Redistricting Reform

Call To Action Goal (South Dakota)

The call to action is to support a ballot measure which would amend the South Dakota constitution and establish an independent redistricting commission to draw congressional and legislative district boundaries for elections after the 2020 Census. This amendment would end the current process in which state legislators control redistricting, and make elections in South Dakota fairer. Studies have indicated that South Dakota’s election map is more skewed on partisan lines than any other state in the nation.

The independent commission would consist of nine people, with no more than three from any one political party. In order to get the measure on the 2018 ballot, we need to collect 28,000 signatures, and submit them to the Secretary of State by November 2017. From there, we’d work to ensure South Dakota residents approved this measure in the 2018 election. Working to advance this effort is key to putting a stop to a system in which elected officials choose their voters, instead of voters choosing their elected officials.

Call To Action Plan (South Dakota)

To get acquainted with the Let People Vote call to action for South Dakota, People Power volunteers/activists will:
- watch the livestream/recording of the October 1, 2017 Let People Vote launch event; and
- review and discuss background materials on the benefits of independent redistricting commissions, and on proper, lawful and effective petition signature gathering techniques. The formal petition form can be found here.

People Power activists/volunteers will be able to work independently with their teams and other teams to:
- gather petition signatures in high-traffic public locations and at local events like farmers’ markets, as well as canvass for these signatures by going door-to-door in your neighborhood discussing the importance of redistricting reform with members in your community. Collected petition signatures should be mailed, by no later than October 30, 2017, to TakeltBack.Org, P.O. Box 2017, Sioux Falls, SD 57101.; (priority)
- urge their local officials, including mayors, city council members, and county board commissioners, to release public statements in support of redistricting reform, through meeting with elected officials and their staff, gathering and delivering petition signatures, speaking out at public meetings and town halls, organizing protests, making phone calls, and sending letters;
- submit Letters to the Editor (LTEs) to local newspapers, stressing the need to end partisan gerrymandering; and
- take other actions to promote redistricting reform and voting rights more broadly, as determined by their People Power teams.

Take action TODAY!

Sign up to attend an upcoming event here. Sign up to host your own event here.
Background

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the lines of districts from which public officials are elected. Redistricting typically takes place every ten years following the census, and impacts which voters elect which members of Congress, state and local legislators, and other elected officials. The next round of redistricting will begin following the 2020 Census.

When done properly and fairly, redistricting ensures that districts fairly reflect population shifts and growth, and that policymakers represent the values and interests of their constituents. However, when done improperly, redistricting can result in partisan gerrymandering, minority vote dilution, and districts that favor incumbents. Voter turnout can decrease, as confidence in the legitimacy of the electoral system wanes.

Key Reasons to Support Redistricting Reform

**Transparency:** Redistricting bodies should conduct their business in public sessions and allow constituents to provide testimony as part of the redistricting process. A process that is open to the public encourages input from community members and reduces the risk of partisanship or other undue factors playing a role.

**Partisanship:** Partisan gerrymandering occurs when the controlling political party draws district lines to benefit their party over the minority party. This process can make outcomes of races a foregone conclusion and/or ensure a political party is underrepresented in the legislature, hurting our system of democratic governance.

**Community:** Building districts around communities with common interests must be a goal of any redistricting body. Communities that are likely to have similar legislative concerns should have united representation in their state legislature.

*Paid for by American Civil Liberties Union, Inc., [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org), and made in consultation with Citizens for Fair Elections.*

For questions, feel free to contact us at [info@peoplepower.org](mailto:info@peoplepower.org).

[www.peoplepower.org](http://www.peoplepower.org)