Redistricting, Originalists and Democracy

Regarding your editorial "Justice Ginsburg Goes Originalist" (April 5): In deference to the state in the Texas reapportionment case, the Supreme Court got the decision right. But the incoherence of the concurring dicta spells more trouble. The Supreme Court botched the issue of legislative apportionment in Baker v. Carr (1962), which is set apart by the "justiciability" issue, thereby asserting power it specifically didn't have.

Throughout jurisprudence by a jingle (one man, one vote) instead of wise statescraft, the justices then destroyed the historic role of state senators to be "the saucer in which we pour hot legislative coffee to cool" as described by any number of commentators. Historically, the state's "lower" house, based on population, focused on the opportunities of the future while the more insular senators stored up the hard-earned lessons of the past. Legislation that survived such a balanced review was likely to be better law.

The Baker v. Carr ruling not only destroyed the deliberate value of senators, disenfranchised rural voters throughout the country and brought disaster to most state fiscs.

Great politics, lousy statescraft.

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Workers Vote for Politicians Who Drive U.S. Jobs Away

Regarding the letters of April 1 "Trade, Sun manufactures to Sell. Hurts U.S.": I agree that it's a shame that so much of our manufacturing has moved out of the U.S.

All businesses, and especially small companies and manufacturers, in this country have been under siege for decades. I am the owner of a small manufacturing company and speak from firsthand experience.

Increasing costs and ever more intrusive regulations are the cause of many manufacturers moving offshore because of family-leave laws, handicap accommodations, increasing minimum wages, NLRB rulings favoring easier unionization, increased unemployment compensation and workers' comp costs, rising insurance premiums, higher taxes, lowering the bar for employers to sue their employees, ever more stringent EPA regulations, ever more complicated tax laws, difficulty finding qualified employees, etc.

Every business is different and has its own unique situation, but many have simply given up on fighting these never-ending battles that do nothing but add costs and lower profits. Sometimes it's just easier to have the goods manufactured in a country that doesn't have so many of these obstacles.

How many of the disgruntled and alarmed "working class" voted for the politicians who have supported the laws, regs and costs that have resulted in their jobs being moved overseas?

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