



*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy...and welcomes men as members!*

**The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)** has supported redistricting reform since 1966. LWV supports redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

**Process:** Responsibility for redistricting should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

**Criteria: Districts should be apportioned primarily according to population ('one person one vote'). Districts should be single-member, compact, convenient, contiguous, and reflect communities of interest.**

Other Additional **criteria** should:

- Be enforceable in court
- Require: Substantially equal population, geographic contiguity, effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities
- Provide for promotion of partisan fairness, preservation and protection of 'communities of interest', respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties
- Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria
- Explicitly reject: Protection of incumbents. Do not use of addresses of incumbents or political affiliation of registered voters or other partisan data.

#### **Redistricting Reform has Public Support:**

- 69% of unaffiliated, 59% of Democrat, 49% of Republican North Carolinian voters support redistricting reform. (PPP, 1/2017)
- 66% of Republicans and unaffiliated voters nationally support impartial redistricting. (College of William and Mary, 1/2016)

#### **Redistricting Reform Benefits Legislators and Citizens:**

- Regain citizens' trust in the democratic process.
  - Only 18% of voters approve of paying for lawsuits to defend laws that are ultimately overturned by the courts. (PPP, 9/16)
  - Only 22% of voters approve of the job the General Assembly is doing. (PPP, 9/16)
- Create districts that recognize municipal and county boundaries.
- Increase the sense of community that legislators represent.
- Reduce travel time for legislators and citizens within the district.
- Ensure equal treatment of communities of interest.
- Create a process that avoids court challenges. Many states that have legislatively drawn maps are involved in redistricting litigation - Wisconsin, Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, Texas, Florida, and North Carolina. Several other states' litigation resulted in court orders to redraw districts. (National Conference of State Legislatures)
- NC has had 16 redistricting lawsuits since 2000. (National Conference of State Legislatures, Loyola Law School, Brennan Center)
- NC's population is expected to increase by 39% from 2000-2030. Additionally rural counties will lose populations while the growth is urban and neighboring counties. NC needs to adopt rules (criteria) to stabilize governmental representation. (US Census Bureau, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections; News & Observer, 3/23/16)

***LWVNC recommends that North Carolina establish an independent commission with redistricting processes and standards that promote fair and effective representation for all citizens.***