Redistricting is one of the most powerful tools that can be used to increase or decrease political power for a group of citizens.

The goal of the redistricting process is to draw political district boundaries that have the same population size for the purpose of electing roles including local school board, state legislator, and congressional roles. Beyond population size, one goal in redistricting is to create districts with similar constituents so that their needs and interests are reflected in their elected officials.

Those in charge of drawing political districts have the opportunity to ensure that all voices are equally represented.
No matter our color, background or zip code, voters should pick their leaders, not the other way around. We come together every decade to draw new district lines that give each of our votes equal weight, each of our voices equal stature, and each of our communities equal access to the decision making processes that determine funds for schools, hospitals, and other essential services that our government allocates.
The districts we draw this year will shape our lives and our communities for the next decade.

- When we draw the maps, we influence the federal and state resources that funnel back to our communities -- money for hospitals, schools, and transportation.

- When we draw the maps, our communities don’t get carved up by politicians hungry for power, with only their own political interests in mind.

- When we draw fair maps, our communities are represented by leaders who know us, who represent our needs, and fight for the resources that our children and families need in order to thrive.

- Redistricting is when politicians can choose their constituents instead of when people elect their representatives.
Nobody knows our communities better than the people who live in them.

- Whether we’re helping a neighbor out during a hurricane, meeting after a sunday sermon, or planting a neighborhood garden, nobody knows our communities better than the people who live in them.

- By joining together to speak out for fair districting, we can make our communities whole and deliver the resources our schools and families need for a decade to come. It’s our role as community leaders and members to inform the levers of power what our communities need.

These new maps will be used for the next 10 years and beyond, so it’s critical that our elected leaders and redistricting commissioners hear from us.
Our collective action can make positive change and help shape this process, leading to better outcomes for our families and our community.

The United States is a unique country that offers tools of civic engagement to influence our public policy and debate; use the power you have as a citizen to influence this process.

Call, email, tweet or write letters to your state legislators to insist on equitably drawn maps; demand transparency through the process. An easy way to do this is to use Power Coalition’s One Click feature where you can contact your legislators easily.

Take Action at PowerCoalition.org/TakeAction
Redistricting is the process by which governments redraw political districts. It applies to all levels of government where district elections are held, including:

- U.S. House of Representatives
- Louisiana State Senate & House
- State & Local School Boards
- State Supreme Court
- Police Juries
- Parish & City Councils

Redistricting happens once every 10 years: Every year ending in ‘1’ (e.g., 2021), the Louisiana state legislature uses Census data collected the previous year (e.g., 2020) to redraw political maps.

2020: Census 2021: Redistricting
Redistricting Overview

What is Redistricting?

There are three basic redistricting principles:

1. **Contiguity**
   Every district has to remain connected—they can’t “jump” from one place to another.

2. **Compactness**
   With few exceptions, districts shouldn’t be drawn in extremely odd shapes.

3. **Communities of Interest**
   This one can be very subjective, and is the most controversial. Generally, districts should try to keep populations that share interests--e.g., fishing communities--together as much as possible.

Political districts are supposed to accurately reflect how populations have changed statewide and locally over the past decade, and provide fair representation to each individual and group.
Redistricting Overview

Redistricting Timeline

**September 30, 2020:**
**Census Data Collection Ends**
The US Census Bureau collects population data once every decade.

**December 21, 2020:**
**Census Data Sent to the White House**

**September 30, 2021:**
**Census Data Sent to the States**

**Oct. 2021 - Jan. 2022:**
**Legislative Redistricting Roadshow**
Make your voice heard when your legislators draw political districts!

**February 2022:**
**Special Legislative Session**
The state legislature relies on Census data, public input, and experts to draft district maps. Hearings are held on proposed district maps. The legislature votes on maps.

**After Vote:**
**Governor Approves or Vetoes Map**
**Why is Redistricting Important?**

Redistricting plays a **critical role** in who runs for office, who is elected, and how they vote once they’re in office.

It’s one of the most important factors in determining who represents you and how they represent you.

Your local, state, and federal elected representatives **make decisions that impact your everyday life**, like economic opportunity, healthcare, schools, roads, and so much more.

The makeup of a district **can significantly influence how and whether** elected officials respond to a community’s needs.

**Redistricting only happens once every 10 years, and the policy impact can last even longer.** We can’t miss this chance to demand fair and representative districts.
How Does Redistricting Work?

Redistricting Overview

The new map goes into effect for the next round of elections.

The legislature either overrides the veto or starts the process again.

