

## USE ArcGIS ONLINE TO EXPLORE ELECTORAL REDISTRICTING

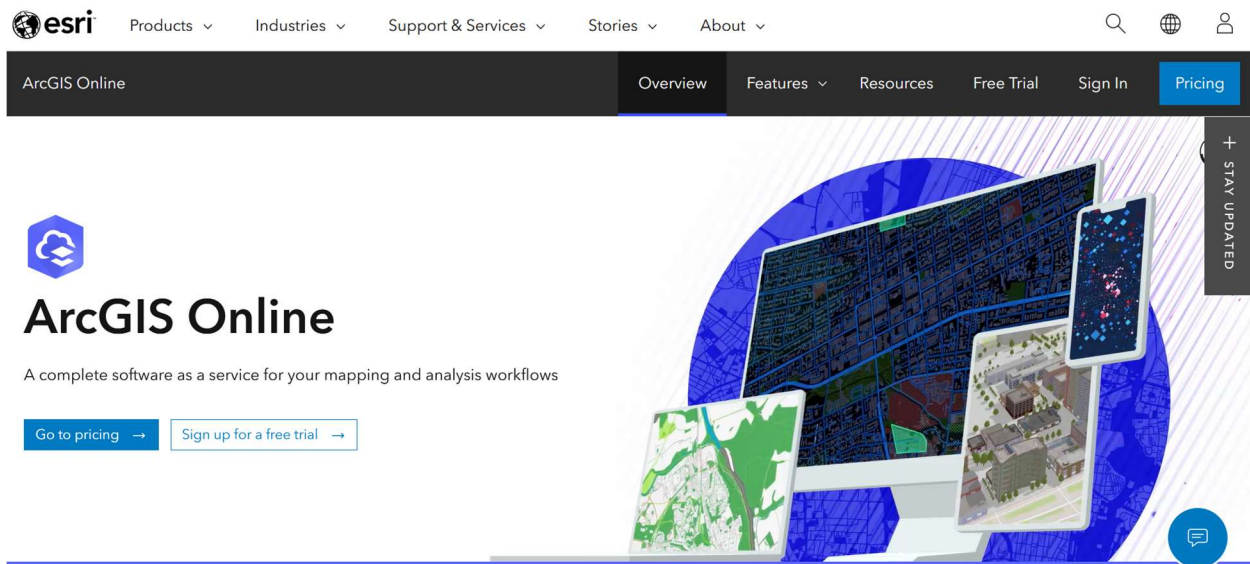
IF YOU HAVE AN EXISTING ARCGIS ACCOUNT, SKIP TO PAGE 7.

### Create a free account for Esri ArcGIS Online

1. Go to ArcGIS Online webpage.  
<https://www.arcgis.com/index.html>



2. Click on "Learn more about ArcGIS Online"



3. Click on “Sign up for a free trial”. If you have a government or business address, you can obtain a free trial here.



## ArcGIS Online Trial

Sign up for the free 21-day trial

A business or government email address is required. You can purchase a subscription during your trial period or up to 30 days after it ends to access projects and continue your work.

[Sign up now →](#)

4. If you want to use a different type of account scroll halfway down the page to access another type of trial.

## ArcGIS access for noncommercial use

Educators, nonprofits, and others without a business or government email can explore options for noncommercial use.

Explore pricing options →

5. If you are an educator, you may be able to access ArcGIS online through your school or university.

Mapping Software for K-12 Instruction

<https://www.esri.com/en-us/industries/k-12-education/schools-software>



## Access for higher education

1. Contact your instructor, adviser, IT department, or library regarding access to ArcGIS. If you attend a college/university
  - a. In the US, go to [this app](#).
  - b. Outside the US, contact your [local Esri office](#).
2. If ArcGIS access is not available, purchase a low-cost [ArcGIS for Student Use](#) subscription (nonstudents can purchase a low-cost [ArcGIS for Personal Use](#) subscription).
3. Register for a free, limited-functionality [ArcGIS public account](#).

6. If you would like to access ArcGIS online for a personal project, such as exploring electoral redistricting, scroll all the way to the bottom.



