

League calls for Day of Action on redistricting reform

To the Editor: The League of Women Voters (LWV) US is calling for Thursday, April 29, as a Day of Action to promote redistricting reform nationwide. LWVNC and LWV Henderson County are joining the effort by recommending that the General Assembly adopt a redistricting reform bill for the 2021 redrawing of voting districts for the new decade.

Voter participation increases when voters know and believe that the process is fair. Historically, legislators have often drawn districts to benefit the political party in power. Furthermore, when maps are drawn unfairly, politicians feel “safe” in their districts and have less motivation to listen to their constituents. Voters deserve to have an open and participatory process that will produce maps that are fair while ensuring legislators’ accountability to voters.

The Fair Maps Act (HB437) was recently introduced in the NC House. If passed, this bill will advance the drawing of fair maps. This bill mandates a citizens redistricting commission that preserves a substantial role for legislative leaders. Let’s end the practice of gerrymandering where legislators pick their voters.

Let’s stop the constant court battles. North Carolina voters deserve better, and every person’s vote should count equally. It’s time to move forward on voting rights. Join us by contacting our state legislators. Ask them to support reform.

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