

BRENNAN
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FOR JUSTICE

Fair Maps: Law, Power & The People

Michael C. Li, Senior Counsel

September 20, 2026

April 29, 2026
at 10:07 a.m. ET



PLESSY V. FERGUSON
PRESS STREET RAILROAD YARDS
Site of the Arrest of Homer Adolph Plessy

— • • • —

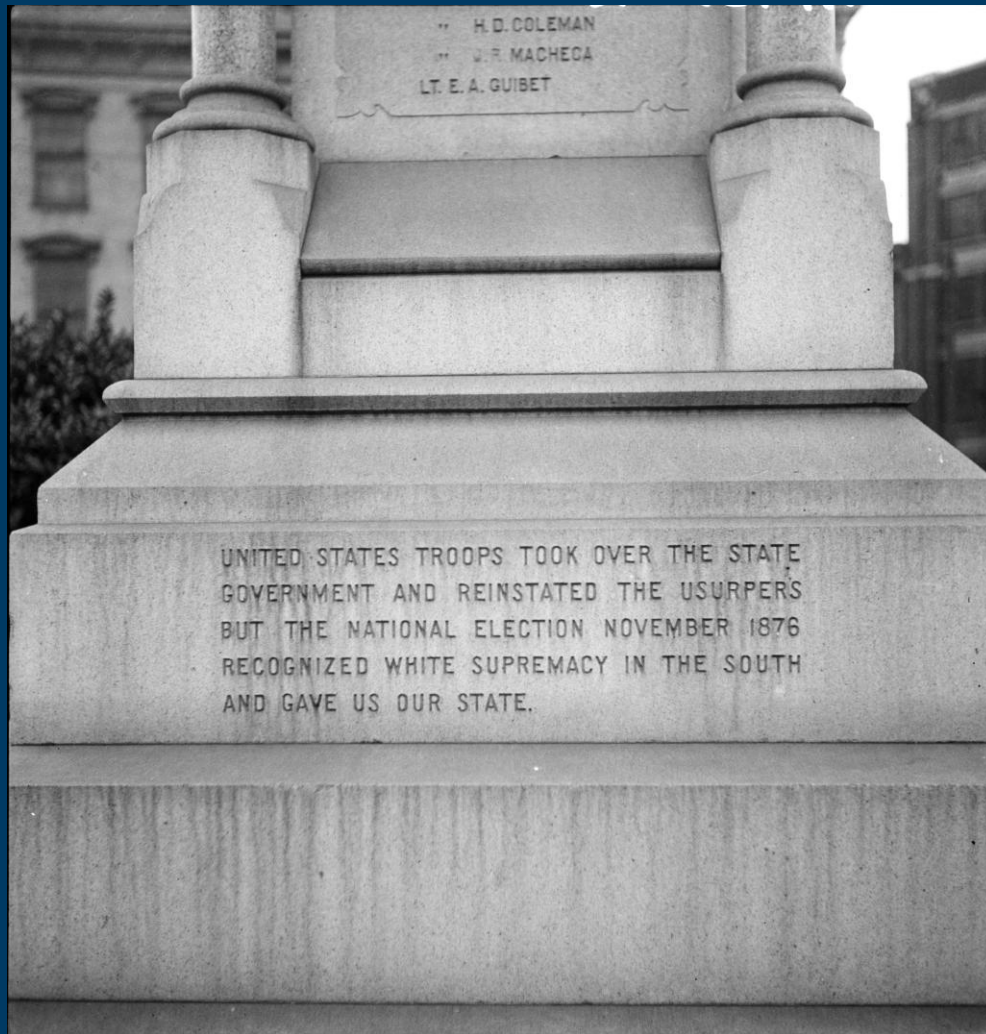
On June 7, 1892, Homer Adolph Plessy was removed from the East Louisiana Railroad train and arrested by Detective C.C. Cain at the corner of Royal and Press St. He was charged with violating the 1890 Louisiana Separate Car Act that separated railroad passengers by race.

Plessy's act of civil disobedience was a test case organized by the Comité des Citoyens (Citizens Committee) whose aim was to overturn segregation laws that were being enacted across the South. The philosophy and strategies of the Comité des Citoyens foreshadowed Civil Rights movements of the 20th century. Although the Supreme Court ruled against Plessy on May 18, 1896, his case marked the first post-Reconstruction use of the 14th Amendment's "equal protection" provision in a legal challenge to segregation. In their final statement after the Supreme Court verdict, the Comité des Citoyens proclaimed,

"We as freemen still believe we were right and our cause is sacred...In defending the cause of liberty, we met with defeat but not with ignominy". Their position was vindicated when the Supreme Court upheld similar 14th Amendment arguments in the 1954 case of Brown v. Board of Education.
(Continued on other side)

CRESCENT CITY PEACE ALLIANCE









"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION

U. S. Weather Bureau Report (page 44): Insects.
Sunny, hot, humid today, fair tonight.
Partly cloudy and hot tomorrow.
Temp. Range: 92-70; yesterday: 82-64.
Temp.-Hum. Index: near 80; yesterday: 77.