## Access for personal projects

1. To achieve personal learning goals, Esri offers noncommercial, low- and no-cost licensing.

Options:

1. Purchase an [ArcGIS for Personal Use](#) subscription.
2. Register for a free, limited-functionality [ArcGIS public account](#).

7. Click on “Register for a free, limited-functionality ArcGIS public account.”

## Create an ArcGIS Public Account



An ArcGIS public account is a free account designed for personal, non-commercial use.

With a public account you can:

- Create, store, and manage maps, scenes, layers, apps, and other geospatial content.
- Share content with others.
- Access content shared by Esri and GIS users around the world.

First name

Last name

Email

Confirm email

Review the [Esri Master Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

[Review the Esri Master Agreement and Privacy Policy in other select languages](#)

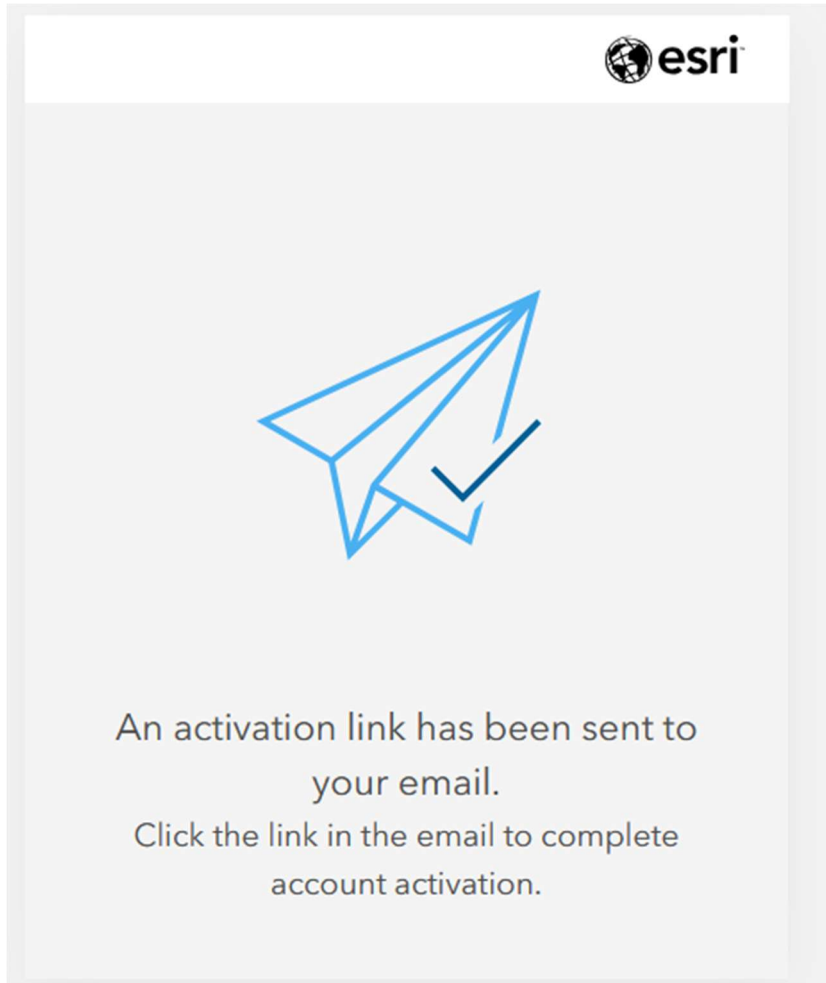
I accept and agree to be legally bound by

