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# HOW GERRYMANDERING HURTS DEMOCRACY IN PENNSYLVANIA

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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# HOW GERRYMANDERING HURTS DEMOCRACY IN PENNSYLVANIA

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A panel discussion on gerrymandering will be held on Monday, Oct. 3, at 6:30 p.m., in the Monongahela Room in the HUB (Hadley Union Building) on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania campus.

The panel will include:

- Senator John Wozniak, one of the sponsors of the anti-gerrymandering bill (PA Senate Bill 484)
- Suzanne Broughton of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Pittsburgh area, an authority on the subject of districting reform
- Former state representative Sara Steelman who was deeply interested in the practice of gerrymandering during her years in the state legislature (1991–2002)
- Professor Gwen Torges, director of the pre-law program in IUP's political science department, who will moderate.

The practice of “gerrymandering”—in which political districts are drawn in peculiar shapes to achieve a political purpose—has had a corrosive impact on the political process throughout the United States, but especially so in Pennsylvania. The panel will discuss the history of gerrymandering, the difficulties gerrymandering has created, and the new joint resolutions proposed in PA Senate Bill 484 and PA House Bill 1835.

More background about gerrymandering can be found in a recent book on the subject, *RatF\_ked: The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy*, by David Daley. The second chapter details the gerrymandering of Pennsylvania prior to the 2010 election.

Gerrymandering impacts everyone, including IUP students. For example, gerrymandering impacts who gets elected to the Pennsylvania legislature, and that directly effects the price of tuition in State System schools such as IUP.

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Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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