

LWV-CC Testimony  
TX House Redistricting Committee Public Hearing  
1/21/20

Good Afternoon. My name is Elisabeth MacNamara and I am speaking for the League of Women Voters of Collin County.

The League of Women Voters was founded 100 years ago by the women who fought so hard to get voting rights for women. Since 1920, we have been defending our democracy by empowering voters so the everyone has the right, the desire, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Throughout our 100-year history, the League has never supported or opposed a candidate or party.

The desire, knowledge and confidence to participate depends on a fair and open legislative process. That includes the process of redistricting.

The League of Women Voters supports fair and effective representation at all levels of government achieved through a redistricting process that includes

Enforceable Standards and  
Maximum opportunity for public participation

Enforceable standards must provide for equal population, geographic contiguity, effective representation of racial and language minorities, ensure partisan fairness and respect communities of interest and the boundaries of cities and counties.

We urge you to not just consider the enforceable standards that the League supports, but to publicly adopt these standards. A public endorsement of redistricting standards would go a long way to re-assuring constituents of your commitment to a fair and open process.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide input. We also ask that you maximize the opportunity for public input during the map-drawing process and allow enough time for public comment once maps are drawn. Public input now is important. Public input during the entire redistricting process is critical.

We are all here, citizen and elected officials alike, because we believe in the exceptionalism of an American democracy that is transparent and inclusive. Published criteria and maximizing public input in the upcoming redistricting process affirms that in Texas, the voters pick their representatives, the representatives don't pick their voters.