

## TAKE ACTION

Spread the word about the need for redistricting reform.

Visit [www.lwvsouthbend.org](http://www.lwvsouthbend.org) for ideas, updates, additional reading, links, and contact information.

Here's what you can do:

- Tell Interim Study Committee members Indiana needs redistricting reform.
- Write a letter to the editor.
- Watch *Gerrymandering: The Movie* and encourage others to watch, too. Available online and at the Library. Watch a 20-minute version at [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org).
- Ask candidates questions about redistricting reform at debates and forums.
- Tell your local, state, and national representatives that it's time for reform.

Contact information and more at:  
[www.lwvsouthbend.org](http://www.lwvsouthbend.org)

## League of Women Voters Viewpoint

- An independent nonpartisan commission should determine voting districts in the State of Indiana.
- The redistricting commission and process should not benefit an individual or a political party.
- Partisan gerrymandering should be opposed.
- Districts should be compact and contiguous.
- Criteria for the drawing of districts should include population, ethnicity, socio-economic background, and location.
- The drawing of districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act and the principle of "one person, one vote."

For details and more information, visit  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)— *Impact on Issues*  
[www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org)  
[www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org)

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# REDISTRICTING REFORM FOR INDIANA



League of Women Voters  
South Bend Area

**We can make it happen.**

# What is Redistricting?

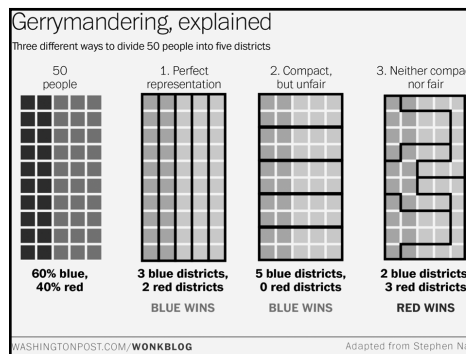
Redistricting is the process used by government bodies to redraw the boundaries of electoral districts.

Rules and criteria for redistricting vary by state and by governmental body, but Federal law requires that districts have about the same number of residents and that redistricting processes comply with the Voting Rights Act, which protects voting rights and prohibits voting laws that discriminate against racial, ethnic, or language minorities.

In Indiana, the General Assembly draws the United States Congress and the General Assembly district maps. The process takes place every ten years using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

## WHAT IS GERRYMANDERING?

- Partisan gerrymandering is the practice of drawing districts to benefit a particular party or candidate.
- Both Democrats and Republicans engage in gerrymandering; the party in power draws the maps.



(Darker = red; lighter = blue)

## WHY IS REFORM NEEDED?

- Gerrymandering reduces competition. In 2014, 44 of 100 House candidates and 10 of 25 Senate candidates ran unopposed.
- Gerrymandering discourages voting because people do not vote without competition. Indiana's voter turnout in 2014 was 28%, *the lowest in the nation.*

- Gerrymandering creates polarized districts, discouraging compromise.
- Gerrymandering creates an unfair electoral advantage for the majority party.
- Gerrymandering can splinter and harm communities of interest such as cities and towns, school districts, neighborhoods, and minorities.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN INDIANA RIGHT NOW?

A Special Interim Study Committee comprised of legislators and private citizens is studying the redistricting process.

Their task is to evaluate the potential benefits, consequences, costs, and issues that would need to be addressed for a change in the method for establishing Indiana General Assembly and United States Congress election districts.

The committee must complete its work before December 1, 2016.

If we act now, we have the opportunity to achieve real change in Indiana.