VOL. CXIV...No. 39,277.

© 1965 by The New York Times Company.
Times Square, New York, N. Y. 10036

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1965.

TEN CENTS

VIETCONG APPEAL TO NORTH VIETNAM FOR MEN AND AID

Political Front of Guerrillas
Urges Open Assistance
to Intensify the War

PEACE TERMS RESTATED

Insurgents Bar Negotiation
Unless They Participate
With 'Decisive Voice'

Text of Vietcong statement
will be found on Page 2.

By The Associated Press

TOKYO, Saturday, Aug. 7 —
The political front of the Viet-
cong guerrillas in South Viet-
nam has asked North Vietnam
for active assistance against
United States forces in the
South and for preparations to
send men into battle, the Hanoi
radio reported today.

Hanoi, which has said it
would send volunteers if asked,
quoted a Vietcong statement as
having said that the guerrillas
wanted help "to increase our
forces and step up the resistance
of the war 10 times more vigor-
ously."

The significance of the state-
ment, and its timing, imme-
diately aroused speculation.
United States officials report
that the Vietcong guerrillas
have suffered heavy losses in



Associated Press Wirephoto

CONFER ON ASIA: Alex Quaison-Sackey, Foreign
Minister of Ghana, hands a letter from President Kwame
Nkrumah to President Johnson in White House. Mr. Quai-
son-Sackey said message should promote peace in Vietnam.

Nkrumah Note on Vietnam Is Delivered to President

By RICHARD EDER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 — President Johnson saw
Ghana's Foreign Minister, Alex Quaison-Sackey, for 15
minutes today—long enough to receive a letter from Presi-
dent Kwame Nkrumah and to assure Mr. Quaison-Sackey
that the Ghanaian President would be safe from United
States bombs if he decided to

ENGINEER WARNS CITY CAN RUN OUT OF WATER IN 1966

Commission Told of Danger
in Measures to Protect
Philadelphia Supply

By McCANDLISH PHILLIPS
Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 6 —
New York City told the Dela-
ware River Basin Commission
today that the city could "run
out of water by the middle of
February, 1966," if adverse con-
ditions continued.

Demands now being placed
upon the city's diminishing
water supplies constitute what
is "actually not safe operation,"
Edward J. Clark, the city's
chief water engineer, declared
at a special emergency meet-
ing of the commission here to-
day.

But Mr. Clark acknowledged
that for the city to come with-
in the margin of safe opera-
tion, it would have to take ac-
tions that would endanger the
water supplies of Philadelphia
and Camden.

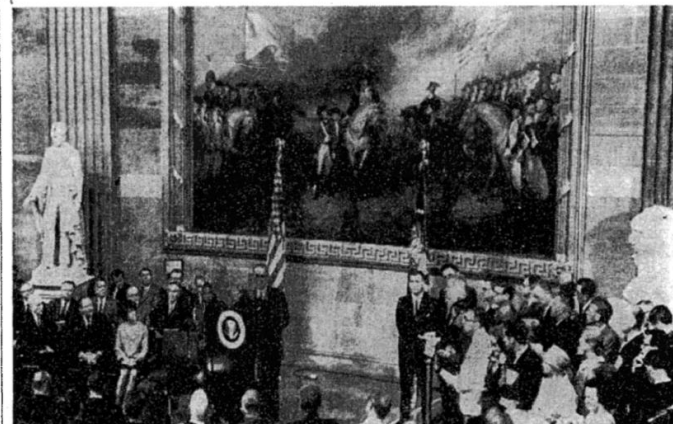
Holding Back Salt Water

Sea water driven by tides is
threatening to invade a Phila-
delphia water intake on the
river that supplies half this city.

A Philadelphia water official
said that some industries would
have to shut down if too much
salt were washed into the city's
supply.

New York City has been re-
leasing about 200 million gallons
of stored water a day into the
Delaware from two of its res-

JOHNSON SIGNS VOTING RIGHTS BILL, ORDERS IMMEDIATE ENFORCEMENT; 4 SUITS WILL CHALLENGE POLL TAX



United Press International Telephoto

IN THE ROTUNDA: President Johnson speaks at Capitol before signing Voting Rights Act. To left are daughter Luci
Baines, Vice President Humphrey and members of Congress. "Surrender of Cornwallis" by John Trumbull is on wall.