☐ Esri Master Agreement

☐ Esri ArcGIS Online Privacy Policy

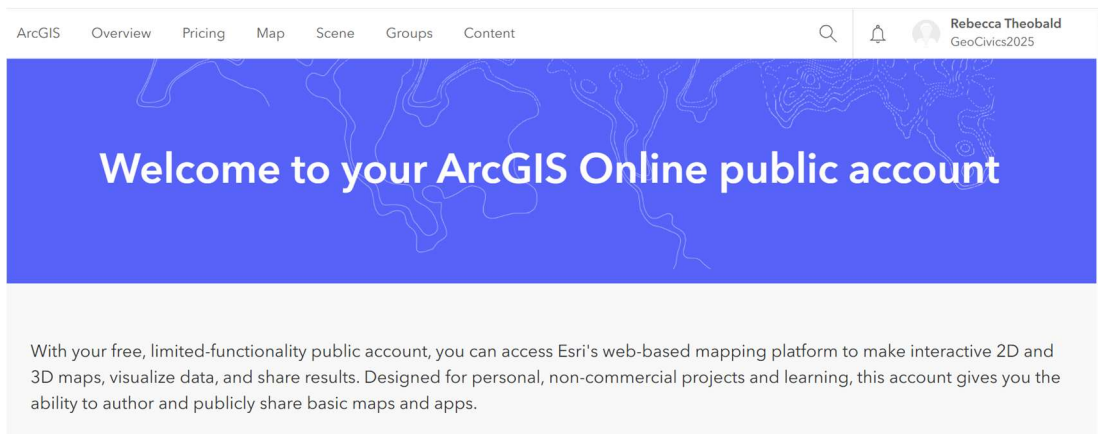
Next

8. Fill out the information and click “Next”. Complete your account activation.



Create a user name and password. Write it down somewhere.

You will be taken to this page.





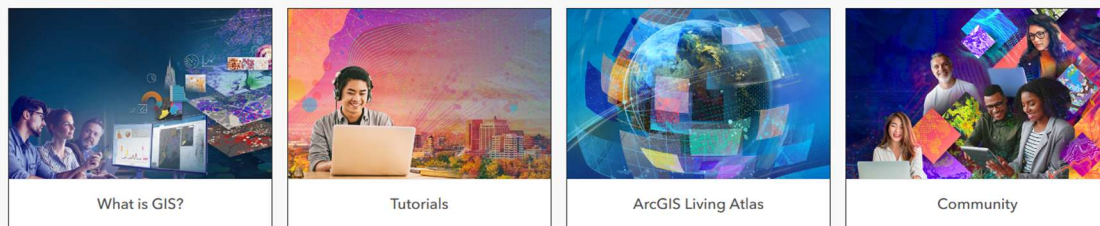
## EXPLORE ARCGIS ONLINE.

There is plenty to learn about on the Esri platform.

### Make your first maps and apps



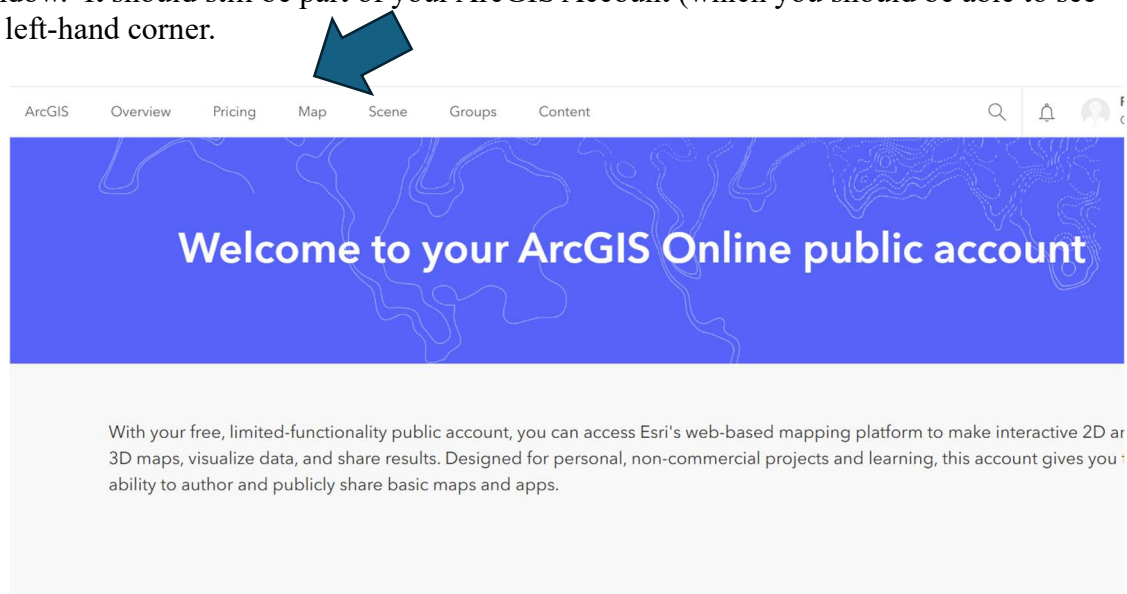
### What's next?



