

Georgia Redistricting Toolkit

REDISTRICTING 101

What is redistricting?

Every ten years, the state legislature modifies the boundaries (lines) of the districts for various elected officials so that each elected office represents close to the same number of people.

The purpose of redrawing districts is to rebalance following population changes on the principle of one person, one vote and every vote has the same weight. That is why we count the people, first through the census.

For more information on how redistricting works, go to our [Redistricting Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

ACLU of Georgia's Stance on Redistricting

The right to vote is one of the most sacred civil liberties we have as citizens. We believe voting should be easy for every citizen and that each vote should count the same. We seek to ensure that the new maps ensure that all voters of color have the same opportunities as white voters to elect their candidates of choice regardless of where they live in the state and regardless of who they vote for.

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Testify at a Redistricting Town Hall

⇒ Sign Up

Plan to arrive early (4:30pm) so you can sign up to speak. The sooner you sign up, the sooner you will be able to speak.

- [Monday, July 26, Brunswick, 5-7pm](#)
College of Coastal Georgia, Southeast Georgia Conference Center, 3 Mariner Way, Brunswick, GA 31520
- [Tuesday, July 27, Albany, 5-7pm](#)
Albany State University, West Campus Theater, Building J, 2400 Gillionville Rd, Albany, GA 31707
- [Wednesday, July 28, Columbus, 5-7pm](#)
Columbus State University, Cunningham Center, 3100 Gentian Blvd, Columbus, GA 31907

- [Thursday, July 29, Macon, 5-7pm](#)
Mercer School of Medicine, Auditorium, 1550 College St, Macon, GA 31207
- [Friday, July 30, Virtual, 5-7pm](#)
In-person location: Georgia State Capitol, 206 Washington St, SW Atlanta, GA 30034 (likely in Room 341)
- **TBD: Augusta**
If you live in Augusta and are interested in testifying, please send an email to political@acluga.org and we'll be sure to connect with you once a date and location has been confirmed.

Tips

- If possible, bring copies of your statement to share with the committee
- Address the committee members
- Keep it short: 2-4 minutes maximum
- Practice + time yourself: It's fine to read your testimony but practicing out loud will help you feel more comfortable and help you stick to the time allotted
- Personal stories: If you are a voter of color, you have an opportunity to share how you've been personally impacted by past voter suppression efforts (ex. Redlining, SB 202, etc.)

⇒ How To Format Your Testimony

1. **Introduction:** Introduce self and address the committee
2. **Personal Story:** Share your Georgia experience
3. **Make the Asks:** They rarely respond but it's important to ask
4. **Thank them for their time!**

Sample of Full Testimony

"Hello, Chairs and Members of House and Senate Redistricting Committees. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. My name is _____. I'm also a proud volunteer of the ACLU of Georgia.

I'm a (life-long) resident of Georgia and I've lived in (city) for the last (##) years. The greater (city) area has grown in population and grown more diverse in the last ten years.

I'm here today to ask for fair redistricting maps and a fair redistricting process.

This means:

- *providing more opportunities for public hearings across the state so that all Georgians' voices are heard*
- *drawing maps accurately to reflect the diversity of the Greater (city) area*
- *and transparently sharing the criteria used to draw maps and giving the public ample opportunity to provide feedback before final decisions are made*

Thank you for your time!

⇒ **Attend a Redistricting Town Hall and be a Vocal Audience Member**

Signs

If you choose to be an audience member, you CAN bring a sign but it must:

- Be handheld sign size only (ideally, 8 x 10 size paper or smaller)
- Not block the view of other attendees in any way

**If anyone says to take the sign down, record that interaction if possible*

Sample Sign Language

“We want FAIR districts!” or “Georgians want fair districts”

[Premade signs from the ACLU-GA are available to download here.](#)

Applause

Show your support to the redistricting committee by applauding after speakers who testify with a message of fairness and transparency.

⇒ **Submit a Written Public Comment**

Tips

- Refer to testimony talking points to create your public comment
- Write up your statement and save it in advance of going to the GA Redistricting Public Comment Google form. Saving a copy of your statement will give you the opportunity to share your statement publicly on social media and/or within a Letter to the Editor (LTE).

GA Redistricting Public Comment Google Form

<https://www.acluga.org/writtentestimony>

⇒ **Write a Letter to the Editor (LTE)**

Find your local paper’s Letter to the Editor (LTE) email address on their website

For example, to write a letter to the Atlanta Journal Constitution, email: letters@ajc.com
(must be 150 words or less)

Confirm LTE word limit - Most LTE word limits are 200 words or less.

Use testimony talking points

And check to see if your House or Senate members are on the Redistricting Committee <https://acluga.org/senate-and-house-redistricting-committee-members/> If so, in addressing the committee in your LTE address your member and note that you are a constituent.

⇒ **Encourage Friends and Family to Get Involved**

Share this toolkit with your friends and family and ask them to get involved in the fight!

SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

⇒ For Town Hall Testimony

In advance of town hall: Feel free to publicize/recruit people to watch your live-streamed testimony.

Sample social message: "I'm testifying today on redistricting in GA. Watch me at (<https://livestream.com/accounts/25225474/events/9727428>) on (day of the week) starting at 5pm #fairmapsGA #ShowYourWorkGA #ACLUGA

The day after each town hall, a video recording will be available. For those of you who give permission, ACLU-GA will make a clip of your testimony and add it to the ACLU GA's redistricting page with your first name only. We'll alert you once it's available so that it can be shared on social media.

⇒ For Written Testimony

Check to see if your House or Senate members are on the Redistricting Committee <https://acluga.org/senate-and-house-redistricting-committee-members/> (check here for House Members: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/committees/house/114> and here for Senate: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/committees/senate/140>) If so, check to see if they have any social media accounts where you can direct public messages to.

Here's a Twitter sample with a committee member: [@LynnSmithGA](#) I'm a life-long Georgian living in Newnan and I want fair redistricting maps that reflect the diversity of my city #fairmapsGA #ShowYourWorkGA #ACLUGA

I just shared with the GA Redistricting committee that I want #fairmapsGA and a transparent redistricting process. Go to <https://www.acluga.org/writtentestimony> and ask them to #ShowYourWorkGa #ACLUGA