“Redistricting in the Public Interest -- A Hope for 2020”

Kareem Crayton, JD PhD (Political Science)
Founder & Managing Partner
CrimCard Consulting Services
Visiting Professor of Law, Vanderbilt

Abstract: As we near the second half of the 2010 redistricting cycle, one of the most significant themes that define this round is the role of the public in shaping outcomes. More than ever, policy and law reject the notion of politicians picking voters and demand reforms that assure that the converse is true. From citizen driven commissions to public hearings, to new technologies, the public's role in this process has become more significant than ever before. Yet these moves toward more public involvement have not completely ushered the envisioned goal of redistricting where the public holds the control over their elected officials. This paper explores some of the important constraints and flaws in the current process that continue to impede the progress toward redistricting in the public interest.