



A Campaign for **Proportional Representation** in the U.S.

Fix Our House is a new education and advocacy campaign promoting proportional representation as an urgently-needed reform to pull politics out of its doom loop of polarization and dysfunction, sideline the anti-democratic forces threatening our democracy, and offer America's diverse electorate full and fair representation in the House of Representatives. We are building a broad coalition of advocates prepared to spread the word about proportional representation and mobilize the support it needs to become a reality.

The way we currently elect the House of Representatives is breaking our politics and eroding our democracy.

Our antiquated election rules ensure that the vast majority of House districts are safe for one party, preventing millions of Americans, including many minority communities, from having any voice at all in the halls of power. This broken system opens the door to partisan gerrymandering, which allows politicians to rig districts and win more seats for their party even while getting fewer votes. And it prevents additional parties from forming without fear of becoming "spoilers."

Our democracy has reached a crisis point: anti-democratic forces have taken over one of the two major parties and are working to undermine faith in our elections, suppress the vote, and weaponize gerrymandering to preserve minority rule. Without significant reform, these problems will only get worse.

Single Member Winner-Take-All System



Proportional Representation with Multi-Member Districts



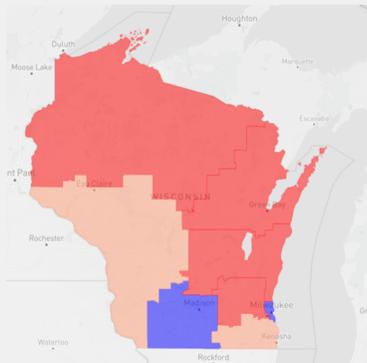
The solution: **Proportional representation and multiparty democracy**

To address these problems and save our democracy, we need to end the current system that protects the two-party duopoly and elect our House of Representatives using proportional representation. People across the country want more parties and better representation, and proportional representation is the reform that will get us there.

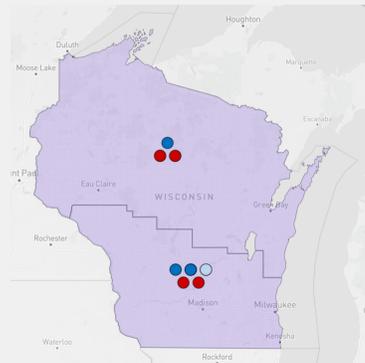
What is proportional representation? Put simply, it's an electoral system in which a political party's share of votes in an election determines how many seats it holds in the legislature. It's the way almost every advanced democracy elects its legislature.

The two maps below reveal the problems with single-member districts and demonstrate how proportional representation could work instead, using a recently proposed congressional map in Wisconsin as an example:

Congressional Map with Single-member Districts



Proportional Congressional Map with Multi-member Districts



The first map, proposed by Wisconsin's Republican-controlled legislature, packs Democratic voters into districts containing Milwaukee and Madison, leaving the six other districts to Republicans. No district is competitive, and Republicans are likely to win three fourths of the seats, even though Wisconsin is very closely divided between Democrats and Republicans.

The second map -- a proportional map -- avoids these problems entirely. It has just two districts: one with three representatives and one with five, so that each party's percentage of support can be reflected in the election outcome. As a result, the likely elected representatives (shown above by red and blue dots) are much more proportional to the evenly split state: four likely Republicans, three likely Democrats, and one Democrat-leaning tossup.

The difference is clear: The proportional map with multi-member districts listens to the preferences of voters, while the single-winner district map intentionally drowns them out.

Why multiparty democracy through **proportional representation**?

- **Demonization would no longer be a viable strategy.** In our current two-party system, parties and politicians succeed by ginning up outrage and stoking fear about the other side winning. In a multiparty system, there is no single "other" side. Parties have to compete with each other and have far stronger incentives to stand for something and articulate who they would work with on different issues—not simply who they are against.

- **Political maps would better reflect each state's diverse voices and political leanings.** Proportional representation ensures that all voters have real representation, including the many Democrats living in “red” districts, the many Republicans living in “blue” districts, and the many independents and third-party supporters who currently feel they have no voice at all.
- **Gerrymandering would become essentially useless.** With larger districts sending multiple representatives each to Congress, partisan politicians lose the ability to carve their states up into “safe” and “swing” districts to benefit their own side. Additionally, multi-member districts would eliminate “packing and cracking”—the practice of politicians diluting the collective power of minority groups by concentrating them all together or separating their communities by drawing district lines through them.
- **Coalitions would be more fluid.** Under proportional representation, compromise is essential. Because outright majorities are rare, no single party is seduced by the lure of a permanent majority or lives in fear of permanent minority status. Instead, multiparty democracy facilitates coalition-building with the shifting alliances and bargaining that the Framers envisioned.
- **Voter participation and engagement would increase.** Instead of representatives being chosen in divisive, low-turnout primaries that reward the most combative partisan politics, under proportional representation, different ideological factions could run candidates without fear of being “spoilers.” This change would in turn spark higher-turnout general elections in which voters feel more engaged by parties that more closely represent them. And because every vote is now cast in a competitive district, parties can invest in and compete for votes across the country.

How would **proportional representation** work for the House of Representatives?

It's straightforward. Multiple congressional districts would be combined into one. Then voters would vote for multiple members of Congress to represent their larger district, with candidates elected in proportion to their party's support.

We don't need to change the Constitution – Congress just needs to pass legislation! Article I, Section IV of the Constitution empowers Congress to write congressional election rules. In fact, multimember districts were common in the first half of the 19th century.



If you would like to learn more or get involved, visit www.fixourhouse.org or email info@fixourhouse.org.