

The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a draped manner.

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PARKSIDE

**THE ELECTION EXPERIENCE
DISCUSSION SERIES WILL
BEGIN SHORTLY**

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a draped, wavy pattern. The colors are muted, with a soft red, white, and blue palette.

UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN

PARKSIDE

PRESENTS

The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right. The text is overlaid on this background.

THE 20 ELECTION ~~20 ELECTION~~ EXPERIENCE

DISCUSSION SERIES

WEEK 4 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

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THE 20 ELECTION 20 E~~X~~PERIENCE

INTRODUCTION BY:
Dr. Christopher Hudspeth

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

ELECTION EXPERIENCE: The Peoples' Map

6:00PM | Virtual

The Peoples' Map Task Force to address the increasing concerns throughout the state regarding potential partisan gerrymandering. Panel Participants are Dale Schultz and Tim Cullen, former members of the Wisconsin State Senate.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

ELECTION EXPERIENCE: Public Monuments and the Legacy of Racism

12:00PM | Virtual

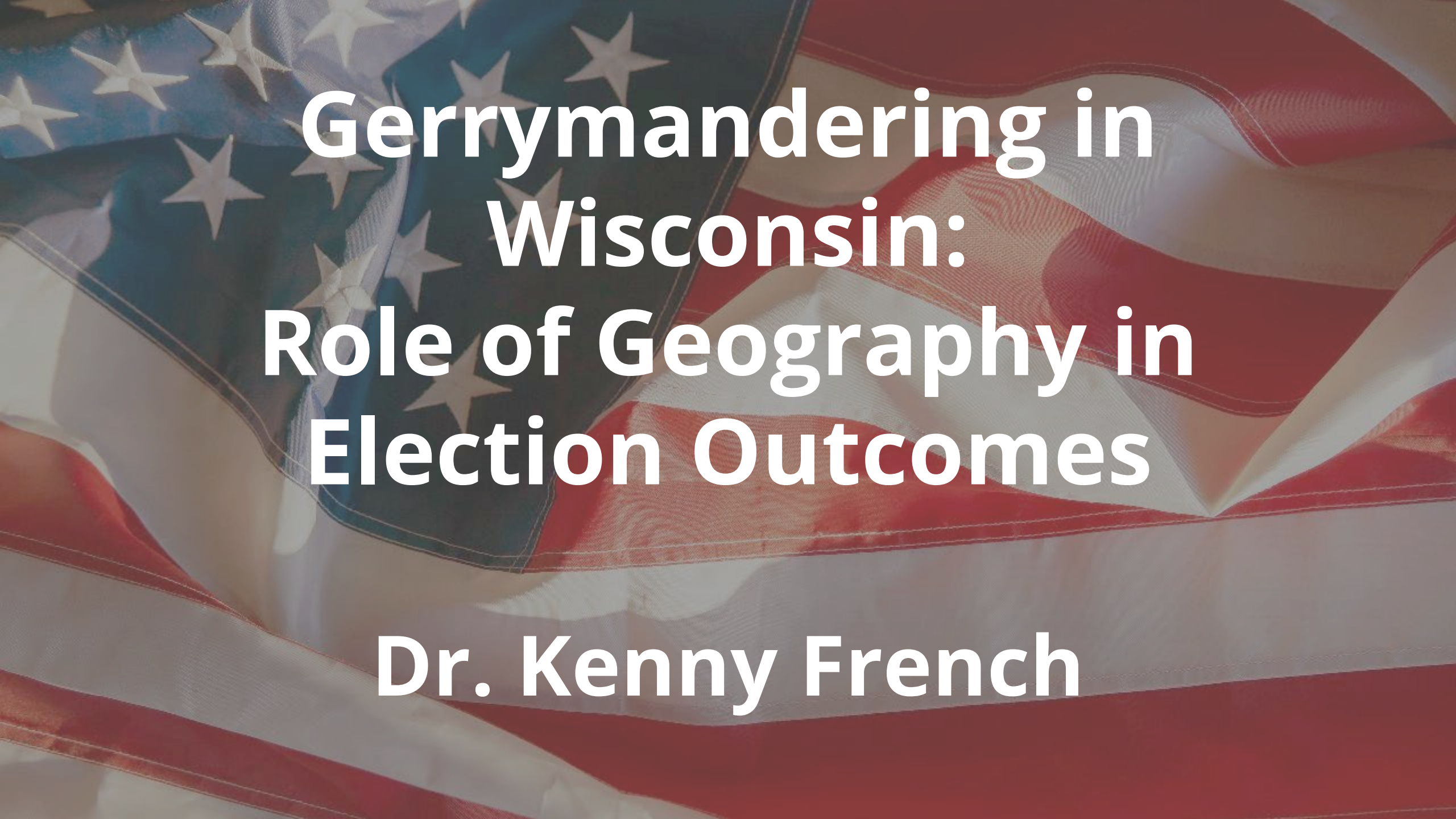
VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

