



The League of Women Voters of South Carolina believes that redistricting plans for the SC Senate, SC House of Representatives, and United States House of Representatives districts should meet the following criteria:

### Districts must:

- comply with the United States Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1971, et seq.
- be drawn to achieve substantial population equality among districts with deviations for state House of Representatives and Senate districts allowable up to  $\pm 5\%$  to achieve compliance with nondiscriminatory criteria, such as avoiding split precincts.
- be geographically contiguous. (Contiguity by water is acceptable to link territory within a district provided that there is a reasonable opportunity to access all parts of the district and the linkage is designed to meet the other criteria stated herein. Point-to-point contiguity is acceptable so long as adjacent districts do not use the same vertex as points of traversal.)

### Districts must NOT:

- be apportioned for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party. (The place of residence of an incumbent or a political candidate may not be considered in the apportionment of districts).
- be apportioned to reduce competitiveness.

### To the greatest extent possible, districts should:

- be geographically compact; bizarre shapes are to be avoided except when required by one or more of the following factors: (a) census or physical geography; (b) efforts to achieve equal population; or (c) efforts to comply with the United States Constitution or the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.
- maintain and respect the geographic integrity of any municipality, county, or current voting precinct;
- consider communities of interest based upon the following factors:
  - economic;
  - social and cultural, and;
  - historic influences;
  - respect for the geographic integrity of any city, county, city and county, neighborhood, or communities of interest including, but not limited to, rural communities, coastal communities, or separation by geographic features such as lakes, major rivers, national forest, or mountains;
  - governmental services;
  - geographic location and features;
  - commonality of media markets;

Communities of interest may not be interpreted to include:

- relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates;
- candidate residence location; or
- voting history.