

Weekly Legislative Update: **Redistricting**

Issue Team Chair: Alison McCaffree

Contact: amccaffree@lwvwa.org

February 25, 2024

In March, we will have new legislative district lines in time for the 2024 elections. The remedy to the lawsuit that declared LD15 discriminatory continues to develop these lines that will allow Latino voters in central Washington to elect a candidate of their choice, but here will also be changes that effect many other people. LWV supports a fully funded independent citizen redistricting process with enforceable standards that promote timely, fair, and effective representation.

The success of the [Soto Palmer v Hobbs lawsuit](#) that declared a Yakima Valley district discriminatory towards Latino voters forced the redrawing of new legislative districts in central Washington. On February 20, 2024 the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal so the mapping process will continue. After a hearing on Friday, Feb 9th, the Plaintiff's Remedial Map 3A is the leading candidate for the new legislative map (see below). This map changes 13 districts: 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 31 - with the most significant changes to 14 and 15. The Office of the Secretary of State has confirmed that these lines will displace 5 sitting legislators. A preliminary analysis by LWVWA shows that over 300,000 people will vote in new districts.

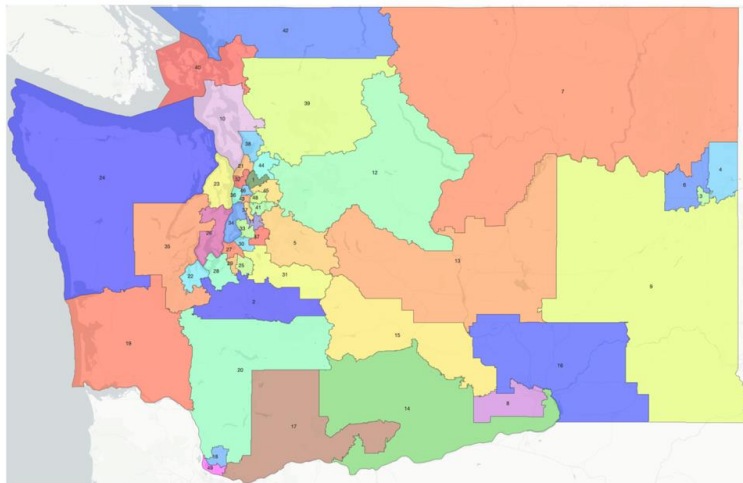


Figure 9: Remedial Map 3A

The State deferred to the courts to redraw the maps. The remedial maps comply with redistricting principles and the primary metrics are the same or better than the enacted maps. The final map, will be drawn with assistance of a court appointed special master, [Karin Mac Donald](#), and it is due on March 25, 2024. If changes close to Map 3A are enacted, LD14 will be a district where Latino voters have a very good chance to elect the candidates of their choice. This

is a positive outcome. A better process would have created more representative maps in the first place and avoided the disruption to so many voters.

Recent research from USC shows that truly independent citizen redistricting commissions have higher public trust and have resulted in legislatures that are more representative of the people in their state. This Fair Maps report concludes, “The result is a process that empowers communities and reduces the influence of political actors.” LWVWA supports major reform. See lwwa.org/redistricting for more information.

How You Can Be Involved

Our efforts for 2021 were not enough to change the outcome of the commission. To reach our goals, LWVWA must create a long-term, organized advocacy campaign—a movement. This will take all of us promoting change. Equitable redistricting depends on local action that builds to strong support for statewide proposals.

Take Action: Our focus for 2024 is to increase the strength of our support network. We want to add 1000 people to our mailing list in 2024. We can't do this without you.

- Join a Local Areas Action Team on Redistricting Reform. Local Leagues in Washington have action chairs who coordinate advocacy. Some local Leagues have democracy teams to take action locally. Contact your local League action chair to find out if there is a redistricting team and join.
- Get 3 friends to support redistricting reform and sign up for LWVWA's mailing list. Ask those 3 friends to find 3 more friends.
- Ensure your LWV Local League and has a representative to the State Redistricting Reform Task Force. If there isn't one, consider volunteering. The Task Force meets monthly on the Third Wednesday of the month at 2 PM. [Please register here](#) or contact [Alison McCaffree](#).
- Rally other community organizations to support our campaign. Consider giving a 20-minute presentation to an organization where you are involved. We have presentation ready to go and can coach you.
- For more information please contact: [Alison McCaffree](#), Redistricting Issue Chair.