

Maryland District Map — Majority Minority Districts

Arthur Thomas

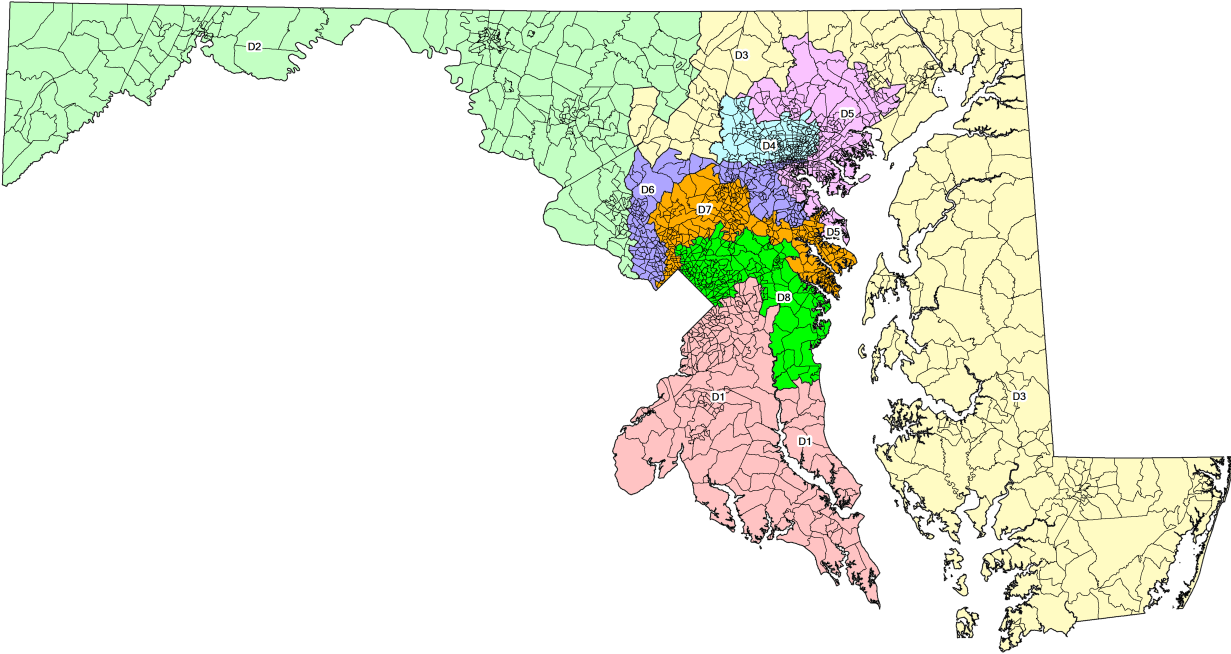
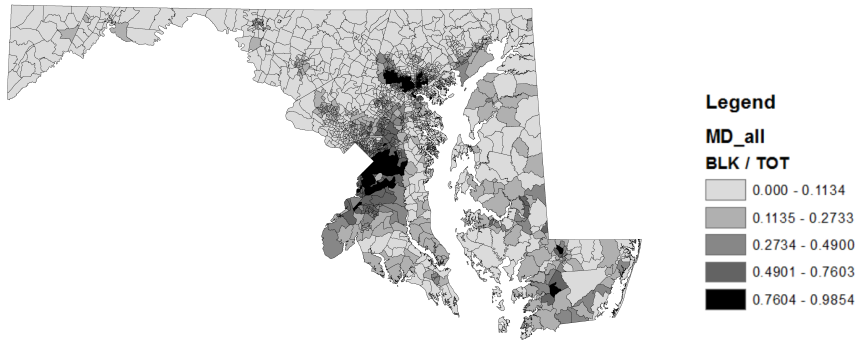


