

## **Suggested template for letter to the editor:**

***You don't have to be what you consider an excellent writer to be qualified to write a letter to the editor of any of our local newspapers. Your passion is more important than your writing skills. Your letter does not need to be as long as the editor's limit, either; even a couple of sentences that reflect your convictions are enough.***

### ***Open with something you create, such as:***

“As a North Carolina resident and registered voter, I’m concerned that .....  
...my vote no longer carries equal weight/matters/counts... “  
...we are losing our democracy...”

Or

“It’s time to do more than talk about gerrymandering in our state....”

Don’t use these exact words, or it may be flagged as spam by the editorial page editors. Say what’s in your heart.

### ***Follow with a sentence or two about the impact of gerrymandering on elections since 2011, which includes:***

The 2020 Census will result in redrawing districts once the census concludes. North Carolina has the opportunity now to pass legislation that will result in fair redistricting. Now maps have been drawn to provide unfair advantages to one party and pack the other party into as few districts as possible.

Now maps have been drawn to protect incumbents.

The party drawing the maps can win easy victories for itself, even where it doesn’t have a majority of the voters.

NC is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country.

Lawmakers select their voters instead of voters selecting their representatives.

### ***Make a pitch for reasonable redistricting reform:***

Creates an independent commission.

Leaves a role for the legislature.

Has criteria for drawing fair districts.

Includes representation of unaffiliated voters, the fastest growing group of voters in the state.

Has the potential for bipartisan support.

### ***And write an ending:***

Appeal to urgency – needs to happen before the next major round of redistricting in 2021.

Reinforce what is at stake – fair representation, democracy itself.

Appeal to action – ask your representatives – Republican and Democrat – to support this approach.

**CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL PAPER ON LENGTH LIMITS AND DON’T EXCEED.**