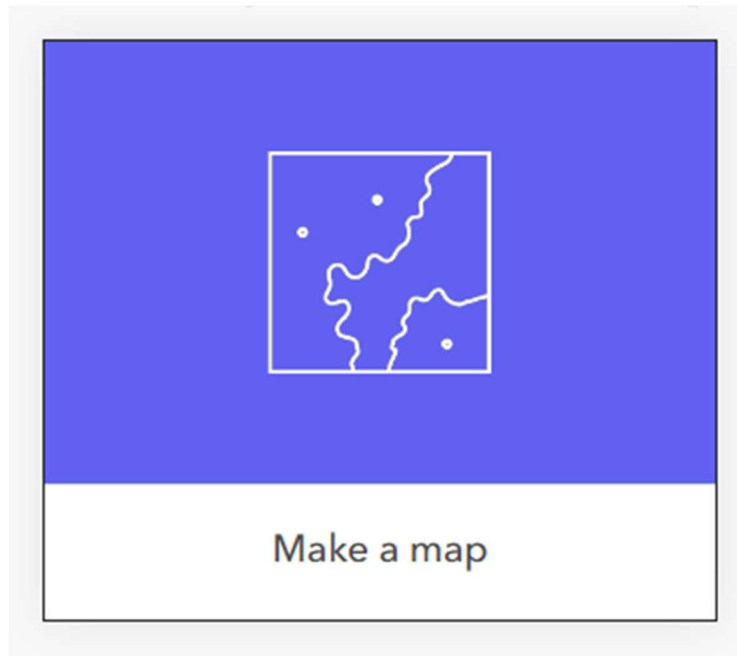
## REDISTRICTING

Create a map that will guide you in thinking about electoral redistricting in your community, whether you are interested in your state, county, parish, city, or other legislative body such as a school board or water board.

Click on “Map” at the top of this initial welcome page. Instruct the computer to open the page in a new window. It should still be part of your ArcGIS Account (which you should be able to see in the top left-hand corner).



1. Click on “Make a Map”.



2. Follow the directions. You will find ”Basemap” on the lefthand side of the page.



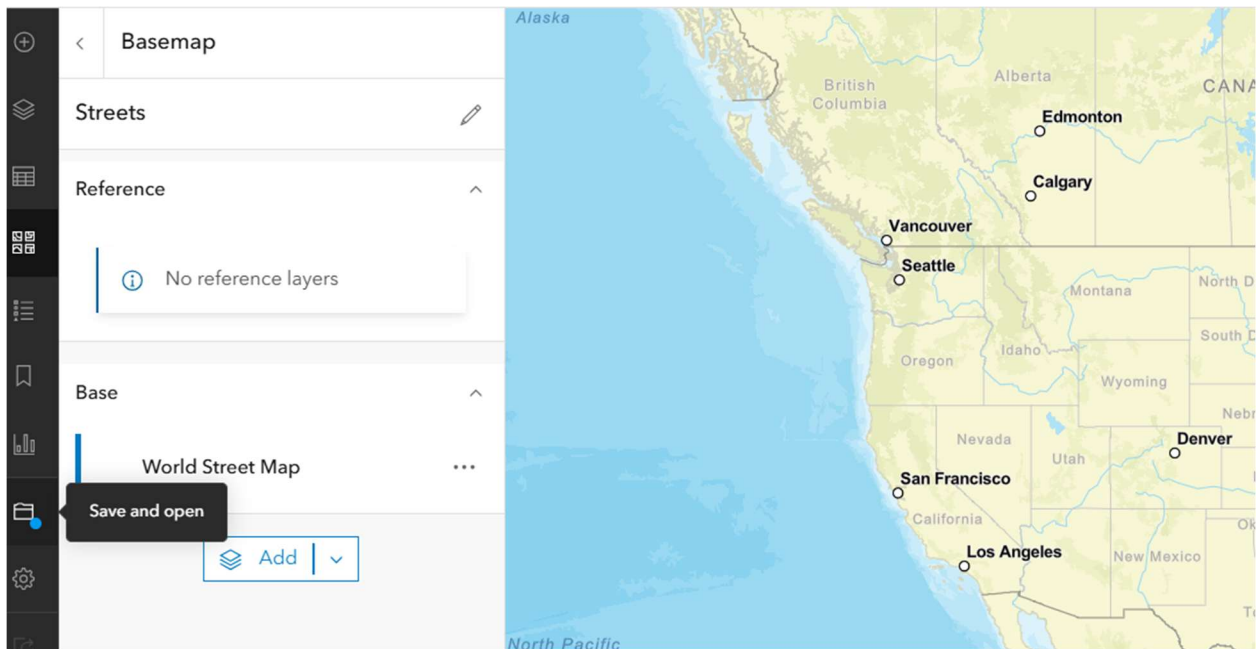
You are welcome to choose any Basemap you like, but one with streets is probably best for this task. Now is a good time to name your map and save it. Remember that you will want to be organized about how you describe and order your work.



