To: Interested Parties
From: John Bisognano, President, National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC)
Date: November 4, 2026
Subject: Election Shows that Democrats Destroyed Trump's Gerrymandering Scheme

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The 2026 election results show in no uncertain terms that Democrats defeated the Republican scheme to rig the 2026 midterms. But the Republican gerrymandering scheme did not fail on its own—it was dismantled and then destroyed by the well-organized, multi-pronged strategy executed by the National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC) and its affiliates under the leadership of Attorney General Eric Holder, combined with the staunch and increasing opposition among the electorate to Republican policies–including their anti-democracy agenda.

At the onset of the redistricting fight, Republicans sought as many as 21 new seats in at least 14 states. And they worked hard at it. Over the past year, the Trump Administration utilized the executive branch to host state lawmakers, call governors and state legislators, travel to states to lobby state leaders to gerrymander, file legal briefs, and more, to pursue that end goal. Republicans' haphazard strategy to weaken the voting power of the American people, or sidestep voters altogether—including untold amounts of taxpayer-funded resources and political capital being spent—was met with a well-organized and well-executed response from NDRC and affiliates, which had been preparing to fight the threat of potential Republican mid-decade gerrymanders for nearly a decade at the direction of Attorney General Holder.

The result of Republicans' gerrymandering scheme coming out of the 2026 midterms was utter and complete failure.

How It Happened

Ahead of the midterms, eight Republican states enacted new mid-decade gerrymanders aimed at stealing up to 16 seats: that includes 13 from maps that were drawn in Texas (5), Florida (4), Ohio (2), North Carolina (1), and Missouri (1), as well as new maps drawn by Alabama (1), Louisiana (1), and Tennessee (1), following the Supreme Court's disastrous decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*.

Meanwhile, Democrats quickly united behind Attorney General Holder's proposed response strategy, and voters enacted a new map in California (5). This fight also unfolded in court, where a victory in Utah paved the way for a fair map with a new Democratic-leaning seat (1).

NDRC's affiliate, Redistricting Action, worked in red states across the country to empower citizens to organize, protest, contact their elected leaders, and testify in redistricting hearings against mid-decade gerrymandering. Overwhelming public opposition led Republicans to abandon mid-decade redraws in Nebraska, Kansas, Indiana, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Georgia. Democrats also successfully negotiated a compromise in Ohio, avoiding a worst-case scenario map. And an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, supported by our affiliate, successfully blocked the Missouri map from taking effect for this election—taking back a seat for Democrats.

Overall, Republicans tried to gain 16 new districts through egregious mid-decade gerrymanders, but the election results show a net loss of congressional seats for Republicans in states where this was attempted.

Election Results Show Democrats Defeated the Republican Gerrymandering Scheme:

Republicans Underestimated Voter Opposition:

Throughout the gerrymandering crisis over the past year, Republicans enacted egregious mid-decade gerrymanders against the will of their constituents in red states across the country. By underestimating the level of public opposition they faced, Republicans' plans to steal 16 seats backfired. They made no new gains in any of the states where Republicans enacted mid-decade gerrymanders.

State	Target # of Seats	Result
Texas	+5	-1
Florida	+4	0
North Carolina	+1	-6**

Missouri	+1	-1
Ohio	+2	-3*
Alabama	+1	0
Louisiana	+1	0*
Tennessee	+1	0

*Result is subject to change as election results are called.
**North Carolina gerrymandered in 2022 and then again in 2024, shifting over two cycles from a 50-50 map to one that was designed to elect 11 Republicans and 3 Democrats.

Democrats' Multi-Pronged Strategy Worked:

Our multi-pronged response to Republican gerrymanders helped level the playing field before a single vote was cast. California voters passed Proposition 50 with more than 64% of the vote, offsetting Republican gerrymanders elsewhere. In Utah, years of litigation to enforce Proposition 4 led state courts to strike down the gerrymandered map, and a fairer map took effect. In addition, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked Missouri's mid-decade gerrymander for the 2026 midterms—restoring a Kansas City-based district.

State	Target # of Seats	Result
California	+5	+5
Utah	+1	+1

*Red state where Democrats successfully thwarted a mid-decade redraw.

Meanwhile, Democrats are also seeing gains in red states where mid-decade redraws were thwarted over the past year, including South Carolina, Indiana, and Nebraska. The energy and organization required to beat back these broadly unpopular anti-democracy efforts helped catapult turnout in favor of Democrats in these states.

Total Seat Tally from Redistricting:

Category	Target Seats	Net Result
Republican Gains	+16R	**-11R**
Democratic Gains	+6D	**+6D**
Total Republican Net	**+10R**	**-17R**

With Republicans Set to Continue Gerrymandering, State-Level Election Results Are Defining the Fight Ahead:

Given these disastrous results for Republicans, we fully expect that they will double down on their gerrymandering schemes after the midterms. Instead of changing course or moderating their policy positions, they will continue down the path of zero-sum politics because they are comfortable ignoring the will of the voters to hold onto power. We expect Republicans in places like Texas and Mississippi to try to redraw their maps during potential lame-duck sessions this year.

As we prepare for the fight ahead, Democrats are now in an even stronger position to respond than they were before the election. Democrats won new trifectas in Nevada, Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, key governorships in Georgia, Ohio, Texas, and Iowa, key legislative chambers in the North Carolina House, the Texas House, Georgia House and both chambers in New Hampshire; and broke supermajorities in at least 13 chambers, including the State Houses in Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, and Utah; the State Senates in Missouri, Mississippi, and North Carolina; and the Nebraska legislature. Three redistricting measures also appeared on the ballot this year in Missouri, Colorado, and Maryland. As of Wednesday morning, Missouri and Maryland went positively for Democrats, while the measure in Colorado, which would have restricted the legislature's ability to respond to Republican gerrymanders, looks likely to fail.

Redistricting Ballot Measure	What It Does	Result
Missouri Proposition A	Would have allowed the mid-decade congressional map the legislature passed in 2025 to go into effect	**Rejected**
Maryland Question 3	Allows the voters to have a say in redistricting	**Approved**
Colorado Amendment 86 (Initiative 256)	Colorado Amendment 86 (Initiative 256) Restriction that would lock the congressional map; defeating it preserves the legislature's flexibility to redraw mid-decade in response to other states	**Likely to Fail**

The Fight Ahead

NDRC's goal remains the same: a federal ban on partisan gerrymandering and mid-decade redistricting to end this crisis for good. But if Republicans continue down this path, we know how to fight them, and based on the election results, we are in an even stronger position to do it. With the ballot measures voters approved and defeated and the state elections Democrats won, blue states now have more power to respond by redrawing their maps, and we will be ready to help them do so.