

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 passed the Senate unanimously. yeas, 47; nays, 0; absent, 0; excused, 2. On 2/21/22, the bill was voted out of the House State Government & Tribal Relations Committee 5:1. It is in the Rules Committee waiting to be pulled to the floor.

⚠ **Action** – Please email or phone your Representatives and ask them to vote YES on 5560. [Find your Reps emails here.](#) Let them know you think this bill doesn't go far enough and that you support comprehensive redistricting reform. If you have a Rep on the Rules Committee – ask them to prioritize it and pull it to the floor. [Committee Members can be found here.](#)

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 passed the Legislature. Senate: yeas, 28; nays, 21; absent, 0; excused, 0. House vote: yeas, 88; nays, 7; absent, 0; excused, 3. It will go to the Governor's desk to be signed within 5 days. Every indication is that he will sign it.

⚠ **Action** – Please email the Governor's office and ask him to sign the bill. [You can send him a message here.](#)

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: This bill has died in the House Committee on State Government and Tribal Relations. Most likely this means that the majority party (Dems) did not have the votes to vote out of committee. If you have a Rep on the Committee you can ask how they would have voted.

HCR 4407 – This bill modifies the new congressional and legislative districts with the constitutional limits. The Changes that were made were technical changes requested by the County Auditors and Election Offices.

This bill has passed the House: yeas, 88; nays, 7; absent, 0; excused, 3.

This bill has passed the Senate: yeas, 35; nays, 14; absent, 0; excused, 0.

The districts will be modified as amended and the Secretary of State Office will put out the final districts. Note: There are two major lawsuits pending that are challenging the process and the districts. On 2/22/22 The Redistricting Commission voted to Settle the OPMA lawsuit. See lwvwa.org/redistricting for more information.

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](http://politicsofthepossible.com/many-maps)

How You Can Be Involved

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- 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@lwwwa.org or 253-720-6813