

North Carolinians for Redistricting Reform

A vibrant democracy rests on the principle of “one person, one vote,” but far too often this pledge is violated by the abuses of gerrymandering. There is an inherent flaw in our system of government when elected representatives are allowed to draw their own districts and choose their own voters with little public input or knowledge of the process. In the end, the voters are the ones who suffer under this system as they are forced into noncompetitive districts and are often left with no real choice on Election Day. We need a better system that adheres to fair, commonsense rules and criteria for how our district lines are drawn.

North Carolinians for Redistricting Reform is a nonpartisan coalition of organizations supporting a redistricting model that removes line-drawing power from the legislature and rests that power with an independent body. The coalition believes that the redistricting process needs to be open and transparent. The process must include significant public input in the process with the opportunity for citizens to weigh in on proposed legislative maps.

North Carolinians for Redistricting Reform supports drawing district lines based on the following criteria:

- Comply with all state and federal Constitutional and Voting Rights Act requirements, including population equality
- Geographical compactness and contiguity
- Respect political subdivisions and communities of interest
- Incumbents’ residences will not be identified or considered
- Promote competitive districts by excluding party registration and voting history data from the initial mapping process. Party registration and voting history may be used to test district maps for compliance with other priorities.

Coalition Goals

- Pass legislation in the 2011 session of the General Assembly to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2012 to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission
- Work to help pass the constitutional amendment in 2012
- Establish fair rules and criteria that must be followed when drawing legislative districts
- Convince lawmakers in the General Assembly to follow established criteria when drawing district maps in 2011
- Public input needs to be integral part of the development and review of district maps: including public hearings across the state, public access to all committee meetings on redistricting, audio/video broadcast of all meetings, and a public comment of at least 30 days after the legislature has created a redistricting plan but before the full legislature votes on it.