NEW VOTING LAW ATTACKED IN SUIT

**Americus Names Negroes
To Jobs as Polling Clerks**

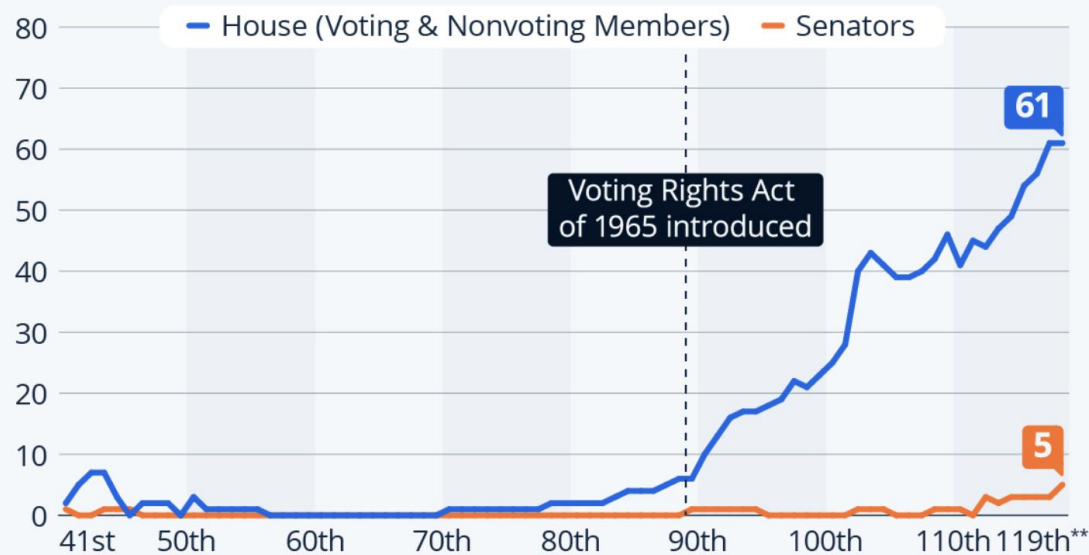
CAPITOL IS SCENE

Room in Which Lincoln

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Voting Rights Act Improved Black Representation in Congress

