



## **Gerrymandering Workshop October 8-9, 2018**

### **SPEAKER TITLES/ABSTRACTS**

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“An Open-Source Approach to Advancing Redistricting Reform: Virginia as Case Study”

In June, a federal district court struck down 11 state legislative districts in southeastern Virginia as unconstitutional racial gerrymanders. In August, the state legislature met in a special session to consider how to remedy the districts. Anticipating that the legislature would fail to act in a meaningful way to remedy the districts, and in partnership with a Virginia redistricting reform organization, we at the Princeton Gerrymandering Project used open-source tools to encourage the legislature to consider a fair remedy to the unconstitutional map. We collected accurate precinct-level data and used it to create a legal map that could act as a starting place for the legislature. Additionally, we wrote about our efforts in an opinion piece released just before the legislature entered into special session. We also presented our maps, code, data, and analyses on GitHub for anyone to access. We offer this work as an example of how academics can work in partnership with reformers to effect reform in an open-source and accessible way.