

Redistricting: Steps in Participating

Grouping people with similar traits and concerns together in one district gives them a stronger voice to have their issues addressed. Engaging in the redistricting process is more effective when done in a collective manner. Many of the steps to participate are the same activities involved in having your voices heard and making strides towards winning your issues even after the redistricting process is over.

LEARN THE RULES

- Understand the basic rules and concepts affecting redistricting.
- The rules and criteria used will vary among different states and levels of government.

ORGANIZE YOUR COMMUNITY

- Find neighbors or organizations interested in redistricting, especially those sharing your views.
- Create a coalition with a set of principles. Redistricting can be a divisive issue, where groups can be manipulated and pitted against each other.

CLARIFY YOUR GOALS

- What issues do you and your neighbors care about?
- What level(s) of government impact those issues?
- Are you advocating for a community of interest or a whole map plan?
- How does influencing the maps help your cause?

DEFINE YOUR COMMUNITY OR SOMEONE ELSE WILL

- Engage your neighbors or coalition on creating community profiles.
- Collect community impact stories.

TESTIFY AT HEARINGS

- Research the process to draw the maps: who makes decisions about the maps, when are the hearings and deadlines, what are the rules to testify
- Provide testimonies about your community (the more the better).
- Present maps, community profiles, and impact stories.

ADVOCATE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

- Your strategy will vary depend on who is responsible for drawing the maps (legislators, independent commissioners, etc.).
- Understand what motivates the decision makers.