

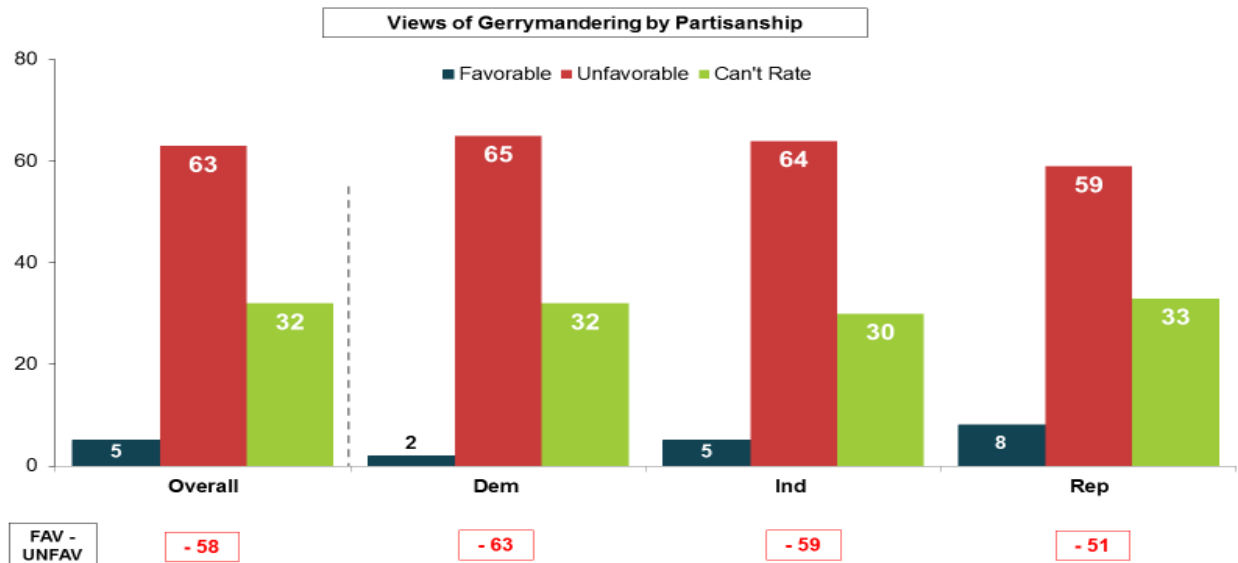
January 25, 2019

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: ALG Research / GS Strategy Group
RE: New Bipartisan Poll on Gerrymandering and the Supreme Court

Our recent nationwide survey of likely 2020 general election voters commissioned by the Campaign Legal Center finds strong opposition to gerrymandering and broad, bipartisan support for the Supreme Court to set clear rules for when gerrymandering violates the Constitution. It also reveals strong support for the creation of independent redistricting commissions and that voters overwhelmingly prefer congressional districts with no partisan bias, even if it meant less seats for their own party.¹

Key Findings

Over two-thirds of voters are familiar with the term gerrymandering and they view it overwhelmingly negatively. These unfavorable views extend across party lines.

