

FROM: The Virginia College and University Redistricting Competition

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**Contact: Quentin Kidd (qkidd@cnu.edu)
Michael McDonald (mmcdon@gmu.edu)**

WINNERS ARE ALTERNATIVES TO GERRYMANDERING
Winners announced in Virginia College Redistricting Competition
Alternative maps viewable online for General Assembly and Congressional districts

Nationally recognized experts Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution and Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute named the winning maps on Tuesday in the college competition to design fair alternatives to gerrymandered political districts in Virginia.

“These student groups showed that it is possible to balance many desirable features to create much better districts than the politicians manage to do on their own,” said Ornstein. “The competition, and the plans it produced, are a model for other states to follow.”

“The Virginia college student teams have produced a number of attractive redistricting plans without bending to the interests of incumbent officeholders,” said Mann. “They have shown the way for the public to participate in a crucial task of our democracy heretofore dominated by insiders.”

The best maps were awarded cash prizes and will be considered by the Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting created by Gov. Bob McDonnell.

The competition was divided into two categories:

- In the Governor/Commission Division, teams followed only the criteria guiding the Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting, which will make recommendations to the General Assembly on April 1. Those criteria call for districts that are equal in population, contiguous and compact, that adhere to the federal Voting Rights Act and that respect communities of interest with minimal disruption of existing city and county boundaries,
- In the Competition Division, teams also used previous voting patterns to draw districts that would enhance competition and fairness.

Here are the winners, with links to images of the maps and some summary statistics.

Congressional Maps

Governor/Commission Division

- 1st [College of William & Mary Law School](#)
- 2nd [University of Virginia Team 1](#)

Competition Division

- 1st [University of Virginia Team 1](#)
- 2nd [University of Virginia Team 2](#)

State Senate Maps

Governor/Commission Division

- 1st [College of William & Mary Undergraduate Team](#)
- 2nd [University of Virginia Team 1](#)

Competition Division

- 1st [University of Virginia Team 2](#)
- 2nd [College of William & Mary Law School](#)

House of Delegates Maps

Governor/Commission Division

- 1st [University of Richmond](#)
- 2nd [University of Virginia Team 2](#)

Competition Division

- 1st [George Mason University](#)
- 2nd [University of Virginia Team 1](#)

Further information is available at <http://www.varedistrictingcompetition.org/results#TOC-Winners>.

The Constitution requires all 50 states to reapportion legislative districts in accordance with the population shifts recorded by the Census. With state elections this fall, Virginia is the first to act.

Using population data from the 2010 Census, student teams from 13 Virginia colleges submitted maps that pose new boundaries for Virginia's 11 congressional districts, 100 state House districts and 40 state Senate districts.

Mann and Ornstein announced the winners Tuesday at a reception at the Library of Virginia, adjacent to Capitol Square in Richmond. The reception, at which the maps were on display, was hosted by the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

All 57 maps in the competition are viewable at <https://districtbuilder.varedistrictingcompetition.org>.

In what supporters envision as a model that other states could use to open the redistricting process to broader citizen involvement, the Virginia College and University Legislative Redistricting Competition (www.varedistrictingcompetition.org) was organized by Dr. Quentin Kidd of Christopher Newport University (qkidd@cnu.edu) and Dr. Michael McDonald of George Mason University (mmcdon@gmu.edu).

Thomas Mann is the W. Averell Harriman Chair and senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution. Between 1987 and 1999, he was director of Governmental Studies at Brookings. Before that, Mann was executive director of the American Political Science Association.

Norman Ornstein is a long-time observer of Congress and politics. He writes a weekly column for *Roll Call* and is an election analyst for CBS News. He serves as co-director of the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project and participates in AEI's Election Watch series.

Here is a list of the college teams and faculty sponsors, with e-mail contacts:

Christopher Newport University	Brennan Kraxberger	breannan.kraxberger@cnu.edu
College of William & Mary 1	John McGlennon	jjmcgl@wm.edu
	Ron Rapoport	rbrapo@wm.edu
College of William & Mary 2 (Law)	Rebecca Hulse	rghuls@wm.edu
George Mason University	Gabe Hudson	gabrielhudson@gmail.com
James Madison University (1)	Tim LaPira	lapiratm@jmu.edu
James Madison University (2)	Chris John Koski	koskicj@jmu.edu
Longwood University	Mary Carver	carverml@longwood.edu
University of Mary Washington	Chad Murphy	cmurphy3@umw.edu
Norfolk State University	Rudolph Wilson	rwilson@nsu.edu
Old Dominion University	Tom Chapman	techapma@odu.edu
University of Richmond	Dan Palazzolo	dpalazzo@richmond.edu
Roanoke College	Heath Brown	hbrown@roanoke.edu
Radford College	Todd Makse	tmakse@radford.edu
University of Virginia (1)	Charles Kromkowski	cak5u@virginia.edu
University of Virginia (2)	Chris Gist	cgist@virginia.edu
Virginia Commonwealth University	J. Paul Brooks	jpbrooks@vcu.edu