



## **Suggested Letter to the Editor on Redistricting**

### **People Powered Fair Maps Requires the Public's Involvement**

Massachusetts has started the 2021 redistricting process for Congressional, state legislator, and Governor's Council districts, based on the 2020 Census data. The Massachusetts state legislature draws the maps, which are approved by the Governor. The Special Joint Committee on Redistricting studies and proposes the redistricting maps to be approved.

The League of Women Voters "*Supports redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.*" We advocate for an open and transparent process that encourages broad public input. This should result in unbiased maps that provide for effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities, low-income people, and immigrants, and for fair representation for all residents in Massachusetts. An open and transparent process will create public confidence in the final maps.

The League of Women Voters thanks the legislature's Special Joint Committee on Redistricting for designing a [website](#) and process to encourage unbiased testimony by citizens-at-large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of historically underserved communities. You can participate in this process. Attend a public hearing near you. Let the committee members know what communities it is important to keep together in districts. The League will be training our communities on the redistricting process, publicizing the Committee's open hearings, and encouraging community members to attend and present testimony at these hearings.

Massachusetts has the opportunity through redistricting to move even closer to ensuring that everyone – including BIPOC communities, low-income people, and immigrants – has equitable representation. You can do your part by being informed about and by participating in process. For more information, visit the Drawing Democracy Coalition [website](#).