



PO BOX 8453, COLUMBIA, SC, 29202, (803) 606-0431, WWW.LWVSC.ORG

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[LWVSC Testimony, Midterm Redistricting, Constitutional Laws Subcommittee](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today on behalf of the League of Women Voters. I am mindful today of the many other times that you have listened to me on redistricting and I will not repeat myself unnecessarily. You already know that the League is opposed to maps that are designed to protect incumbents and parties. The current maps are far from innocent of those problems. However, the forceful push for midterm redistricting from the national administration that has given rise to this hearing is much more insidious and potentially more damaging to our representative democracy than the existing map. Our government in which we have taken so much pride over the years depends on the confidence of citizens that they have a meaningful voice in how they are governed. This proposal strikes at the heart of that shared understanding.

The proposed redistricting is explicitly intended to reduce the current more than 30% advantage of Democrats in CD 6. Much of the discussion around the State House has focused on the fact that redistricting to make that district competitive for Republicans would inevitably make adjacent districts more competitive for Democrats. Voters who are moved out of CD 6 don't pack their bags and leave the state. The same boundaries that give Democrats a nearly certain win in CD 6 give Republicans certain wins in six other districts. This redistricting plan would diminish that certainty on all sides and is a classic double-edged sword. However, the members of this subcommittee are already aware of all this.

The League's concern is more basic. It is about the integrity of our government in both senses of the word. Integrity means being honest and ethical. It also means being whole, undivided, and unimpaired. This proposal is a blueprint for a government without integrity. The national League has said recently that "The League of Women Voters does not support a tit-for-tat approach to redistricting. State legislatures redrawing their maps mid-cycle reflects political gamesmanship that erodes public trust in our democracy. Redistricting must be fair, transparent, and rooted in the voices of voters — not partisan retaliation." That ideal is not what is proposed here. It is political gamesmanship in support of a demand for power in Washington. It is not fair, it is not transparent, and it is not rooted in the voices of voters. It is intended to silence a substantial proportion of South Carolina's people.

While some of us here have spent years immersed in the process, most people don't understand the arcane technical and legal issues surrounding redistricting. They do understand very clearly when they are told that they don't matter, that their interests are not a concern of the state or the nation. They would not miss understanding this in the impact of an election rescheduled, their districts and candidates altered, their carefully considered candidate preferences and possibly their actual ballots no longer relevant. They would understand that all

of this is in the service of others crafting a preferred election outcome before they have an opportunity to cast a vote that would be counted.

There can be no healthy state in which almost half of the people know that their voices don't matter to those in power. The government may survive for a while, but the state will be a pathetic shadow of what it could be. South Carolina has fallen into that trap for much of its history. We don't have to go down that difficult and hurtful road again.

Please act with integrity for our state and its people. End this redistricting process now.

Contact: Lynn S. Teague, VP for Issues and Action, LWVSC
803 556-9802 Lynn.Teague@lwwsc.org