

UNFAVORABLE HB2100

Let me begin by stating how **embarrassing** it is to have our governor call an EMERGENCY session to gerrymander our state when he could have called an emergency session to address our ballooning budget, or our energy bills, or our abysmal student learning loss, or our economy's second to last national ranking, or any other Maryland-centric "pocketbook" issue more important to Maryland residents. He chose to garner favor with national Democrats instead of his own constituents. National Democrats don't care about Maryland! They know they'll win Maryland, so they spend no time or resources here. National Republicans don't spend any time or resources here either, as they know they won't win Maryland. Maryland's governor should focus on what is best for Maryland (not his personal national political aspirations). Gerrymandering our state is not it!!

Maryland's elections should be decided by all voters, not just the politicians currently in power. Answer truthfully: **Would you vote for this bill if Republicans were the majority?**

Common sense supports the 2022 court ruling that says Maryland congressional districts must be compact, contiguous & mindful of jurisdictional & natural boundaries. Recent years show negative migration with more people moving out of Maryland than in. Attempts to redistrict congressional boundaries between census years could actually have unintended consequences elected officials may not foresee.

Please consider that 51 percent of registered voters in Maryland are registered as Democrat, yet Democrats hold 72 percent of elected offices and hold a trifecta of state government. There are over **two million** Maryland residents NOT registered as Democrat and for which Governor Moore's "emergency session" to consider a constitutional amendment dealing with future congressional redistricting would likely further erode their representation. HB2100 is unfair, it disenfranchises Maryland voters, and it flips democracy on its head by letting politicians choose their voters instead of voters choosing their representatives. How does potentially removing representation for almost half the state's voters line up with a party that claims to be fighting to "save democracy"?

Please do not waste any more of Maryland taxpayer's contributions on issues that are not a priority for most Maryland residents. Voters will respect and reward you spending your time & our resources on reducing utility costs, improving economic opportunities, balancing the budget and other "kitchen table" issues that affect us on the state level.

Respectfully,

Shannon Ballard

District 33B