

DRAW JUSTICE LINES

A GUIDE TO REDISTRICTING
ADVOCACY IN GEORGIA



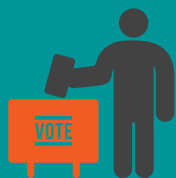
www.garedistrictingalliance.org



SPLC
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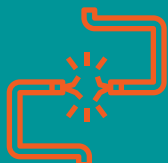
REDISTRICTING IS ALL ABOUT YOUR VOTING POWER.

Redistricting is when voting districts are redrawn so they each have the same number of residents.



VOTING RIGHTS

When redistricting is done fairly, then communities of color can elect a candidate they want to represent them.



THE SYSTEM IS BROKEN

Systemic racism has plagued black and brown communities for centuries creating income inequality, inequities in home ownership, education, safety from state violence and more. The current system doesn't work. Together we have to change the system.



GERRYMANDERING

This is when redistricting is used to take voting power away from communities.



DRAW US INTO POWER

When we have voting power, we can use that power to make real changes in our communities. We can work together to draw our communities into POWER!

GEORGIA IS MORE DIVERSE THAN EVER

DRAW JUSTICE LINES NOW!

2020 Census results are here! According to the Census Bureau's Report on Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Georgia is more diverse than ever and comes in as one of the top 10 most diverse states in the nation.

State and local governments will use 2020 census data to redraw district lines which will impact resources and power for Georgia's rapidly expanding diverse communities.

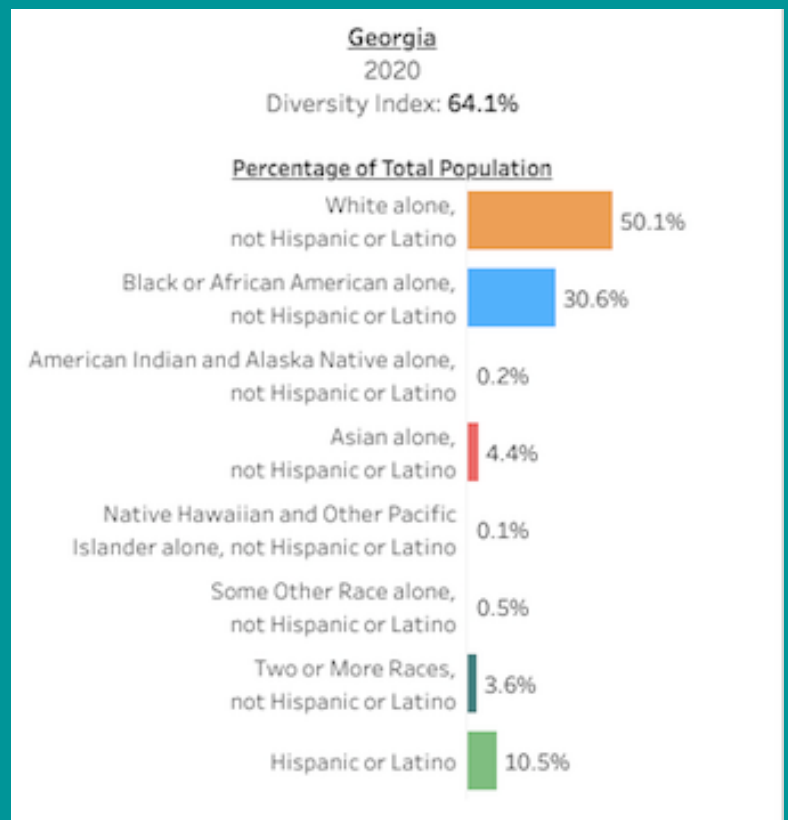
So what can you do? In these 4 easy steps, you can join the fight to draw the lines of justice in your community!

1 IDENTIFY THE MEMBERS TASKED WITH LEADING THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS

2 DEVELOP YOUR TESTIMONY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

3 CONTACT STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO VOICE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

4 ENGAGE THE PRESS



<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html>

STEP 1



IDENTIFY THE MEMBERS TASKED WITH LEADING THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Redistricting occurs at every level of government: congressional, state legislative, county commission, school board, and city.

Are you concerned about the decisions of your school board members? Do you want more action from your county commission members? Do the decisions of your legislative representatives and senators concern you? Let these questions guide you to decide what level of government you wish focus on.

You can find the Senate Reapportionment members [here](#) and House Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment [here](#).

