

2023 Issue Paper: Redistricting

Position Summary

The League of Women Voters of Washington supports a fully funded redistricting process with enforceable standards that promote timely, fair, and effective representation. We support equitable access and maximizing opportunities for participation.

Why Washington Needs Major Redistricting Reform

The 2021 Washington State Redistricting Commission failed to create maps that represented the people. Partisan interests prevailed behind closed doors. A good outreach process was muted by nonpartisan staff scrambling with communication gaps, and partisan staff creating maps that commissioners barely saw before voting.

2021 Redistricting Commission People-Focused Report Card

D +	Transparency
C	Prioritize Communities of Interest
D	Don't favor Incumbents or party affiliations
C -	Timely staffing & communications
B +	Outreach & Access

*We deserve
better.*

What LWWVA Did for the 2021 Redistricting Cycle

From 2017 – 2021, hundreds of League members and allies worked to improve redistricting.

- Hosted 13 Speak Up Schools in 2021 and 15 Redistricting 101 educational seminars. Speak Up Schools encouraged people to testify and improved the quality, content, and diversity of input to our commissioners.
- 750 people attended Speak Up Schools by spring 2021
- 6,438 people attended redistricting education sessions.
- Hosted over 30 listening sessions to get specific local input on maps.
- Submitted official LWWVA Legislative and Congressional maps - based LWWVA priorities and consensus input.
- 403 people testified to the 2021 Washington State Redistricting Commission; over 40 people were connected to LWWVA. Many other people sent in written testimony.
- Supported the LWW [People Powered Fair Maps](#) campaign, which focused on creating fair voting districts in all 50 states.

Our Efforts Were Not Enough

Before the next redistricting in 2031, we must:

- Create a long-term, organized advocacy campaign
- Achieve a **Washington State Constitutional Amendment.**

What Reforms Do We Need?

Full-scale redistricting reform includes:

1. **People-Focused Commission:** The 1983 structure is out of date. We seek to have additional commissioners who are not political operatives and not affiliated with the two major parties. Our recommendation would include a structured process to identify and select commissioners.
2. **Permanent Staff:** Create ongoing staff to support redistricting data collection, analysis, technology, and public communication.
3. **True Transparency:** Create process transparency to ensure the public wishes are considered and followed.
4. **Ranked Criteria:** Put into law the definitions of each redistricting mapping criteria and how they will be ranked. Assure that criteria will be followed.
5. **Universal Access:** Insure language and physical accessibility for input and information dissemination.
6. **Extensive Outreach:** Guarantee a comprehensive and inclusive process for public outreach and input.

Issue Details for 2023

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 2023 is to build a network of support. We can't do this without you.

1. Ask your legislators "What changes would you support to the Washington State redistricting process?"
2. Get 3 friends to support redistricting reform and sign up for LWVWA's mailing list. Ask those 3 friends to find 3 more friends. Use this document to help you.
3. Ask your Local League to endorse our Washington State Redistricting Campaign.
4. Rally your local community organizations to support our campaign.

Issue Chair: Alison McCaffree, 253-720-6813, amccaffree@lwvwa.org. More information about our efforts can be found at lwvwa.org/redistricting.