

## Comments submitted to NCGA Redistricting Public Comments Portal October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023

The League of Women Voters of Wake County believes every citizen's vote should count. We are greatly disappointed in the recent redistricting process. Public outreach was dismal with just three public comment sessions scheduled prior to maps being drawn, and no subsequent opportunities for meaningful public comments after maps were released, other than a public comment portal.

The maps released are an insult to the citizens of North Carolina who believe that maps should be drawn in a transparent manner and provide fair representation. The citizens of Wake County and other urban areas have been particularly victimized by these maps, with communities of interest ignored and voting power diminished. Extreme partisan gerrymandering flies in the face of what citizens expect in a healthy democracy, where fair elections are expected and valued.

In 2021 we provided every member of the NCGA a summary of best practices for redistricting transparency. We are extremely disappointed that members chose to ignore transparency and to further shield the public from important legislative documents, including redistricting records, with recent budget language. The citizens of North Carolina deserve better.