Number of African-American members of Congress, by Congress*



* Includes any Members who served only a portion of the Congress

** As of Aug. 4, 2025

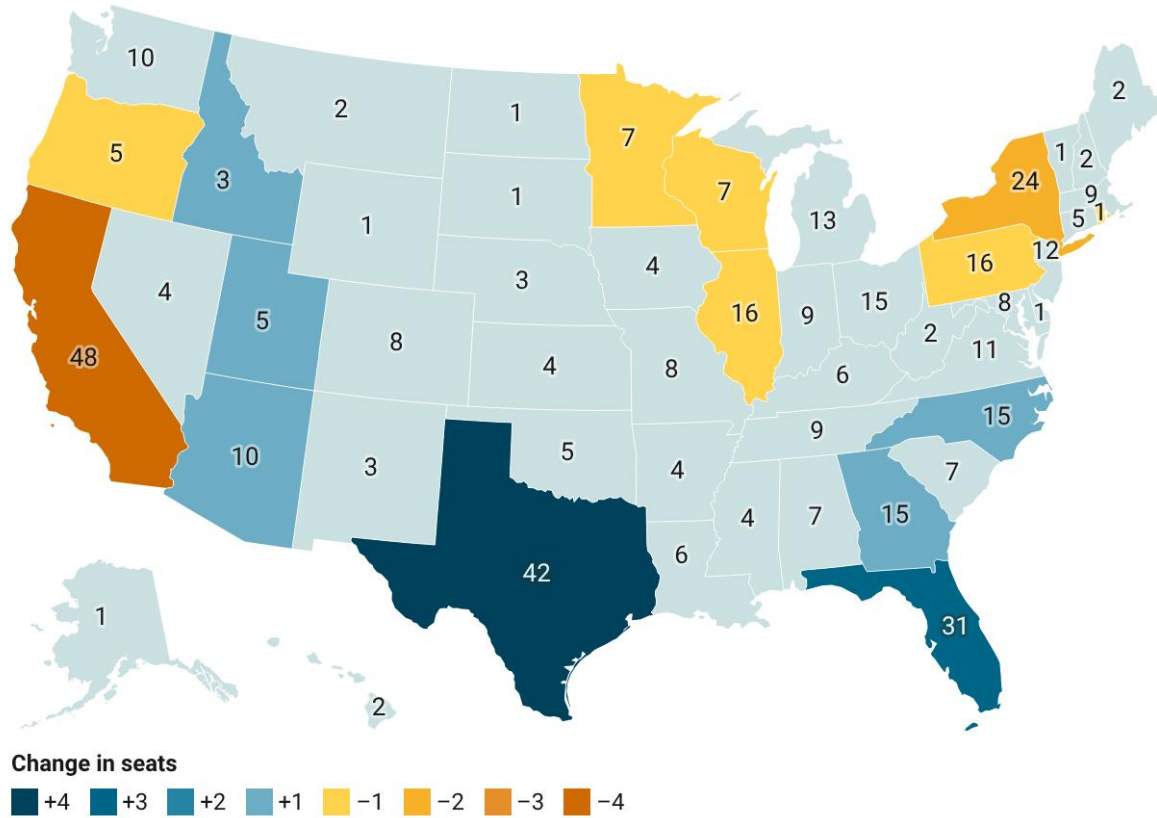
A Changed South

Congressional Districts by Region

	South	Northeast	Midwest & Plains	Mountain	West
1960s	124	117	125	17	52
1970s	125	113	121	19	57
1980s	133	104	113	24	61
1990s	140	97	105	24	69
2000s	145	92	100	28	70
2010s	152	87	94	31	71
2020s	155	85	91	33	71
2030s (projected)	164	81	88	36	66

Note: Brennan Center analysis of decennial reapportionments 1960—2020. Estimates of seats after the 2030 census based on analysis of population growth trends reported by the Census Bureau for the period between April 1, 2020, and July 1, 2025.

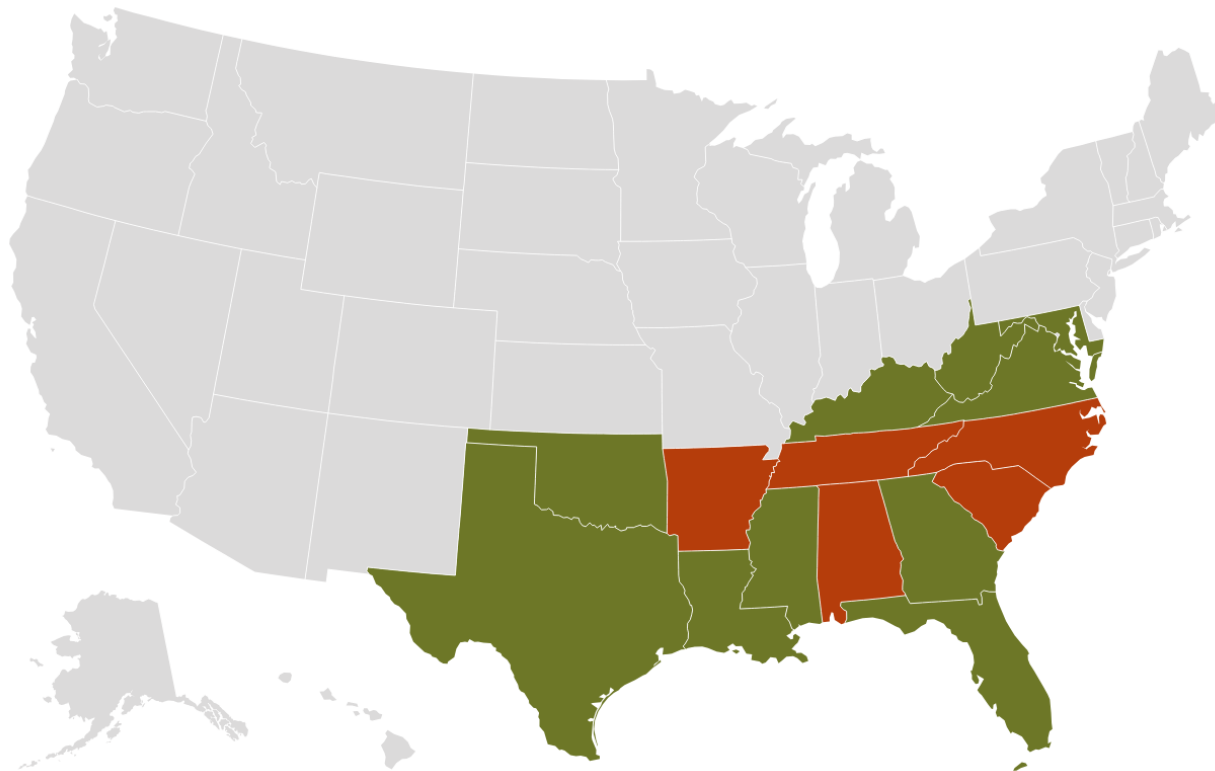
Projected 2030 Congressional Reapportionment



Source: Brennan Center projections based on the Census Bureau's Vintage 2025 estimates of population change April 1, 2020 and July 1, 2025.

