
What is prison gerrymandering?
Prison gerrymandering is when, for the purposes of redistricting, states count incarcerated people as living where they are incarcerated as opposed to at their last known address.

Why should we end prison gerrymandering?

- **Distorts democracy.** By counting incarcerated people where they’re incarcerated we distort everyone’s vote across the state. The votes of people who don’t live in prison districts count for less than those who do live in prison districts.

- **State-local uniformity.** Most local governments don’t use prison gerrymandering in local redistricting. West Feliciana Parish is home to the state prison at Angola and does not count those prisoners for the purposes of local redistricting.

- **ICE detainees.** Approximately 8,000 ICE detainees are being held in Louisiana prisons. They were arrested thousands of miles from Louisiana and are being held here temporarily. Yet they will be counted as citizens for the sake of redistricting.

- **Be proactive.** Colorado recently became the eighth state to end prison gerrymandering, and there are lawsuits being filed across the country to end this practice. We will have to remedy this issue at some point. Let’s deal with it now, before we are one of the last states to do so and/or a court mandates it.

Ending prison gerrymandering WOULD NOT impact local funding
- The amount of federal funding that comes to Louisiana is determined by the state’s total population count, not local population counts.
- Those federal dollars come to the state, and then the state distributes them based on a strict funding formula.
- The money does not “follow” individual people or populations as they move around the state.

Tell your legislators you support House Bill 576
Public input is essential to winning on this issue. We encourage you to contact your state legislators (State Representative and State Senator) and tell them you support HB 625. You can find your legislators and their contact information via this link: powercoalition.org/findmylegislator.