

## TAKE ACTION

Spread the word about the need for redistricting reform.

Visit [www.lwvswin.org/id38.html](http://www.lwvswin.org/id38.html) for ideas, updates, additional reading, links, and contact information.

Here's what you can do:

- Write your state and national representatives to tell them that it's time for redistricting reform. You can find their contact information at [iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/](http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/)
- Ask your representatives questions about redistricting reform at town halls or personal meetings.
- Write a letter to the editor to raise awareness of redistricting reform.
- Watch *Gerrymandering: The Movie* and encourage others to watch. It is available at the bottom of the page at [www.lwvswin.org/id38.html](http://www.lwvswin.org/id38.html) or at [www.snagfilms.com/films/title/gerrymandering](http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/gerrymandering)

For up-to-date information and additional details, see also: [www.lwvin.org/redistricting.html](http://www.lwvin.org/redistricting.html) and [www.commoncause.org/states/indiana/issues/redistricting-reform/](http://www.commoncause.org/states/indiana/issues/redistricting-reform/)

## Recommendations of the Indiana Coalition for Independent Redistricting\*

Indiana should establish a citizen-led Redistricting Commission every 10 years, consisting of 9 members: 3 Republican, 3 Democrat, and 3 unaffiliated.

All registered Indiana voters not otherwise disqualified are eligible to serve on the commission, but must apply to be considered. Qualified candidates should be selected by lottery with efforts made to reflect the racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic diversity of the state.

Recommendations by the commission should require an affirmative vote of at least 6 members and are subject to legislative approval.

Redistricting criteria: Districts must be substantially equal in population, contiguous, comply with the U.S. Voting Rights Act, and when possible not divide communities of interest. The home addresses of incumbent elected officials or anyone else should not be considered as criteria for districting decisions. Legislative changes cannot exceed 2% of the total population of a district and must be accompanied by a narrative explanation.

\*The League of Women Voters Indiana is a founding member of the Coalition for Independent Redistricting

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**MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT**

*Support*

## **REDISTRICTING REFORM FOR INDIANA**



**League of Women Voters  
of Southwestern Indiana**

**MAKING  
Democracy Work®**

## What is Redistricting?

Redistricting is the process used by government bodies to redraw the boundaries of electoral districts.

Rules and criteria for redistricting vary by state and by governmental body, but Federal law requires that districts have about the same number of residents. Redistricting processes also must comply with the Voting Rights Act, which protects voting rights and prohibits voting laws that discriminate against racial, ethnic, or language minorities.

In Indiana, the General Assembly draws the United States Congress and the General Assembly district maps. The process takes place every ten years using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

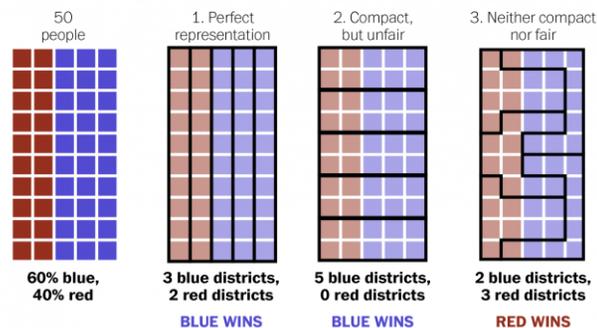
Current district maps can be found at: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/IN> (U.S. Representatives) [https://iga.in.gov/information/house\\_district\\_map/](https://iga.in.gov/information/house_district_map/) (Indiana House) [https://iga.in.gov/information/senate\\_district\\_map/](https://iga.in.gov/information/senate_district_map/) (Indiana Senate)

## WHAT IS GERRYMANDERING?

- Partisan gerrymandering is the practice of drawing districts to benefit a particular party or candidate.
- Both Democrats and Republicans engage in gerrymandering; the party in power draws the maps.

Gerrymandering, explained

Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts



WASHINGTONPOST.COM/WONKBLOG

Adapted from Stephen Nass

## WHY IS REFORM NEEDED?

- Gerrymandering reduces competition. In 2016, 32 of 100 House candidates and 11 of 25 Senate candidates in Indiana did not have a major party opponent. (ballotpedia.org)
- Gerrymandering discourages voting because people do not vote without competition. Indiana's voter turnout in 2016 was 58%, the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation. (electproject.org)

- Gerrymandering creates polarized districts, discouraging compromise.
- Gerrymandering creates an unfair electoral advantage for the majority party.
- Gerrymandering can splinter and harm communities of interest such as cities and towns, school districts, neighborhoods, and minorities.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN INDIANA?

In 2016, a Special Interim Study Committee comprised of legislators and private citizens convened to study the Indiana redistricting process and look at alternative processes.

The Committee evaluated potential benefits, consequences, costs, and issues that would need to be addressed to change how election districts are established. Their report was provided to the Indiana legislature.

In the 2017 Indiana Legislative Session, HB1014, co-authored by Speaker Bosma (R) and Rep. Torr (R) and based on the Interim Study Committee's recommendations, was the primary redistricting reform bill under consideration. HB1014 died in committee.

We still have the opportunity to achieve real change in Indiana. For the latest information, see [www.lwvin.org/redistricting.html](http://www.lwvin.org/redistricting.html)