

Gerrymandering

Political and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials. When done for purposes of racial discrimination or to ensure the dominance of one political party, gerrymandering runs counter to equal voting rights for all eligible voters.

In the past, state legislators of both parties have created unconstitutional districts because they disadvantaged minorities or are so extremely partisan as to undermine our democracy. These actions violated our constitutionally protected rights, resulting in lawsuits that the state has spent millions of our tax dollars on and repeatedly lost.

The League of Women Voters promotes five principles for redistricting reform that include an independent commission to draw maps, legislature input in naming commissioners, strict rules for how maps are drawn, extensive citizen participation and transparency, and maps final on the commission's vote.

While we await the opinion of SCOTUS on the March gerrymandering hearing, the N.C. Legislature is considering several proposed bills. Although none of these bills meets LWV criteria, they all recognize the need for redistricting reform.

For more information on how you can support our democracy through fair districting, please visit FairDistrictsNC.org or LWVHCNC.org.

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