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New maps could bring decades of GOP rule



Republicans hold a 219-212 House majority and President Donald Trump is looking to break the streak of midterm House losses for the sitting president’s party. DREW ANGERER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Population trends in U.S. favor Republican states

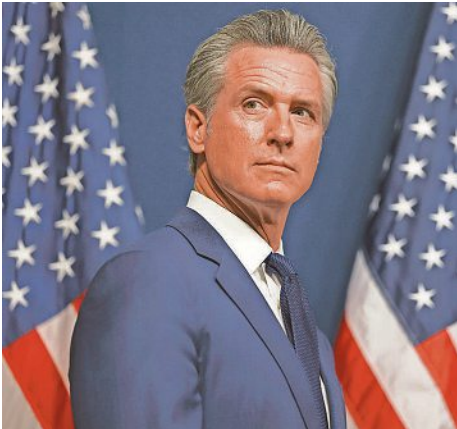
David Morgan
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump’s push for Republican-led states to redraw their U.S. House of Representatives districts to protect their majority in next year’s midterm elections could set the stage for Republicans to dominate the chamber in decades to come, political analysts and experts said.

Republicans hold a 219-212 House majority and Trump is looking to break the streak of midterm House losses for the sitting president’s party – as happened to him in 2018 and to Democratic President Joe Biden in 2022 – by pushing states starting with Texas to aggressively redistrict.

Democratic states, led by California, have threatened to retaliate by redrawing their own districts for partisan gain, a longstanding feature of U.S. politics known as gerrymandering that has grown far more potent thanks to modern data analysis tools.

But Republicans hold the advantage,



California Gov. Gavin Newsom has supported a move to temporarily redraw his state’s congressional maps in response to a similar move by Texas. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

with control of the state legislatures and governorships of 23 states, compared with 15 for Democrats. Further, independent analysts say, population shifts could create as many as 11 new congressional seats in Republican Southern and

Western states after the 2030 U.S. census.

Democrats enjoyed 40 years of unbroken House control beginning in 1955 and ending in 1995 as conservative Southern Democrats defected to the Republican Party in earnest.

The current redistricting battle has raised concerns about a new era of gerrymandering, with Republicans and Democrats jockeying for advantage and further dividing an already polarized nation.

“I feel like it’s cheating,” said Adam Kinzinger, a Trump critic and former Republican congressman who lost his Illinois seat to redistricting after the 2020 census. “Every time we break a norm in politics now, that norm never comes back. It’ll be an avalanche of constant redistricting. I worry about that.”

The Republican-controlled Texas state legislature last week passed a new map meant to provide five more Republican seats. The Democratic-led

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Poll: More Americans disapprove of Trump

Survey: President brings out strong feelings

Kathryn Palmer
USA TODAY

Twice as many Americans say they strongly disapprove of President Donald Trump’s second term than those who strongly approve of the job he’s doing leading the country, according to a new poll.

In a survey from YouGov and The Economist conducted Aug. 15-18, two-thirds of respondents said they had strong feelings about Trump – and, increasingly, most of them are negative.

The poll surveyed 1,568 U.S. adults and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Among the respondents, 47% said they strongly disapprove of the second-term president compared to 23% who said they strongly approve of him.


About 70% of Americans said they either “strongly approve” or “strongly disapprove” of Trump’s job performance, while 27% said they have a more muted opinion. That includes people who either “somewhat approve” or “somewhat disapprove.”

When broken down along party lines, most Democrats said they disapprove of Trump, and most Republicans approved of him, continuing what has been a consistent theme in polling since the Republican took office a second time in January.

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A historical analysis and average by Gallup shows President Donald Trump’s approval ratings in the first July of both his terms are lower than those of any other modern president. ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES FILE



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