

AEA Talking Points for Independent Redistricting Commission

- Arizona voters want quality schools that are adequately funded. Legislative districts that are non-competitive are preventing the will of the voters to be heard.
- Arizona needs more competitive legislative districts. The legislative map used for the last decade has resulted in a legislature predominantly determined by primary voters rather than general election voters. The result is a legislature that represents the most extreme views of the right and the left in Arizona rather than a cross-section of Arizona voters.
- The current map has only three to six competitive districts based on voter registration and voting history.
- Out of 30 legislative districts on the current map, Republicans have a registration advantage of more than 5 percentage points in 15 of them. Democrats enjoy such an advantage in only nine districts.
- Public education in Arizona has suffered as a result. It is no wonder that the general public does not believe the legislature represents its views on public education. Legislative policies reflect the views of the primary voters in the majority party, not the average voter.
- The preliminary new map does not create enough competitive districts. The number of districts with a Republican advantage increases to 16. Democrats would still have such an advantage in just nine districts.
- The commission seems to believe it has increased the number of competitive districts from four to eight. But by looking only at the results in just two elections, 2008 and 2010, the methodology is flawed. Election results are driven by many factors, including the quality of the candidates, the competence of their campaigns, and overarching voter trends based on the immediate political and economic environment.
- There are currently six legislative districts in which neither party has voter registration advantage of less than 5%. Under the commission's preliminary map, there would only be five, another indication that the map is less competitive.