



JULY 22, 2021

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN SC: REDISTRICTING UNDERWAY IN BOTH HOUSES

SENATE

The Senate website at <https://redistricting.scsenate.gov> is up and running, and the revised public hearing schedule is posted there at <https://redistricting.scsenate.gov/docs/SENATE%20REDISTRICTING%202021%20Public%20Hearing%20Schedule%20MM.pdf>. Hearings kick off at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, July 27, Columbia in Room 105 of the Gressette Building. Information will be posted on the Senate website to explain how to sign up to testify in person, by zoom, or in writing.

These first meetings will occur before release of census data. Those testifying are expected to speak especially on communities of interest that are of concern to them and on the criteria to be used for drawing the districts, but citizens can of course bring up other areas of concern about the process or substance of redistricting. As always, information that may be helpful to those preparing is available at the League website at www.lwvsc.org. The theme that we are emphasizing is #WeAreWatching. Above all, legislators should understand that we are paying attention and will hold them accountable.

Also, a zoom opportunity for those wishing some guidance about the hearing process and how to testify has been arranged by Catherine Fleming Bruce. It is scheduled for tomorrow July 23, at noon. She asked me, John Ruoff., Brenda Murphy and Shaundra Scott to speak on how to prepare to testify. The

registration link

is [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcu6hqz8tHdc9lFN4hINucWh6XtxY0RVN?fbclid=IwAR0zDPocTQZR8DyDVPTYIgc5ADjoTjYgMsmvjDt1JZFyXr1O7CSdZo4IUkY](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcu6hqz8tHdc9lFN4hINucWh6XtxY0RVN?fbclid=IwAR0zDPocTQZR8DyDVPTYIgc5ADjoTjYgMsmvjDt1JZFyXr1O7CSdZo4IUkY)

Please remember to check back at the Senate site over the next several days for information on how to sign up to testify or submit testimony.

HOUSE

The House has scheduled the first meeting of their Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee for 10:30 AM on Tuesday, August 3, in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. We believe that it will be organizational, as the first meeting of the Senate Redistricting 2021 Subcommittee was. The committee includes Jay Jordan, Jr., as chair and representatives Bamberg, Bernstein, Collins, Elliott, Henegan, Brandon Newton and Weston Newton.

We remain concerned that the House schedule may be even more compressed than that in the Senate or may extend past the time census data are available and map drawing has already begun in earnest.

THE POSITION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA ON CRITERIA

Drawing new district lines at all levels following the decennial census to reflect strict anti-gerrymandering standards. We believe that criteria for the map-drawing process should exclude partisan and incumbent protection and should not be drawn with the intention of reducing competitiveness. District lines should avoid splitting counties and precincts when possible. [See our full recommended criteria here.](#)

Lynn

Lynn Shuler Teague
VP for Issues and Action, LWVSC
teaguelynn@gmail.com
803 556-9802

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