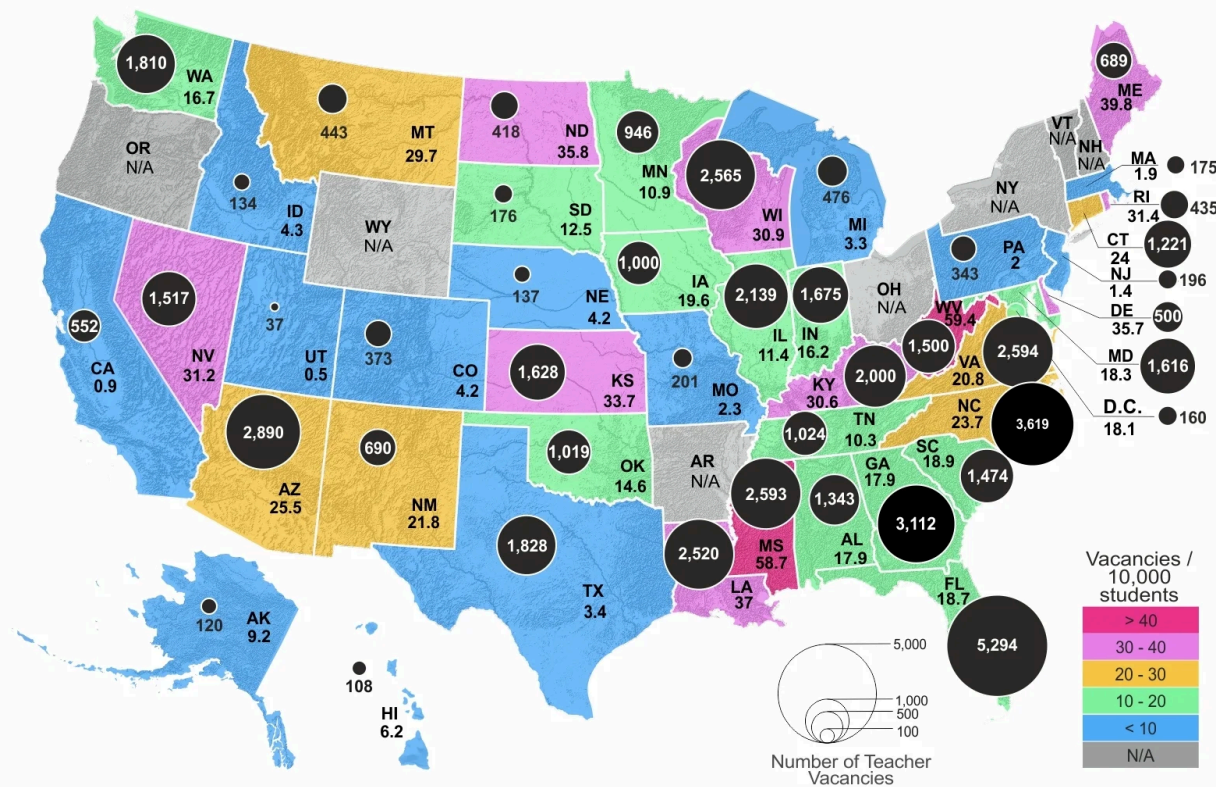


Artifact #1

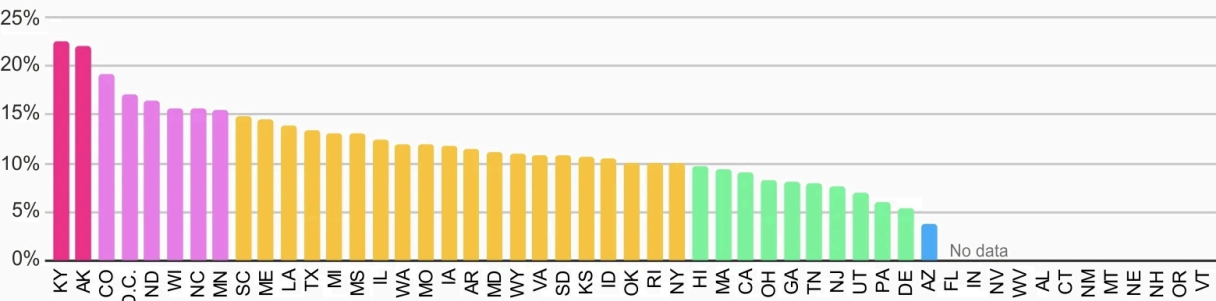
# TEACHER SHORTAGES IN THE UNITED STATES

## State by State Teacher Vacancies

U.S. faces a teacher shortage with over 55,000 vacant positions, threatening student learning. Many roles remain unfilled or are occupied by underqualified candidates, undermining public education's quality.



## Teacher Leaving Rate (%)



# Indiana House Republicans pass Trump-backed map, setting up high-stakes Senate fight

Story by ISABELLA VOLMERT

Indiana state House Republicans passed a new state congressional map Friday at the behest of President Donald Trump, advancing the legislation to the state Senate, where it is unclear if enough lawmakers will support its final passage.

Lawmakers in the Republican-majority House voted 57-41 in favor of the map, which splits the city of Indianapolis into four districts to help the GOP potentially win all nine Indiana congressional seats. While Trump and many other Republicans are celebrating the passage, the map faces its true test in the Senate, where many GOP lawmakers have opposed mid-decade redistricting.

