

Legislative Wrap Up: Redistricting

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March 20, 2022

LWWWA supported Redistricting Reform in the 2022 Session

Legislators did not do enough to fix redistricting this session. The only change legislated was an important but small extension to local redistricting to eliminate prison gerrymandering. Barring any court case resolution, the maps created by the Redistricting Commission, approved by the State Supreme Court and modified by HCR4407 will stand as the maps for the 2022 elections and any election until 2032.

LWWWA is creating a broad coalition of people and organizations supporting comprehensive reform of Washington's redistricting process. **Please tell your legislators that you care about redistricting. Ask them if they support comprehensive reform and let Alison (amccaffree@lwwwa.org) know what they say.**

Bills that Passed

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.

Wrap up: This bill passed the Legislature easily, Governor signed, and it is effective 6/9/22. This means those cities and counties that have not finished their redistricting must comply with the new rule to adjust the census numbers. This affects about 18,000 people.

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

Bills that did NOT Pass

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.

Wrap up: This bill did not pass out of the House Rules Committee. The Senate passed it unanimously. We don't know if it will be reintroduced next year.

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.

Wrap up: 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.

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.

Build a large coalition to bring comprehensive redistricting reform to the table in 2023.

LWWWA is creating a broad coalition of people and organizations supporting comprehensive reform of Washington's redistricting. 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.

We are working in these six categories:

1. **Structure:** Change the structure of the commission to have commissioners who are non-political operatives and who are people who do not identify with either of the two

major parties. This includes a process to identify and select commissioners. This type of commission is known as a citizens commission.

2. **Support:** Ongoing staff to support commission in data collection and keeping the public informed.
3. **Transparency:** Process transparency and open meeting law training
4. **Criteria:** Define in law the detailed definitions of the redistricting map criteria and specifically rank them as to the importance to residents.
5. **Public Input:** Comprehensive and inclusive process for public outreach and input
6. **Access:** Translation and interpretive services required to be available for all public input and information dissemination. This includes activating communities who would use these services.

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

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

- 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 the 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@lwvwa.org or 253-720-6813