

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE IF YOU CARE ABOUT GERRYMANDERING AND REDISTRICTING, take a few minutes to . . .

15 mins **Learn how your state manages redistricting.**

Start with your own congressional and state legislative district. Look at neighborhoods that have and have not been included. Any unusual patterns or boundaries? Districts are set by the states, but who exactly draws the lines? These districts affect every member of the community and your input is critical not only because your voice matters, but because officials must be held accountable to make the process transparent.

Resources to explore: [Ballotpedia](#), [National Conference of State Legislatures](#), [Brennan Center for Justice](#)

Now what? Share what you've learned about redistricting with colleagues or friends. Many people care about gerrymandering but have no idea how to help fix it, or even where to start. A quick conversation could open the door for more effective government.

45 mins **Explore the criteria used to draw electoral district lines.**

What are key criteria for drawing districts? Do all constituencies or groups fit these criteria? Is there one correct way to draw districts? Can all criteria be addressed equally?

Resources to explore: [Flashes of Insight, Apportionment and Redistricting](#)

Now what? Ask a family member, friend, or colleague to look at how you prioritized the redistricting criteria and discuss where you agree and disagree. Identify the most challenging criteria for your community.

15 mins **Examine whether your district or is considered to be gerrymandered.**

Does the shape of your district make sense? Which communities are included in your district? What challenges does your district have to make sure everyone is represented fairly? Could you develop some ideas of how any questionable district lines may need to be redrawn?

Resources to explore: [Atlas of Redistricting](#), [Princeton Gerrymandering Project](#)

Now what? Find out who will be drawing the lines and when they are meeting next.

120 mins **Try drawing congressional or state electoral districts.**

Focus on how you would redraw any questionable districts in your state at the federal, state, or local levels. Incorporate information from other activities.

Resources to explore: Several different [geospatial technology tools](#) for understanding this task are available through the [GeoCivics](#) website at no cost.

Now what? Ask someone in your network to look at your map and explain how you came to make the choices you did about where to draw the lines.

30 mins **Devise a plan of action to encourage others you know to get involved.**

What additional research would you need to do to be ready for this process?

Now what? Share your redistricting plan through social media. Host a community forum to discuss effective means of redrawing existing districts. Review your state's new plans. Communicate with your state legislators or independent commission members about what you think are the strong and weak points of the proposed maps.

60 mins **Learn about the history of population change in your state over three time periods with census data.**

How have where people lived in your state changed over time? Are people distributed equally or are they concentrated in particular regions? How does the population distribution affect how electoral districts are drawn? What is the history of one person, one vote in the United States?

Resources to explore: On the Move lessons available for each state [geocivics.uccs.edu/stateresources] to be used on giant floor maps or paper driving maps.

Now what? Find the most populated and the least populated counties in your state. Consider how where you live is the same as or different from these areas. Think about discussions you would like to have with people in other neighborhoods or regions.

30 mins **Describe your community of interest using words and online mapping tools.**

- Visit representable.org, sign up, explain the important characteristics of your community.
- Use tools to draw your community of interest map.
- Save your map and see what other communities have been drawn.

With whom would you want to share this information? Would other people in your community have somewhat different boundaries? How many different communities of interest could you construct?

Resources to explore: [Representable.org](#), [Districtr](#)

Now what? Using the representable.org tool, state resources on the [GeoCivics](https://geocivics.uccs.edu/stateresources) website [<https://geocivics.uccs.edu/stateresources>], or libraries, investigate whether there are groups aligned with your interests in your community that need volunteers.