



Redistricting Hearing September 27, 2023  
Public Comments

Good afternoon, my name is Mary Lelik, and I am a board member, speaking today on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Wake County. Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment on a crucial mechanism for ensuring equal voice for every voter.

The redistricting process of drawing voting maps that should fully and fairly represent the citizens of North Carolina is one that, unfortunately, remains elusive. As the process continues to be controlled by a few members of the general assembly, we have seen time and time again, the manipulation that overwhelmingly favors one group to the exclusion of others. As a result of partisan gerrymandering, we have a government that is NOT representative of the people, but representative of a group of officials for whom the outcome of elections has been predetermined.

As legislators, you can and must do better. In this round of redistricting, we respectfully ask for transparency and opportunities for meaningful public comment. We ask for hearings to occur at many locations around the state, before and after maps have been released, to provide citizens with time to evaluate the information and provide pertinent feedback on the fairness of the maps you've created, prior to a final vote.

We ask that these hearings be live streamed to allow participation by those unable to travel or attend an in-person event. We ask that a public comment portal be open, and those comments be made available to the public. We ask that the rationale for final maps be explained to citizens in an open and transparent manner. In short, we ask that you fairly represent ALL of the people in this state.

The citizens of North Carolina deserve nothing less.