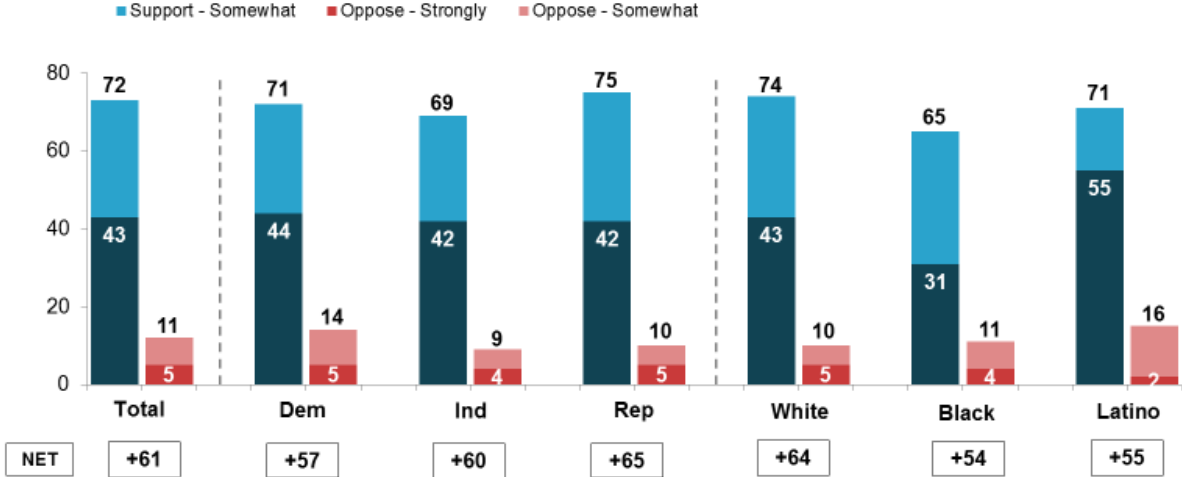


¹ ALG Research, with consultation from GS Strategy Group, conducted n=800 online interviews with a representative, nationwide sample of likely 2020 presidential voters between December 12-16, 2018. The sample consisted of n=700 voters nationwide, plus a n=100 oversample of Independents.

Nearly three-quarters of voters support the Supreme Court establishing clear rules for when gerrymandering violates the Constitution, with broad support extending across partisan and racial lines. Support is especially intense among Latinos, 55% of whom strongly support the Supreme Court setting such rules.

Support for Supreme Court Setting Rules for When Gerrymandering Violates Constitution

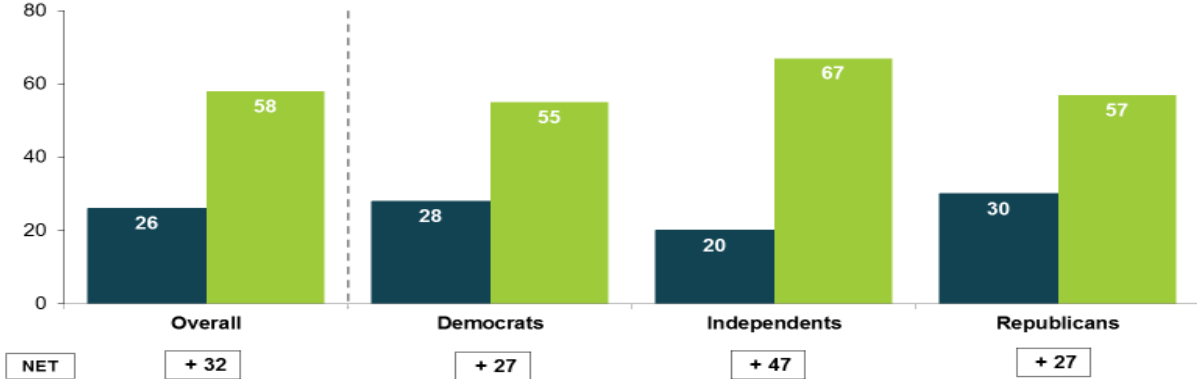
As you may know, the Supreme Court will very likely rule on a high-profile case on partisan gerrymandering. Gerrymandering involves manipulating the boundaries of legislative districts to favor one political party. In reviewing this case, the Supreme Court will have an opportunity to set new, clear rules for determining when partisan gerrymandering violates the Constitution. Do you support or oppose the Supreme Court setting new, clear rules for determining when partisan gerrymandering violates the Constitution?



After hearing messages for and against the Supreme Court establishing national guidelines for district boundaries, voters continue to strongly favor the Supreme Court setting such guidelines, with Independents especially in favor.

Debate Over Need for Supreme Court to Establish Guidelines for District Boundaries

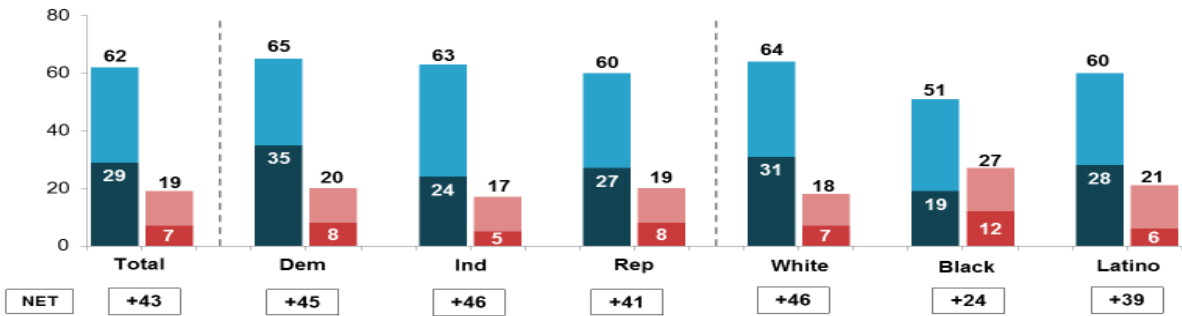
- State legislatures should set the guidelines for determining the boundaries for their state's legislative and congressional districts. It is not necessary for the U.S. Supreme Court to establish national guidelines
- Relying on politicians to fix the redistricting system is like putting the fox in charge of the henhouse. The U.S. Supreme Court needs to create national redistricting guidelines to prevent politicians from choosing their own voters to protect themselves



