



THE BIG PICTURE ON FAIR MAPS IN MISSOURI

WHAT MAP-MAKERS NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

- **Fair maps empower communities to choose their leaders and set the direction of our state.** District lines should be drawn to empower communities, encourage competition, and produce an overall statewide outcome that reflects our great, diverse, and ever-changing state.
- **Voters should pick their politicians; political consultants should not pick their voters.** Redistricting should not rig elections so voters lose their ability to make meaningful choices in who represents them. There's no doubt that some parts of the state currently prefer one party over the other, but that doesn't mean every district should be super Democratic or super Republican. We must have maps that allow voters to hold politicians accountable and protect communities, not the political interests of politicians and their friends.
- **Fair maps do not advantage any political party.** Partisan gerrymandering can be measured and identified with statistical tools that are used in every other state. Map-makers should do everything they can to ensure no political party has an unfair advantage in final plans.
- **New maps will impact how resources are allocated for the next decade.** The resources that come back to our communities depend on our representation in Jefferson City.
- **Beware of politicians or political consultants suggesting false choices.** Politicians are already suggesting that we can have either compact districts that keep communities together OR fair statewide maps with proportional representation. But we know this is a false choice — there are multiple paths to achieve fair and equitable outcomes.
- **Everyone must count in our maps.** Missouri has counted everyone in state legislative maps since the 1800s; counting everyone is a core component of fair redistricting. Using anything other than total population as the population base for maps would be discriminatory, wrong, and illegal.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY

- **Give instructions to map drawers**

In the 2010 redistricting cycle, about 36 percent of comments at hearings were infeasible and unable to be mapped.

- For redistricting authorities to be able to consider a given comment it must include two elements: a location and an instruction. One of the most common kinds of comments is to suggest a city or neighborhood be kept together.
- Infeasible comments don't provide a clear instruction to the map drawer. For example, a comment that a redrawn district include area to the southwest of the current district is difficult to implement in a final map without further guidance.

- **Think small**

A study of 2010 testimony revealed a strong relationship between the size of the area addressed in the comment and its likelihood of being adopted. Comments that touched upon a smaller area — on the order of a neighborhood in most cases — were substantially more likely to be adopted in final maps than comments that related to larger areas, like a suggestion to group a set of counties together in the same district.

- **Define your community and talk about its need for representation**

For many, it is easiest to talk about the distinctive features of the places and people closest to one's home. What defines your neighborhood? Is the area demarcated by reference to landmarks like parks, schools, roadways, or other geographic features? This sort of information is important for redistricting authorities to know about.

- **Online mapping programs can help persuade**

There are multiple platforms to easily make a map of your local community to share as part of testimony — including references to the same data that the redistricting authorities use when drawing maps — like [Dave's Redistricting App](#), [Districtr](#), and [Representable](#), each of which allows you to identify the area including your community. Testimony to a redistricting authority may carry more weight if that information is conveyed along with a visual reference to guide the hands of the line drawers.

- **Be prepared for less time — and focus on good written materials**

You may have five minutes or less to present a comment verbally. Be direct and concise when you testify, and take the time to prepare effective written or digital materials for submission to the commissions.