8 PM | Virtual through Discord

Join us along with sponsors AASCU & ADP for a virtual debate watch party.



Register for Events at: www.uwp.edu/eeeevents

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Gerrymandering in Wisconsin: Role of Geography in Election Outcomes

Dr. Kenny French

Outline

I. Introduction

II. History of Districting

III. Gerrymandering

a. Origin

b. Tactics

c. Examples

IV. Wisconsin's Case

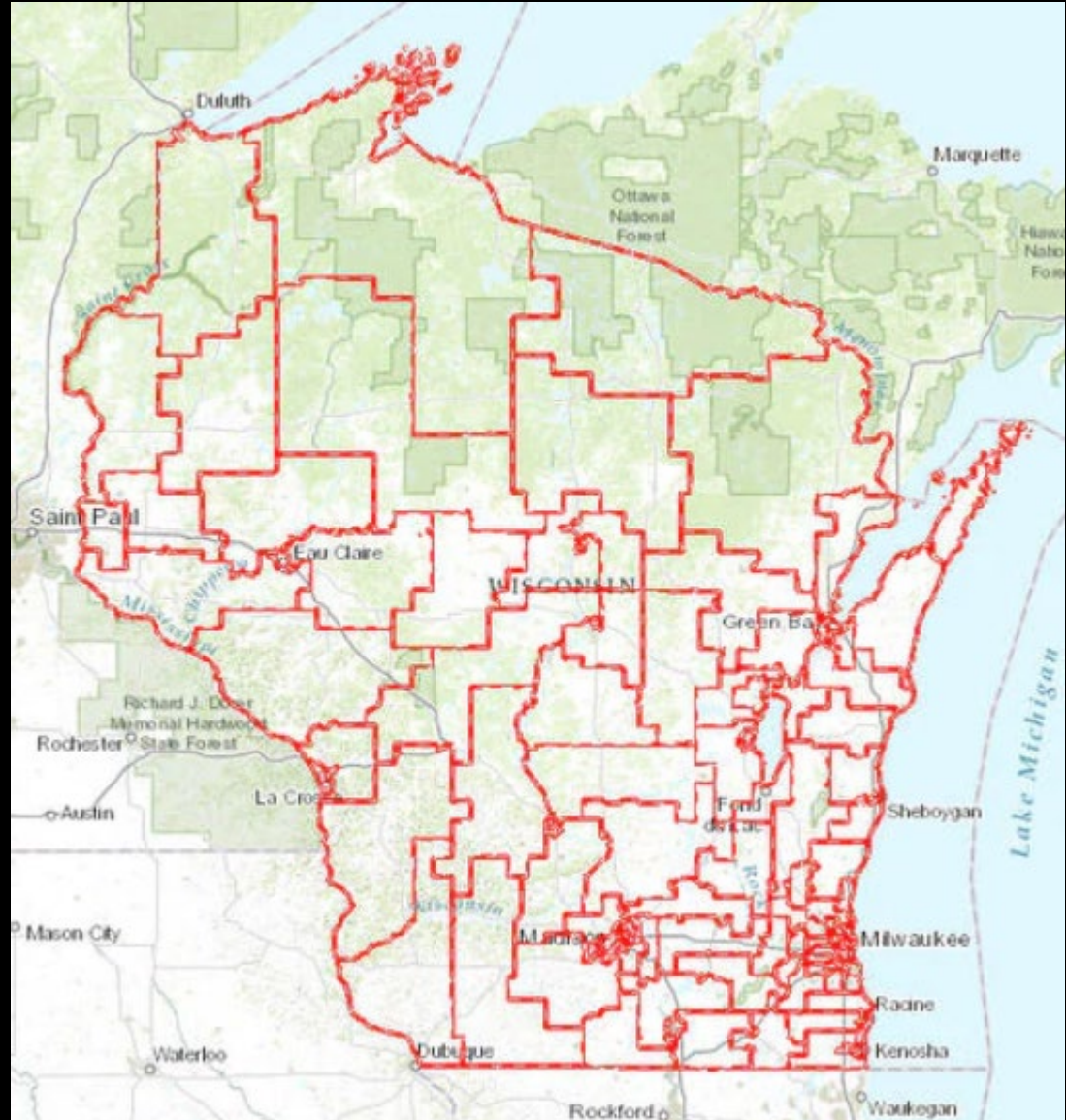
a. Background

b. Gill v Whitford

c. Current Debate

IV. Solutions?

V. Discussion



Map Source: Washington Post

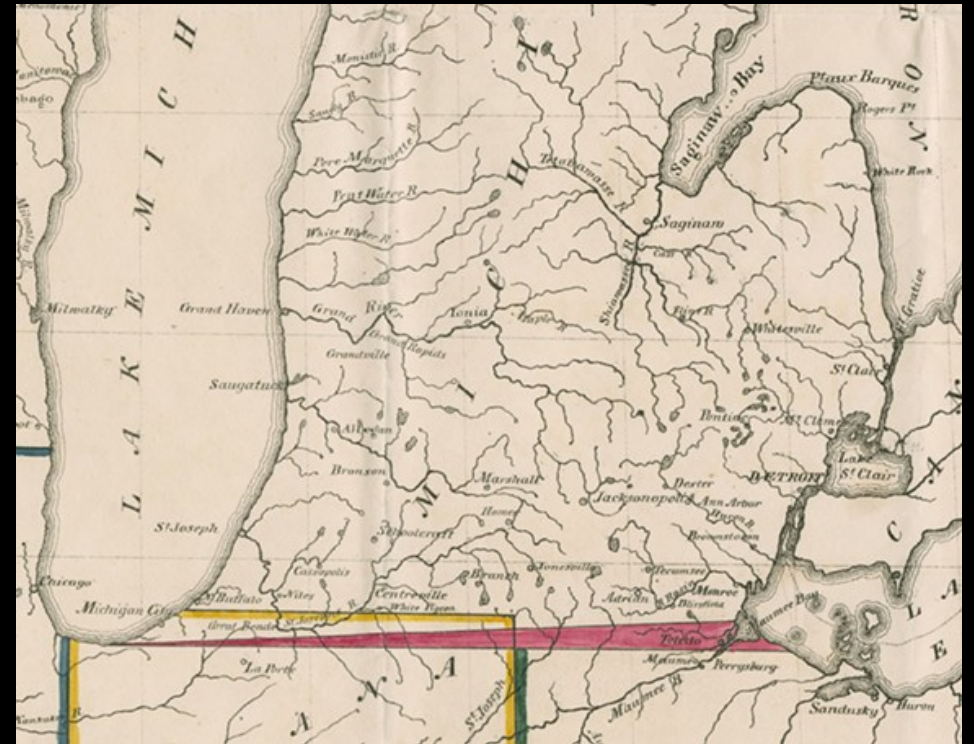
I. Introduction

- Political boundaries can change over time

- A common political fight is
over the drawing of districts

- Geography can be used to favor
one political party over others

The Toledo Strip



Map Source: Detroit Metro Times

II. History of Districting

a. Purpose of Districting

- Equal representation in government is based on population numbers**
- Main reason of the U.S. Census (every 10 years)**
- +/- Legislative Seats**
- States can re-draw their legislative boundaries after each Census**

II. History of Districting

b. Role of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- **GIS** is a computer system that analyzes and displays geographic data
- Cartographers have been instrumental in drawing legislative boundaries



Image Source: UWP CSSPS

III. Gerrymandering

a. Origin

- **Gerrymandering** is the deliberate distortion of boundaries for political purposes (Shelley et al., 1996: 159)
- Named after Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry (approved 1812 districting bill to ensure Republican majority)