There is also broad, bipartisan support for states to create independent redistricting commissions to draw district lines. At least 60% of Democrats, Independents and Republicans support the creation of these commissions, as do majorities of White, Black and Latino voters.

Support for Creation of Independent Redistricting Commissions

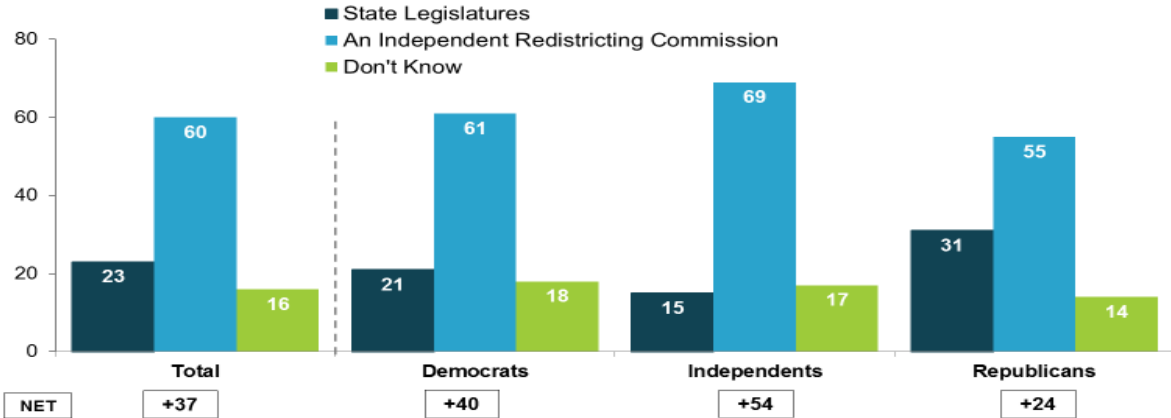
As you may know, some states have redistricting commissions in which the boundaries of legislative and congressional districts in the state are drawn by an independent commission rather than by elected officials. Do you support or oppose the creation of independent redistricting commissions to draw the lines of legislative and congressional districts in states?



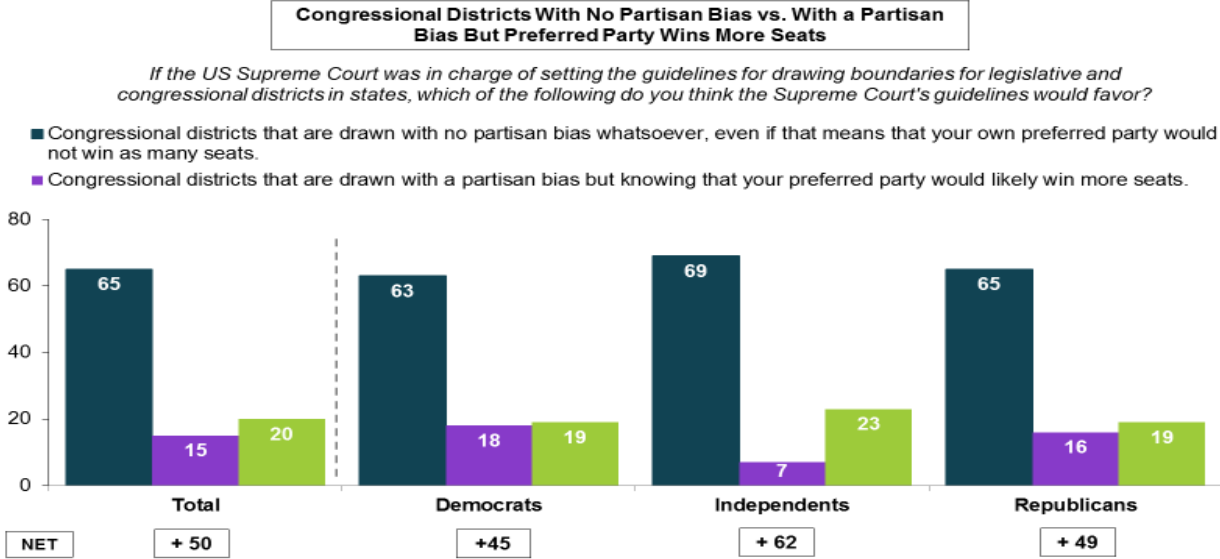
When asked to choose between whether boundaries for legislative and congressional districts should be drawn by state legislatures or an independent redistricting commission, voters favor the latter by a nearly three-to-one margin. The clear preference for independent redistricting commissions extends to both parties and is especially strong with Independents.