Locate your county commissioners and their contact information using the ACCG's tool [here](#).



STEP 2



DEVELOP YOUR TESTIMONY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Harvest Your Community Stories

When communities come together to tell stories that define history, assets, challenges, and solutions, we can change the narrative about who we are and what we deserve. Sometimes referred to as 'defining communities of interest', this collective work enables you to hold elected officials accountable for making meaningful change. Who knows your community and its needs better than you and your fellow community members? You have valuable information that can be used in combination with census data to describe your community. Now its time to use it!

Develop Your Testimony

A redistricting testimony is simply a written or oral statement that you provide to elected officials so that your community's needs can be heard. Using the information described above as well as census data, you can write and submit your testimony so that it becomes part of the formal public record. Here is a handy template you can use to develop your testimony:

https://docs.google.com/file/d/1MDu2B-Tf4VQnOc57_4bganS_y4cF85rC/edit?filetype=msword

Watch public testimony from our members here:

- [Georgia Redistricting Alliance](#), 23:30 mark
- [Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda](#), 1:31:27 mark
- [Black Voters Matter](#), 1:34:26 mark

Pro Tip

Use free websites like [DistrictR](#) or [Representable](#) to show where your community is on a map!

STEP 3

CONTACT STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO VOICE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS



Review and Adopt Advocacy Talking Points into Your Vocabulary

When you are getting ready to speak to your elected officials, you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Georgia advocates have developed talking points and sent several advocacy letters that describe these redistricting demands. We encourage you to use these talking points so that elected officials are reminded of the issues with redistricting in Georgia and how they impact diverse communities. Check out these talking points [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Make appointments with your local or state elected officials

Using the contact information you have collected from Step 1, call and/or email your elected officials to schedule a meeting where you can share the important information you have collected about your community. You may not always have a chance to share your testimony in a public hearing, however, you always have the right to meet with the elected officials who represent you!

Submit Your Testimony

Once you have written your testimony, be sure to submit it at this link:

bit.ly/WrittenPublicComment. Doing so will ensure that your testimony becomes part of the official public redistricting record!

Additionally, if you created community maps, email or mail them to your elected officials for them to consider that information when re-drawing district lines.

Pro Tip: The Georgia Redistricting Alliance has created a sample redistricting resolution. Use to encourage your local elected officials to adopt rules that will ensure a transparent, fair and accessible redistricting process. You can find that sample resolution [here](#).

STEP 4

ENGAGE THE PRESS

Bring more attention to your cause by Issuing a press release using prepared quotes and remarks summarizing your recommendations to state and local officials. By doing so, you also provide language to members of the media so that they can accurately describe the concerns of your community.

View sample press releases here:

[Georgia Advocates Condemn the Trump Administration's Latest Attempt to Disrupt the Outcome of the 2020 Census](#)

[Georgia Redistricting Alliance demands meaningful public input to the redistricting process](#)

Template for Media Advisory (used to invite members of the press to a press conference via email):

**MEDIA ADVISORY FOR
DATE at TIME
Contact Name & Phone Number**

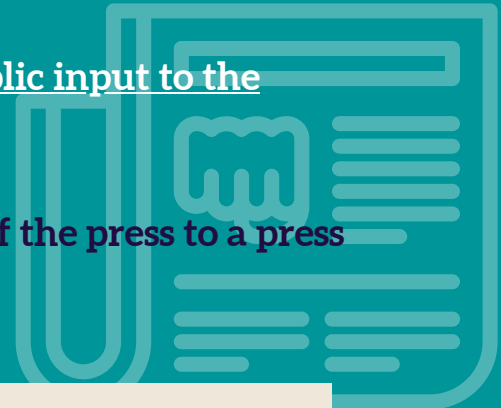
Media Briefing: TITLE

Brief Description of the Event

List of Speakers

Information about location or link to RSVP for virtual event

Additional background information



NEED HELP?



CONTACT US FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR TO GET
SUPPORT FOR YOUR LOCAL
ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

Georgia Redistricting Alliance

Karuna Ramachandran she/her/ hers

GRA Campaign Manager

kramachandran@advancingjustice-atlanta.org

404.585.8446 ext 106

www.garedistrictingalliance.org



Southern Poverty Law Center

Safia Malin She/her/hers

Outreach Paralegal | Voting Rights

safia.malin@splcenter.org

404.221.5872

www.splcenter.org

