



## 2020 CENSUS - TAKE ACTION

**Contact Information:** Alison McCaffree, 253-720-6813 [alison.mccaffree@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:alison.mccaffree@stanfordalumni.org)

### **Motivation:**

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau carries out a count, called a Census, of the nation's residents. The data collected is used for decisions that impact every community. The decisions include redistricting, enforcement of civil rights laws, education, infrastructure, medical insurance and much more. Voting districts are determined by the total number of people living in an area, not just the number of adults, voters or citizens. Whether or not all people are counted accurately in 2020 could make a dramatic difference in the ways the districts are redrawn. Millions of people in immigrant communities and communities of color will not fill out their census due lack of awareness or fear or retribution. We must reach out to all communities to make sure everyone gets counted. We must protect the civil rights of those who fear negative consequences and band together to make our unique form of government stronger.

The Census Bureau has been underfunded for the 2020 cycle. There have been many delays in planning and staffing including the absence of a U.S. Senate confirmed Bureau director from mid-2017 to early 2019. Less staff and poor planning could lead to a less accurate count. The Census has traditionally undercounted certain communities including racial minorities, lower income persons, undocumented immigrants, Native Americans, LGBTQ individuals, homeless persons, and those with severe distrust of the government. These are the very communities that need equal representation. An inaccurate count could risk further disenfranchisement.

For the first time in 70 years, the census is likely to add a citizenship question to every household. In the current political environment, this question could cause thousands of people in our communities to avoid the census for fear of being targeted. The cost to organize and alleviate response barriers will be high. With little hope that the federal government will adequately fund the 2020 Census, it falls to the state to insure our communities are accurately counted.

### **Outreach Materials**

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/voting-rights-tools/census-action-kit>

<https://washingtonnonprofits.org/public-policy/2020census/>

<https://www.ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/decennial-census/2020-census-everyone-counts>

[https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/complete\\_count.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/complete_count.html)

<https://censuscounts.org/>

<https://www.thetaskforce.org/queerthecensus.html>

### **Hard to Count Maps**

<https://www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us/>

### **Contact Census Directly**

[Los.Angeles.rcc.partnership@2020census.gov](mailto:Los.Angeles.rcc.partnership@2020census.gov)

### **Washington Census Equity Fund**

<https://philanthropyNW.org/washington-census-equity-fund>

Donate to this private census funding:

<https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/dff1a3e9-1edf-4541-98c4-82d94fb8f11c>

### **Washington Census Alliance – over 80 organizations serving communities of color**

<https://wacensusalliance.org/>

**BLANK PAGE**



## 2021 REDISTRICTING – TAKE ACTION

### **Motivation:**

The boundary drawing process, called redistricting, determines the political representation of all communities. How and where district lines are drawn in 2021 will determine how strong a voice each voter has in coming elections. Stories of partisan and racial gerrymandering in other states, of overwhelming majorities in districts and of “trifecta” control in state governments elevate concerns about our representative democracy. In addition, The U.S. Supreme Court cases from Wisconsin, Maryland, North Carolina and Michigan etc, have raised the media attention on redistricting reform. Advocating for fair and transparent redistricting is timely and pivotal.

After decades of intense battles Washington created a five-member Redistricting Commission in 1983. Four of the commissioners are chosen by the majority and minority parties of the two chambers of the State Legislature. These four then choose a non-voting administrative chair. This system produces districts that favor incumbents, has Democrats and Republicans splitting district control and results in legislative chambers with small majorities.

Washington is one of only nine states that has a redistricting commission independent from direct legislative control. Our bi-partisan commission requires three of four members to agree. Over the last three decades, this process has resulted in little controversy but also created many noncompetitive districts and resulted in close majority control in our legislative chambers. While our process eliminates extreme partisan gerrymandering, we are fighting to improved citizen trust, transparency, representation and effectiveness.

### **2021 Redistricting**

#### **1. Improve Efficiency & Effectiveness**

- Appointment of commissioners and offices set up earlier
- Include the County Auditors in the process earlier
- Increase communications staff

#### **2. Increase Transparency**

- Increase use of Website, Social media, & other technologies
- Greater amount of deliberations in open meetings
- Public priorities

#### **3. Increase Public Input**

- Mandatory number of public meetings
- Greater outreach to media to provide timely information
- Website features including creation of maps

### **2031 Redistricting**

#### **4. Change the composition of Washington’s Redistricting Commission to include:**

- Citizens who aren’t part of the party leadership
- Women and people of color,
- Additional representation from outside the dominant parties
- Representation from regions outside of Puget Sound.

### **Local Redistricting Forum Grant - \$400**

The League’s Education Fund will give any Local League a \$400 grant for putting on a local forum.

[www.lwvwa.org/redistricting-forum](http://www.lwvwa.org/redistricting-forum)

for more information.

## Redistricting Informational Link

### **Update & Outreach Materials**

[lwwa.org/democracy2019](http://lwwa.org/democracy2019)

[www.lwwa.org/redistricting-forum](http://www.lwwa.org/redistricting-forum)

### **Research Links**

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/redistricting>

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/redistricting-reform-resource-center>

<https://mggg.org/>

<https://sites.duke.edu/quantifyinggerrymandering/>

<http://gerrymander.princeton.edu/>

[redistricting.ils.edu](http://redistricting.ils.edu)

[origins.osu.edu/article/re-mapping-american-politics-redistricting-revolution-fifty-years-later](http://origins.osu.edu/article/re-mapping-american-politics-redistricting-revolution-fifty-years-later)

### **Washington State specific**

<http://www.politicsofthepossible.com/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington\\_Redistricting\\_Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Redistricting_Commission)

<http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/>

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/oralhistory/redistricting2>

### **Other Useful Links**

<https://www.scotusblog.com/>

**Contact Information:** Alison McCaffree, 253-720-6813 [alison.mccaffree@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:alison.mccaffree@stanfordalumni.org)