Note:

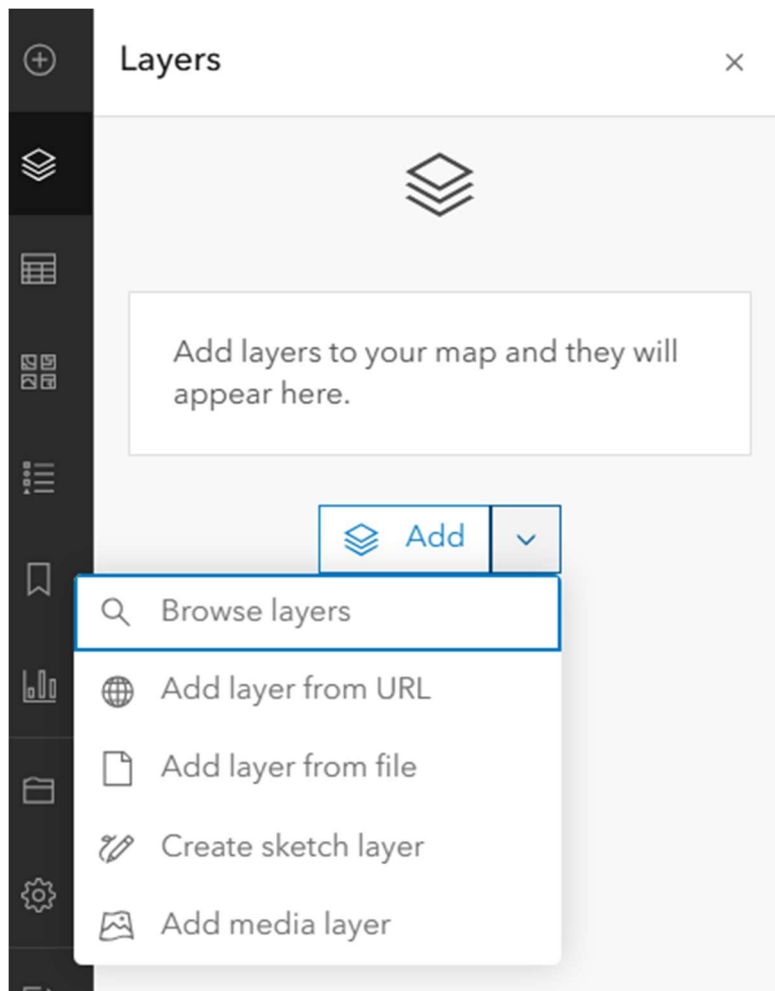
Some basemap layers include a **Show in basemap legend** toggle button. You can turn off this toggle button if you want to hide the basemap legend in ArcGIS apps that support basemap legends.

- 5 Click **Save and open**  and click **Save** to save the new basemap to the map.

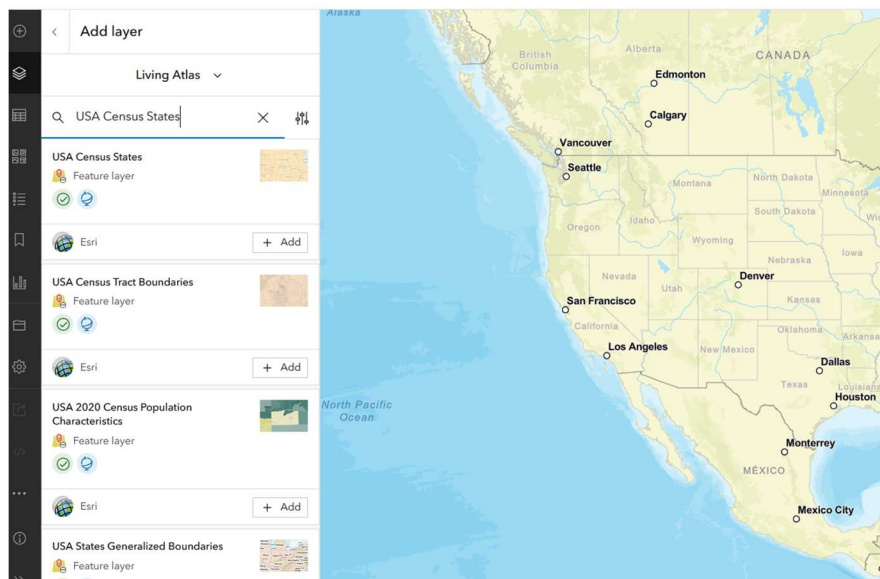


3. After learning more about Basemaps, click the back button to return to the instructions. Move to “Add Layers”. You can read about the many different resources available through ArcGIS Online. Most redistricting takes place within a state in the United States; we will begin with the layer of state outlines.

Find the “Layers” symbol on the left-hand side of the map. Click “Add” and see the options.



Click “Browse layers”. Nothing will appear under “My content” because you have not added anything. Click on “My content” and choose “Living Atlas”. Then there will be many choices.



Choose something like “USA Census States” to search. Click “Add to map”. Then remember to save.

The screenshot shows the ArcGIS Living Atlas search interface. On the left, a sidebar contains navigation icons. The main search area displays results for 'USA Census States'. The first result, 'USA Census States', is highlighted with a blue border. It is a Feature layer from Esri, with a thumbnail map showing the United States. To the right of the search results, a detailed view for the selected layer is shown. This view includes a 'Thumbnail' section, an 'Overview' section with a 'Summary' (describing the 2020 U.S. Census State boundaries), 'Status' (marked as 'Authoritative' and 'Living Atlas'), 'Owner' (Esri, managed by esri\_dm), 'Sharing' (set to 'Everyone (public)'), and 'Item updated' (March 7, 2025). At the bottom of this detailed view, there are two buttons: 'Add to map' and 'View details'. A large green arrow points to the 'Add to map' button.

4. Choose which state on which you would like to focus your investigation. You can do this through a filter. Go to the right-hand side of the page and click on the filter tool. Make sure the layer you want to filter is selected in “Contents”. Save the filter instructions. Click “Add new” then save the map on the left-hand side again.



5. Use the zoom tool (+ sign) to fit your state to your screen. Then click on the home symbol to set this as the default map view. Save the map again.



6. Now you need to start to understand how to divide your state into electoral districts. Go back to the layers tool. Click on “Add layer” and change “My content” to either “ArcGIS Online” or “Living Atlas”. You may be able to add voting precincts for your state, or you may only be able to add county or parish boundaries. Some states may have finer information available, such as the file for Ohio that has designated redistricting blocks.

7. How would you divide your state into two congressional districts with roughly equal population?

### Next Steps

This approach provided you with some basic information about how online mapping tools are constructed. Fortunately, there are several accessible open-source mapping tools that are available to students and community members to explore and create redistricting maps at state and local scales. Follow the links to access these sites and decide which one might work best for you.

Dave’s Redistricting App	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/maps#home">https://davesredistricting.org/maps#home</a>
DistrictBuilder	<a href="https://www.districtbuilder.org/">https://www.districtbuilder.org/</a>
DistrictR	<a href="https://districtr.org/">https://districtr.org/</a>

You may also access information from the Redistricting Data Hub (<https://redistrictingdatahub.org/>).