

Democracy's Shell Game: The 2011 PA Congressional Redistricting Process

Redistricting in Pennsylvania is broken. In 2011, the process to create and pass new congressional districts, that last a decade, is a prime example.

- Pennsylvanians had no opportunity to comment on the revised congressional district boundaries, and
 - The Senate had **less than 14 hours** to review those boundaries;
 - The House and the public had **6 days**, the week before Christmas, for review before the long hidden gerrymandered districts were approved.
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May and June 2011	Three hearings were held in Harrisburg to allow public comment on redistricting. No revised district maps were made available for the public hearings.
September 2011	SB 1249, a three-page shell bill, which described each of PA's congressional district boundaries as being "composed of a portion of this Commonwealth," is referred to the Senate State Government Committee (SGC).
December 7, 2011	1st consideration of SB 1249 passes Senate, still an empty shell.
Dec. 12, 2011	2nd consideration of SB 1249 passes Senate, still an empty shell.
Dec. 14, 2011	SGC amends the shell bill to include, for the first time, actual descriptions of the district boundaries. The bill, now 21 pages, passes the Senate in 14 hours, 26 to 24.
Dec. 15, 2011	SB 1249 referred to House State Government Committee and receives 1st consideration.
Dec. 19, 2011	Four amendments offered by minority rejected in the House, which then agreed to the 2nd consideration of the bill by House Appropriations Committee.
Dec. 20, 2011	3rd consideration and final passage of the bill. Signed by governor Dec. 22.

What We're Fighting For

Change is needed. Right now, whichever party has control of the Legislature has control of redistricting. FDPA is advocating for a fair and transparent process that includes public input. Creating fair districts and mapping out a fair redistricting process will help reestablish an accountable government that represents the people of Pennsylvania — not partisan politicians or outside interests.

✓
Impartial

✓
Transparent

✓
Accountable

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