



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF COLORADO

LEAGUE SUPPORTS REDISTRICTING EFFORTS IN COLORADO

At a special board meeting on October 26, 2017, the following motion was voted on and approved:

“The State Board of the LWV of CO supports the concepts and process of the Fair Districts Colorado Committee. We understand that representatives from the League are supporting LWVUS and LWVCO League positions in their work on the Committee. The final wording of the proposal is still being developed to address some minor lingering issues.”

The League’s Program Positions on Redistricting from both State and National are posted below for your reference.

REDISTRICTING POSITIONS (State and National League)

LWVCO POSITION IN BRIEF:

Support of measures to establish an agency other than the General Assembly to redistrict the Colorado General Assembly and the Colorado Congressional Districts. Support of redrawing the districts of both houses of the state legislature and the Colorado U.S. congressional districts based on specific criteria.

POSITION: *(Adopted 1973, rev. 1983, 2011)*

Support for the following criteria for drawing the boundaries of legislative districts of both houses of the state legislature and of Colorado U.S. congressional districts:

- Each district should have a population as nearly equal as may be required by the Constitution of the U.S., but in no event shall there be more than 5% deviation between the most populous and the least populous district.
- Each district shall be as compact an area as possible and the aggregate linear distance of all district boundaries shall be as short as possible.
- Except when necessary to meet equal population requirements, no part of a county shall be added to all or part of another county in forming districts. Within counties whose territory is contained in more than one district, the number of cities and towns whose territory is contained in more than one district shall be as few as possible.
- Consistent with the preceding criteria, communities of interest including ethnic, cultural, economic trade area, geographic and demographic factors shall be preserved within a single district wherever possible.

LWVCO Program of Study and Action

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LWVUS POSITION IN BRIEF:

The League of Women Voters support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

POSITION:

- 1) Responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.
- 2) Every redistricting process should include:
 - a) Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan;
 - b) Full disclosure throughout the process and public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption:
 - i) Redistricting at all levels of government must be accomplished in an open, unbiased manner with citizen participation and access at all levels and steps of the process,
 - ii) Should be subject to open meeting laws;
 - c) A provision that any redistricting plan should be adopted by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote;
 - d) Remedial provisions established in the event that the redistricting authority fails to enact a plan. Specific provisions should be made for court review of redistricting measures and for courts to require the redistricting authority to act on a specific schedule:
 - i) Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review,
 - ii) The courts should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met.
- 3) The standards on which a redistricting plan is based, and on which any plan should be judged, must:
 - a) Be enforceable in court;
 - b) Require:
 - i) Substantially equal population,
 - ii) Geographic contiguity, and
 - iii) Effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities.
 - c) Provide for (to the extent possible):
 - i) Promotion of partisan fairness,
 - ii) Preservation and protection of “communities of interest,” and
 - iii) Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties.
 - d) Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria
 - e) Explicitly reject:
 - i) Protection of incumbents, through such devices as considering an incumbent’s address, and
 - ii) Preferential treatment for a political party, through such devices as considering party affiliation, voting history and candidate residence.

Impact On Issues

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