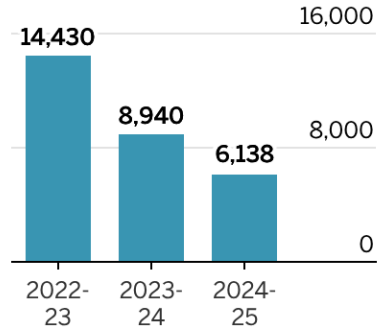
White Population Change in the South: 2024-25

● White population growing ● White population shrinking

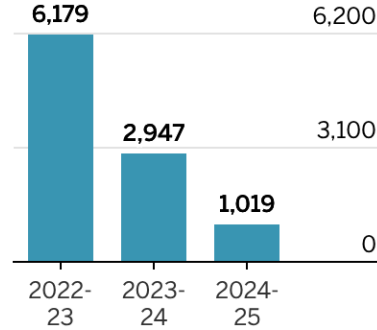


Slowing White Population Growth

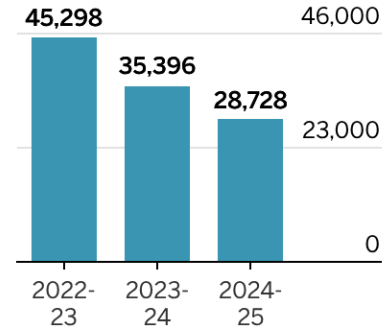
Alabama



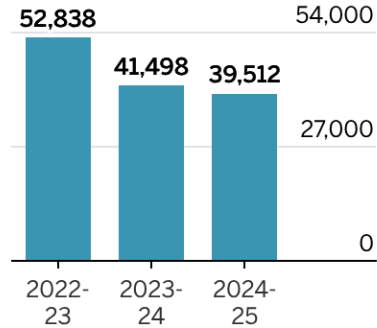
Arkansas



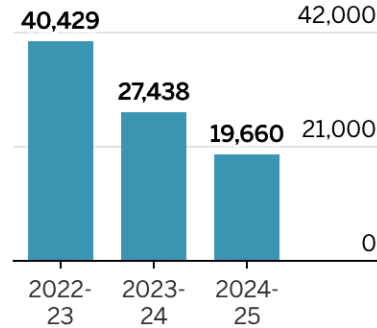
North Carolina



South Carolina



Tennessee

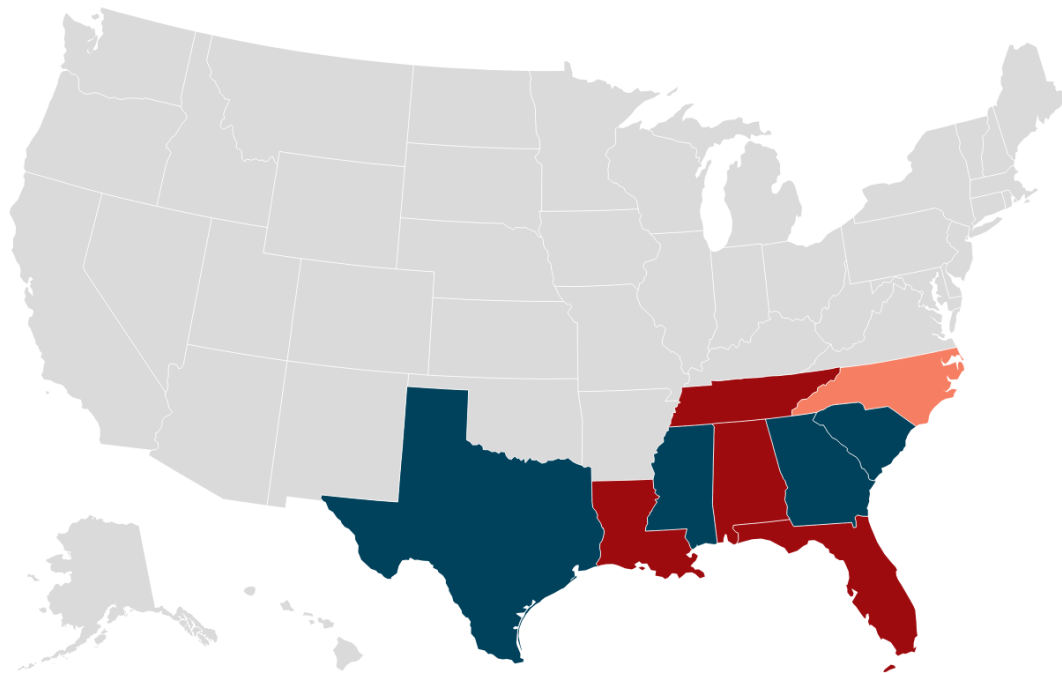


Source: Brennan Center analysis of Vintage 2025 population estimates for states from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Aftermath of *Callais*

