

# Fight Gerrymandering With Google Maps

## A picture is worth a thousand words

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### Summary

#### Step 1.

Find a state legislature district with a highly contorted boundary. This would be the opposite of a 'compact' district. Some districts might appear to be compact at first glance but when you zoom in you see that the district boundary zigzags almost house by house instead of just following the street.

#### Step 2.

Make a Google map showing the boundary of that district.

#### Step 3.

Show that Google map to current state legislators and put them on the spot to try and explain how district lines like the ones on your Google map are in the public interest.

### Details

#### \*\*\* Step 1. \*\*\*

I am a software developer and data geek in the field of online maps. As a public service and part of my way to "pay it forward" I have produced an **interactive map for each state** that can show the current state legislature boundaries and congressional boundaries. The district lines can be displayed as yellow lines, black lines and/or red dots. Below is a link to a web page I made that has the links to the state maps.

Each map has multiple overlays that can be turned on/off/restacked. To learn more, open any map and click "**Map tips**" in the upper left corner.

Open the map for any state and look for state legislature or congressional districts that look like the result of gerrymandering. Depending what you are looking for you may need to change which overlays are 'on'. To make it easier to see the district lines, you can change the basemap to "**All white basemap**".

<https://mappingsupport.com/p2/gissurfer-political-district-maps.html>

Did you read the "**Map tips**"?

**\*\*\* Step 2. \*\*\***

Here is a PDF file I produced with easy step-by-step instructions showing how anyone with basic computer skills can download the boundary data for \*any\* legislative district for \*any\* state and then import that data into Google maps.

<https://mappingsupport.com/p2/political/google-map-political-district.pdf>

Near the top of page 2 of the PDF it says "Open GISsurfer map:" and there is a link. There is no reason to open that link since you already have a GISsurfer map open on your screen. (GISsurfer is a general purpose web map I developed.)

**\*\*\*Step 3.\*\*\***

A picture is worth 1000 words. Your Google map is a picture that shows gerrymandering. The link that displays your Google map can be posted on social media, included in blogs and used any place that links can be used.