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LWVUS Advocacy presents

# Redistricting 2030 Pt. II: Census, Reforms, and Opportunities for Change



# Agenda

- Housekeeping
- CHARGE Hub Redistricting Report Card
- The Relationship between Census 2030 & Redistricting
- Redistricting Reforms in 2024
- LWV Minnesota
- What Can You Do?
- Closing & Questions



# Presenters



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# Housekeeping

- This webinar will be recorded to keep accurate notes to share with attendees and others after the call.
- If you are not speaking, please mute yourself to minimize sound issues.
- Make sure you identify yourself (name, League, State & pronouns) when asking questions
- **Staff will be monitoring the chat box.** If you have any questions or thoughts throughout the call, please feel free to drop them in the chat box.

# Community Norms



Bring your full self and limit distractions



What is learned here, leaves here



No one knows everything, together we know a lot



Don't yuck my yum



Oops, ouch, and educate



Assume best intentions

# POLL!

# CHARGE Hub Redistricting Report Card



## CHARGE Hub Community Redistricting Report Card

- Compiled via survey and interviews of grassroots redistricting activists who participated in the 2021 cycle
- Ratings of A, B, C, D, and F
- Highlights takeaways and opportunities in each state
- [Link to the Report Card](#)



# Key Findings of the Report Card

- Independent citizen redistricting commissions (ICRCs) are more likely to seek public feedback and integrate into voting maps
- Not all redistricting commissions are created equal
- Legislators often try making the process as secretive as possible
- Communities of colors are still targeted and left out of the redistricting process
- Connecting redistricting reform with census work

# Major Takeaways

- Improving transparency
- Building a movement with diverse coalitions
- Engaging in public education and starting early
- Protecting the Census



# Opportunities for LWV

- Coalition Building (federal, state, and local)
  - Defining partnerships
  - Engaging diverse communities
- Public Education (federal, state, and local)
- Policy Change (state and local)
  - Increased transparency
  - Criteria for map drawing
  - Independent commissions: creation, implementation, protection
- Census protection

# Opportunities for Reform

- Rules to create more transparency
- Opportunities for public input
- Ending prison gerrymandering
- Establishing independent redistricting commissions

# Methods for Reform

- Federal Legislation
- State legislation
- Constitutional Amendments
- Citizen-led initiatives and referendums



# The Relationship between Census2030 & Redistricting

# What is the Census? Apportionment?

- Census
  - Counting each person residing in US
  - Every 10 years
- Apportionment
  - How many representatives in each state
  - Constitutionally mandated

The logo for the 2020 United States Census. It features the text "United States®" in a smaller font at the top, "Census" in a large, bold, sans-serif font in the middle, and "2020" in a large, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom. The entire logo is white and set against a dark blue rectangular background.

United States®  
**Census**  
**2020**

[Source: census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

# Why does the Census matter right now?

- Planning & Execution of the Census
- Ensuring Accurate Representation of Racial/Ethnic Demographic Data
- Advocating for rules to:
  - Combat undercounts, especially of Native communities
  - End Prison Gerrymandering



# What's Happening with the Census in 2023-24?

- American Communities Survey
- Recent Federal Register Notices:
  - [Adding SOGI \(Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity\) questions to ACS \(2023\)](#)
  - [Adding MENA category \(Middle Eastern and North African\) \(Decision expected summer 2024\)](#)
- Research and testing
- Appropriations and funding
- Meeting with stakeholders and community groups

# Prison Gerrymandering & Census

Prison gerrymandering:

- When districts' populations are inflated because incarcerated people in a prison in a district are counted as part of the population
- Why does it happen?
- States who have ended prison-based gerrymandering: MD, NY, CA, CO, CT, DE, NV, NJ, VA, WA, [MT](#), and IL.



Source: [Daniel Fishel for NBC News](#)

# Redistricting Reforms in 2024

# Redistricting Measures in 2024

- Ohio
  - Ballot initiative for 2024
  - Citizens Not Politicians coalition amendment to replace politicians with a citizen-led commission
- Wisconsin
  - AB 415, SB 488: redistricting bills that failed to include essential safeguards for producing fair maps
  - New fairer maps passed in February, signed into law
- Minnesota

# 2024 Redistricting Legislation and Policy in Minnesota

Paul Huffman

Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator

LWV Minnesota

# Current State Of Minnesota Redistricting

- MN remains vulnerable to state-wide gerrymandering in a trifecta
- City and County officials (including charter commissions) resistant to public input and/or use “Least Change” approach
- City charters do not reflect commitments or interests of some city councils and do not hold officials accountable to the interests of voters
- Minority communities are ***most impacted*** by current state

# 2024 State Redistricting Legislation

Two sets of bills currently introduced with independent redistricting commission:

- HF 4593/SF 4894 – “With Us, For Us” Redistricting bill
- HF 4598/SF 4785 – 3-part “Good Government” bill
  - Independent Redistricting Commission
  - Prohibition on legislators being lobbyist while in office and for 1 year after leaving office
  - Remove constraint on legislative activity and holding special session

# *Grassroots Redistricting Reform Bill: “With Us, For Us” Redistricting Amendment (IRC)*

- Result of 5 years coalition effort, including diverse communities
- Constitutional Amendment (IRC) with Advisory Commission backup (if CA fails to pass).
- **People** – Maps drawn by diverse group of citizens not parties or politicians (5/5/5 with provisions to ensure diversity).
- **Principles** – Prioritized to put people (minority representation and communities of interest) above geographic or political interests.
- **Process** – maximize transparency and public participation; bring *communities* into redistricting.



# Local Redistricting Stakeholders

- **Election Officials**

Have an interest in minimizing change to minimize impact on election administration; make elections easy for voters and election officials

- **Elected Officials**

- Have an interest in continuing to represent the same area due to familiarity and alignment of interests
- Preserves ability to be reelected

- **Residents/Voters**

Want elected officials to represent and be responsive to their interests and concerns

# 2024 Local Redistricting Reform Bill – HF 4376/SF 4804

- Larger Cities and Counties
  - Citizen Commissions perform redistricting
  - Redistricting principles same as proposed for state redistricting
  - Requirement for public notice, input, and review before drafting maps and before approving maps
  - No role for elected city council, charter commission, or county board
- Larger cities required to have wards (no charter required)
- Extend time for voters to challenge potentially illegal local maps (All)

# What can you do?

- LWWUS will be relaunching PPFM in FY2025
- Talk to your neighbors
- Put together public forums
- Research the laws of your state
- Push for policy changes
- Build coalitions
- Pay attention to plans for the 2030 Census

# Questions?

