

Weekly Legislative Update: **Redistricting**

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This week I have prioritized meetings with legislators to assess redistricting reform possibilities. I have outlined where the maps stand now at the end of this page. But first I want to implore you to **remotely sign in PRO to the State Government and Election Committee hearing on January 19th by 7:00am in support of SB 5560**. We need to let legislators know that we care about redistricting. In addition, please use this opportunity to testify in favor of comprehensive redistricting reform. Details are below.

Your committee hearing sign-ins are effective in showing interest and support for these issues. Sign-ins are accepted until 1 hour before the committee hearing begins.

Priority Bills Needing Action This Week

SB 5560 – Concerning procedures for approval and submission of the redistricting plan.

⚠ Scheduled for a hearing in the State Government and Elections on 1/19. **Please sign in Pro** by 7:00 am at:

[Here's information on how to sign in and how to testify.](#)

At the top select: State Government & Election, and the date 1/19/22

Click: 5560 and fill in the form.

You can do this right now

We need to let our legislators know that we care about redistricting. We can use the hearing on SB 5560 as a vehicle to state our desires.

[Read SB 5560 here.](#)

[Read the bill history here.](#)

Here's the main talking points for testimony.

1. 5560 fixes the most egregious errors that happened at the end of the Redistricting Commission's process.
2. 5560 does NOT go far enough. I call for comprehensive redistricting reform. This reform would include modernizing the public input process, insuring access by non-English speakers and transparency in the deliberation process.
3. We ask the committee for a working session in the interim to understand the breath and deep of the types of possible reform.

On 5560, there is a small possibility that an amendment will be submitted that requires notifications and reports to be all languages as required by the Voting Rights Act. Alison will let you know if this looks to be a possibility and ask you to testify in support of the amendment.

2021 Maps

As it stands now, the WA Supreme court approved the maps the Commission finished late as of December 3rd, 2021. Things are moving forward to use these lines as the district lines for November election, despite two challenges based on the Open Public Meetings Act and likely a third challenge based on the Voting Rights Act. The legislature has until Feb 9th to do technical fixings in the maps with 2/3rd votes in each house. I do not hear any energy for doing this.

The best place to look at these maps is on the Dave's Redistricting App site. DRA uploaded the Commissions' final maps, and I added an overlay of the previous maps (i.e. the ones we have been using for 10 years).

DRA version of the Commission's FINAL maps

Legislative: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/3ee18c1d-a9ea-4c4b-8ee0-de5c241ddc90>

Congressional: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/73a73133-3f50-4bac-ad88-cfc12a8bd3ca>

Link to maps on the Commission's site

<https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/final-maps>

Long Term Reform

1. There needs to be a loud cry of let's do "comprehensive redistricting reform." Simple fixes are not going to be enough. I'm working on the positive strategy of "let's set the next commission up for success." Our system is clearly not robust enough. This campaign needs to use the momentum caused by the failures of the commission to finish on time and with limited consideration of community interest.
2. We are looking at a large coalition building process to bring comprehensive redistricting reform to the table in 2023 or 2025. The legislators most likely to sponsor this type of bill want to take the time to do it right. This means engaging the Office of the Secretary of State Office, The Governor, and the Office of Equity among others. This change might include:
 - Changing the structure of the commission to have non-political operatives and people who do not identify with either of the two major parties. This would include a structured process to identify and select commissioners.
 - Ongoing staff to support commission in data collection and keeping the public informed. This staff would also support the legislature in determining if new districts might be needed mid-decade and support other departments in potential population shift trends.

- Put into law the definitions of redistricting map criteria and how they will be ranked.
- Comprehensive process for public outreach, language access and redistricting information dissemination.

Please let me know if you have any question or suggestions. I look forward to working with all of you more.

How You Can Be Involved

- During the legislative session we will send Action Alerts in the [Legislative Newsletter](#). Please respond to these, which will direct you to an application to facilitate communicating with your legislators on a important votes in committees or on the chamber floor.
- Local Leagues in Washington have Action Chairs who coordinate action teams. Some Local Leagues have Environment or Climate teams to act locally. Contact your local league Action Chair to find out and join.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA Issue Chairs. We will take your perspectives under considerations as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony.