

I was appalled when I sat at the Maryland Association of Elected Officials (MAEO) convention as one of the Senators blatantly told the non-partisan group, that was assembled to conduct fair elections in Maryland, that the Governor's non partisan committee to redraw the terribly historically gerrymandered boundaries in Maryland (for which we have been taken to court) was going to be totally dismissed and ignored. We were, in no uncertain terms told that the legislature was "driving this train" instead of the non-partisan group that was vetted to clean up this past gerrymandered mess. Maryland has lost its way and we no longer have representation, we have dictatorship. When you gerrymander an already gerrymandered district to silence the voices of the citizens, target specific Senators, and favor political parties, you do a disservice to the citizens that you are supposed to represent. These maps are even worse than the past gerrymandered ones and we the citizens, of both parties, can see that. You have even split Ellicott City in half. If your goal is to only have one party representation, which is exactly what these maps do, then at least be honest about it instead of trying to pretend that these maps fix any of the "worst gerrymandered state" in the country. Respect the citizens, not the political parties. We the citizens are disappointed in this blatant attempt at destroying fair and honest representation and elections. The maps are not contiguous and do not follow any of the guidelines that they are supposed to follow. Please throw these maps in the trash where they belong. We deserve better.

Diane and Andrew Butler