Census Data Collected and Sent to the States

Regional Public Meetings

District Maps Proposed

Governor Approves or Vetoes Final Map

Legislature Votes on Maps

Committee Hearings

Downloadable Graphics:

How Does REDISTRICTING Work?

Census Data Collected and Sent to the States

Regional Public Meetings

District Maps Proposed

Governor Approves or Vetoes Final Map

Legislature Votes on Maps

Committee Hearings
1. The U.S. Census Bureau collects population data once every decade, during years ending in ‘0’.

2. The Louisiana legislature uses that data, as well as public meetings on redistricting, to inform the redistricting process. The public meetings are run by the two committees that oversee redistricting in the legislature--House & Governmental Affairs (HGA) and Senate & Governmental Affairs (SGA).
How Does Redistricting Work?

The state legislature relies on Census data, public input, and experts to draft district maps.
The House & Governmental Affairs (HGA) committee and Senate & Governmental Affairs (SGA) committee each **hold hearings on proposed district maps**. Any proposed map must be approved by a majority of the committee members in order to go to a vote on either the House or Senate floor.
When either HGA or SGA pass a map, it goes to a vote on either the House or Senate floor. **When a majority of each chamber then approves a map, the two different versions (House and Senate) must be reconciled to create a single map** that needs to get approved by both chambers. The final map goes to the Governor’s desk to be signed or vetoed.
Once the legislature agrees on a map, it is sent to the **Governor who can approve or veto it**.

**Approves**

The new map goes into effect for the next round of elections.

**Veto**

The legislature either overrides the veto or starts the process all over again.

*If the Governor and legislature can’t ultimately agree on a map, the State Supreme Court takes over the redistricting process.*
The public plays a key role in determining how the redistricting process plays out and how the district lines are ultimately drawn.

Contact our Redistricting Fellows to learn more about redistricting in your area, and then go out into your community to educate your family, friends, and neighbors about redistricting.

Submit comments during public redistricting hearings.

Anyone can do it.
2020 Census Data Findings

Census 2020 Update:

2020 Census Data has started coming out!
Here are some of our key takeaways so far:

Census 2020 Update:

Louisiana Population: 4,657,757
2.7% growth Since 2010

Census 2020 Update:

5 Largest Parishes
- East Baton Rouge: 456,781
- Jefferson Parish: 440,781
- Orleans Parish: 383,997
- St. Tammany Parish: 284,570
- Lafayette Parish: 241,753

Census 2020 Update:

Racial Make Up:
- White: 62.3%
- Black: 33.1%
- Asian-Pacific Islander: 2.1%
- Native American: 2.2%
The Louisiana population is 3.8% Blacker than in 2010

Census 2020 Update:

Parishes With Highest Black Population
- East Carroll Parish
- Madison Parish
- St. John the Baptist Parish

Census 2020 Update:

Housing Units: 2,073,200
5.5% Increase Since 2010

11.7% of housing units are vacant

All graphics are downloadable.
Gerrymandering

Drawing boundaries of political districts in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage over its rivals or that dilutes the voting power of members of ethnic or linguistic minority groups.

Majority-minority

This is a district where one or more racial, ethnic, and/or religious minorities make up a majority of the local population.
Glossary of Key Terms

Cracking & Packing

**Cracking**
Diluting the voting power of a group of voters across many districts

**Packing**
Concentrating a group of people in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts
**Efficiency Gap**

The difference between the two parties’ wasted votes, divided by the total number of votes. In a highly competitive district, the efficiency gap would be zero. In a district with severe “packing” of one party, there would be a high efficiency gap because the winning party would have wasted votes that are not needed to win the district.

- 20 Orange Voters
- 30 Blue Voters

### 3 Cracked Districts

- 6 Orange
- 4 Blue

Orange wins by a simple majority

### 2 Packed Districts

- 1 Orange
- 9 Blue

Blue wins with 3 votes wasted above the majority

- 16 wasted orange votes
- 18 wasted blue votes

16/

50 total votes = 32% efficiency gap benefitting the orange party
Vote Dilution & Prison Gerrymandering

**Vote dilution**
When a group’s voting power is reduced because they have been either been “packed” into a limited number of districts or their voting power has been “cracked” and dispersed across several districts.

**Prison Gerrymandering**
Prison gerrymandering is the act of counting incarcerated people in the jurisdiction where the prison is located instead of their home community. Incarcerated people do not have the right to vote in Louisiana, creating disproportionate representation for people that live in districts with prisons.
Power Testimony Guide

ACLU- Redistricting Testimony Prep

Redistricting Hub: Improving Transparency & Providing Testimony

League of Women Voters- Testimony Guidance

NAACP LDF

SCSJ

Tell Your Authentic Story
Example: Good Evening Chairman, my name is ________ and I am a member of the ___ community and ______ parish. I have been a resident of this community for ______ years. I am here with my community members and larger coalitions. I urge you to keep my community together. My goal for this redistricting process is for our elected officials to pass fair and equitable maps that do not deflate my power in the election process.

