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ANALYSIS

Redistricting wars in uncharted waters



Democratic State House Rep. Justin Pearson of Memphis marches to the Tennessee state capitol building in Nashville with demonstrators protesting efforts by the state's GOP leadership to redraw U.S. House districts. SETH HERALD/REUTERS

GOP prospects get boost while middle is weakened

Susan Page
USA TODAY

The redistricting wars are raging. What happens next?

History provides little guidance, because never before has there been a cross-country campaign to redraw congressional districts at mid-decade and on the fly. But the repercussions, both immediate and far-reaching, are likely to bolster Republican prospects in the midterms, weaken the political middle, reduce minority representation in Congress and intensify the

nation's polarization.

Texas Republicans, urged on by President Donald Trump, began the redistricting bidding last August. California Democrats responded in kind. And a U.S. Supreme Court ruling April 29 opened the floodgates even as the November elections loom.

"Texas will be the biggest one," Trump boasted to reporters at the White House in July 2025, a prediction that turned out to be accurate. "And that'll be five" seats.

See REDISTRICTING, Page 2A

Murder suspect in 1989 Newark cold case seeks to dismiss case

Josué Perez
Newark Advocate | USA TODAY NETWORK

Attorneys for an Ohio man charged with murder in the 1989 death of a Newark woman are seeking to dismiss the case because they feel prosecutors took too long to charge him.

Delbert Saunders Jr., 68, of Glenford, faces murder and aggravated murder charges in connection with the death of Helen Stuart, 71. Police found Stuart's body

inside the back seat of a car in April 1989 near state routes 668 and 16 in Licking County.

Court records show prosecutors dropped rape, kidnapping and aggravated burglary charges filed against Saunders because the statute of limitations for them expired. A Licking County grand jury indicted him in June on those charges, in addition to murder and aggravated murder.

See COLD CASE, Page 5A

John Glenn's incredible life told

Cole Behrens
Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

Editor's note: Each month, Dispatch reporters will profile astronauts from Ohio, culminating in a larger story toward the end of the year about all Ohioans who became astronauts.

"Zero G and I feel fine," U.S. astronaut John Glenn said during his historic voyage to space in 1962.

Glenn, a small-town Ohio boy who later became one of the state's longest-serving U.S. senators, is remembered as the first American to orbit Earth in one of the opening legs of the space race that spanned the 1950s and '60s.

Glenn lived a life almost beyond belief. As a Marine Corps pilot, he broke the transcontinental flight speed record before being the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962. And 36 years later, at age 77 in 1998, he became the oldest man in space as a member of the seven-astronaut crew of the shuttle Discovery.

He spent 24 years as a Democrat in the U.S. Senate and launched a short-lived presidential campaign in 1984. Glenn was also well-known for his love for his wife of 73 years, Annie Glenn, who was core to his life and a driving inspiration in his work.

Glenn died at age 95 in 2016 in Columbus, surrounded by his loved ones.

From small-town Muskingum County to the stars

Glenn was born on July 18, 1921, in Cambridge, Ohio, a small town of around 10,000 people in Guernsey County, near Zanesville. He eventually lived in and attended school in New Concord, is in Muskingum County.

He grew up during the peak of the Great Depression, where he saw the community come together amidst the travails and trials of economic downturn. Hope Neal, assistant director of operations at the John & Annie Glenn Museum in New Concord, told The Dispatch that this experience was formative in his life.

"There's only about 2,000 people here; you know almost everybody," Neal said. Glenn believed that "as

See GLENN, Page 3A



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