

Dear members of the League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear,

FAIR ELECTIONS ACTION TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

As you know, the League of Women Voters in North Carolina and in the Lower Cape Fear has been actively working to bring about redistricting reform. Ideally, this would involve a constitutional amendment that would create a commission to draw legislative and congressional boundaries in North Carolina. The Five Principles are described in the attachment.

We are reaching a critical time period. If North Carolina is to have Fair Maps and Fair Districts when redistricting is carried out in 2021, redistricting reform must be done very soon.

Accordingly, we are asking every member of the LWVLCF to do three things this month, if possible.

1. Phone your North Carolina House representative and your North Carolina Senator, indicate that you are a constituent, and ask if they support redistricting reform. If they do, thank them for their support and urge the legislature to move forward this year to produce fair maps and fair districts in 2021. If they do not, please tell them that redistricting is very important to you and that you hope they decide to support redistricting reform after all. If you just reach a staff member, please tell them that redistricting is very important to you and that you hope your representative supports redistricting this year.
2. Email your North Carolina House representative and your North Carolina Senator, indicate that you are a constituent, and tell them you strongly support for redistricting reform. Ask them to do everything they can to support redistricting reform this year to produce fair maps and fair districts in 2021.
3. Sign the attached Five Principles Endorsement Form and sent it to Gail Bromley, 1250 Wood Lily Circle, Leland NC 28451.

In case you are not sure how to contact your state representatives, this link will help:

<https://www.ncleg.gov/RnR/Representation>

These are the three things we would like every member of the LWVLCF to do this month, if possible, but we would also like to provide some information, both for yourself and for you to convey to others you may talk to about redistricting reform. First, there is a lot of support for redistricting reform. Second, we'll review some of the evidence about why redistricting reform is sorely needed in North Carolina (as in many other states).

Redistricting reform is popular

Redistricting reform is strongly supported by virtually all groups. (It is hard to find any groups that do NOT support redistricting reform.)

Here is one study, summarized below.

<https://campaignlegal.org/document/partisan-redistricting-new-bipartisan-national-poll>

The specific question asked whether voters “favor or oppose the Supreme Court setting up new, clear rules for determining when partisan gerrymandering violates the Constitution.”

This study interviewed 1000 likely 2018 voters nation-wide. 71% support redistricting reform, 15% oppose, and 13% didn't know how they felt. Breaking down by party, they found that 80% of Democrats, 65% of Republicans and 68% of Independent support redistricting reform.

This was a national study that did not provide results specifically for North Carolina. Another national study does provide results for North Carolina.

<https://www.isidewith.com/poll/318942016>

This study asked "Should the redrawing of Congressional districts be controlled by an independent, non-partisan commission?" It seems to be an internet survey (it has enormous number of cases). Nationally, this second study found that 85% of respondents said "Yes", redistricting should be done by an independent, non-partisan commission. For North Carolina, they found the same result: 85% said "Yes".

This is not necessarily the top issue for many voters. But when the issue is brought up to voters, there is wide support for redistricting reform.

Redistricting reform is very much needed in North Carolina

As members of the LWVLCF know, in North Carolina, *voters don't pick their representatives* – "*representatives*" *pick their voters*. Partisan gerrymandering results in Republicans getting far more seats in the NC House and NC Senate than they should, based on votes alone. In 2018, a majority of voters (51%) supported Democratic candidates for the NC House and Senate, yet Republicans continue to control 58% of Senate seats and 55% of House seats. Even worse, 49% of votes for US House races went to Democratic candidates, but Democrats got only 23% of North Carolina's seats in Congress.

This is not as widely understood as it should be. When voters know about gerrymandering, they recognize that it is unfair and undemocratic.

Finally, we would like everyone to know that FEAT has a Speaker's Bureau currently made up of Gail Bromley, Carole Ellis, Barbara Burrell, Sheila Fellerath, and Ted Fuller. The speakers are planning to meet with various community groups and organizations to explain the importance of redistricting reform and to generate more support for redistricting reform. In particular, we will invite participants to sign the Five Principles Endorsement Form. If you are a member of a group that one of our speakers could potentially talk to, please contact Gail Bromley or any member of the Speaker's Bureau about possibly setting up a time for one of our speakers to meet with the group. And if you would like to join the Speaker's Bureau, by all means please contact Gail Bromley or any member of the Speaker's Bureau to express interest!

Sincerely,

The Fair Elections Action Team