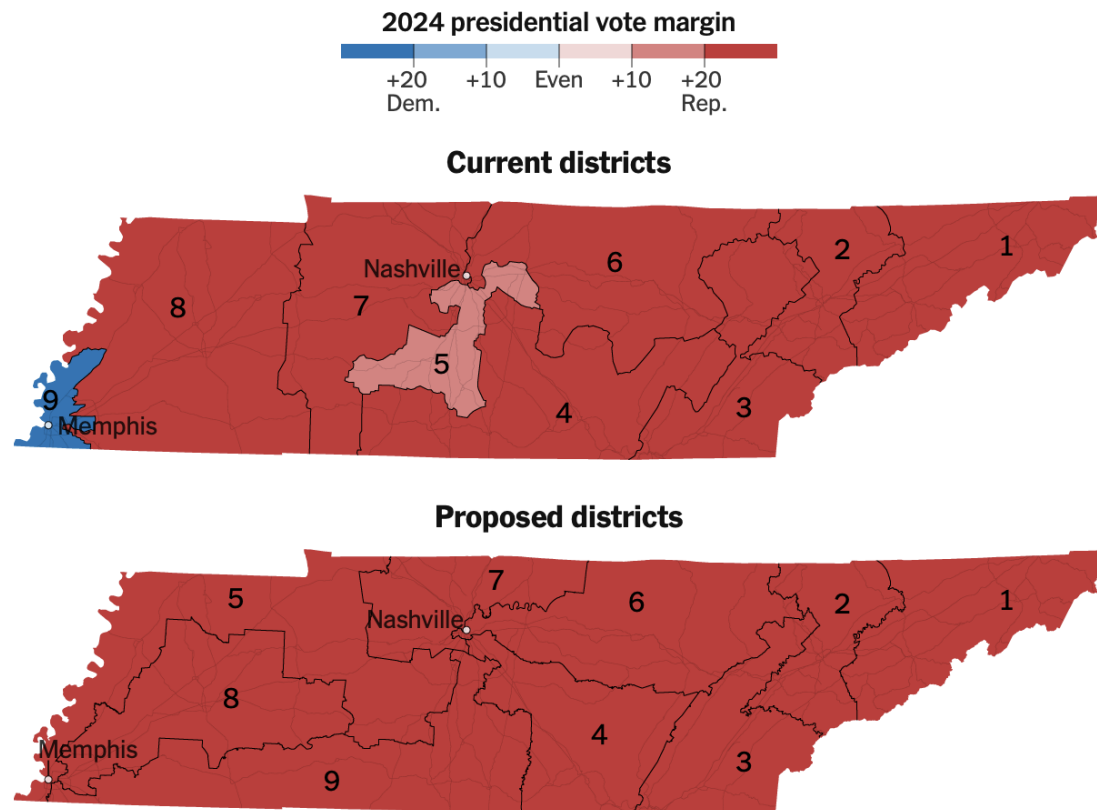
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● Map Redrawn Post-Callais ● Map Redrawn Before Callais ● Redraw Possible in 2028



Note: Brennan Center for Justice analysis as of August 18, 2026.

The Extraordinary Story of Tennessee









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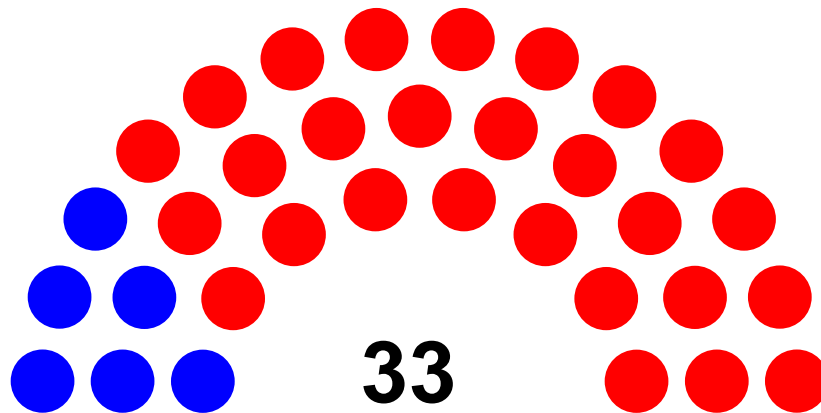
JUST NOW: Rep. Todd Warner walks into the house to strip majority Black Memphis of representation wearing a trump flag as a cape as Rep. Camper of Memphis looks on

Video: [instagram.com/reel/DYCuFmtOt...](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DYCuFmtOt...)

