

LWVIL Testimony for Illinois State Senate Redistricting Committee Subject Matter Hearing
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM

The League of Women Voters of Illinois has worked for reforms to the state redistricting process since the 1990s. For the past decade, efforts have focused on an amendment to the Illinois constitution to provide for a more transparent process and community input through an independent commission.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois supports redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Prior to the last redistricting in 2011, the Illinois General Assembly passed a bill protecting the voting rights of racial and linguistic minority communities and requiring the legislature to hold a minimum of four public hearings before passing redistricting plans. However there was no time allowed for incorporating public input after the maps were proposed.

The 2011 bill will not be enough in 2021.

This year, complete 2020 census data will not be available until well past the date by which the Illinois General Assembly, or a backup commission, is constitutionally required to draw maps.

Therefore, it is essential for the ILGA to pass legislation that will provide transparency and allow for more public input into the redistricting process. The legislation should require:

- 35 public redistricting hearings, to surpass the number held in 2011.
- A public hearing after the introduction of a final map that will allow for adjustments to be made before the ILGA or a backup commission votes.
- A website for map submissions from the public and relevant records from the General Assembly's work on the remap.
- Written evidence the final proposed map meets Federal Voting Rights Act and Illinois Voting Rights Act standards, ensures effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities, and provides for preservation and protection of community stakeholders.

Thank you for considering legislation that will make the redistricting process more accessible, equitable, and transparent.

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