

**ALABAMA
VALUES**

2021-2022



MESSAGING & SOCIAL TOOLKIT

Local
redistricting
in Alabama

A guide for
our partners



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General Talking Points

Redistricting is our once-in-a-decade process of accounting for state-level population changes in Alabama to draw new district maps from the federal level to the local level which makes an impact on how funding is distributed for healthcare, schools, and roads.

- The districts drawn during this cycle will impact and shape our lives for the next decade and directly influence how resources are distributed throughout your communities.
- Whether you're cooking up a Sunday block party, planting a neighborhood garden, or supporting each other through a global pandemic, community members know their community, the people who live there, and the specific needs of the community better than anyone else.
- Working together collectively can make positive change, help shape the process and give local communities a better outcome for the next decade.
- Call, email, tweet, or write letters to your city councilmembers and county commissioners to insist on fairly drawn maps; demand transparency through the process.
- Together, we can all make a difference in the quality of resources local communities have in the next 10 years.

REDISTRICTING AFFECTS YOU

Drawing district lines fairly at the county level and the municipal level is vital to ensuring that residents who live in those areas have the needed resources for the next decade.

City and town councils affect your lives as well with the decisions they make. They are responsible for passing the budgets, regulating business licenses, responding to community complaints, passing ordinances and regulations dealing with everything from property abatements and leash laws to fireworks prohibitions to speed bumps.

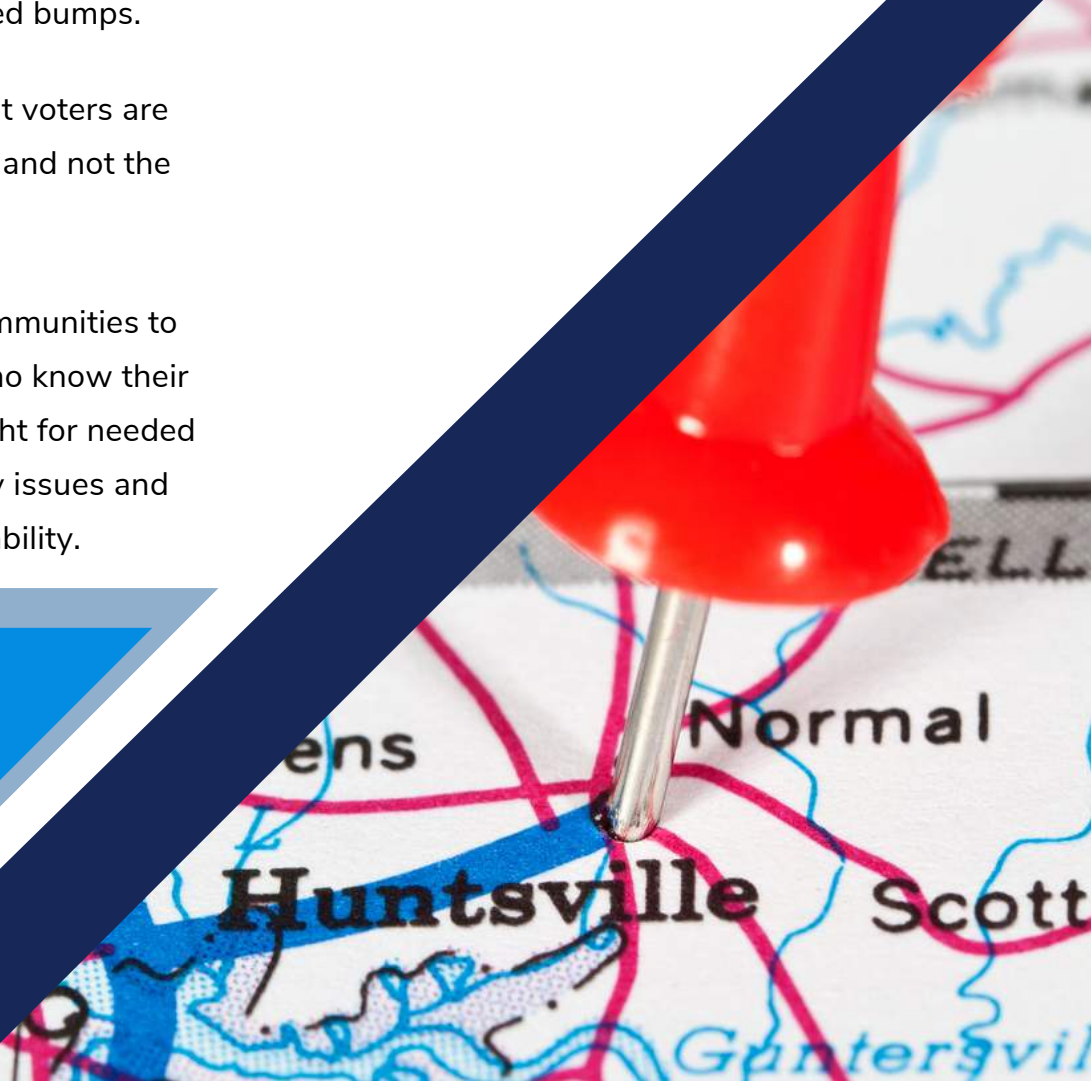
Maps should be drawn so that voters are able to select their politicians and not the other way around.

Drawing fair maps allows communities to be represented by leaders who know their communities and who will fight for needed resources to solve community issues and promote growth and sustainability.

