

Weekly Legislative Update: **Redistricting**

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LWVWA support Redistricting Reform in the 2022 Session

Please tell your legislators that you care about redistricting – write a note, sign into committee hearings, and testify in support of these redistricting changes and much more.

SB 5560 - Changes to redistricting plan definition and submission so that a complete plan must be created and voting on before the deadline.

Why support: This bill fixes the most egregious errors by the commission but does not go far enough. Support this fix and comprehensive redistricting reform.

⚠ Update: This bill is going to be voted on in the Senate this week and is likely to pass. **Please write your Senators to vote for 5560** and let them know you call for comprehensive reform.

SB 5583 – Local redistricting must count people in their home districts.

Why support: Every community deserves to have the representation of their residents who are from and/or will soon return to that community. Federal and State redistricting already adjust Census numbers. County, city, and other local municipalities should count people in their home districts too.

⚠ Update: This bill is going to be voted on in the Senate this week and is likely to pass along party lines. **Please write your Senators to vote for 5583** and let them know you call for comprehensive reform so that all people are counted.

SB 5597 – Enhances the WA Voting Rights Act by strengthening prohibition on racialized vote dilution, provides a cost recovery mechanism, creates procedures for pro-active review and analysis and creates a statewide database.

Why support: These changes help underrepresented communities have the voice and for seeking remedies when policy affects them.

⚠ Update: A Substitute Version of the bill has passed the policy committee and is now up for a vote in Ways and Means. This new bill removes details on VRA violations, modified criteria for preclearance and makes other administrative changes. See analysis of changes here. **Please encourage all members of Ways and Means to pass this bill.**

Call for Comprehensive Redistricting Reform.

We call for comprehensive redistricting reform before 2031. Simple fixes are not going to be enough to get maps that represent our communities. Let's setting 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.

ASK: Please ask the members of the Senate St Government and Election Committee and the House State Government and Tribal Relations Committee for working sessions in the interim to understand the breadth and deep of the types of possible reform.

Comprehensive redistricting reform might include:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Process transparency
- 4) Put into law the definitions of redistricting map criteria and how they will be ranked.
- 5) Comprehensive and inclusive process for public outreach and input
- 6) Language accessibility for input and redistricting information dissemination.

Build a large coalition to bring comprehensive redistricting reform to the table in 2023.

We must work with the legislators most likely to sponsor this type of bill who 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 means working with a wide variety of nonprofit organizations across the state to bring their resources and networks to the table.

2021 Maps – Currently our maps for the next 10 years.

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 best place to look at these maps is on the Dave's Redistricting App site.

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>

Other Useful Information

EVENT: 2/22/22 Map Review & Advocacy Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIce-trjkoGt1ayFVK5pT3agx-E611f2KP>

Politics of the Possible - the book: politicsofthepossible.com

Many Maps – the play: Politicsofthepossible.com/many-maps

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 an important vote in committees or on the chamber floor.
- Local Leagues in Washington have action chairs who coordinate action teams. Some local Leagues have education teams to take action 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. Alison McCaffree, Redistricting Issue Chair, amccaffree@lwvwa.org or 253-720-6813