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The implications of the decision by Republicans on the City-County Council to use the last days of their majority status to push through a redistricting plan could hurt ordinary residents of this city for years to come.

How is that?

Well, Indianapolis faces several major challenges – with its [budget](#), with public safety, with transit, with education and with neighborhoods. With divided government for the next four years – Republican Greg Ballard will start his second term as mayor next month and Democrats will rule the council – not much will get done without compromise and cooperation.

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But outgoing Council President Ryan Vaughn's decision to muscle through the new district maps on a party-line vote sabotaged any hopes for political compromise, at least in the short term.

Vaughn defends his maps as fair and competitive. He also dismisses Democrats' objections as purely partisan, which, if taken in isolation, may be true.

Yet Vaughn and his fellow Republicans on the council clearly were themselves motivated solely by partisan concerns. They rushed through the maps ahead of the normal schedule, a move that reduced the public's ability to study and comment on the proposal.

Even more critical, Republicans put short-term political gain ahead of

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the public's long-term best interests.

Again, political compromise will be essential for Ballard to operate effectively in the next four years. Unfortunately, he's now unlikely to find much good will from Council Democrats anytime soon.

Democrats this month exhibited partisan silliness in rejecting a [sound](#) compromise on a move they favor – a comprehensive workplace smoking ban. Now, Republicans have done the same.

The partisans may be happy, but it's the people of Indianapolis who lose when their elected [leaders](#) put political games ahead of the public good.

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