

This proposed constitutional amendment (HB2100) would fundamentally change the role the Maryland Constitution plays in protecting voters from partisan redistricting, and it should not move forward.

Instead of preserving strong constitutional guardrails, this amendment would strip away the state's own standards for congressional districts, leaving only the bare minimum required by federal law, which permits districts that are equal in population but drawn in whatever shape best serves the party in control. Regardless of which political party controls the General Assembly, this creates the risk that politicians could draw maps that benefit themselves and their party rather than the citizens they represent.

The purpose of a constitution is to establish principles that endure beyond any single election, administration, or political majority. Constitutional protections should not be changed simply because they create limits on the power of those currently in office. If there is a genuine constitutional issue created by the shifting federal legal landscape, the solution should strengthen public trust and accountability, not create a process that gives elected officials greater control over the rules that determine their own representation.

Our communities deserve stable, community-focused representation. Our interests should not be subject to changing political priorities or district maps designed to benefit those in power. Congressional districts should reflect communities of interest and the needs of the people who live there, not the political goals of whichever party holds the majority.

As a resident of Pasadena, I believe our elected officials should be accountable to voters, not given greater authority to shape the boundaries and rules that determine their own elections.

Political power is temporary. Constitutional principles should be permanent.

If a proposal makes it easier for politicians to choose their voters instead of voters choosing their politicians, it is the wrong proposal. This is that proposal.

I respectfully urge you to reject this amendment and preserve the constitutional protections that safeguard Maryland voters.

Thank you.

Angie M. Porter
Pasadena, Maryland