

ELIMINATE GERRYMANDERING

By Joe Venuti

The ability of state legislatures to redistrict in any manner they choose, has created a situation in the House of Representatives which is stymieing the legislative process.

Federal House Representatives can refuse to participate in the legislative process, yet are guaranteed re-election to their seat because of the carefully carved out districts in their states. This is one of the primary causes of a broken government, and must be fixed.

While the constitution mandates that a census be taken every 10 years, and that redistricting may be necessary due to population movements, there is no provision that this redistricting be done on a fair basis by impartial people. We need to amend this process.

I am proposing a Constitutional Amendment which will require each state to use a federally provided computer program, devised by non-partisan computer experts, which will re-apportion the states districts. Such a program will cause the districts to be divided by equal population, and to be shaped, to the maximum possible extent, as squares, rectangles, or other quadrilaterals, with straight-line borders.

Like so many of my other suggestions for change in government, this one will remove the power from the selected few, and put it back into the hands of the people.