

A Common-Sense Vision for American Democracy

Equal Voices Act

THE PROBLEM

The fundamental promise of our democracy rests upon trust between our government and the governed. In recent years, we have seen that faith erode as reactionaries have manipulated the counter-majoritarian institutions of our political system, including **disproportionate seat allocations in the House of Representatives and Electoral College.**

The US population has grown more than three-fold and our electorate has changed significantly in the past century. **Yet the size of the House has remained frozen at 435 since 1911,** forcing Members to be responsive to 3.5 times as many people today compared to a century ago.

In addition to increasing the number of constituents served by a single Member, a fixed House size has increased the disproportionality of representation between districts, **creating a House ever more in violation of the “one person, one vote” doctrine.**

Since Electoral College seats are allocated based on the number of House seats that a state has, unbalanced districts also translate to **an uneven Electoral College which increasingly opposes the national popular vote.**

THE SOLUTION

The Equal Voices Act directs that after the next Census, **the size of the House be equal to the total US population divided by the population of the smallest state** and rounded to the nearest whole odd number. The bill includes guardrails to prevent excessive fluctuations in House size, after the initial expansion.

This would bring the size of the House in line with US population growth and **reduce disparities in district size across states.**

Better aligning the size and apportionment of House seats with the US population will also **bring Electoral College outcomes more in line with the national popular vote.**

Smaller districts will allow **Members to be more responsiveness to the needs of their constituents.**

Increasing the size of the House will **combat the incumbency advantage** by allowing for greater diversity and a more reflective democratic representation.

If this bill had been enacted before the 2020 Census, the House would have grown to 573 seats.