



*retiree power*

25 YEARS & GROWING



# Political Overview

## 2026 Midterm Elections

**RICH FIESTA**

April 29, 2026

**April 27–30, 2026**

2026 National Membership Meeting

# Agenda

- What's at Stake
- The Senior Vote
- Vote by Mail Threats
- Alliance Midterm Plans
- Protecting the Right to Vote



# What's at Stake

- Control of U.S. House and Senate
- 36 Governors – 8 competitive
- 26 Secretaries of State
- 6,100 state legislative seats:  
AZ (both chambers), MI House, MN House, WI (both chambers), NH (House), PA Senate, and ME House



# What's at Stake

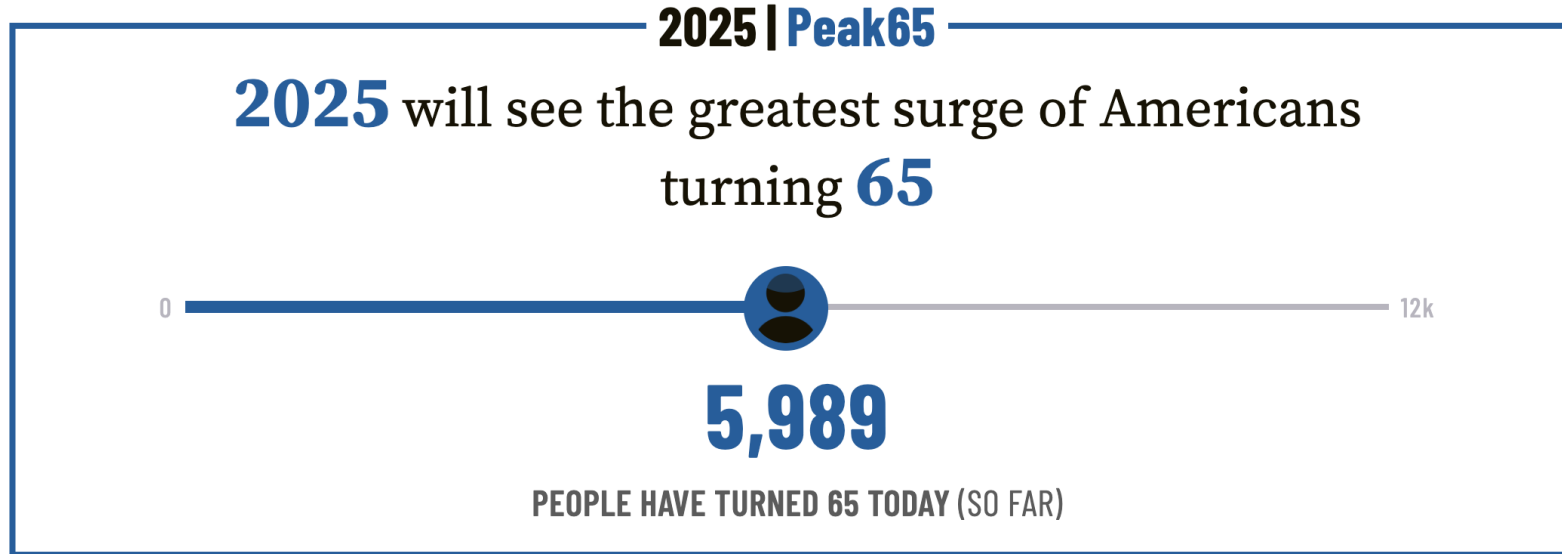
- Social Security cuts or expansion?
- SSA Staffing?
- Medicare cuts or expansion? Long-term care?
- Medicare AI pre-authorization?
- Medicaid cuts?
- PRO Act
- Future of USPS
- Voting rights



# The Senior Vote



# Peak 65 is Happening Now



**70%** of the Baby Boom Generation is now over 65  
11,400 Americans turn 65 every day (2024-2027)

# Seniors Always Vote

Age Group	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
18-24	17%	40%	32%	55%	28%	43.9%
25-34	28%	46%	42%	66%	40%	49.9%
35-44	38%	52%	51%	72%	50%	54.8%
45-64	50%	62%	60%	72%	58%	63.2%
65+	60%	68%	66%	74%	67%	71.7%

Seniors were **25%** of the population and **28%** of the 2024 electorate.

