

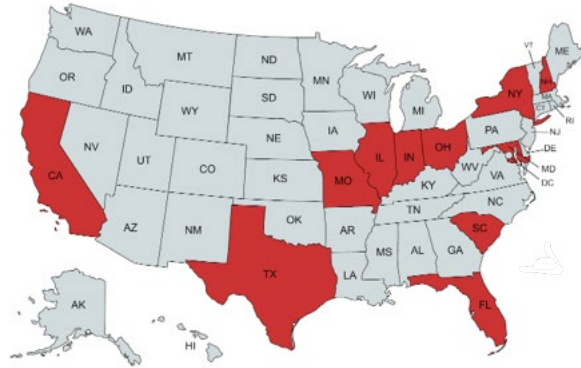


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## August Recess Report: Redistricting

### Redistricting Update

Redistricting battles have emerged as a major focus ahead of the 2026 midterms, with Republican state leaders mounting an aggressive, coordinated campaign to redraw congressional maps. The Trump administration is taking a hands-on approach, pushing state lawmakers to redraw maps in a handful of key states where Republicans control both the legislature and governorships. This follows quiet but forceful pressure from the White House on Texas Republicans, where a new map could deliver up to five additional GOP seats. After weeks of walkouts and a second special session called by Gov. Greg Abbott, Republicans in the Texas House pushed the plan forward, prompting civil rights groups to prepare lawsuits and sparking nationwide protests against gerrymandering. Similar efforts are underway or being considered in the states of Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, South Carolina, and Florida. The White House is also pressuring Republicans in Indiana to begin their own mid-decade redistricting process, broadening the map-drawing fight.



In total, Republican strategists estimate they could draw 10 or more seats in their favor nationwide if these efforts succeed. Democrats are fighting back, but their options are limited. In Ohio, where Republicans hold a legislative supermajority, Democrats cannot use the same tactic as they did in Texas and instead are weighing lawsuits or even a citizen referendum to challenge GOP-drawn maps. Experts say Republicans could secure up to three new seats there by targeting districts held by Democratic Representatives Emilia Sykes, Marcy Kaptur, and Greg Landsman. National party leaders and outside groups are also preparing for legal battles, especially given that the current maps are based on 2020 census data that may be outdated. In California, Democrats have launched a counteroffensive led by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who is pushing a plan that could erase as many as five GOP seats. Former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has reemerged to raise \$100 million to fight back against Newsom's proposal. The states currently considering congressional redistricting are Texas, California, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, and New York, representing a broad, bipartisan movement to revise district maps ahead of the 2026 elections.

President Trump sparked additional controversy by announcing plans for a new census that would exclude undocumented immigrants. He directed the Department of Commerce to begin work immediately, though it remains unclear whether the effort is meant to replace the 2020 census or redesign the process ahead of the 2030 count. Either way, this would represent a major break from longstanding census policy, and legal challenges are expected. The Constitution mandates a census every ten years, and it requires states to count all *persons* residing within their borders.