



★ Gerrymandering and How to Fix It

Fixing Bugs in Democracy Using Statistics, Science, and Law

Thu, April 12, 2018, 6:30 pm

The Greater New Brunswick Area chapter of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey is presenting a program about Gerrymandering. The program features a nationally recognized speaker on this subject, Brian Remlinger, a statistical analyst at the Princeton Gerrymandering Project, who will discuss Fixing Bugs in Democracy Using Statistics, Science, and Law. Brian Remlinger works with Sam Wang at Princeton University's Princeton Gerrymandering Project as a statistical and legal analyst, specializing in the quantitative and normative issues surrounding partisan gerrymandering. Before joining the Project, Brian graduated in 2014 from MIT with a degree in physics. He has co-authored several articles with Sam Wang, including in 2017, Can math stop partisan gerrymandering? for the Los Angeles Times, Can math assist in saving democracy?, which appeared in The American Prospect, and a recent opinion piece in the Athens Banner-Herald, A solution to partisan gerrymandering: Math. Brian's careful analysis demonstrates why he believes partisan gerrymandering is getting worse.

The American Constitution was a pioneer in democracy. But the founders did not anticipate gerrymandering, a loophole that takes on new significance in an age of partisan polarization. Partisan gerrymanders lock in outcomes in dozens of House seats and hundreds of state legislative seats, allowing political parties to maintain power even when they win less than half the vote. This year, with the help of a little math, the Supreme Court has a chance to curb partisan gerrymandering. Basic statistics can play an important role in helping the Court — and in repairing a flaw in how our Republic works today.

For further information contact Jill Lewis-Spector, LWVNJ Board of Directors, Greater New Brunswick Area LWVNJ chapter, Event Coordinator, at jlewisprof1@gmail.com.