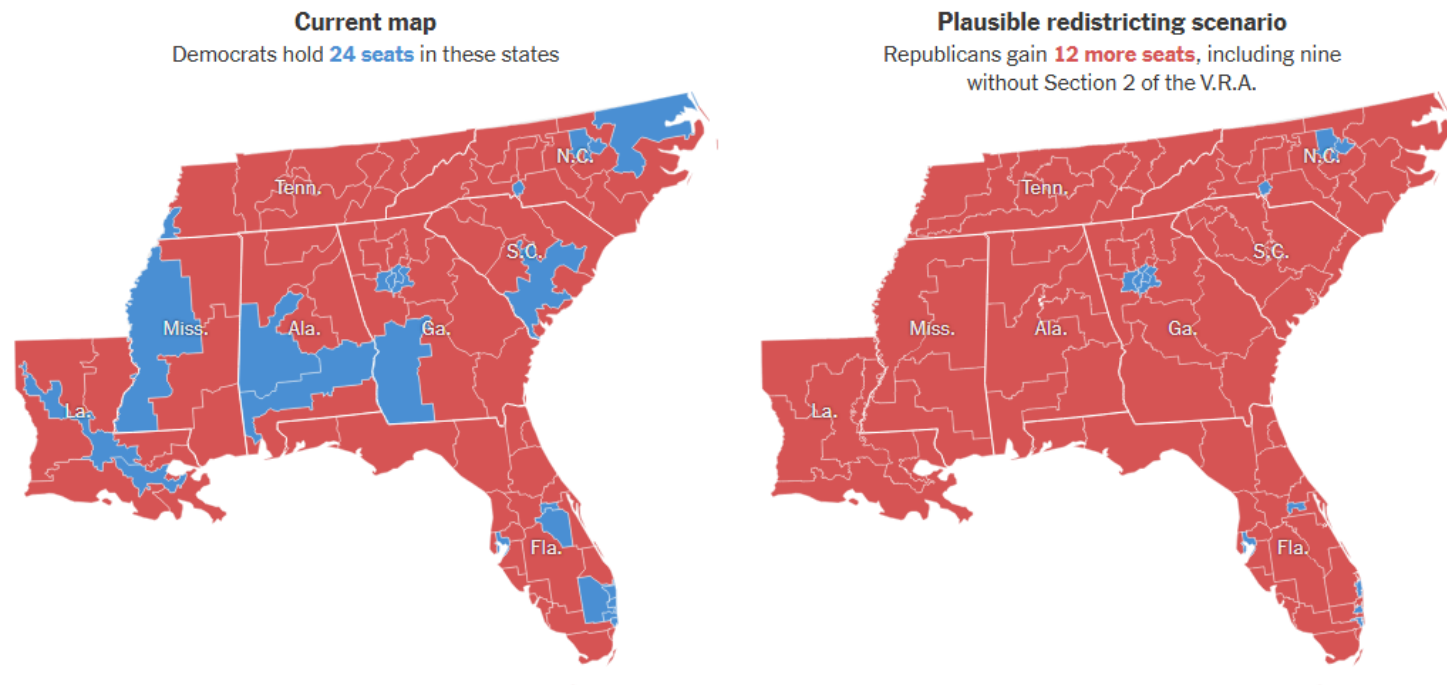
How We Got Here (Continued)

- **Utah:** A state judge strikes down current 4-0 GOP map ruling the State Legislature's weakening of the state's independent commission was unconstitutional
 - Judge imposes a 3-1 GOP map with a new safe Democratic seat in Salt Lake City
- **Missouri:** State Legislature enacted a new map that eliminates Kansas City area Democratic seat; secures 7-1 GOP majority delegation
 - Opponents are pursuing signatures to put new map to a referendum
- **Virginia:** Legislature approves new map to net Democrats 2-3 additional seats; current 6-5 split
 - VA must approve new maps in 2 consecutive state legislative sessions; final vote expected in January
- **Florida:** State legislative committee set to convene in December in pursuit of a map to yield 2-3 new GOP seats; State *Fair Districts Amendment* challenges expected
- **Indiana:** State Legislature to convene in December to consider new map with 1-2 new GOP seats. GOP currently controls 7 of 9 Congressional districts. Support in State Senate for proposal has faced resistance and is not guaranteed.
- **Kansas (R), Maryland (D), New York (D), and Illinois (D)** all faced pressure to re-draw districts for their majority power. State Legislatures failed to garner support.



Supreme Court Considering Challenge to Major Provision of the Voting Rights Act

- Supreme Court poised to limit Voting Rights Act Section 2, which bars voting rules that discriminate against racial or language minorities
- Louisiana's 2022 map: one majority-Black district despite one-third Black population
- Courts ordered two majority-Black districts; 2024 map challenged as racial gerrymander
- Supreme Court allowed 2024 map for elections; Rep. Cleo Fields elected
- Justices now weighing if race-based remedies violate 14th/15th Amendments in *Louisiana v. Callais*
- Conservatives question indefinite race-based redistricting; liberals stress Congress set no time limit
- Outcome could narrow Section 2 and reshape minority representation nationwide



Note: The current map depicts districts enacted as of Oct. 14. The plausible redistricting scenario is one of a range of possible outcomes. It includes expected redistricting in Florida and North Carolina, including districts that may be redrawn regardless of the Supreme Court's decision.

What Does This Mean for Water Advocacy?



- Expect both chambers of Congress to – once again – be very narrowly divided
 - The House *could* potentially “flip”
- In an era of divided government, advocacy for critical infrastructure investments, clean water, and drinking water funding must remain as ***bipartisan / nonpartisan*** as ever
 - Constituents and Members *want* to see effective public services – leverage that goodwill to **do good** and engage your federal partners!
- Everybody drinks water!

Advocacy Wins for the Water Sector!

- Advocating for the water infrastructure you deliver is more important than ever – you do important work!
- Engage your Representatives and Regulatory Agencies early and often – keep them in the loop even if you don't have an ask!
- Hope is infectious!





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Questions?

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