Original Gerrymandering

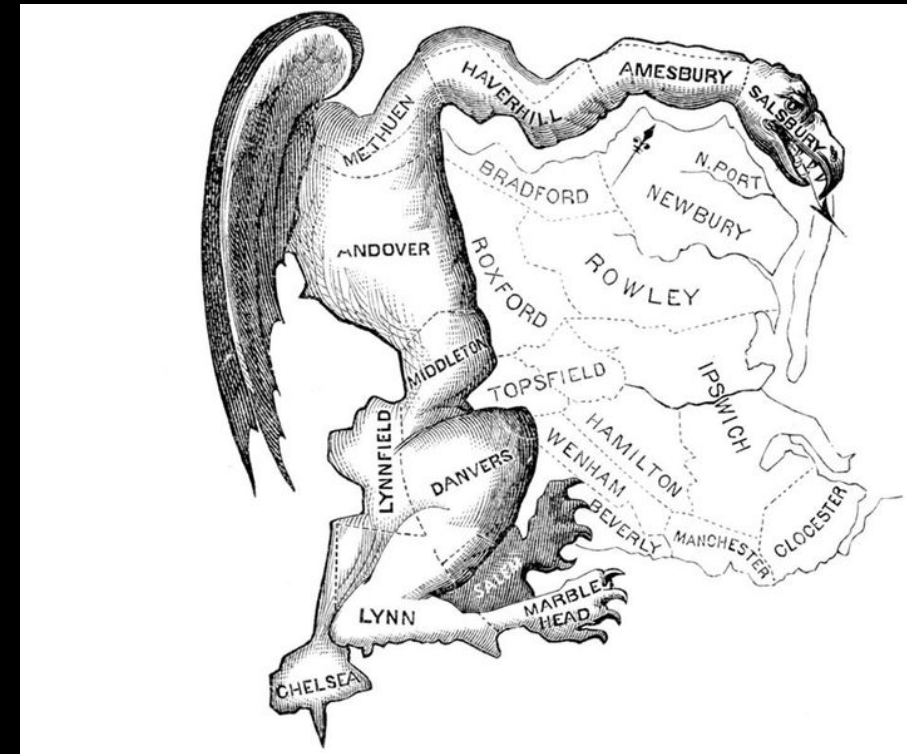


Image Source: Smithsonian

III. Gerrymandering

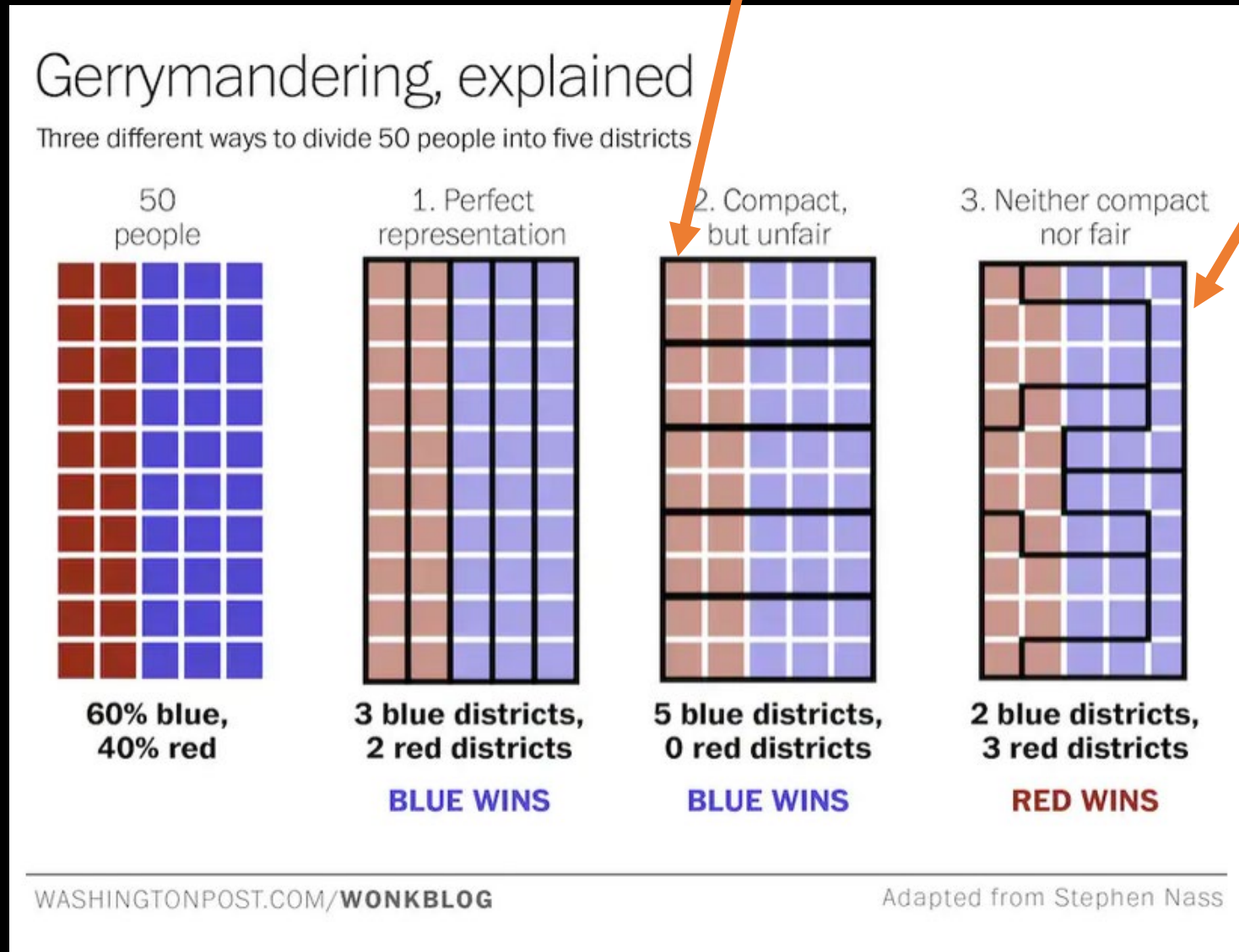
b. Tactics

- **Packing** involves concentrating a group's electoral strength so as to dilute their political power
- **Cracking** involves dispersing a group's electoral strength to dilute their political power
- There is also **Skimping** and **Plumping**

All definitions by Grofman and Cervas, 2020: 14

III. Gerrymandering

b. Tactics



Cracking

Packing

Image Source: Washington Post

III. Gerrymandering

c. Examples

North Carolina's 12th District (1990s)

