

What is redistricting and why should we care about it?:



Redistricting is the process of redrawing the lines of districts from which public officials are elected. Redistricting typically takes place every ten years following the census, and impacts which voters elect which members of Congress, state and local legislators, and other elected officials. The next round of redistricting will begin following the 2020 Census.

When done properly and fairly, redistricting ensures that districts fairly reflect population shifts and growth, and that policymakers represent the values and interests of their constituents.

However, when done improperly, redistricting can result in partisan gerrymandering, minority vote dilution, and districts that favor incumbents. Voter turnout can decrease, as confidence in the legitimacy of the electoral system wanes.

Key Reasons to Support Redistricting Reform:

Transparency: Redistricting bodies should conduct their business in public sessions and allow constituents to provide testimony as part of the redistricting process. A process that is open to the public encourages input from community members and reduces the risk of partisanship or other undue factors playing a role.

Partisanship: Partisan gerrymandering occurs when the controlling political party draws district lines to benefit their party over the minority party. This process can make outcomes of races a foregone conclusion and/or ensure a political party is underrepresented in the legislature, hurting our system of democratic governance.

Community: Building districts around communities with common interests must be a goal of any redistricting body. Communities that are likely to have similar legislative concerns should have united representation in their legislative bodies.

Redistricting Letter Template

(Your Senator/Representative, or a legislative leader)

Indiana Statehouse
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

[LEGISLATOR NAME], my name is [YOUR NAME HERE], and I am a voter in Indiana. I'm writing to urge you to support a non-partisan, citizen-focused redistricting commission in Indiana during the 2018 legislative session.

Indiana has a distinct problem of gerrymandering. This problem is clear when looking at maps of Indiana's contorted districts that cut in and out of individual neighborhoods. Districts in Indiana have historically been drawn with partisan goals. This disenfranchises citizens whether it favors Democrats or Republicans. The solution to politically motivated gerrymandering is a non-partisan citizen commission that will determine what districts are best for all Hoosiers.

Hoosiers like me want a citizen-driven redistricting process. Can I count on you to support redistricting reform this session?

[Signature]

Area Representatives and Legislative Leaders

Indiana Statehouse
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

State Rep Brian Bosma, Speaker of the House:

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State Senator David Long, President Pro tempore

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State Rep Milo Smith, Chair of House Elections & Apportionment Committee

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State Senator Greg Walker, Chair of Senate Elections Committee

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State Senator Ron Alting, District 22

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State Senator Phil Boots, District 23

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State Representative Sheila Klinker, District 27

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State Representative Sally Siegrist, District 26

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State Representative Don Lehe, District 25

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State Representative Sarah Negele, District 13

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