



In the United States we elect congresspersons and state legislators from geographical **districts** whose boundaries have to be changed each decade to keep them equal in population. When officials charged with drawing such boundaries do it in such a way as to facilitate the election of certain candidates, or the defeat of other candidates, we call it "Gerrymandering" ---in honor of 1812 Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry who presided over the creation of a district, shown here, that resembled a salamander. Simply put, gerrymandering is **discriminatory** districting: discrimination in favor of, or against, political parties, racial/ethnic groups, or individual candidates.