LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING

Now Playing: Cream, “Politician” (1968)
DOES VOTING MATTER?

Do we select our elected representatives?

Or do our representatives select us (their constituents)?
DRAWING LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

- Decennial Reapportionment & Redistricting
- 1 person, 1 vote
  - Baker v. Carr (1962)
  - Reynolds v. Sims (1964)
- Voting Rights Act (1965)

One person, One Vote* except in certain states
WHO REDRAWS STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS?

- 37 STATES: STATE LEGISLATURES
- 7 STATES: BIPARTISAN COMMISSIONS
- 6 STATES: INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS
- Mid-Census Controversies in Texas, Colorado, Virginia, and now, Florida
**GERRYMANDERING**

- **Manipulating Legislative District Boundary Lines for Partisan, Group, Incumbent Protection or Marginalization**

- **Elbridge Gerry of MA**
  - 1811, packed Federalists, benefiting his Democratic-Republicans

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Fig. 6.4. Elkanah Tisdale’s original Gerrymander, as it appeared in the Boston Gazette, March 26, 1812. (From James Parton, *Caricature and Other Comic Art* [New York: Harper and Brothers, 1877], p. 316.)
HOW SHOULD SEATS BE REDISTRICTED?

**Equal Population**

- 27 U.S. House districts, ~696,000 people each
- 40 State Senate, ~470,000 people
- 120 State House, ~157,000 people

**Lots of Room for Manipulation**

**Cracking:**
- Party divides opposition’s areas of electoral strength

**Packing:**
- Party sacrifices a district to retain a majority of others
DOES IT MATTER WHO DRAWS?

- **Gerrymandering** – Drawing of districts to benefit a party or group

- **Hypothetical state with**
  2.4m D’s, 2.1m R’s (4.5M) (45 squares)

- **Draw 9 districts.**
Figure 2: C9047 Seat Distribution