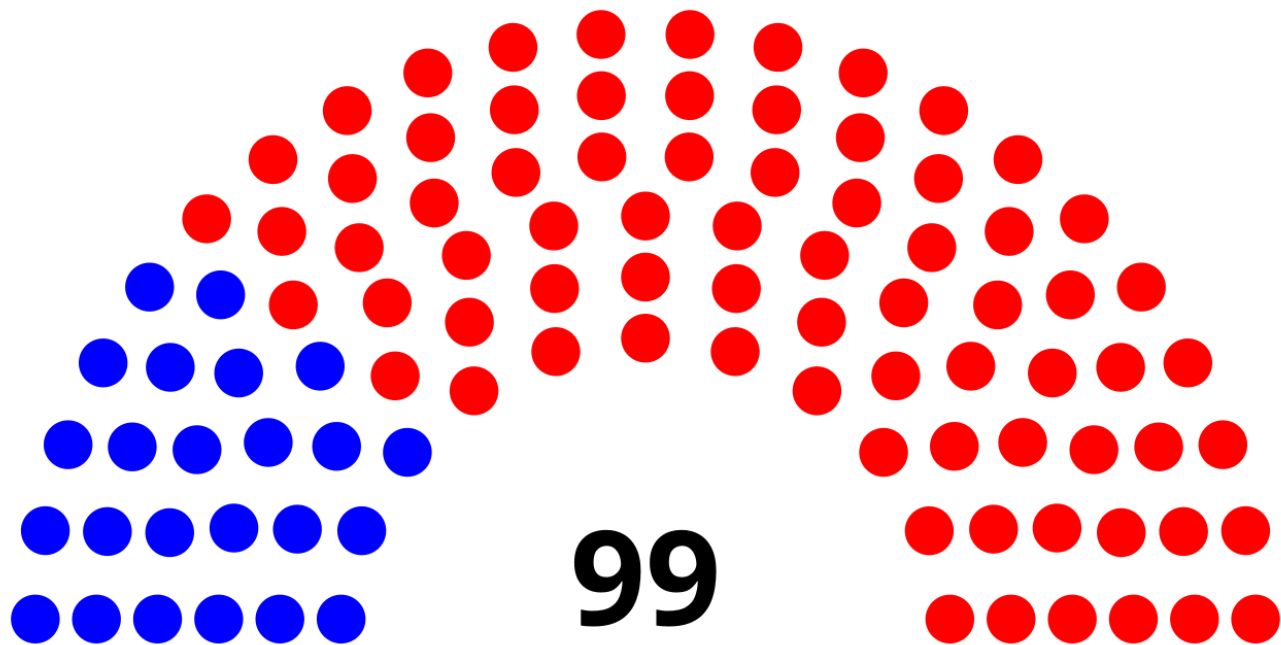


Last edited 11:36 AM · May 7, 2026 · **42.9K** Views

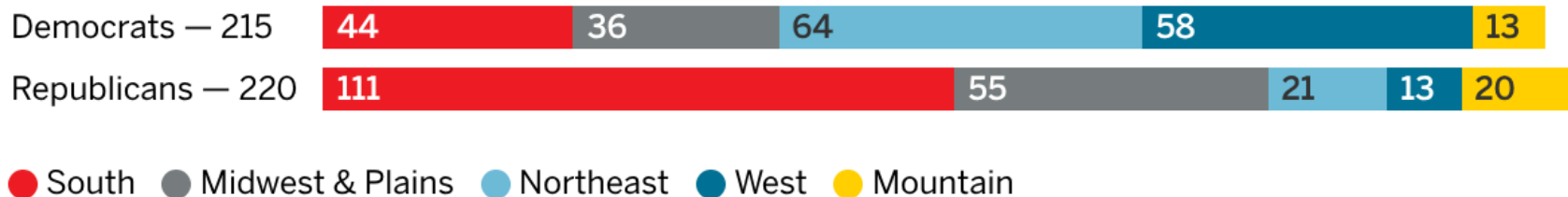
The Tennessee Senate



The Tennessee House



House Seats in the 119th Congress by Region & Party



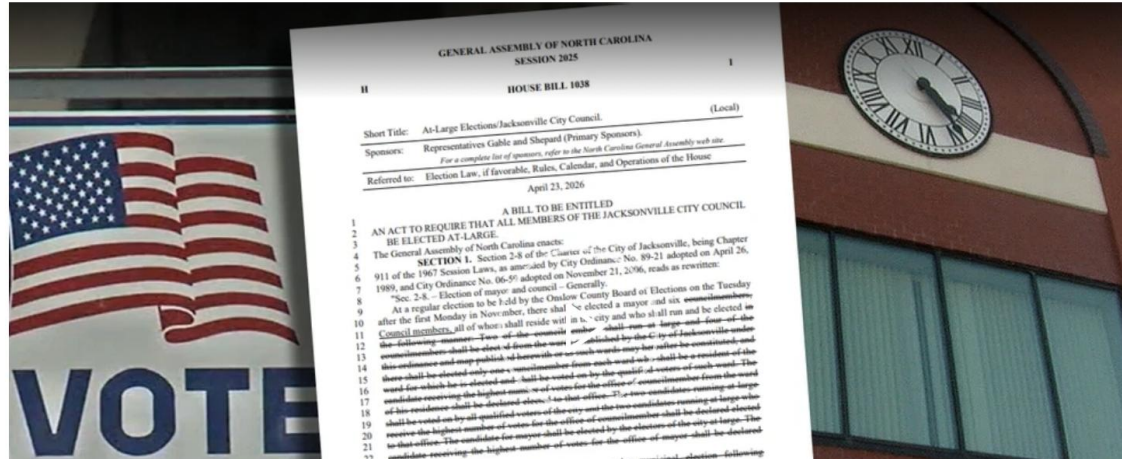
Note: Brennan Center analysis of reported election results from the Associated Press. Although Republicans won 220 seats, one GOP seat is already vacant as a result of the resignation of Congressman Matt Gaetz (FL-01).

Retrogression En Masse

State bill would reshape Jacksonville City Council races

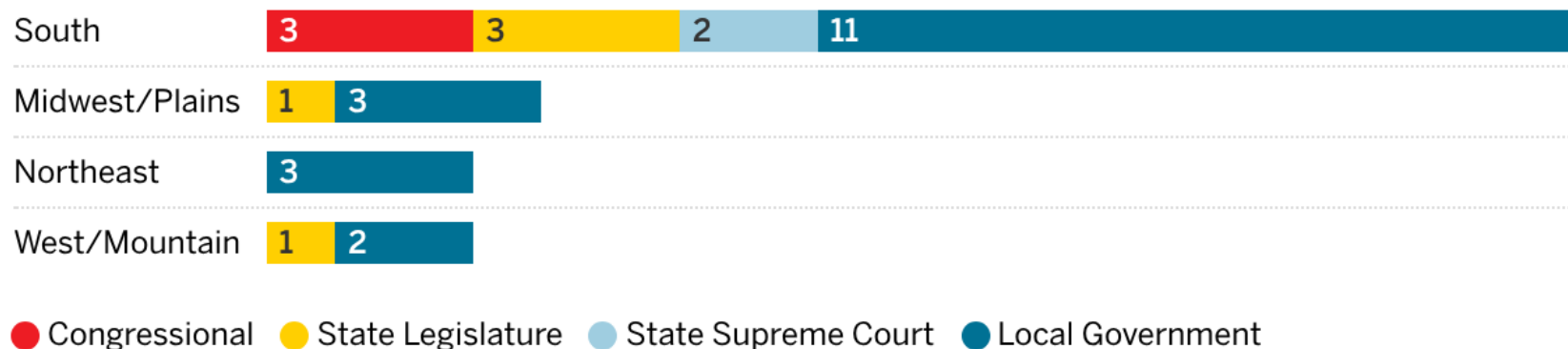
by News 12 Staff | Tue, April 28, 2026 at 7:45 PM

Updated Tue, April 28, 2026 at 8:20 PM



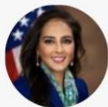
Local Impact

Regional Breakdown of Cases Finding Section 2 Liability Since 2015



Note: Brennan Center analysis of court filings as of October 10, 2025.

An Unprecedented Role for DOJ



AAGHarmeetDhillon   @AAGDhillon · Apr 30



Senator — we are ON IT! This @TheJusticeDept under @DAGToddBlanche continues to prioritize equal protection of the laws for ALL Americans, be it in employment, housing, education — and VOTING!



Senator Eric Schmitt   @SenEricSchmitt · Apr 30

Today—as Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution—I urged @DAGToddBlanche and @AAGDhillon to act on the Supreme Court’s ruling in Louisiana v. Callais.

DOJ has the power to enforce this decision nationwide and must use i...

Whither the Courts?

Supreme Court permits Alabama to use congressional map struck by lower court as racially discriminatory



By AMY HOWE & KELSEY DALLAS

JUN 2, 2026



What is to be done?

Congress must act



An Agenda That Includes . . .

- Banning partisan gerrymandering
- Renew and strengthen voting rights laws
- Court reform

Build a movement



Reset the narrative



“As goes the South, so goes
the nation.”

W.E.B. DuBois