County commissioners have the power to make budgetary decisions that affect counties day to day from roads and bridges infrastructure and upkeep to property tax levy and collections and which company picks up your garbage.

This is why it is important for members of the community to be involved in the redistricting process. Maps need to be drawn fairly so that they reflect the community.

This ensures that everyone has a voice.





Connection to issues

Roads and bridges

Many county commissions operate hundreds of miles of roads and are responsible for the upkeep. Depending on how your county's districts are drawn will determine how well your roads and bridges are maintained. In cities, the city workers are responsible for maintaining streets that belong to the city.

City Ordinances and resolutions

City councils have the power to abate properties that are public nuisances, disallow smoking in public places, increase sales taxes, etc.

Garbage collection

Everyone likes to make sure their garbage is collected on time. County commissions and cities govern which companies are allowed to pick up your garbage. If you have issues with things such as garbage collection you want to ensure that your city councilor or county commissioner is available to help hold those they have hired accountable.

County Commissions

County commissions often close roads, make final decisions on things such as E-911 services, and more.

The background of the page features a close-up of a microphone on the right side, with a blurred crowd of people in the background. The background is divided into geometric sections of yellow, white, and blue. A large blue circle is positioned on the left side, containing the main title.

How do I get involved?

Now that you know the importance of local redistricting and what's at stake, call your county commission office and your city hall. Find out when their public hearing is for redistricting and when they plan to get started on their redistricting. Mark your calendar and attend the public hearing and speak up.



GIVE YOUR TESTIMONY

- Start your testimony by identifying yourself.
- Let the council/commission know about your community. What are your shared interests and characteristics of the community? You can do this by sharing stories about your community's culture and history, describing the people in your community, and addressing any special needs of your community.
- Remember there is no right or wrong way to describe your community. Just be sure to speak about what connects the people in the community. This will let the committee know why it is beneficial.

EXAMPLE: Hi, my name is Rita Smith. I have lived in Smithville for 25 years. My friends and I are here to ask you to keep our neighborhood together. We need representation from someone who understands our neighborhood. Our neighborhood is home to Smith County's largest Hispanic population, where we all attend the same church, send our children to the same school and work at the same factory. Many of us have lived here for decades and depend on healthcare, the education system, and more here. Splitting our district would be detrimental to us. We have drawn maps that will keep our community in tact.

Social Media Creatives

Local Redistricting Affects You! Campaign

Use this campaign to explain to Alabamians how redistricting affects their lives and why they should get involved. There are four graphics for this campaign. Schedule them and use the redistricting hashtags.

Click [here](#) for graphics.

It's local redistricting season! Campaign

This campaign gives a general overview of local redistricting, encourages locals to seek out when their local redistricting process starts and to speak up at public hearings to voice concerns. There are three graphics for this campaign. Schedule them across your social media platforms and use the redistricting hashtags.

Click [here](#) for graphics

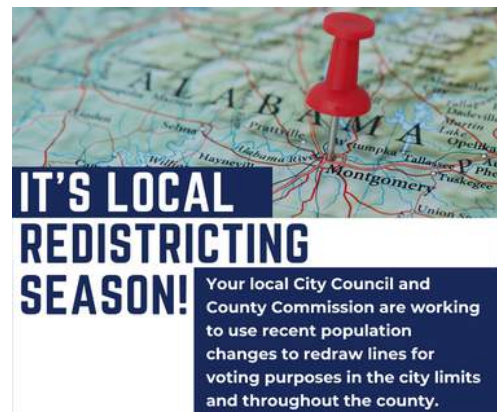
Public hearing event graphic

This graphic is completely editable through Canva for when you have a public hearing for redistricting you can quickly insert the information to let your followers know to attend.

Click [here](#) for public hearing graphics.

Redistricting #hashtags

#allontheline #ourdistracts #ouralabama
#redistricting #fairmapsforalabama
#fairmaps #forthepeopleact #gerrymander
#fairmapsforall #fairdistricts #mapourfuture
#seatatthetable #yourvoicematters



SCSJ CROWD FELLOWS

If you need assistance, information about your district, or training, feel free to contact the CROWD Fellow who represents your county.



STEPHANIE BARNETT

snbarnett@yahoo.com

Tennessee Valley Region

Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin,
Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence,
Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall,
Morgan, and Winston



SHALELA DOWDY

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Lower Alabama Region

Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke,
Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile,
Monroe, Washington, and
Wilcox.



FELICIA SCALZETTI

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Wiregrass Region

Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Covington,
Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry,
Houston, & Pike
Central Cahaba Region
Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, St.
Clair, & Walker



KHADIDAH STONE

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Black Belt River Region

Autauga, Bullock, Chambers, Coosa,
Dallas, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon,
Montgomery, Perry, Russell, &
Tallapoosa

Who are we? We're a state-based 501c3 progressive communications hub working to amplify progressive voices and policies in Alabama. Our goal is to provide messaging and communications leadership and infrastructure to organizations and coalitions advocating to build power and break down barriers to civic participation for communities across the state.

Why did we create the Redistricting Messaging Guide? Every decade Alabama Legislators come together to draw new district lines that give every vote in Alabama equal weight and all communities equal access to the decision-making processes that determine funding for schools, hospitals, and other essential services.

We hope this guide helps organizations and individuals working on redistricting in Alabama to raise awareness and encourage the communities they serve to get involved in the fair mapping, fair districting process. There's power in the collective and we're just doing our part.

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