



League of Women Voters of Ohio

Legislative Alert: Redistricting Update

Dear Ohio League members,

At 4am Friday morning, the **Ohio Senate passed an amended version of HJR12, the bipartisan redistricting bill that cleared the House late last week.**

The bill is clearly a compromise. All sides had to give a little in order to reach agreement. The bill is far from perfect, but it is better than the system currently in place.

Since this proposal will ultimately have to be approved by voters as a ballot issue, **the LWVO board will have to decide whether to formally endorse it.** The LWVO board won't be able to review this until its January meeting, **but the bill does match some of the criteria the League has been advocating for years:**

- **Keeping cities and counties together** rather than splitting them up. This should help voters understand who their representative is because the boundaries will make more sense.
- **Requiring districts to more accurately reflect the percent of votes a political party receives** in that area. This should reduce the current problem of districts that are gerrymandered to artificially give one party more or less seats than the party's ability to garner votes.

If the Ohio House signs off next week on the Senate amendments to HJR12, the proposal will go before voters to be approved on the 2015 ballot.

It is important to note that the HJR12 reform bill only changes the way we draw districts for the state legislature. It does not address Congressional gerrymandering. The League remains committed to work for reform in that area.

League members around Ohio played an important role in making this happen. LWVO has been pushing redistricting reform for forty years. In urging the Legislature not to wait, Secretary of State Jon Husted told legislators that if they fail to pass redistricting reform, then surely a third party group will.

League members and our partners should celebrate the fact that our tenacity forced the legislature to finally deal with this issue. You made this possible, and together we will make Congressional redistricting reform happen too.

Yours in League,

Carrie Davis
Executive Director

P.S. - If you have not yet made a year-end donation to LWVO, [please consider making a gift today](#) to support our continued work for free and fair elections, including fair districts.