We are nonpartisan, we never support or oppose parties or candidates. Our mission is to educate, inform and advocate.
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK GRANT

★ Increase Visibility of the League
★ Attract New Members
★ Forge New Partnerships
★ Increase Diversity
★ Democracy Reform
2021 Redistricting
Public Input Hearings
No longer under preclearance
Town Halls
"There is a whole component of citizen education dealing with transparency and public engagement that is absolutely vital to any redistricting system. People need to understand what the current redistricting process is, why it's so bad, and what can be done about it in clear, simple terms. We need good material in all formats and good speakers to share that material. We need volunteers who represent our diversity to help us inform our communities.

We need to focus on creating a more transparent process. We need people to watch when the new maps are drawn to guard against gerrymandering. Sunlight disinfects. If the line drawers aren't doing anything 'funny' then there is no reason to go behind closed doors. The public needs to see and understand who is drawing the maps and how they are drawn."

-Chris Carson
President, League of Women Voters, US
To Become a Member:
my.lwv.org/texas
CENSUS 2020

The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.
WE WON! Together we did it!

They tried to bury us.
They didn’t know we were seeds.

- MEXICAN PROVERB

PLEDGE TO BE COUNTED
IN THE 2020 CENSUS
The Census is a count of all persons living in the U.S. It is conducted every 10 years by the federal government, and it is mandated by the Constitution.
We need an accurate count of our population so that we can effectively govern our state.
WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT AN ACCURATE CENSUS?

Our Voice
- Districts: One Person, One Vote
- Number of Representatives TX has in Congress
- Number of Electoral Votes

Our Businesses and Economy
- Market Predictions
- Expansion & Development
Our taxes come back to the state as federal services

$43.3 Billion in federal funds
$1578 per person

- Medicaid
- SNAP- (Nutrition Assistance)
- Medicare Part B
- Highway Planning and Construction
- School Lunch Program
- CHIP- Children’s Health Insurance
- Section 8 Housing Vouchers
- Special Education Grants- IDEA
- Head Start

- Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Health Center Programs (Community, Migrant, Homeless, Public Housing)
- Child Care Development Fund
- Foster Care
- Low Income Energy Assistance
When

- Census Day: April 1, 2020
- Starts: 3/23/2020
- Ends: 08/2020

How

- Online
- Over the Phone
- Using Paper Form
- Census Enumerator

Forms will be available in 13 languages

Every Family Member Should Be Counted
11 Questions, 10 minutes per household

- Name
- Phone Number
- Age
- Sex
- Hispanic Origin
- Citizenship
- Race
- Relationship to Homeowner
- Household tenure (own/rent)
- Number of Persons in Household
- Does a person stay or live somewhere else?
HOW TO TALK ABOUT THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

★ Records are confidential for 72 years by law. DATA CANNOT BE SHARED WITH ANY OTHER AGENCY
★ The federal government has been forever banned from adding the citizenship question to Census 2020
★ IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO BE COUNTED!
Every time there is a Census, it can be logistically challenging to count everyone.

**Hard To Count Populations**
- Very young children
- Immigrants
- People without a permanent address
- Rural areas
- People of color
- Frequent movers
- Language Barriers
- No internet Access
HARD TO COUNT AREAS

Redistrict Network
redistrictnetwork.org/Mapping-Hard//
WHAT ANYONE CAN YOU DO IN THEIR COMMUNITY

★ Identify trusted sources and share resources with them
  ★ School leaders, church officials, other public services
★ Arrange for access to computers at schools, churches
★ Encourage corporations to become official sponsors of your census activities. Have them sponsor:
  ★ Census booth at county fairs, carnivals, rallies,
  ★ School contest to design artwork or poster promoting the 2020 census
★ Launch a community education forum - elected officials welcome!
WHAT LEAGUE MEMBERS CAN DO

★ Join a Complete Count Committee: map to your community
★ Have Census info available at voter registration drives
★ Partner with Local Food Bank- host voter registration drive and pass out cards on census
★ LWV TX will be partnering with United Ways and Center for Public Policy Priorities on TX Counts Campaign- outreach to children under 5
★ Outreach to black Fraternities and Sororities
RESOURCES

★ www.lwv.org/league-management/voting-rights-tools/census-action-kit

★ civilrights.org/value/2020-census/
**Redistricting**

Is one of the most important processes in our democracy, because it determines the power of your vote.
Why do we need districts anyways?
435 House Seats must be split up amongst the states
Who is responsible for Redistricting?

- House Redistricting Committee & Senate Committee
- Public Input Hearings
- Maps passed as regular legislation
- Gridlock: Backup Commission

What districts get re-drawn?

- U.S. House of Representatives
- Texas Legislature: both houses
- Other: county commissioners, school boards, city councils
WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR REDISTRICTING?

Federal Guidelines
★ Equal populations: one person, one vote
★ VRA requirements: cannot dilute the power of minority representation (racial gerrymandering)

State Guidelines
★ State House districts: County Line Rule
★ TX Senate districts: must be single member and contiguous, but no requirement for compactness
How is the current process so bad?
The practice of drawing district lines to favor one group of people over another.