Prefer to Draw Boundary Lines: State Legislatures vs. An Independent Redistricting Commission

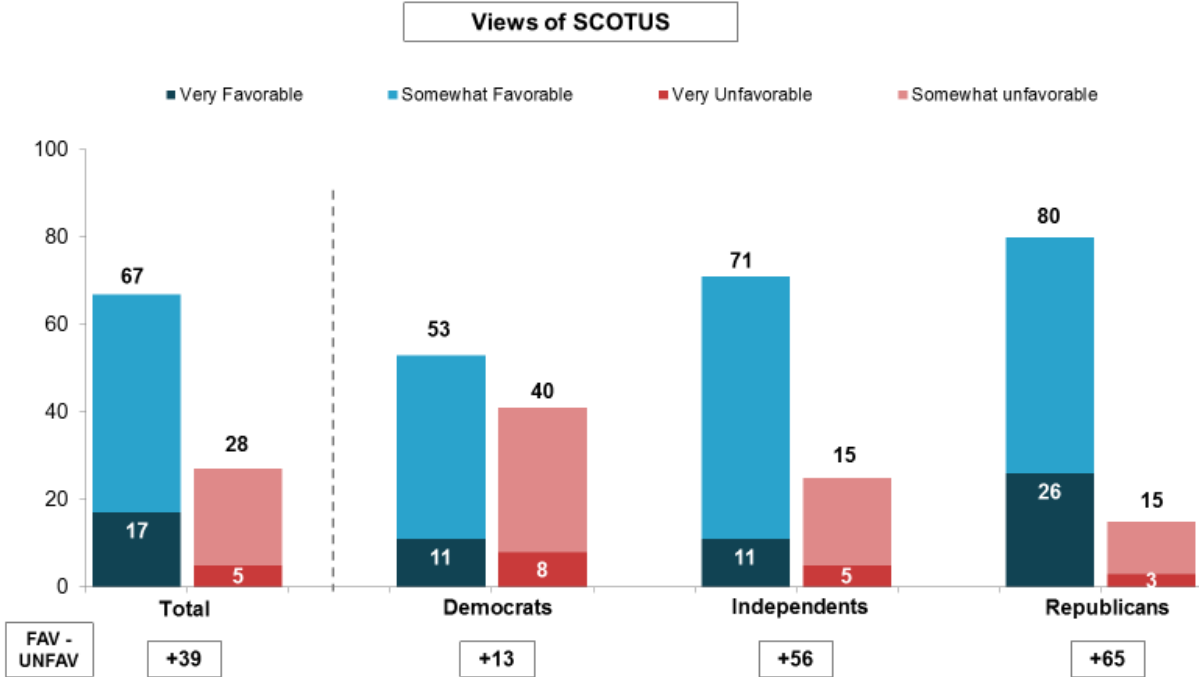
Which of the following would you prefer to set the guidelines for drawing boundaries for legislative and congressional districts in states?



Voters would overwhelmingly prefer congressional districts with no partisan bias, even if it meant less seats for their own party, and this sentiment is equally strong across partisan lines.



Over two-thirds rate the Supreme Court favorably, with majorities of both parties rating it favorably, though Republicans hold much more favorable views than Democrats.



In Conclusion

Voters are familiar with gerrymandering and hold deeply negative views towards it. In order to rein in gerrymandering, voters across party lines strongly support the Supreme Court setting clear rules for when gerrymandering violates the Constitution. This strong support holds even after voters hear messages from both supporters and opponents in this debate. In addition to wanting to see action from the Supreme Court on gerrymandering, there is also broad, bipartisan support for the creation of independent redistricting commissions. Voters are hungry for less partisanship in every aspect of politics, and see these actions as important steps towards that goal.