

# *Gerrymandering*

**By Dr. R. Pletsch**



Ask your students if they have heard of Eldridge Gerry. If your student is 7th grade or above, they should know the name. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He later served on the committee to help write the US Constitution. He later became the Governor of Maryland. However, in today's world he is best remembered for his work at redistricting Congressional seats. Given his belief that you could win elections by districting the voters, he allowed many maps that favored his political party regardless of shape and the fact that it might have some people under-represented.

The practice became known as gerrymandering. This practice is still used just not as openly because Federal Statutes make the practice illegal.

I found articles in The Washington Post, Judicial Watch, and The Baltimore Sun that document recent cases that have been sent to the courts claiming gerrymandering or other forms of trying to illegally help their party gain seats in Congress or even Aldermen. They show that legal actions have been taken against California, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, Missouri, West Virginia, Colorado, Pennsylvania and New York. These states have all been charged with not removing deceased or voters no longer living in that state therefore, leaving many extra names on the rolls that easily can encourage voter fraud. North Carolina had 430,000 ineligible voters on their voter rolls. They were taken off due to legal action.

The trouble seeking fair elections for the 2022 election is not only failure to eliminate deceased voters, but other ways that with technology people are trying to find new ways to cheat the citizens.

The state of Maryland was recently told that the boundaries of their districts were drawn illegally and new districts must be drawn now. These are bipartisan facts our students should be informed about. Some of our students are too young to vote in November, but most of them will be able to vote for many years in the future.