- Partisan
- Racial

★ Redistricting v. Gerrymandering

Is the purpose of redistricting to facilitate a representative democracy or to improve a partisan advantage?
TEXAS U.S. Congressional Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>D Votes Cast</th>
<th>3rd Party Votes</th>
<th>R Votes Cast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>70% of Seats</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>30% of Seats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>D Seats Won</th>
<th>3rd Party Seats</th>
<th>R Seats Won</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>30% of Seats</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>63% of Seats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW ARE THESE MAPS DRAWN?

- Legislators consult with data analysts, state party officials, and special interest groups
- They meet **behind closed doors** and consider little public input
- They use partisan and demographic data to go block by block and choose their voters
**Racial Gerrymanders: Why Are They Shaped This Way**

★ VRA: majority-minority districts

**Illinois 4th**

TX 35
CRACKING AND PACKING: DILUTING YOUR VOTE

1990s

1997 - 2002

2017

2013 - Present
**Legislature is less diverse than Texas as a whole**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>People of color</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrats* in both chambers</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>People of color</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans in both chambers</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>People of color</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entire Legislature</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>People of color</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Texans</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>People of color</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROBLEMS FOR EVERYONE

Legislators draw “safe”
districts for themselves

CANNOT hold Legislators accountable through
the power of our vote

Election is moved from the
general to the primary

No compromising between
parties to capture votes

Incumbent re-elected

Hard to find a challenger,
races go uncontested

No choice at the ballot box,
Low voter turnout

Leads to Polarization

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS' OF TEXAS
How Bad It Is in Texas - 2016

- 72% of state legislative offices were considered to be heavily gerrymandered with an electoral margin >45% (virtually ensured victory.)
- 97% of incumbent politicians were reelected in the 2016 general election.
- 66% of the state legislature was determined before a single vote was cast in the general election.
- 81 / 150 of the Texas State House seats were completely uncontested.

Voters could not hold most elected officials accountable at the ballot box.
Rucho v League of Women Voters NC
Many states are moving to this system.

Some commissions are composed of citizens.

Composition is balanced between Dems, Reps, Ind.

Strict, nonpartisan criteria used to draw the districts.

Public hearings, multiple review cycles with clearly defined timelines.

IRCs ensure voters have a choice at the ballot box: In 2016, voters in all but 8% of the districts in states with commissions had two or more major party candidates on their congressional ballots.
PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

★ The House Redistricting Committee needs to hear from you on where your community is located and why it is important to keep it together.

★ IT WILL BE UP TO US TO GET OUR COMMUNITIES ORGANIZED!
COMMUNITY FORUMS

- Bring community together to share about their communities of interest
- Work on producing maps
- Publicize maps in papers
- Have public vote on maps
- Convening event- work with County Judge or other elected officials
- Change House Committee rules to make the process more transparent
- TX Civil Rights Project working on tool to help develop testimony
NONPARTISAN CRITERIA!!!!

★ Equal population
★ Comply with Voting Rights Act: partner with civil rights group
★ Contiguous
★ State House- County Line Rule
★ Communities of Interest:
  ★ Respect cities, counties, and neighborhoods
  ★ A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.
★ Compactness: nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant population
★ Nesting: districts overlap
EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

★ Culture or history
★ Transportation
★ Weather
★ Watershed
★ Economical regions (industrial, agricultural, tech, army, etc)
★ Recreation
★ Income status
★ Housing
★ Language
★ Schools
★ Healthcare
★ Common Goal: reducing crime or increasing jobs
I live in a unique area of Farmers Branch called Oak Knoll Valley. It is also a certified neighborhood council. The neighborhood is bounded between Highway 9 on the west and Sunnyside River on the east side. There are approximately 8,000 residents in Oak Knoll Valley and it is primarily a residential area with some areas zoned for commercial and mixed use especially along the river.

The languages spoken in Oak Knoll Valley are primarily English and Spanish with some residents speaking Vietnamese and Mandarin. While most residents go outside our community for shopping and employment, they tend to stay here for their socializing, religious activities and recreation. The Oak Knoll Regional Center provides a variety of activities and is a real hub of the community.

Across the river from Oak Knoll Valley is the community of River Glen which is similar to our community as it is primarily residential. We are in the same school district and the high school which Oak Knoll students attend is in River Glen. It would make sense that we would be included in the same legislative or Congressional district.

On the other side of Highway 9 is Gold City which is primarily an industrial and commercial area. Most of the residents live in multi-family apartment buildings and many of them are new to the area. Gold City is part of a different school district than Oak Knoll. While Gold City is in close proximity to Oak Knoll we have less in common than we do with River Glen.
TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE

District Viewer:
dvr.capitol.texas.gov

DistrictR - MGGG:
districtr.org

Maptitude: Currently have 1 license that can be checked out
WHAT I NEED HELP WITH RIGHT NOW

★ Looking for volunteers to become speakers
★ Looking for Volunteers to Join the Observer Corps
  ★ Attend hearings
★ Check to make sure your legislators are promoting the hearings- One Click coming soon