# Who Seniors Voted For

	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
<b>Democrat</b>	38%	44%	41%	45%	49%	47%	43%	49%
<b>Republican</b>	59%	56%	57%	54%	50%	52%	55%	50%
Democratic Margin	-21%	<b>-12%</b>	-16%	<b>-9%</b>	-1%	<b>-5%</b>	-12%	<b>-1%</b>

# Senior Vote Trend: 2025 State-wide Races

## 65+ Senior vote margin

California: Prop 50



Virginia: Governor



New Jersey: Governor



CNN Politics

# Senior Vote Trend: 2025 State-wide Races

Older women (65+) strongly voted for Democrats

California: Prop 50



Virginia: Governor



New Jersey: Governor



# Prop 50: Percentage of Electorate 65+

Age	Percent of Electorate
18-24	6%
25-29	5%
30-39	12%
40-49	16%
50-64	24%
<b>65+</b>	<b>37%</b>

CNN Exit Polls



# ARA Case Study: Prop 50 Phone Banks



- **California Alliance for Retired Americans** members placed *more than 426,674 phone bank calls* to older voters about Proposition 50 over a 9-week period
- Mobilizing older Americans can push the Democratic agenda across the finish line and *deliver wins*

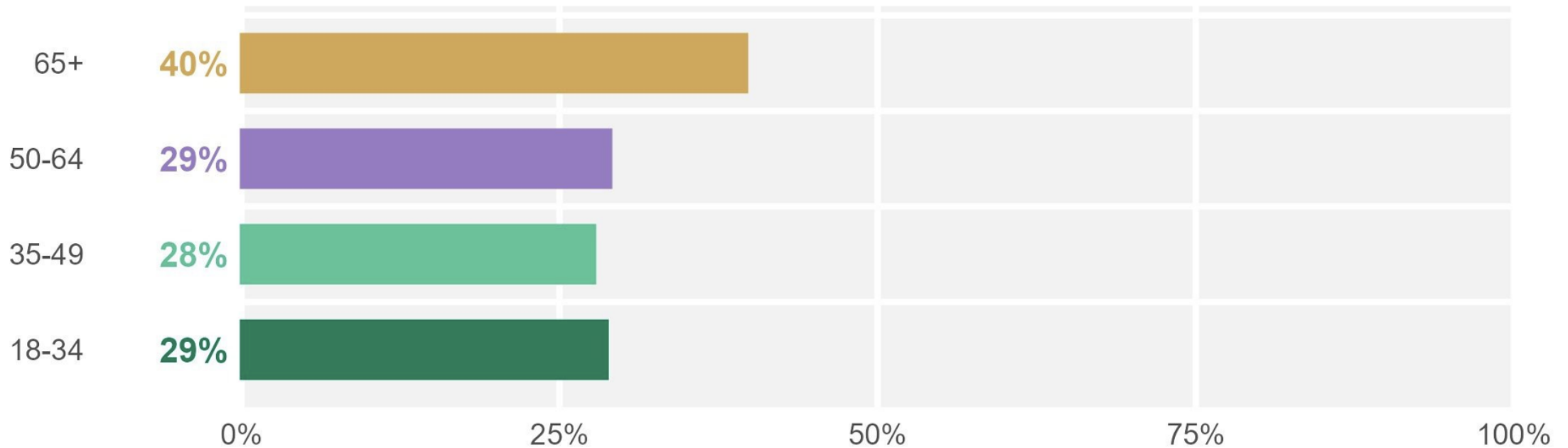


# Vote by Mail Threatened



# 40% of Seniors Voted by Mail in 2024

Mail Voting Rates by Age Group



Democracy Center, Sept. 2025

# Watson v. RNC

RNC challenge to a Mississippi law that allows for a grace period for mail-in ballots

The **Mississippi Alliance** is an intervenor.

Could effectively end grace periods across 30 states, some of which were specifically designed to protect military and other overseas voters.

A screenshot of an NBC News article header. The top left features the NBC News logo. To the right is a blue 'SUBSCRIBE' button, a user profile icon, and a hamburger menu icon. Below the navigation bar, the text 'SUPREME COURT' is displayed. The main headline reads 'Supreme Court to weigh imposing new limits on mail-in ballots in a major election case'. A sub-headline below the main headline states: 'The Republican National Committee is among those challenging a law in Mississippi, similar to those in many other states, that allow mail-in ballots to be counted after Election Day.'

