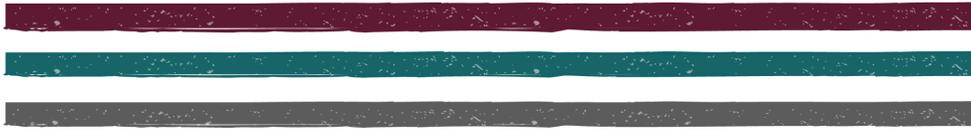


# DRAWING DEMOCRACY



## Drawing Democracy Letter to the Editor Toolkit April 2021

### Basics:

- Check your local paper's website for instructions on how to submit and format your letter. Each outlet provides varying levels of instructions.
- Unless otherwise specified, aim to keep your letter to 300 words or less.
- If the outlet doesn't specify who to submit your letter to, try to find an email address for the opinion editor and send it to them. Sometimes there will also be a generic opinion email address (like opinion@[outlet].com). If so, you should copy that address as well.
- Many outlets will request your name, address, and day phone. Your address and phone number will not be published, but the information helps editors confirm that you are the sender.
- If you need help tracking down info, please email Karissa at [khand@miracoalition.org](mailto:khand@miracoalition.org).
- You can also email the draft of your LTE to Karissa for a quick gut check before submitting.

### Sample Letter:

*To the editor:*

*You should open your letter by informing readers that redistricting is happening in 2021 and explaining what redistricting means and why they should be paying attention. See our suggested talking points below.*

*Your letter will be most effective if it is personal and specific to your community. Don't be afraid to tell your story. For example, you can write about issues that are relevant to your community that are impacted by local representatives (e.g., voting, education, policing, vaccine rollout). This should be the bulk of your letter.*

*Close your letter with a call to action. Encourage readers to engage in the redistricting process by voicing the concerns and needs of their community. Instruct them to visit [madrawingdemocracy.org](http://madrawingdemocracy.org) for more information about how to get involved. Please note that word limits range by outlet; the standard word count is 250-300 words.*

*Name*

*(Organization, if applicable)*

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*Email*

*Phone number*

### General Talking Points:

- Redistricting is the process of redrawing electoral district boundaries to ensure every person has fair representation at the local, state, and federal levels.
- New districts will be drawn using the data collected in the 2020 Census so that we can make sure we have the most up to date information.
- This process influences who runs for public office and who is elected to make decisions about our communities.
- Once drawn, these district boundaries are in place for the next ten years, and their policy impacts can last well beyond that.
- *[Insert issues that are relevant to community that are impacted by local representatives (e.g., voting, education, policing, vaccine rollout)]*
- No one knows your community better than you, and that's why your input will be so valuable in this process. Your voice can influence how and where district lines are drawn, which will determine whether our community can elect representatives of choice to sit on the school board, city council, state legislature, and Congress for the next ten years.
- I encourage readers to engage in the redistricting process to make sure that our community – especially people of color, low-income people and immigrants – have their voices heard in our democratic process. You can learn more about how to get involved by visiting [madrawingdemocracy.org](http://madrawingdemocracy.org).

*If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact Karissa at [khand@miracoalition.org](mailto:khand@miracoalition.org). You can also visit the [resources page](#) on our website which is full of helpful information.*