

COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS WILL BE REDRAWN IN 2021: YOU DESERVE A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS

This one pager explains how an open and transparent redrawing of the county's commission districts should be conducted. The same principles apply to other local redistricting processes, including school boards and city councils. Whether it works that way is up to you!

- **What is redistricting?** Every 10 years after we get the Census data, the districts we use to elect commissioners, city council members, school boards, legislators, and members of Congress are redrawn. The aim is simple: ensure the number of residents in each district is about equal. The law says our elected officials have to get this done before the next election.
- **So, is this the same as gerrymandering?** Redistricting should be a straightforward process, but politicians can take unfair advantage of the opportunity to draw themselves safe districts and to craft a map giving their party an unfair edge while they're at it That's gerrymandering! It often leads to splitting neighborhoods and communities to benefit those drawing the maps. (In our state, elected officials can do this because they draw their own districts--and yes, this is a conflict of interest!).
- **How does gerrymandering harm our democracy (or democratic republic, if you prefer)?** The essence of our system is that voters pick who represents them and can hold them accountable at the ballot box. Gerrymandering makes this much harder. Voters feel their votes don't make a difference—and, if they're in gerrymandered districts, they could be right!
- **How can we get fair maps and an open process?** A good way to limit gerrymandering is to ensure that members of the public are part of the process and that it takes place in the open, not by letting politicians cut deals behind closed doors. Residents should be able to provide input before and after districts are drawn so that the new maps reflect their communities and neither party can draw itself a sweetheart deal.
- **How can you and your neighbors make sure the maps are drawn in the open and that citizens have a role?** Fair Counties NC has developed a [resolution that county commissions and city councils can adopt](#) committing to a fair and open process for this year's redrawing. You can help get it adopted:
 - **Ask organizations in your community to [endorse the resolution](#)**
 - **Approach a member of your commission (or town council) and encouraging them to put it their agenda for discussion and then to adopt it**
 - **Testify in favor of a fair and open process at a commission or council meeting**
 - **Insist on transparency, ample notice of hearings on the maps, and opportunities for residents to comment before the maps are finalized**
 - **Stay involved in the process to ensure that commissioners and council members listen to citizens concerns and draw maps that fairly reflect your community**

**DEMAND FAIR DISTRICTS, NOT RIGGED MAPS, STARTING WITH YOUR
COUNTY COMMISSION!**

FAIR COUNTIES NC IS READY TO HELP YOU GET IT DONE!

learn more at www.faircountiesnc.org

EXAMPLES OF ORGANIZATIONS TO SIGN ON TO THE RESOLUTION

- COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
- COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
- COUNTY LIBERTARIAN/GREEN/CONSERVATIVE PARTY
- CITY AND COUNTY CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS
- CITY AND COUNTY CHAMBERS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS
- CITY AND COUNTY RACIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS
- CITY- AND COUNTY-BASED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
- COUNTY PASTORS COALLITION
- COUNTY VFWS
- COUNTY GREEK SORORITIES/FRATERNITIES