

Postcard Parties: People-Powered Fair Maps

During January, local Leagues across South Carolina are asked to host postcard parties, where members and guests write their legislators asking for redistricting reform in 2020. Postcards are supplied by LWVSC.

- Tell your legislator that this issue matters to you personally.
- Remember to remain respectful -- this is a priority issue that we will be following for the long-term, and as always, we want to maintain good working relationships with our legislators!
- Let them know you are writing as a constituent, and provide your address.

This coordinated, statewide effort is one of the ways we can bring visibility to redistricting reform in advance of our February 12 LWV Lobby Day. Here are some points you may want to include in your postcards:

1 Gerrymandering adds to hyperpartisanship.

In districts that favor one party, it is often the most extreme voters who turn out for primaries and as a result, winners hold views more extreme than most of their constituents. Also, after safe districts are drawn for a legislator, there is little incentive for them to listen to voters or compromise with other legislators, because their next election is already "safe!"

2 Voters deserve a choice in the voters booth.

Gerrymandering discourages competition within districts. In 2018, more than half of our state legislators went unopposed in their election! And 95% of 2018 legislative races in SC were either uncontested or won by more than a 10% margin of victory, so were uncompetitive!

3 A majority of South Carolinians want reform.

A 2018 Winthrop Poll showed that 2/3rds of South Carolinians are in favor of having an independent commission draw the district lines, taking the ability to gerrymander districts away from legislators, whatever the party.

4 I support bipartisan bill H. 3054.

This bill creates an independent redistricting commission that would operate openly and give the public access for input. It would also reject lines drawn for incumbent protection or preferential treatment for any political party.