



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO STATEHOUSE DAY FACTSHEET

About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is a non-partisan, grassroots organization whose leaders believe that voters should play a critical role in democracy. Founded in 1920, LWVO has been at the forefront for several statewide efforts to reform Ohio's unfair legislative districts since the 1970s, including helping craft and pass the 2015 and 2018 reforms.

About Fair Districts Ohio

Fair Districts Ohio is committed to fair state legislative and congressional maps. We are a non-partisan team of voter advocates and organizations working to create a better and more equitable representational democracy. The coalition includes Common Cause Ohio, League of Women Voters of Ohio, Ohio Council of Churches, ACLU of Ohio, Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute, Ohio Voter Rights Coalition, and more.

Gerrymandering harms all voters

Gerrymandering impacts all voters because it takes away voter choice. The manipulation of district lines for partisan advantage leads to fewer competitive elections, more extreme policies, and less accountability.

How redistricting will be different in 2021

In 2015, Ohio voters overwhelmingly supported state legislative redistricting reform and in 2018, voters followed up by passing congressional redistricting reform. Both reform efforts won in all 88 Ohio counties, by more than 70% of the vote. Placed in the Ohio Constitution, these reforms focus on transparency, encouraging bipartisan mapmaking, keeping communities and political subdivisions together, and public participation.

Census Bureau Data Timeline

On February 12, the US Census Bureau announced that it could be as late as September 30 before it will be able to provide states with the data necessary to draw new state legislative and congressional district lines. In a normal year, we would expect the data to begin to arrive in late February or early March. This will create many challenges for meeting the timelines of our map drawing process, which is set in our state's constitution.



Contact Us at: lwvinfo@lwvohio.org and fairdistrictsohio2021@gmail.com



However, we do expect to receive enough data by April 30th to determine how many congressional seats Ohio will have. Ohio is expected to lose a seat this year, so our total congressional districts will now be down from 16 to 15.

Rules for splitting congressional districts and the division of counties

The number of splits permitted is not the number of splits required. The Ohio Constitution does not identify conditions but all splits should be as necessary.

Of Ohio's 88 counties:

- at least **65** counties shall be contained entirely within a district,
- up to **18** counties may be split not more than once,
- up to **5** counties may be split not more than twice.

Rules for creating the backup four-year Congressional maps

Congressional mapmaking focuses on creating bipartisan maps but if that fails, four-year maps can be created. For these four-year congressional maps, it is necessary to create a narrative explaining all the mapmaking decisions including why communities are split. Additionally, there is a clear rule against drawing districts to favor or disfavor one political party or one candidate over another and the rules for dividing political subdivision are more severe.

Ways to Get Involved

Complete this [FORM](#) to indicate how you want to get involved with Fair Districts Ohio redistricting efforts, including as a Speaker or Mapmaking Facilitator.

Sign up [HERE](#) to get emails to stay in loop for action alerts, requests for public comments, letters to the editors, and other actions to push for fair maps.

Transparency Team - Join a team pushing for transparency at the Ohio Statehouse so that we have access to the deliberations around redistricting. Sign up for a training focused on Ohio's Sunshine Laws and how to do a public records request. Register [HERE](#) for the 3/16/2021 event with Catherine Turcer from Common Cause Ohio and Gary Daniels from the ACLU.

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