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Using the Status Quo to Define Fair District Plans. Preliminary report.

Samuel Wang has proposed a test for gerrymandering in federal congressional district plans that compares the number of democratic seats won in a given state to the number of democratic seats won in other, similar, sets of districts drawn from around the rest of the country. In essence, this test defines “fairness” in terms of the current state of the country. We use computer simulations to highlight some of the drawbacks of this kind of test. (Received September 26, 2017)