

# **Points to Keep in Mind When Writing a Letter to the Editor**

## Why we need to be concerned about gerrymandering

### Gerrymandering benefits elected officials:

- Electoral districts are drawn to favor one political party.
- Competition is suppressed; one party has a clear advantage in elections.
- Accountability to constituents is lost since one party is less likely to lose an election.

### Losses for Voters:

- Voters have fewer choices since “safe seats” for one party often lead to no opponents.
- Voters’ votes have less value.
- Voters lose faith in elections and stop voting.
- Politicians become more extreme (right or left) in their positions.
- Finding common ground among politicians becomes more difficult.
- Elections no longer reflect the will of all of the people.
- Government has less transparency.
- Lawsuits against unfair districting costs our state a huge amount of money.

### Impact on our democracy:

- Elections, the most important institution for our democracy, are undermined.
- Respect for individual rights is undermined.
- Checks and balances on political power are undermined.
- Our democracy itself is undermined.