



Action Alert!

August 19, 2021- Demand Real Public Input!

**This information is current as of August 19, 2021. Follow us on social media ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)) for updates and upcoming General Assembly meetings.*

The Problem

On August 18, The NC House and Senate Redistricting Committees met and discussed timing and locations of public hearings on redistricting. LWV-Wake has identified a number of concerns with the proposed plan.

- Only 10 meetings are scheduled and they are too widely distributed to provide sufficient opportunities for public input. No hearings are scheduled in northeastern NC, or in the large population centers of Guilford and Wake Counties.
- There is no plan for public input around the state AFTER draft maps are released.
- The public has no access to the comments that have been submitted via the public portal.
- There is no timeline for the redistricting process. Information is being released sporadically and with insufficient advance notice of meetings.

Action Items

It's time to demand real public input!

- ✓ Provide input on the General Assembly's redistricting [public comment portal](#). Even if you've already commented, you can another comment focused on public input. These comments are an important part of the public record. . *Remember, you are speaking as a private citizen, so please do NOT put the League in the organization field.* You can find talking points [here](#).
- ✓ Contact members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committees by phone, email, or mail. Tell them that the current plan for public input is unacceptable. Our [talking points](#) list some ways to improve public input. Find Legislator contact information [here](#).
- ✓ Use Twitter to call on members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committees to do the right thing. Ask them to commit to REAL public input. Here are [talking points](#) for inspiration. Twitter handles are [here](#).
- ✓ Like, share, or retweet social media posts from the League and other organizations promoting redistricting reform. You can follow LWV-Wake on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Talking Points

Your comments will be most effective if you put them in your own words. The following talking points outline some ways to make the public input process more effective. Use these for inspiration or add your own ideas!

- **There should be more public hearings across the state. Wake County, with its large population, should have a public hearing.** Currently, hearings are only planned in 10 counties. These locations are spread too far across NC to provide enough opportunities for public participation. Wake County was not included in the proposed list of public hearing sites.
- **The public should have an opportunity to call or videoconference into meetings to give oral comments.** This will allow citizens who can't travel or who have safety concerns due to COVID to participate.
- **Public hearings must be held across the state before and AFTER draft maps are released.** There are currently no plans for public hearings around the state AFTER maps have been released. This is unacceptable. **The public must have opportunities to weigh in on the proposed maps.**
- **The public should be able to see the comments that have been submitted in the portal.** There are at least 290 comments in the portal, and these are part of the public record.
- **The General Assembly must share a comprehensive redistricting timeline.** Currently, information comes out in sporadically and with insufficient notice of meetings.
- **The NCGA's redistricting website must be improved so that the public can find information and easily understand the process.**