# Alliance Midterm Plan



# ARA in Labor 2026 Target Races: Statewide

State	Races	% 65+ Vote	ARA Members
AK	Gov., Senate	20.93%	9,763
AZ	Gov.	28.31%	47,306
GA	Senate	22.05%	73,849
IA	Senate	28.15%	34,784

State	Races	% 65+ Vote	ARA Members
ME	Gov., Senate	33.22%	21,754
MI	Gov., Senate	26.34%	232,207
NC	Senate	25.51%	61,632
OH	Senate	27.11%	298,962

\*List subject to change

# ARA in Labor 2026 Target Races: U.S. House

State	% 65+ Vote	ARA Members
AZ-1	28.67%	4,945
AZ-6	34.35%	7,753
CA-13	19.60%	2,926
CA-22	17.38%	2,111
CA-48	26.69%	5,622
CO-08	18.17%	4,671
IA-1	24.30%	9,698
IA-3	24.03%	7,397

State	% 65+ Vote	ARA Members
ME-2	30.53%	11,668
MI-7	23.60%	13,820
MI-8	27.72%	29,857
MI-10	23.90%	18,128
NC-1	28.62%	5,510
NE-2	22.60%	4,036

\*List subject to change

# ARA in Labor 2026 Target Races: U.S. House

State	% 65+ Vote	ARA Members
NJ-7	30.40%	8,215
NM-2	21.19%	6,922
NM-3	21.64%	4,456
NY-4	27.9%	30,344
NY-19	29.9%	33,034
OH-1	22.8%	11,488
OH-9	28.2%	21,049
OH-13	28.8%	24,754

State	% 65+ Vote	ARA Members
PA-7	27.5%	18,540
PA-10	28.3%	13,833
TX-34	21.3%	2,828
TX-35	16%	2,937
VA-1	28.1%	5,035
VA-2	25%	4,407
WA-3	29.81%	9,821

\*List subject to change

# Candidate Endorsements

Alliance for Retired Americans  
@ActiveRetirees

@SamForstag has promised to put older Montanans ahead of special interests in Washington. He knows that Americans have earned their Social Security and Medicare, and he will fight every day to protect and strengthen them. #MT01 will benefit from having him in Congress.

Retirees Endorse  
**Sam Forstag**  
for MT-01



ALT

3:02 PM · Apr 2, 2026 · 1,093 Views

Alliance for Retired Americans  
@ActiveRetirees

Congressman @JohnLarsonCT has fought for American families on all fronts — working to cut costs, defend their rights, and protect and expand their hard-earned benefits like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.



ALT

Retirees Endorse  
**John Larson**  
for CT-1



1:12 PM · Mar 30, 2026 · 65 Views

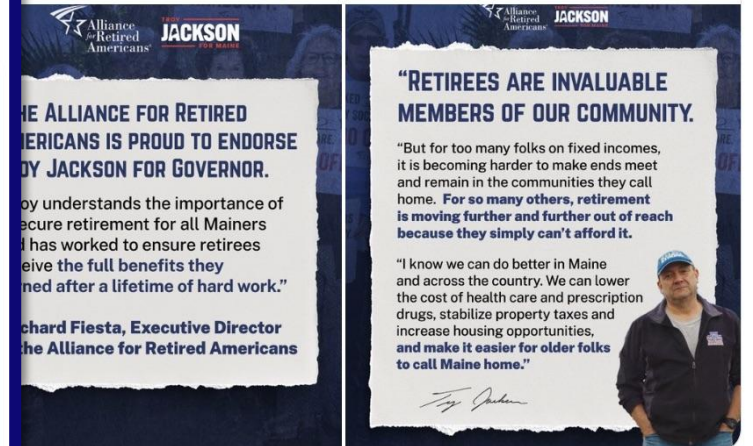
Alliance for Retired Americans  
@ActiveRetirees

@TroyJackson207's record speaks for itself, and he has worked tirelessly to protect and strengthen retirement benefits for all Mainers. The Alliance is proud to endorse his campaign for Governor!

Troy Jackson @TroyJackson207 · Feb 11

... should get hung out to dry after a lifetime of hard work.

