Redistricting Overview

May 25, 2016
What’s The Problem?

- **Under-representation**, marginalization of minority communities
- **Polarization**, ideological dysfunction
- **Non-competitive districts**, Incumbent Protection
- **Policy Agendas Stymied**
- **Partisan Minority Rule**
- **Barriers to civic engagement & power building**
Desired Policy Outcomes

- **Stronger Voting Rights** & Increased Minority Representation:
  - Litigation, statewide reform policies,
  - Local campaigns

- **Commission- versus Incumbent-Drawn Maps, Standards/Defined Criteria**
  - Independent commissions
  - Bi-partisan commissions
  - “Criteria” Bills
Desired Policy Outcomes

- Alternative Voting Methods
  - Ranked-choice
  - Top-two
  - Multi-member

- Community Empowerment and/or Power Building
  State / Community specific, consistent with state power building, important for policy agendas
Influencing 2021 Process

- Elections
- Reform
- Litigation
- Data, Mapping, Technology
- Redistricting
- Impacting 2021 Maps
“And if we want a better politics, it’s not enough to just change a Congressman or a Senator or even a President; we have to change the system to reflect our better selves.”

- President Obama, January 12, 2016
Work on the Ground

- **Building coalitions and consensus** on policy, strategy and timeline.
- **Education** of chattering class, media, elected officials, and the public.
- **Outreach** to bring new voices to the table.
- **Implementation** of litigation strategy, legislative strategy, ballot initiative strategy, engagement strategies.
Independent Commission constitutional amendment, needs 60% on Nov 2016

Legal challenges, but coalition confident in language and signatures

Strong Campaign Team w/ bi-partisan credentials

Opposition powerful and organized

Divides our coalition not consensus the timing is right, some community of color organizations opposed.
South Dakota

Three measures on ballot November 2016

• **Amendment T creates a 9-person appointed commission** to draw state legislative maps. Requires new lines in 2017, 2021 & every 10 years after.

• **Amendment V creates a non-partisan legislature** modeled on Nebraska by removing party labels from the ballot designation, creates a open primary where the top two candidates proceed to general election, eliminates party caucuses and allows for members of either party to become committee chairs.

• **Initiated Measure 22 imposes campaign contribution limits** from PACs and individuals, establishes low donor public financing system, tightens disclosure requirements.
Maine

- Ranked Choice Voting Measure on Nov 2016 ballot.
- Comprehensive, covers gubernatorial, federal and state legislative races.
- League of Women Voters & FairVote leading the effort, building out a broader coalition.
- Focus on public education, build grassroots capacity
- Simple majority to win.