Democrats in the House minority decried the new map, with many criticizing the swift timeline of the past week. The map was introduced on Monday. By contrast, when the current congressional district map was passed in 2021, lawmakers held multiple public hearings around the state over several months beforehand.

Democratic state Rep. Greg Porter, who represents Indianapolis, railed against the proposal on the House floor, saying it would dilute the power of Black Hoosiers. U.S. Rep. André Carson, who has represented Indianapolis for the past 17 years and stands to lose his seat, is the state's only Black member of Congress.

"What we're doing today with this proposed legislation is taking away the rights of Black and brown people in Indiana," Porter said. "It cracks Marion County!"

## State under pressure from White House

While redistricting is typically done at the beginning of a new decade with the census, Trump has pushed Republican-led states to redistrict this year to give the GOP an easier path to maintaining its majority in the U.S. House. Democrats only need to flip a

handful of seats next November to overcome the GOP's current margin, and midterm elections typically favor the party opposite the one in power.

Indiana lawmakers have been under increasing pressure from the White House to follow the lead of Republicans in Texas, Missouri, Ohio and North Carolina, which have all passed new maps in recent months ahead of next year's midterms. To offset the GOP gains, Democrats in California and Virginia have moved to do the same.

Republicans currently hold seven of Indiana's nine U.S. House seats.

The author of Indiana's legislation, Republican state Rep. Ben Smaltz, said on the floor Wednesday that the map and bill language were provided by the National Republican Redistricting Trust, the GOP's primary redistricting entity that was also involved in drawing Texas' new map this year. Smaltz said the trust gave Indiana Republicans one option for the statewide map.

Smaltz said Friday the tit-for-tat mid-decade redistricting between Democratic and Republican states may continue for the next several cycles and "may be the new normal."

Republican Todd Huston, Indiana's House speaker, took to the floor Friday to defend the redistricting proposal in light of the partisan power balance across the country, saying "we don't operate in a vacuum."

The Indiana House vote ups the pressure on Senate Republicans to approve the new map for final passage.

Gov. Mike Braun, a first-term Republican and ally of Trump, praised the House vote Friday.

"I urge the Senate to move quickly next week and adopt this map so Indiana can move forward with confidence," he said.

Trump pushed senators to pass the proposal "AS IS," in a social media post Friday evening. He also named nine individual senators he described as needing "encouragement to make the right decision."

"Let your voice be heard loud and clear in support of these Senators doing the right thing," Trump wrote.

Map advances to state Senate

The immediate next hurdle for the new map will come in a Senate committee, which is scheduled to meet Monday afternoon.

The top Republican of the state Senate, Rodric Bray, has previously said there were not enough votes to support redistricting, but it is unknown where the vote count stands now. In the 50-member Senate, Republicans need at least 25 votes to pass the legislation. A 26th tiebreaking vote could come from Republican Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith.

The issue has sharply divided Republicans in the Hoosier state. Senators on both sides of the issue have been subject to threats and swatting attempts in recent weeks.

Trump has also said he will back primary opponents against any GOP senator who opposes redistricting. But half the chamber, including Bray, is not up for reelection until 2028.

The map approved by House Republicans splits the Democratic city of Indianapolis — which currently makes up the entirety of the 7th Congressional District — into four quadrants divided among four rural districts. The new map also groups the cities of East Chicago and Gary with several Republican counties in northern Indiana, potentially ousting Democratic U.S. Rep. Frank Mrvan, who represents the current district in the state's northwest corner near Chicago.

In the ballooning redistricting battle, the U.S. Supreme Court handed a win to Texas Republicans on Thursday by allowing the state to conduct next year's elections under the new congressional map that favors the GOP and could give the party five more seats.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/indiana-house-republicans-pass-trump-backed-map-setting-up-high-stakes-senate-fight/ar-AA1RNxId?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

Artifact #3

# Mending Wall

By [Robert Frost](#)

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,  
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;  
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.  
The work of hunters is another thing:  
I have come after them and made repair  
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,  
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,  
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,  
No one has seen them made or heard them made,  
But at spring mending-time we find them there.  
I let my neighbor know beyond the hill;  
And on a day we meet to walk the line  
And set the wall between us once again.  
We keep the wall between us as we go.  
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.  
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls  
We have to use a spell to make them balance:  
'Stay where you are until our backs are turned!'  
We wear our fingers rough with handling them.  
Oh, just another kind of out-door game,  
One on a side. It comes to little more:  
There where it is we do not need the wall:  
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.  
My apple trees will never get across  
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.  
He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'  
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder  
If I could put a notion in his head:  
'*Why* do they make good neighbors? Isn't it  
Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.  
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know  
What I was walling in or walling out,  
And to whom I was like to give offense.  
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,

That wants it down.' I could say 'Elves' to him,  
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather  
He said it for himself. I see him there  
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top  
In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.  
He moves in darkness as it seems to me,  
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.  
He will not go behind his father's saying,  
And he likes having thought of it so well  
He says again, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'

Artifact #4



The Supreme Court justices  
read the nine picture books  
in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*

Art ©Sarah S. Brannen, author of *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*