... Governor, I'll end these insane electricity rate hikes, cut taxes for working people and retirees, clamp down on Big Pharma profiteers, and reinvest in long-term care facilities....



Feb 12, 2026 · 298 Views

# Education & Mobilization

- **Story collection** (all states with Alliance chapters, emphasis on Labor 2026 states)
- **Federal candidate endorsements** (all states, emphasis on House and Senate battleground races)
- **Virtual member training** and mobilization events (all states)
- **Social Security and Medicare anniversary events** (all states with Alliance chapters)
- **Hero/Zero Awards** (all states with Alliance chapters, emphasis on House and Senate battleground races)
- **Working Family Toolkit Retiree Content** – candidate side by sides, LTEs, op-eds in Labor 2026 states and critical House districts
- **Earned media on retiree issues** – Labor 2026 states

# Retiree-to-Retiree Phone Banks

## Past cycles

- Alliance held weekly retiree-to-retiree phone banks in cooperation with Labor 2024 programs in **AZ, CA, PA, TX, WI**

## Planned for 2026

- National weekly virtual labor retiree-to-retiree phone banks
- Start early, aligned to early vote/VBM deadlines

# Protecting the Right to Vote



# Threats We Are Tracking

- DOJ has raided Election Offices in multiple states and seized ballots
- Attempts to interfere with state elections and elections officials
- Attempts to discredit election integrity by Administration and social media allies
- Use of DOJ, DHS, DOD on Election Day
- Post-Election attacks on outcomes



# U.S. Supreme Court Rules in Redistricting Case – Guts VRA

- 10 Democratic seats in House could be lost in the South
- Tennessee and Florida could redistrict this year
- Implications not fully known

