

SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE 2021 PUBLIC HEARINGS: TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

Your input is vital to the Senate redistricting process and helping us assemble the building blocks of redistricting plans. We want to hear information from you about:

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

South Carolina's communities come in all shapes and sizes, just like the interests and concerns of the people who live and work in them. Communities can be areas defined by geographic boundaries and features (neighborhoods, cities, urban centers, coastal communities).

Communities can also be shaped by residents' common interests and concerns or events of historical significance that don't always show up on a map (cultural affiliations, economic characteristics, social and recreational activities, agriculture and natural resources, educational and health care needs).

Communities of interest might be overlapping and come together to shape your way of life and make your community unique.

Tell us the story of your community and what makes it a Community of Interest!

- Are there important places where your community gathers, like parks or community centers?
- Has your community come together to advocate for important services, better schools, roads, or health centers in your neighborhood?
- Does your neighborhood share certain celebrations or traditions, like summer food festivals or holiday parades?
- Are you working with your neighbors to help bring new jobs to your area or struggling to rebuild following a natural disaster?
- What is the history of how your community came together and how has it changed over the years?

REDISTRICTING GUIDELINES

Redistricting guidelines (or criteria) are the rules of the road for how district lines are redrawn in accordance with shifts in our state's population. These criteria are intended to make the districts easy to identify and understand, and to ensure fairness and consistency. We would like your opinion on what guidelines and principles the subcommittee should put in place to guide the process of drawing maps and evaluating plans. Some examples of redistricting criteria include:

- Keeping the cores of existing districts intact
- Giving consideration to communities of interest
- Not dividing city, county, or other geographic boundaries
- District sizes and shapes

Let us know how important these criteria are to you and what other principles we should follow!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED

If you cannot attend a public hearing or prefer to submit your recommendations in writing, send them to Redistricting@sensenate.gov or by mail to S.C. Senate Judiciary Committee, Redistricting Subcommittee, P.O. Box 142, Columbia, S.C. 29202. We also invite you to stay involved in the process by visiting our website, www.redistricting.sensenate.gov, for more information and updates on the process. Please contact Senate Redistricting Staff at (803) 212-6634 or Redistricting@sensenate.gov for help with any questions or concerns.

About Redistricting

What is redistricting?

Redistricting is how a state legislature or other government entity divides an area into new representative districts based upon the area's population. Redistricting is typically done after the State's population is updated by the decennial census. The South Carolina Senate is preparing to redraw the 7 Congressional and 46 State Senate Districts.

Why does the legislature conduct redistricting?

The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution requires everyone's vote to count the same, a principle often called "one person, one vote." For everyone's vote to be equal, every district must have about the same number of people. Otherwise, voters in less populated districts would have more influence than those in districts with more people. So, after each census, the legislature redraws district boundaries to include approximately the same number of people. Based on the new census, the population for each Congressional District should be about 731,204. The population for each Senate District should be approximately 111,270.

What is the census?

A census is a government-sponsored periodic counting, or enumeration, of the total resident population (citizens and non-citizens). Congress has established the United States Census Bureau to conduct the census. You can find more information about the census at <https://www.census.gov/>. According to Census Bureau estimates, the total resident population for the United States is 331,449,281. The total resident population for South Carolina is 5,118,425.

What is reapportionment?

The U.S. Constitution provides that representatives are apportioned among the states based upon the population living in each State. (Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution.) Every 10 years, after the census is taken, an announcement is made about how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Census Bureau defines "apportionment" as "the process of dividing the 435 memberships, or seats, in the U.S. House of Representatives among the 50 states." South Carolina did not grow enough to gain a new congressional seat.

***S.C. Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee
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