Figure 1: MD Districts drawn considering Race % and Voting age of the Race

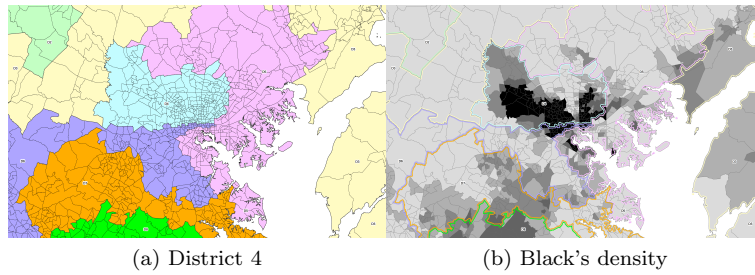
Thornburg v. Gingles established procedures to help foster representation for racial and ethnic minorities by limiting the packing of minorities into few districts, and limiting cracking of minorities by spreading them thin throughout a state rendering their votes non-influential. The general requirements for creating majority minority districts are that the racial/ethnic group must be large enough in population to constitute a majority a single member district, generally requiring 350,000+, however, this can be much less for certain states. Another requirement was that these districts have a politically cohesive base in terms of their support and interests. The third requirement established that they must vote as a block group, as party identification can be misleading to determine vote choice. A factor which the courts should recognize would be that of heavily grouping multiple minority groups together along with an area that has a majority population with aligning political beliefs, as this helps get a representative that actually represents their views in office. Packing minorities who are more likely to vote democratic into competitive regions can be seen as problematic, and a single district out of numerous should be considered to assist in equal representation, even if it conflicts with equal protestation to a small degree.



(a) A; Racial Composition

(b) Legend

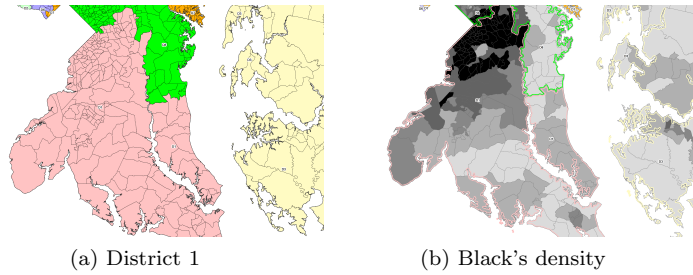
Figure 2: MD Districts drawn considering Race % and Voting age of the Race



(a) District 4

(b) Black's density

Figure 3: District 4 (blue) and racial composition



(a) District 1

(b) Black's density

Figure 4: District 1 (Salmon) and racial composition

Table 1: Racial Composition of Districts, allocating for racial differences in favor of Minority representation

Dist.	Dist. Pop	Count	Dev %.	Dev %	White %	Black 18+%	Tot Black %	Hisp %
D1	722386	857		0.12	34.38	42.93	57.92	4.52
D2	720897	-632		-0.09	78.28	6.41	9.13	6.91
D3	722126	597		0.08	82.14	9.36	12.63	3.58
D4	722493	964		0.13	36.15	42.62	56.32	3.17
D5	720867	-662		-0.09	72.27	12.87	18.73	5.43
D6	721516	-13		0.00	58.75	16.65	22.61	10.23
D7	720787	-742		-0.01	62.51	14.63	20.28	11.45
D8	721159	-370		-0.05	41.1	28.41	37.82	19.95

The Gingles ruling would have an effect on districts in Baltimore and around D.C. because of the large minority population and the need to cluster them together less, eliminating the chance for a definite majority minority district with 75% or greater black/minority. The racial demographics of Maryland show that the state has a large amount of clustered diversity, with the largest groups being black and Hispanic. The plan that I have developed bases the district on the black population, the black population that is of voting age or older, and Hispanic population. Using this information, I calculated that the majority minority districts that could be created is about 1.413, using $.60 * 1699359 / 721529$. However, this is not entirely practical, as the majority of the black population is clustered around DC in PG county, and within Baltimore city. I decided to create lesser yet still large districts which are more focused to be minority influenced. District 1, and District 4 have 43% black over the age of 18, and 58% black overall and 43% and 57% respectively. This ultimately creates a more balanced district which is minority influenced. Furthermore, these districts encompass a split of 9% Hispanic, which should add some to their overall goals of electing a representative that has their interests in mind. I have not packed nor cracked the districts excessively as many blacks just do not vote, so there should be competition in the election. However, the areas of these districts have been held by democrats for over 20 years as there is a large democratic white population, essentially creating more partisan shaped districts than racially shaped.

The blocs drawn will be able to vote and usually elect a representative that aligns with their beliefs, and the white population in these areas could influence and overturn the racial representation of the black minority vote because of their low turn out/lack of political efficacy. Moreover, the Hispanic vote can often be aligned with republicans, as some can be racially white but still Hispanic. In District 1, there is a large white population in the southern area that is clustered with a black population, and District 4 outside of Baltimore also contains a large affluent white area of Towson, all which create large minority groups, yet still conforms to the Gingles standards all while giving them a powerful voice. In my view, the courts would rule in favor of this map; since two minority influence districts exist, as it is in accordance with equal protection by not diluting the votes of the people who live in these areas as the groups are large enough, the minority group is overtly cohesive as blacks tend to vote 90%+ democratic, and the white population in this area is mixed (based on party) enough to not dilute their vote as there are white democrats and provide true descriptive representation.