

## Re: What is the mathematics behind districting?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.math.research/2005-11/msg00022.html>

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- *From:* [haberg@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:haberg@xxxxxxxxxx) (Hans Aberg)
  - *Date:* Sun, 06 Nov 2005 17:01:31 GMT
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In article <u%Laf.9726\$D13.1768@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Chris Pollett <cpollett@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

- > This Nov.8 in California there is going to be a special election in
- > which one of the ballot initiative (Prop 77) concerns how district lines
- > are drawn. This got me thinking about whether there is any mathematical
- > way of saying one has drawn district lines reasonably?

The field dealing with election systems is a part of "social choice". The fact that Gerrymandering is useful is connected to the fact that the winner takes it all elections systems have a very inefficient vote in the sense that voters that put their vote on a candidate that is not elected elects nothing, thus merely loosing the vote. Apart from playing around with district drawing, one can thus also try to create more voter efficient election systems.

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Hans Aberg

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- *References:*
    - ◆ [\*What is the mathematics behind districting?\*](#)
      - ◇ *From:* Chris Pollett
  - Prev by Date: [\*Re: What is the mathematics behind districting?\*](#)
  - Next by Date: [\*Re: What is the mathematics behind districting?\*](#)
  - Previous by thread: [\*Re: What is the mathematics behind districting?\*](#)
  - Next by thread: [\*Re: What is the mathematics behind districting?\*](#)
  - Index(es):
    - ◆ [\*Date\*](#)
    - ◆ [\*Thread\*](#)