

Local Redistricting in Nelsonville, Ohio with League of Women Voters of Ohio

In November of 2024, the residents of Nelsonville, Ohio voted to return to a general statutory form of government. That change requires the city to be divided into four council wards. In a commitment to transparency and civic engagement, the City of Nelsonville requested that the League of Women Voters of Athens County and the League of Women Voters of Ohio lead a public process to design a ward map based on community input. The project had the following goals:

- Establish an open and transparent process that educates, informs, and includes the citizens of Nelsonville in the creation of a city council ward map;
- Construct and complete a ward map proposal that complies with all applicable federal and state laws concerning municipal districting, specifically Section 731.06 of the Ohio Revised Code;
- Present a city ward map proposal to the Nelsonville City Council for a vote of approval;
- Demonstrate and document a process that can serve as an example and be used as a guide for other municipalities that are preparing to draw or redraw voting districts.

In April of 2025 we hosted the first in a series of public town hall events to provide an overview of statutory requirements, mapping goals, and what to expect from the ward creation process. In May we facilitated discussions on community identity, map-drawing constraints, and what matters most to residents during a second town hall event. We then provided public opportunities for interactive map-drawing, open discussion, and feedback on the maps drafted by the community in two final town hall events that took place in June. The proposal was presented to the current city council on July 14th and was subsequently included in the City's Final Transition Plan. We now await for the opportunity to present the proposal to the new city council to be seated in January of 2026 for a vote.

[LWVO Nelsonville Redistricting Webpage](#)

[League of Women Voters engages Nelsonville residents in creating ward maps](#) June 11, 2025

[Ohio and Athens County Leagues of Women Voters presents ward map to Nelsonville](#) July 17, 2025

[A citizen-drawn ward map is waiting for Nelsonville's next city council to approve](#) July 30, 2025