Power Tips
- Share what makes your community unique and why it is an important factor that should not be separate out of your community
- Share the culture of the community. Describe the people, commonplaces, history. What do you all value?

Define Your Community and Its Concerns
Example: I live in the ________ it borders ________ and _______. Here are some assets I would like to keep in this community.

Power Tips
- Define your community boundaries and elaborate support or opposition to proposed maps
- Explain your map and the boundaries of your community
- What are its streets and markers in your community?
- What are its significant landmarks: rivers, bayous, parks, shopping areas, or historic sites, etc?
- What are its gathering places: shopping districts, schools, community centers, religious places, and social service agencies?
- Do the current political district boundaries divide your community? Or do they keep your community together?
- What issues need attention from the government? What community projects need resources? Are there examples of elected officials ignoring our concerns?

Don’t Forget The Data
After addressing these questions, explain your community’s map and the boundaries and gathering places that define the neighborhood map

Power Tips
- What are the streets or boundaries that mark your community borders on each side?
- What are the significant landmarks: rivers, parks, shopping areas, or historic sites, etc?
- What are the gathering places: shopping districts, schools, community centers, religious places, and social service agencies?
- Do the current political district boundaries divide your community? Or do they keep your community together?
- Is there data we can present that strengthens our testimony (Number of people in our community, % POC, income levels, distance from hospitals, lists of greenspace)

Learn more about redistricting and how to get involved at: PowerCoalition.org/Redistricting
Legislative Roadshow

Sample Maps
CITY — In response to the U.S. Census Bureau's release of redistricting data, [ORGANIZATION] is hosting a call with reporters on [DAY, DATE, AND TIME] to discuss the data release, the [STATE] redistricting process, and what it means for our communities and the future of our state.

This data release inaugurates the official start of the 2021 redistricting process. Redistricting is about so much more than political power and this call will help provide important context as we head into a chaotic and messy process.

Here are the details:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHO:

WHERE:

If you have any additional questions, you can email [name and email of contact].

###
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[DATE]

CONTACT
[NAME]
[EMAIL]
[PHONE NUMBER]

[TITLE]

CITY — [info]

###
This is our opportunity to participate in the process of doing it correctly #PowerDistricts visit powercoalition.org/redistricting to stay engaged.

Redistricting is when politicians can choose their constituents instead of when people elect their representatives #PowerDistricts powercoalition.org/redistricting.

When we draw the maps, we influence the federal and state resources that funnel back to our communities -- money for hospitals, schools, and transportation #PowerDistricts.

When we draw the fair maps, our communities are represented by leaders who know us, who represent our needs, and fight for the resources that our children and families need in order to thrive #PowerDistricts.

Hold your elected officials accountable for #PowerDistricts take our one click and let your voice be heard.

Voters should pick their leaders, not the other way around #PowerDistricts.

When we draw the maps, our communities don’t get carved up by politicians hungry for power, with only their own political interests in mind #PowerDistricts.

#PowerDistricts
Did you know congressional maps determine how financial resources are allocated across our state? Hospitals, roads, our public schools and more all get allocations of funding according to how these maps are drawn. We must act NOW so they are delivered with a mind for equity for ALL communities, and not just a few.

Get involved and demand your legislators support #PowerRedistricting
When redistricting is done correctly people get to choose their elected officials instead of their elected officials choosing them.

It’s up to our community to come together to prevent this from happening by DEMANDING fairly drawn congressional maps for equal representation, regardless of your zip code, race or background.

#PowerRedistricting
Did you know congressional maps determine how financial resources are allocated across our state? Hospitals, roads, our public schools and more all get allocations of funding according to how these maps are drawn. We must act NOW so they are delivered with a mind for equity for ALL communities, and not just a few. Attend a roadshow in your area. Learn more at powercoalition.org/redistricting.

Take action and demand your legislators support #PowerRedistricting.
You don’t have to be an expert in this to be involved and engaged.

- **Host a Town Hall or Community Meeting**
- Use Our [One Click](#) to Contact Your Legislators
- Go to a [Redistricting Roadshow](#)
- Sign up for Testimony Training
- Attend Our Virtual [Coffee Chat Series](#) or watch a video of past Coffee Chats.
- Have a session with our [Redistricting Fellows](#)