12

R. Weichelt and G. R. Webster

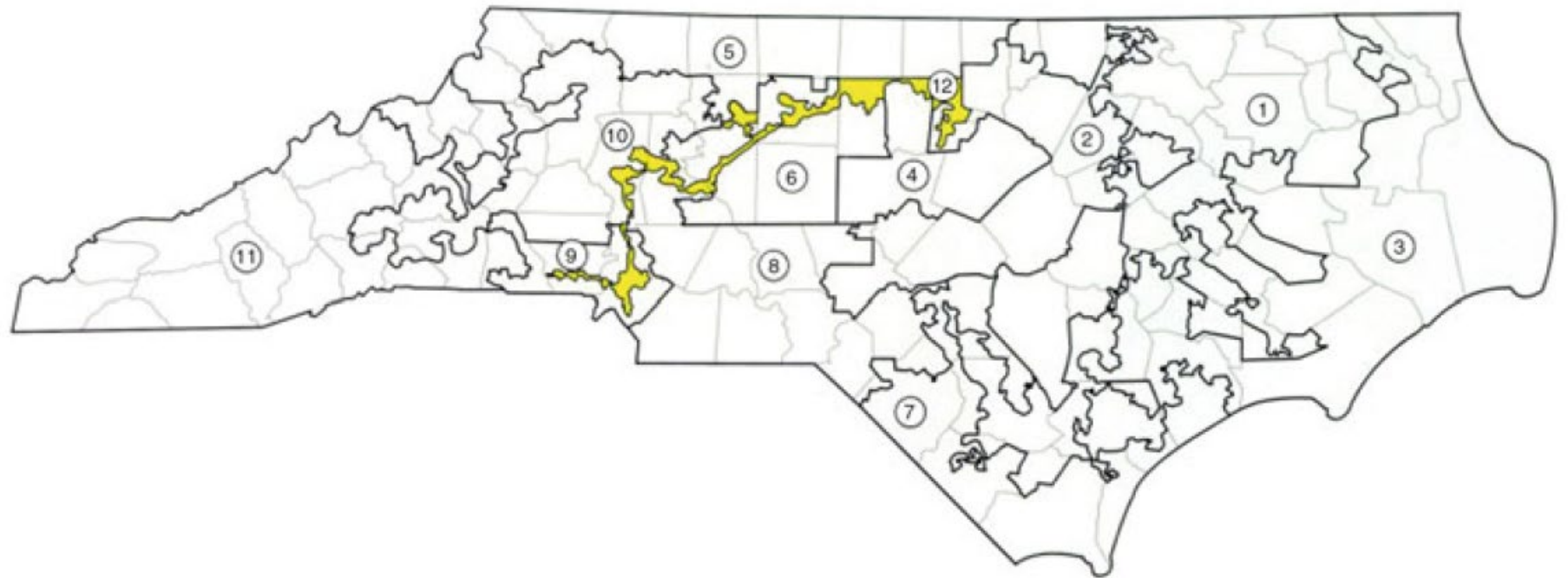


Fig. 2 12th Congressional District of North Carolina, 1993. (Source: <http://law.onecle.com>, 2007)

Map Source: Weichelt and Webster, 2019: 12

III. Gerrymandering

c. Examples

- *Shaw v Reno (1993)*, North Carolina voters challenged the 170-mile-long African American majority-minority district
- Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs:
North Carolina's 12th district is a **clear example of racial gerrymandering** (Weichelt and Webster, 2019)

III. Gerrymandering

c. Examples

- Racial Gerrymandering vs. Partisan Gerrymandering
- **Gerrymandering has be done by all political parties**
(Democrats, Republicans, Whigs, & Federalists)

Excellent!



Image Source: Pintrest

III. Gerrymandering

c. Examples

- Partisan Gerrymandering:

“Usually the voters get to pick the politicians. In redistricting, the politicians get to pick the voters.”

--Thomas Hofeller, 2000 (Vox, 2019)

- Hofeller’s redistricting map efforts in North Carolina (2018):

Democrats only won three of 13 seats

IV. Wisconsin's Case

a. Background

- **Wisconsin Constitution, Article 4, Section 4** requires districts to be contiguous and compact (Weichelt and Webster, 2019: 16)
- Wisconsin's legislative boundaries were to be re-drawn in 2011 after the 2010 U.S. Census
- Republican political power in the State and passed **Act 43**

IV. Wisconsin's Case

a. Background

- 2018: Gov. Scott Walker (R) lost the election with 49% of vote, yet Republicans won 63 of the 99 Assembly seats (Wisconsin State Journal, June 28, 2019)
- Research “found robust evidence that the **district maps are highly gerrymandered** and that this gerrymandering likely altered the partisan make up of the Wisconsin General Assembly” (Herschlag, Ravier, and Mattingly, 2017)

IV. Wisconsin's Case

a. Background

- Synopsis video of Wisconsin's Case:

“Testing the limits of partisan gerrymandering”
(PBS, 2017)

- Notice the geography and GIS!

