

It's really quite simple: election maps need to be drawn fairly so that voters choose their representatives rather than politicians choosing their voters. The League of Women Voters believes that a healthy democracy will survive only if voters know that their votes actually count, and so we support the current decision to redraw the North Carolina congressional maps to correct those areas where election manipulation has occurred through gerrymandering. Historically, both in North Carolina and across the country, politicians in power, from both political parties, have at times used this power to draw unfair maps so that they or their party would continue to win elections. Politicians have received a wake-up call from voters and judges across the board that it's time to reform the map-drawing process to be fair, open, and impartial.

Citizens should have a voice in the process. Communities should be kept whole. Political data and partisan objectives should not be allowed. All citizens will benefit from fair maps which provide for fair elections. Once redistricting is reformed, our legislators will be able to focus on the many other issues that affect our daily lives, and all North Carolinians will win.

Rachel Poller

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