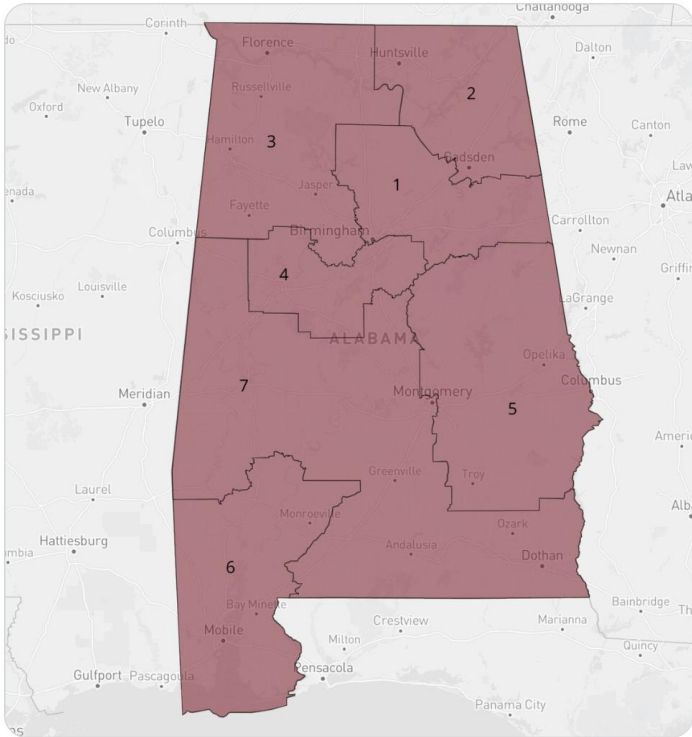


# Possible Impact ?



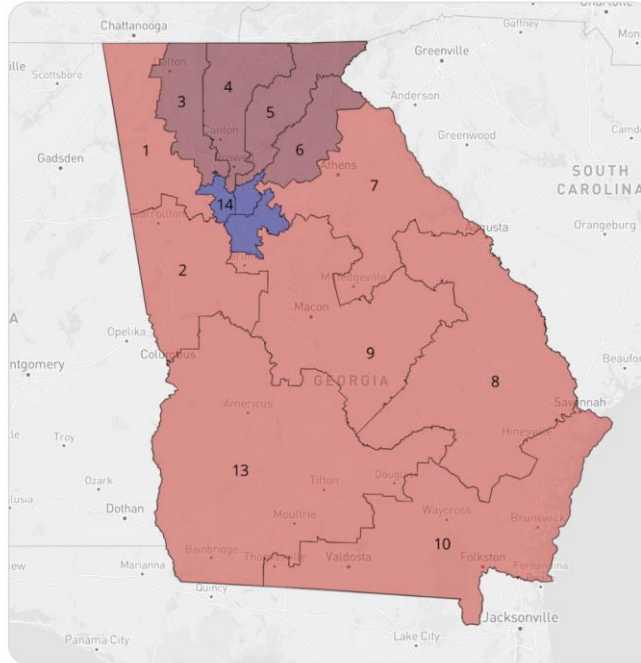
Zachary Donnini @ZacharyDonnini · 16m

With a weakened Section 2, it is more likely than not that Alabama adopts a map similar to this by 2032 at the latest. It would flip two majority-Black seats from ● to ●.



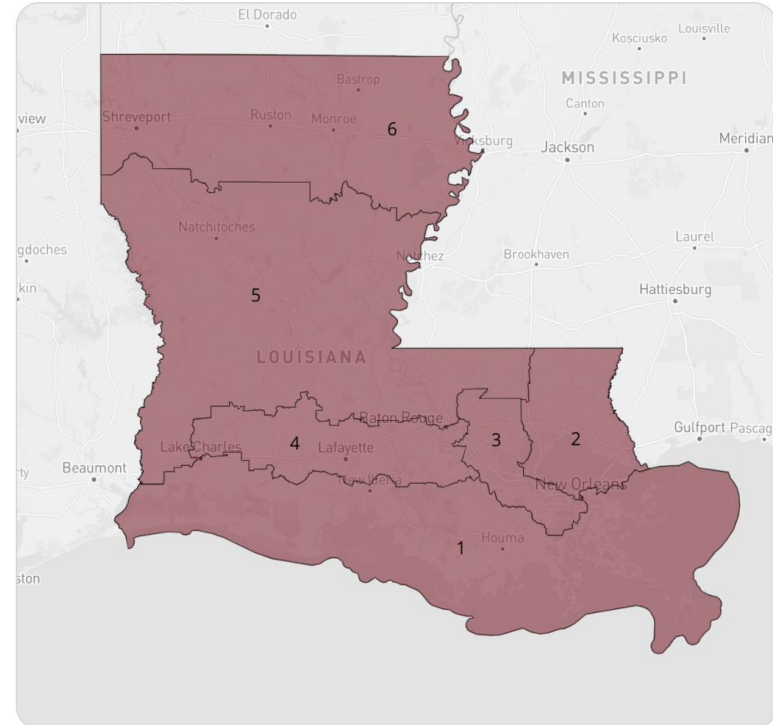
Zachary Donnini @ZacharyDonnini

With a weakened Section 2, Republicans could in Georgia could adopt a map similar to this. It would flip two majority-Black seats from ● to ●. Only flipping one seat would be safer, given the blue trending Atlanta Metro Area.







Zachary Donnini @ZacharyDonnini · 10m



With a weakened Section 2, it is more likely than not that Louisiana adopts a map similar to this by 2032 at the latest. It would flip two majority-Black seats from ● to ●.

