

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 80

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit gerrymandering in the establishment of Congressional districts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit gerrymandering in the establishment of Congressional districts.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This joint resolution may be cited as the “Fair Dis-
5 tricts Amendment”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

7 The following article is proposed as an amendment
8 to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be
9 valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitu-

1 tion when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of
2 the several States:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. In establishing districts for the election
5 of Representatives in Congress, a State shall ensure that
6 no plan for the apportionment of Representatives among
7 individual districts, or any individual district established
8 under such plan, is drawn with the intent to favor or dis-
9 favor a political party or an incumbent; and districts shall
10 not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or
11 abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language mi-
12 norities to participate in the political process or to dimin-
13 ish their ability to elect Representatives of their choice;
14 and districts shall consist of contiguous territory (includ-
15 ing any territory that would be contiguous except for the
16 fact that it is bounded by a body of water or territory
17 outside of the State).

18 “SECTION 2. Unless compliance with the standards
19 under this section conflicts with the standards set forth
20 under section 1, districts for the election of Representa-
21 tives in Congress shall be as nearly equal in population
22 as is practicable; districts shall be compact; and districts
23 shall, where feasible, utilize existing political and geo-
24 graphical boundaries.

1 “SECTION 3. The order in which the standards under
2 sections 1 and 2 are set forth shall not be read to establish
3 any priority of one standard over any other standard with-
4 in the same section.”.

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