IV. Wisconsin's Case

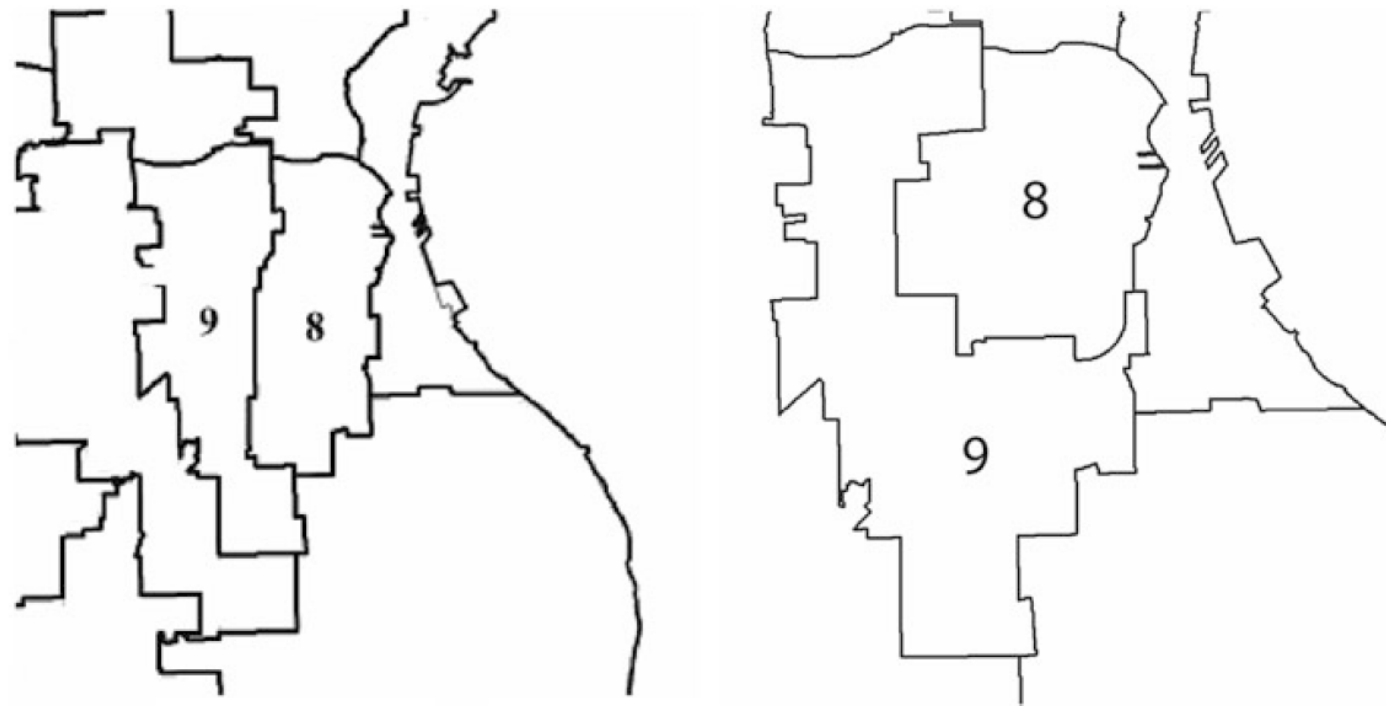


Fig. 4 Wisconsin Assembly Districts 8 and 9. Left: Act 43 district boundaries. Right: federally (current) redrawn boundaries. (Source: Redistricting Attachments [2011](#))

Redrawn due to “Cracking” the Latinx vote. (Weichelt and Webster, 2019: 17)

IV. Wisconsin's Case

b. *Gill v Whitford*

- This court case is about Partisan Gerrymandering
- Supreme Court deciding on:
 - * Does it violate previous rulings? (*Vieth v Jubelirer*, 2004)
 - * Can partisan gerrymandering claims be heard?

(Weichelt and Webster, 2019)

IV. Wisconsin's Case

b. *Gill v Whitford*

- **2015: Professor William Whitford sued State Election Board
(chaired by Beverly Gill)**
- **2016:**
 - * **U.S. District Courts struck down the redistricting maps**
 - * **Rationale: maps unfairly maximized Republican advantages
in Assembly seats**
- **Case was appealed to the Supreme Court**

IV. Wisconsin's Case

b. *Gill v Whitford*

- 2018 Unanimous Ruling (9-0): Remanded back to the lower courts

- * **Plaintiffs failed to demonstrate personal harm** (majority opinion by Chief Justice Roberts)
- * Left for another day: **theory of harm tied to partisan gerrymandering** (Concurrence opinion by Justice Kagan)

IV. Wisconsin's Case

b. *Gill v Whitford*

- 2019: Maryland and North Carolina gerrymandering cases
- Ruling (5-4):
 - * **Federal courts do not have the power to decide cases related to partisan gerrymandering**
 - * **“[P]artisan gerrymandering claims present political questions beyond the reach of the federal courts”**
 - Chief Justice Roberts, June 28th, 2019

IV. Wisconsin's Case

c. Current Debate

- What happens after the 2020 U.S. Census?
- **People's Maps Commission**
 - * Gov. Tony Evers Executive Order on Jan. 27, 2020
 - * No politicians or lobbyists
- **Kenosha Referendum:** Should WI legislature create a nonpartisan procedure to prepare all district maps...

IV. Solutions?

- Call on Geographers, Political Scientists, Mathematicians, etc.
- Gerrymandering Solutions:
 - * Bi-partisan Districting
 - * Nonpartisan Districting (States often use commissions)
 - * **Iowa**: nonpartisan legislative staff create the new districts and there is an “up” or “down” vote

V. Discussion

First: Thank you UW-Parkside Peeps!

Second: Any questions or comments?

Sources

- Grofman, B. and Cervas, J. 2020. *The Terminology of Districting*. University of California, Irvine.
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