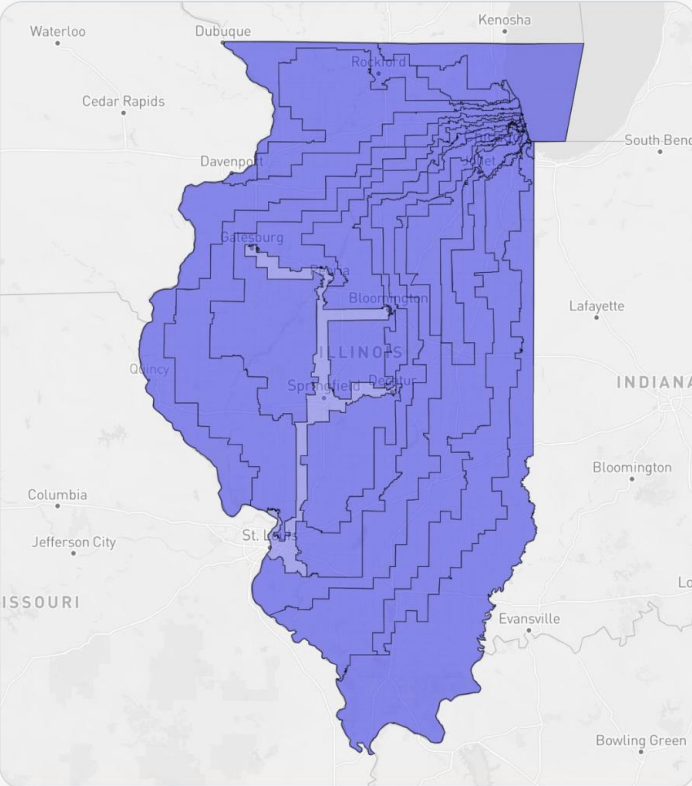


# Possible Impact ?





 **Zachary Donnini**   @ZacharyDonnini · 14m  ...

If Republicans aggressively gerrymander the South and eliminate up to 10 Democratic seats under a narrowed VRA, Democrats could become desperate and respond with absurd maps in blue states.



This 17-0 Illinois map could become legal, flipping three seats from  to .

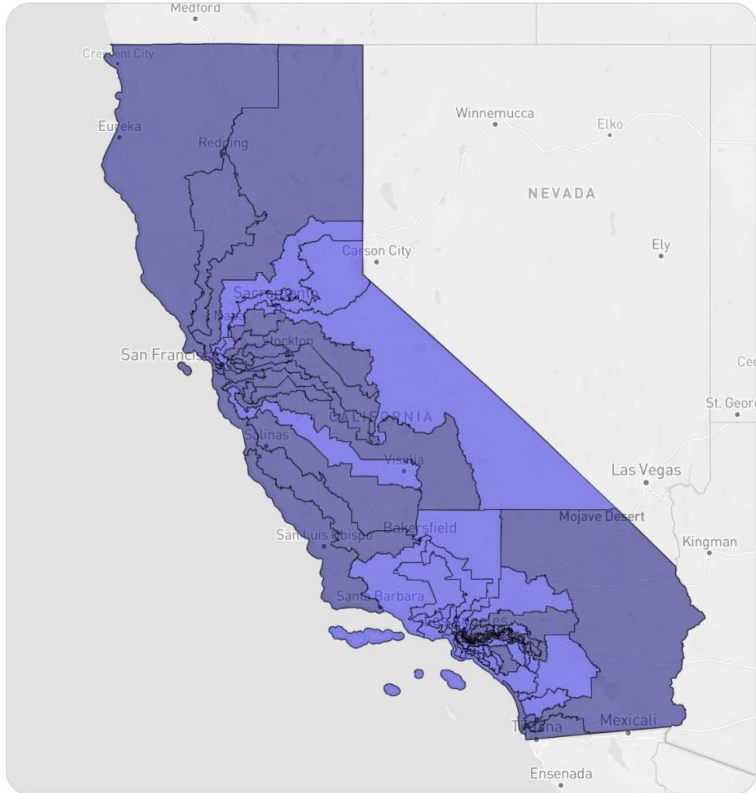


The map shows the state of Illinois divided into 17 districts, all shaded in blue. Major cities labeled include Waterloo, Dubuque, Kenosha, Rockford, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, South Bend, Quincy, Springfield, St. Louis, Columbia, Jefferson City, St. Louis, Evansville, and Bowling Green. Neighboring states Missouri and Indiana are also labeled.

 **Zachary Donnini**   @ZacharyDonnini · 22m  ...

If Republicans aggressively gerrymander the South and eliminate up to 10 Democratic seats under a narrowed VRA, Democrats could respond in blue states.

For example, this 52-0 California map could become legal, flipping four seats from  to .



The map shows the state of California divided into 52 districts, all shaded in blue. Major cities labeled include Medford, Crescent City, Eureka, Redding, Winnemucca, Elko, Carson City, Ely, San Francisco, Sacramento, Fresno, Visalia, Bakersfield, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Mojave Desert, Kingman, Las Vegas, St. George, and Ensenada. Neighboring states Nevada and Arizona are also labeled.



# Fighting to Protect Our Personal Data

- AFSCME, Alliance, AFT v. SSA
- Maryland Federal District Court
- Challenging DOGE access to Social Security data
- Next step: discovery

**POLITICO**

**Trump administration concedes DOGE team may have misused Social Security data**

Some DOGE personnel had more access to data than previously acknowledged, according to a court filing.

# Thank You

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